



# PenMet Parks

Gig Harbor, Washington

**Peninsula Metropolitan Park District  
Four Corners Survey: Desired Park and Recreation Facilities  
Conducted August 2005**

**Prepared by**

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# Peninsula Metropolitan Park District

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"Today We Touch Tomorrow"

## Table of Contents

Introduction and Methodology .....	1
Responses to Questionnaire Categories .....	2
Most Wanted Projects .....	2
Desired Projects by those with Children in the Household .....	3
Projects Respondents are Most Willing to Finance .....	4
Demographics of Respondents .....	5
Table 1: Highest Rated Proposed Park and Recreation Projects .....	6
Table 2: Importance Ratings of Proposed Park and Recreation Projects (Arranged in order of those receiving the greatest number of 5 and 4 ratings .....	7
Table 3: Importance Ratings of Proposed Park and Recreation Projects (As listed on Survey Questionnaire).....	8
Table 4: Demographics of Respondents .....	9
Appendix:	
Survey Questionnaire .....	A1

**Peninsula Metropolitan Park District  
Four Corners Survey: Desired Park and Recreation Facilities  
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**Introduction and Methodology**

***Purpose of the Survey***

Peninsula Metropolitan Park District (PenMet Parks) wanted to have public input on the many possible choices for allocating funds for new and improved park facilities. As part of this assessment process, PenMet Parks distributed a written questionnaire to each of the more than 15,000 households in the Park District.

***Survey Design & Methodology***

Questionnaires were mailed on August 9 and citizens were asked to return completed questionnaires by August 19. The District received 545 completed questionnaires by the end of August; results included in this report are based upon these completed questionnaires.

This self-selected survey reflects the opinions and attitudes of the District residents who cared enough to take the time to complete and return a survey questionnaire. Although the total sample reported is 545, there were many questions where people did not respond. Percentages are based upon the 545 returns, except where otherwise indicated.

***Definitions and Report Organization***

For purposes of clarity, the following terms, shown in Italics, are used in this report:

***Total Sample*** – all of the PenMet Park District residents who completed and returned a survey questionnaire.

***Those with children/have children*** – respondents who said they have at least one child under 18 living at home.

***Those without children/have no children*** – respondents who said they had no children living at home or did not respond to the question.

***Willing to fund*** – those who said they were willing to pay \$10 or more per year in additional taxes to fund improvements and new facilities for parks.

***Not willing to fund*** – those who said they were not willing, not sure or were only willing to pay less than \$10 in additional taxes to fund improvements or new facilities.

Summary information and themes precede four tables at the back of the report that provide the detailed tabulations for each question and the cross-tabulations for those willing/not willing to fund and households with and without children.

Although the categories in the survey asked about preferences for acquisitions (specific and general), development (specific and general), renovations and partnerships, for simplicity these terms are often combined and referred to as “Projects.”

## Responses to Questionnaire Categories

Respondents were asked to rank a list of 35 possible park and recreation projects and acquisitions on a five-point scale where five is “Very important” and one is “Not at all important.” The list was organized into six major categories: Acquisition of New Property (Specific); Acquisition of New Property (General); Development of New Facilities (Specific); Development of New Facilities (General); Renovation of Existing Facilities; and Partnerships.

Although respondents were asked to read through a lengthy list, the responses indicated that people carefully ranked their choices; top ranked choices occurred in all but one of the six categories. The greatest interest was in the Acquisition of New Property (General) where each of the four alternatives ranked in the top dozen choices.

The category where respondents showed the least interest was Renovation of Existing Facilities, where each of the three items ranked near the bottom of the list of 35 items.

## Most Wanted Projects

By far, the most wanted project, from the list of 35, was widening road shoulders for bicycles and pedestrians. Just under two-thirds (66%) of those completing a questionnaire gave this a top (5 or 4) rating. Five other projects were given high ratings by a majority of the respondents.

### Top Rated Projects from All Respondents

- 66% Widened road shoulders for bicycles and pedestrians
- 62% Aquatic Center at new YMCA
- 57% Shoreline access
- 55% Recreational trails
- 54% Restrooms
- 51% Cushman Trail (Phases 2 and 3)

Between 40% and 47% of the respondents gave the highest ratings to six additional items on the list:

- 47% Natural areas
- 46% Waterfront park in East Gig Harbor
- 44% Neighborhood parks
- 41% Active recreation areas
- 40% Children’s playgrounds
- 40% Gym space at the Boys’ and Girls’ Club

## Desired Projects by those with Children in the Household

Thirty-nine percent (39%) of the respondents indicated they have at least one child under 18 living at home. The proportion of households with school-age children was somewhat higher than those with children under 6 years of age; the largest number of children was in the 6- to 12-year age range.

<u>Households with Children:</u>	Percent of Total Households with Children (Base=333)
Under 6 years	36%
6 to 12 years	55
13 to 17 years	48

In general, households with children, compared to those without children, tend to be greater users of park and recreation facilities. This was evident in their responses where they gave higher importance ratings to all the suggested park and recreation projects.

A dozen of the suggestions were given 5 or 4 rankings by at least a majority of the households with children. The highest level of importance was given to an Aquatic Center at the YMCA (81%), and to having road shoulders widened to accommodate bicycles and pedestrians (75%).

### Top Rated Projects of Households with Children

- 81% Aquatic Center at new YMCA
- 75% Widened road shoulders
- 63% Recreational trails
- 62% Shoreline access
- 60% Cushman Trail additions
- 58% Restrooms
- 58% Active recreation areas
- 56% Neighborhood parks
- 56% Children's playgrounds
- 55% Athletic fields
- 54% Gym space at Boys' and Girls' Club
- 52% Waterfront park in East Gig Harbor

## Projects respondents are most willing to finance

After rating all of the suggested projects and acquisitions, respondents were asked how much more per month in additional property taxes they would be willing to pay for the facilities and services they feel are most important.

A slight majority indicated they were willing to pay at least \$10 more per month for the projects they wanted; 28% said they were willing to pay \$15 or more. While 22% indicated they were willing to at least pay \$5 or less, only 27% said they were not willing to pay any additional property taxes (“Nothing” and no responses were combined).

### Willingness to Pay Additional Property Tax for Projects

Amount of Additional Taxes <u>Willing to Pay Per Month</u>	Percent of Total Respondents <i>(Base=545)</i>
\$10	22%
\$15	9
\$20	8
\$25	10
More than \$25	1
\$5 or less	22%
Nothing	21
No response	6

Eleven of the proposed projects and acquisitions were given high importance ratings by a majority of those respondents who are willing to pay at least \$10 more per month in additional property taxes. The two suggestions that received the greatest support were: widened road shoulders (77%) and an aquatic center at the YMCA (74%).

### **Projects Receiving the Greatest Support from those Willing to be Taxed (highest proportion of 5 and 4 ratings)**

- 77% Widened road shoulders
- 74% Aquatic Center at new YMCA
- 68% Recreational trails
- 66% Shoreline access
- 62% Restrooms
- 62% Cushman Trails additions
- 56% Natural areas
- 56% Waterfront park in E. Gig Harbor
- 53% Neighborhood parks
- 53% Active recreation areas
- 51% Children’s playgrounds

## **Demographics of Respondents**

Although respondents to the Four Corners Survey self-selected (i.e. chose to respond), their demographics are relatively close to those of Gig Harbor Peninsula residents as reported in the 2000 Census. In some instances, the categories from the survey do not exactly match those of the Census, but they are included to provide some measure of how the demographics of the respondents compared to the general population.

A greater proportion of females than males completed a questionnaire (62% compared to 38% males).

The median age of respondents was in the 45 to 54 category, similar to the Census data.

Some 39% of the respondents indicated they have at least once child under 18 in the household, compared with 37% from the Census data.

Census data reported ages of children differently from the Four Corners Survey. The respondents to the Four Corners Survey included a significantly greater proportion of households with children where the children are in the six to 17 age-range (55% have a least one child six to 12, 48% have a teenager, while only 36% have a child under six years of age). Based on these proportions, it is likely that park and recreation activities aimed at teenagers will be especially important in the near future.

<b>Table 1</b>					
<b>Highest Rated Proposed Park and Recreation Projects</b>					
<i>(Based on a 5-point scale where 5 is "Very important" and 1 is "Not at all important"</i>					
<i>(Arranged in order of the highest proportion of 5 and 4 ratings for Total Returns)</i>					
<b>Park &amp; Recreation Project/Acquisition</b>	<b>Total Returns</b>  <i>(Base=545)</i>	<b>Willing to pay \$10 or more</b>  <i>(Base=278)</i>	<b>Not willing to pay \$10 or more</b>  <i>(Base=267)</i>	<b>Children</b>  <i>(Base= 212)</i>	<b>No Children</b>  <i>(Base=333)</i>
Widened road shoulders for bikes and pedestrians	66%	77%	55%	75%	61%
Aquatic Center at new YMCA	62	74	49	81	50
Shoreline access	57	66	46	62	53
Recreational trails	55	68	42	63	50
Restrooms	54	62	46	58	52
Cushman Trail (Phases 2 & 3)	51	62	40	60	46
Natural areas	47%	56%	37%	44%	49%
Waterfront park in E. Gig Harbor	46	56	36	52	43
Neighborhood parks	44	53	36	56	37
Active recreation areas	41	53	28	58	30
Children's playgrounds	40	51	29	56	30
Gym space at Boys' & Girls' Club	40	49	30	54	30
Athletic fields	36%	47%	24%	55%	24%
Picnic areas	36	40	32	40	34
Sunrise Beach Park	34	41	27	33	34
Pierce Co. park properties	33	42	23	37	31
Peninsula Joint Rec. Program	33	42	22	41	27
Outdoor amphitheater	31	41	22	36	29
Open areas for informal play	31	38	24	38	27
Rosedale Park	30	37	22	34	27
Acquire com. park in Artondale	28%	33%	22%	36%	22%
Randall Boat Ramp – more parking	27	31	22	30	25
Community gardens	26	34	19	27	26
Develop com. park in Artondale	25	32	18	35	19
Tennis courts covered (4 existing) with	22	27	18	35	14
Basketball courts (outdoor)	21	27	16	31	15
Tennis courts (new) with School Dist.	21	24	17	29	15
Acquire Kopachuck prop. (Voyager)	20	25	15	27	16
Dog park	20	24	15	20	20
Tennis courts (outdoor)	20	22	17	28	14
Hales Pass Park	19%	25%	12%	19%	18%
Dev. Kopachuck property (Voyager)	18	25	10	24	14
Fox Island Playfield	18	23	13	23	15
Peacock Hill property	17	24	10	23	14
Maplewood prop. On Colvos Passage)	14	18	10	17	12
BMX track	9	12	6	12	7



<b>Proposed Project</b>	<b>Very Important---Not at all Important</b>					<b>D.K./ N.A/0</b>
	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	
Widened road shoulders for bikes and pedestrians	54%	13%	9%	4%	11%	9%
Aquatic Center at new YMCA	49	13	10	4	13	11
Shoreline access	43	14	11	4	14	14
Recreational trails	38	17	17	5	12	11
Restrooms	34	20	15	9	12	10
Cushman Trail (Phases 2 & 3)	32	19	14	5	14	16
Natural areas	32	15	15	7	15	16
Waterfront park in E. Gig Harbor	32	15	13	6	18	16
Neighborhood parks	27	17	19	6	15	16
Active recreation areas	26	15	18	8	16	17
Children's playgrounds	24	16	19	10	15	16
Gym space at Boys' & Girls' Club	26	14	18	7	16	19
Athletic fields	23%	12%	17%	10%	18%	20%
Picnic areas	17	19	25	12	14	13
Sunrise Beach Park	22	12	17	8	21	20
Pierce Co. park properties	16	17	17	6	17	27
Peninsula Joint Rec. Program	20	13	17	9	14	27
Outdoor amphitheater	18	13	17	10	25	17
Open areas for informal play	15	16	22	12	18	17
Rosedale Park	15	14	18	8	19	26
Acquire com. park in Artondale	19%	9%	16%	10%	21%	25%
Randall Boat Ramp – more parking	16	10	12	8	23	31
Community gardens	14	13	19	11	24	19
Develop com. park in Artondale	16	10	18	11	20	25
Tennis courts covered (4 existing) with the Peninsula School District	14	8	14	13	23	28
Basketball courts (outdoor)	10	12	19	12	25	22
Tennis courts (2 new) with Peninsula School District	13	8	15	12	25	27
Acquire Kopachuck property	10	10	16	12	22	30
Dog park	12	7	11	12	33	25
Tennis courts (outdoor)	11	9	16	13	29	23
Hales Pass Park	7%	12%	18%	8%	21%	34%
Develop Kopachuck property	9	9	17	13	22	30
Fox Island Playfield	10	8	17	9	22	34
Peacock Hill property	9	8	17	11	20	35
Maplewood prop. On Colvos Passage)	8	6	14	10	23	39
BMX track	4	5	7	9	41	34

**Table 3**  
**Importance ratings of Proposed Park and Recreation Projects**  
*(As Listed on Survey Questionnaire)*

<b>Proposed Project</b>	<b>Very Important---Not at all Important</b>					<b>D.K./ N.A/0</b>
	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	
<b>Acquisition of New Property (Specific)</b>						
Community park in Artondale area	19%	9%	16%	10%	21%	25%
Kopachuck property at Voyager	10	10	16	12	22	30
Maplewood property on Colvos Passage	8	6	14	10	23	39
Peacock Hill property	9	8	17	11	20	35
Pierce County park properties on GH Peninsula	16	17	17	6	17	27
Randall Boat Ramp for more parking	16	10	12	8	23	31
Waterfront park in East Gig Harbor	32	15	13	6	18	16
<b>Acquisition of New Property (General)</b>						
Active recreation areas	26%	15%	18%	8%	16%	17%
Natural areas	32	15	15	7	15	16
Neighborhood parks	27	17	19	6	15	16
Shoreline access	43	14	11	4	14	14
<b>Development of New Facilities (Specific)</b>						
BMX track	4%	5%	7%	9%	41%	34%
Dev. of com. park in Artondale	16	10	18	11	20	25
Cushman Trail (Phases II and III)	32	19	14	5	14	16
Dog park	12	7	11	12	33	25
Kopachuck (Voyager) property	9	9	17	13	22	30
Outdoor amphitheater	18	13	17	10	25	17
Sunrise Beach Park	22	12	17	8	21	20
<b>Development of New Facilities (General)</b>						
Athletic fields	23%	12%	17%	10%	18%	20%
Basketball courts (outdoor)	14	13	19	11	24	19
Children's playgrounds	24	16	19	10	15	16
Community gardens	14	13	19	11	24	19
Open areas for informal play	15	16	22	12	18	17
Picnic areas	17	19	25	12	14	13
Recreational trails	38	17	17	5	12	11
Restrooms	34	20	15	9	12	10
Tennis courts (outdoor)	11	9	16	13	29	22
<b>Renovation of Existing Facilities</b>						
Fox Island Playfield	10%	8%	17%	9%	22%	34%
Hales Pass Park	7	12	18	8	21	34
Rosedale Park	15	14	18	8	19	26
<b>Partnerships</b>						
Aquatic Center at new YMCA	49%	13%	10%	4%	13%	11%
Gym space at new Boys and Girls Club	26	14	18	7	16	19
Peninsula Joint Recreation Program	20	13	17	9	14	27
Tennis courts (2 new) with Peninsula School District	13	8	15	12	25	27
Tennis courts covered (4 existing) with the Peninsula School District	14	13	19	11	24	19
Widened road shoulders for bikes and pedestrians	54	13	9	4	11	9

<b>Table 4</b> <b>Demographics of Respondents</b> <b>(Compared with Gig Harbor Peninsula 2000 Census)</b>		
Demographics	Total Returns <i>(Base=545)</i>	Peninsula 2000 Census* <i>(Population=38,886)</i>
<b>Sex of Respondents (where reported)</b>	<i>(Base=435)</i>	
Male	38%	48%
Female	62	52
<b>Age of Respondent</b>	<i>(Base==426)**</i>	<i>(Population 25 +=26,603)</i>
25 – 34	9%	14%
35 – 44	22	24
45 – 54	27	27
55 – 64	21	16
65 & older	21	19
**Excluding no response = 119)		
<b>Children in Household</b>	<i>(Base==545)</i>	<i>(Households=14,598)</i>
Yes	39%	37%
<b>Ages of Children in household</b>	<i>(Base==212 households with; children under 18)</i>	<i>Not Reported The same</i>
Under 6	36%	
6 – 12	55	
13 – 17	48	

\* Combined Demographics of Zip Codes 98332, 98333 & 98335  
(Gig Harbor, Fox Island and surrounding area. Source: 2000 US Census)

Appendix A



# Peninsula Metropolitan Park District

PO Box 425 • 3614 Grandview Street, Gig Harbor, WA 98335  
Office: 253.858.3400 Fax: 253.858.3401  
Info@PenMetParks.org

*"Today We Touch Tomorrow"*

August 1, 2005

Fellow Community Members,

Last fall you assisted the District in developing its 2020 Recreational Needs Assessment inventory. Now we would like you to complete our **Four Corners Survey** which will enable us to prioritize and focus our financial resources to meet the recreational needs of the Peninsula.

The assessment identified four critical areas of need for the delivery of parks and recreation services. Accordingly, we now identify these as the **"Four Corners"** of our strategic plan:



The Four Corners Survey organizes the 2020 Recreational Needs Assessment into project categories. These categories and specific projects are explained in greater detail on our web site, [www.PenMetParks.org](http://www.PenMetParks.org) **Four Corners Survey**.

The back of this letter contains the survey asking for your opinion regarding priorities for programs and projects. Please review the projects, then complete the survey by assigning your priorities, and return it by August 19, 2005. You may mail it directly to the Peninsula Metropolitan Park District at PO Box 425, Gig Harbor, WA 98335, or drop it off at any one of these convenient locations:

PenMet Parks Office  
3614 Grandview Street

Gig Harbor City Hall  
PAA Office

Venture Bank  
UPS Store

Thank you for your time and support.

Mark Mauren  
President of the Board  
Peninsula Metropolitan Park District  
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Marc Connelly  
Executive Director  
Peninsula Metropolitan Park District  
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**Peninsula Metropolitan Park District Board of Commissioners**

Mark Mauren	Joel Wingard	Scottie Junge	William Sehmel	Randy Boss
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*We need YOUR input!*  
Please complete the Four Corners Survey inside  
and mail to us by August 19<sup>th</sup>.

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**PenMet Parks**  
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# Peninsula Metropolitan Park District

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"Today We Touch Tomorrow"

## Park and Recreation Facilities Four Corners Survey

Please rank the following in importance to you on a scale of 5,4,3,2 or 1 where 5 is highly important, 1 is not important at all and zero is no opinion. If you need more information regarding these projects, visit our website at [www.penmetparks.org](http://www.penmetparks.org) and select Four Corners Survey.

Acquisitions of New Property (Specific)	5	4	3	2	1	0
Community park in the Artondale area						
Kopachuck property at Voyager						
Maplewood property on Colvos Passage						
Peacock Hill property						
Pierce County park properties on GH Peninsula						
Randall Boat Ramp for more parking						
Waterfront park in East Gig Harbor						
Acquisition of New Properties (General)	5	4	3	2	1	0
Active recreation areas						
Natural areas						
Neighborhood parks						
Shoreline access						

Renovation of Existing Facilities	5	4	3	2	1	0
Fox Island Playfield						
Hales Pass Park						
Rosedale Park						

Partnerships	5	4	3	2	1	0
Aquatic Center at new YMCA						
Gym space at new Boys and Girls Club						
Peninsula Joint Recreation Program						
Tennis courts (2 new) with Peninsula School District						
Tennis courts covered (4 existing) with the Peninsula School District						
Widened road shoulders for bikes & pedestrians with Pierce County Roads						

Development of New Facilities (Specific)	5	4	3	2	1	0
BMX track						
Community park in the Artondale area						
Cushman Trail (Phases II and III)						
Dog park						
Kopachuck (Voyager) property						
Outdoor performing arts amphitheater						
Sunrise Beach Park						
Development of New Facilities (General)	5	4	3	2	1	0
Athletic fields						
Basketball courts (outdoor)						
Children's playgrounds						
Community gardens						
Open areas for informal play						
Picnic areas						
Recreational trails						
Restrooms						
Tennis courts (outdoor)						

Other Projects (Please list)	5	4	3	2	1	0
1.						
2.						
3.						

## Just a few more questions...

About how much more per month in additional property tax would you be willing to pay for facilities and services that you feel are important? (circle one)

None \$5 \$10 \$15 \$20 \$25 Other \$\_\_\_\_\_ M/F \_\_\_\_\_

General information (voluntary): Age \_\_\_\_\_ Ages 6-12? \_\_\_\_\_ Ages 13-17? \_\_\_\_\_

If you have children in your household, indicate HOW MANY:

Under age 6? \_\_\_\_\_

Which Gig Harbor Peninsula parks have you visited in the past month?