

## APPENDIX B



**PREPARED BY:**

Moses Lake Parks & Recreation

January 2016

## **INTRODUCTION**

This report summarizes the findings of the Moses Lake Community Questionnaire for the current planning effort. The questionnaire was developed by Moses Lake Parks & Recreation staff, citizen committee members and community leaders. The questionnaire addressed community needs and priorities for the future of parks and recreation facilities, programs and services in Moses Lake. It provided one of several opportunities for the community at large to have their ideas, opinions and concerns included in the park system master planning process.

## **DOCUMENT ORGANIZATION**

This report presents:

- Methodology for distribution of the questionnaire and collection of results;
- Initial analysis and key findings; and
- Tabular results for collected responses with bulleted highlights.

Appendices provide full text of non-tabulated write-in responses (B-1) and tables presenting full detailed results on Park Usage (B-2) as reported by respondents.

## **METHODOLOGY**

The questionnaire was designed for the web and presented online via a link from the Park and Recreation Department's website. A printed version of the questionnaire was also available at select locations throughout the community and by contacting the Department office. The questionnaire was distributed via E-blast, the Department's email newsletter system; and promoted through utility bill inserts at the local library, schools and at public community gathering. A terminal was available in the Department office to increase public access to the questionnaire. The questionnaire was available from October 4, 2015 through January 19, 2016.

Since this style of questionnaire is accessible to the community at large and respondents self select, results cannot be considered as a random sample. Results from a non-random sample are, by nature, not scientifically accurate as a randomly distributed survey would be. Advantages of this type of outreach tool include accessibility, adaptability and convenience.

808 respondents answered the questionnaire (roughly equivalent to 3.65% of the total in city limits population). While results cannot be construed as scientifically valid, the response rates for Moses Lake indicate an outstanding level of interest and participation on the part of the community

## **KEY FINDINGS**

There were no limits on who could participate in this questionnaire. To clarify the potential results, several questions were asked about the respondent including age, gender, and two questions to identify residence within Moses Lake and length of residence. Several themes emerged from the initial analysis of the community questionnaire results.

The majority of respondents to the community questionnaire are already engaged in parks and outdoor recreation opportunities provided by the City of Moses Lake. Outreach by the Department through print and online materials seems to be effective, with more than half of current participants learning about program opportunities directly from department materials.

Park and trail needs expressed through this questionnaire emphasize connections between trails and close-to-home facilities. Interest and support for increasing trail facilities for both transportation and

recreation uses is strong. Lack of trails and connections to community destinations was cited as the main reason for low trail use, though respondents identified the downtown loop model as a favorable one for future trail facilities. Hiking and nature trails were also noted favorably.

Youth opportunities remain important to the community, but respondents indicated significant interest in increased fitness, wellness and recreational opportunities for adults and seniors. This is consistent with national trends and with the demographic profile of respondents.

Maintaining the popular existing facilities and building new needed facilities are important priorities to respondents, while acquiring additional park land did not seem to be. Noting that the majority of questionnaire respondents are already participants of recreational programs provided by the City, this engaged group also showed significant willingness to support a bond or tax measure to fund future improvements to the existing Park & Recreation System in Moses Lake.

## **RESULTS**

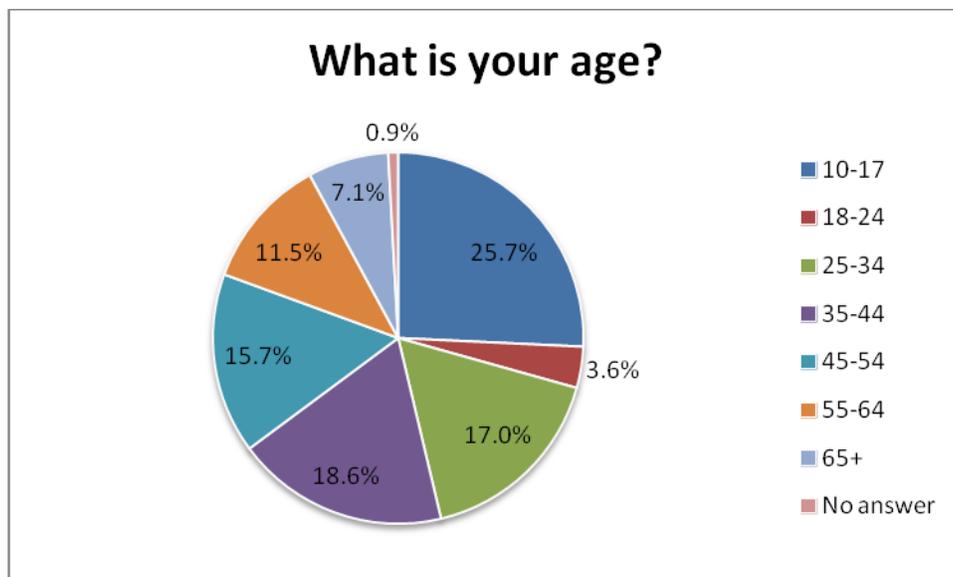
Questions covered park and recreation issues on several topics. Results are presented in tabular form with highlights bulleted below. Many questions offered respondents the option to choose two or three answers for a single question; these responses are presented as total counts of selection for each item as well as the percentage of the total respondents to select that item from each list. Results are presented in the order that they appeared in the questionnaire and are arranged under the following topics:

- Demographics
- Parks & Facilities
- Open Space, Natural Areas & Trails
- Programming
- Priorities & Funding
- Additional Comments

# Demographics

## 1. What is your age?

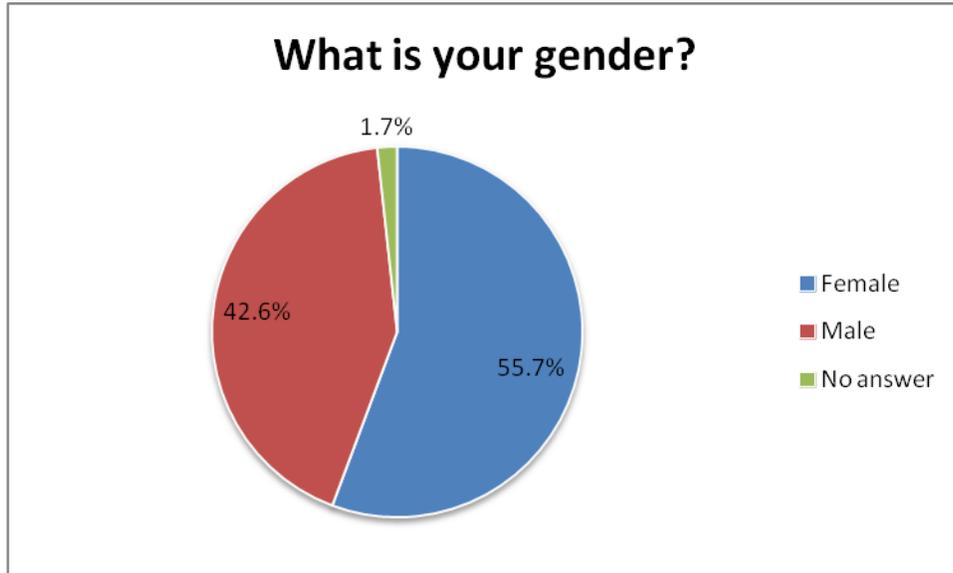
Answer	Count	Percentage
10-17	208	25.7%
18-24	29	3.6%
25-34	137	17.0%
35-44	150	18.6%
45-54	127	15.7%
55-64	93	11.5%
65+	57	7.1%
No answer	7	0.9%
Total Respondents	808	100.00%



- The strongest age representation with 25.7% came from our youth ages 10-17.
- Young adults ages 18-24 were the most unrepresented with only 3.6% turnout. This may be due to the fact that the majority of people in this age category are either still in continuing education and/or working.
- We had a solid representation from 25-64 ages categories which supports our families connected to our programs.

## 2. What is your gender?

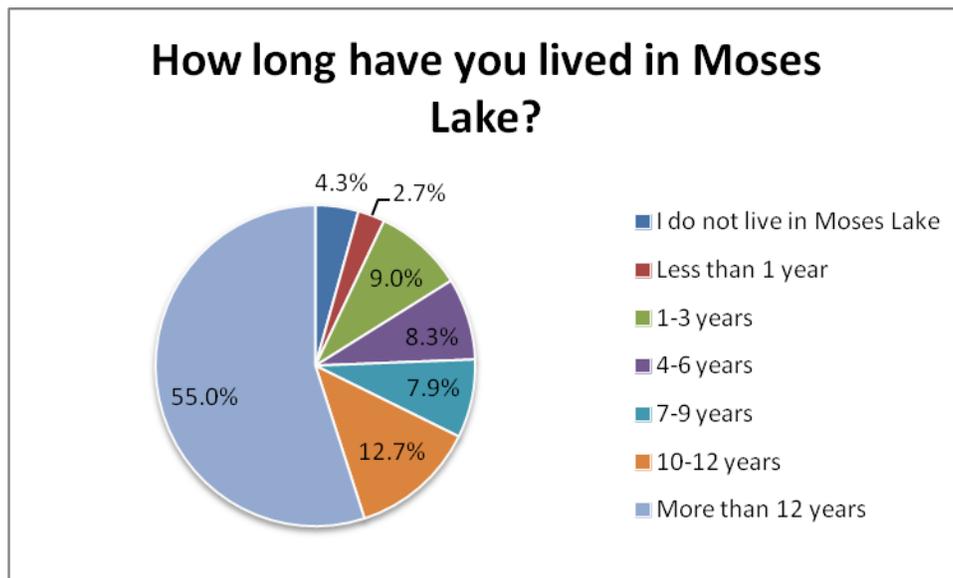
Answer	Count	Percentage
Female	450	55.7%
Male	344	42.6%
No answer	14	1.7%
Total Respondents	808	100.00%



- Females represented 55.7% of respondents, while 42.6% were males. This may be due to more parents being mothers signing up children for programs.

### 3. How long have you lived in Moses Lake?

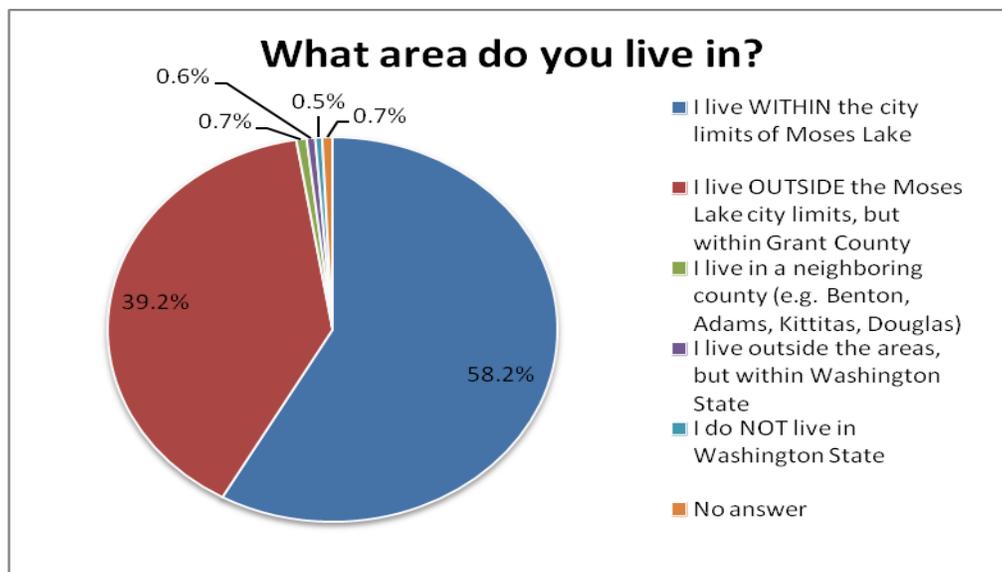
Answer	Count	Percentage
I do not live in Moses Lake	35	4.3%
Less than 1 year	22	2.7%
1-3 years	73	9.0%
4-6 years	67	8.3%
7-9 years	64	7.9%
10-12 years	103	12.7%
More than 12 years	444	55.0%
Total Respondents	808	100.00%



- Over half of the respondents (55.0%) indicated they have lived in Moses Lake for more than 12 years.

#### 4. What area do you live in?

Answer	Count	Percentage
I live WITHIN the city limits of Moses Lake	470	58.2%
I live OUTSIDE the Moses Lake city limits, but within Grant County	317	39.2%
I live in a neighboring county (e.g. Benton, Adams, Kittitas, Douglas)	6	0.7%
I live outside the surrounding areas, but within Washington State	5	0.6%
I do NOT live in Washington State	4	0.5%
No answer	6	0.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>808</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

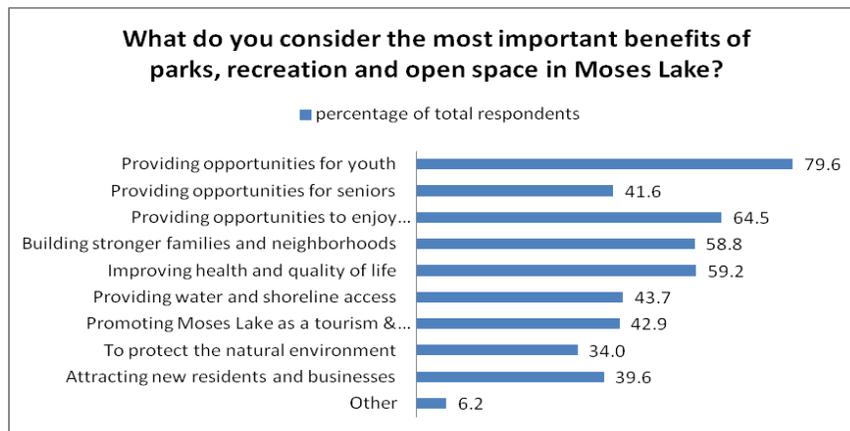


- Nearly all of the respondents indicated they live within Grant County.
- With 58.2% indicating that they live within city limits and 39.2% outside of city limits. A large number of housing districts in our area are on the outskirts of city limits, however they are still very close to our parks and facilities.

## Parks & Facilities – Benefits

### 5. What do you consider the most important benefits of parks, recreation and open space in Moses Lake?

Answer	Count	Percentage
Providing opportunities for youth	643 of 808	79.6%
Providing opportunities for seniors	336 of 808	41.6%
Providing opportunities to enjoy nature/outdoors	521 of 808	64.5%
Building stronger families and neighborhoods	475 of 808	58.8%
Improving health and quality of life	478 of 808	59.2%
Providing water and shoreline access	353 of 808	43.7%
Promoting Moses Lake as a tourism & recreation destination	347 of 808	42.9%
To protect the natural environment	275 of 808	34.0%
Attracting new residents and businesses	320 of 808	39.6%
Other	50 of 808	6.2%

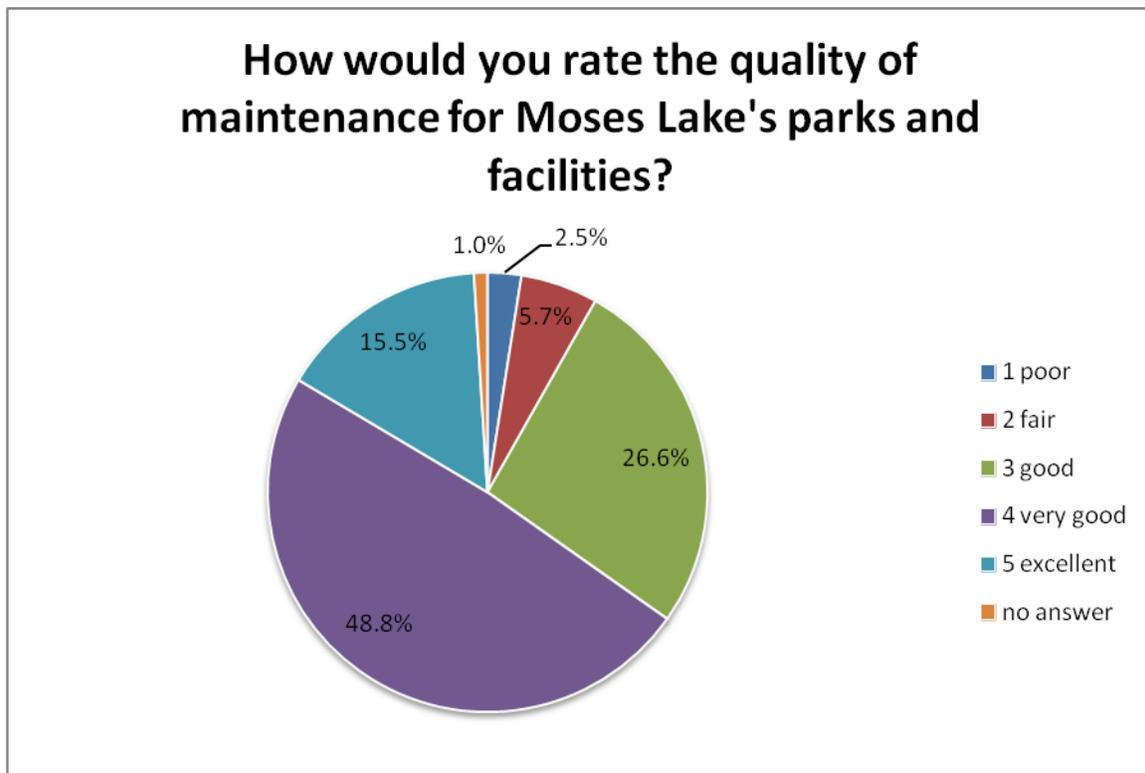


- Providing opportunities for our youth (79.6%) and providing opportunities to enjoy nature/outdoors (64.5%) were viewed as the most important benefits of parks, recreation and open space in Moses Lake.
- Other benefits that people felt strongly about were improving health and quality of life (59.2%) and building stronger families and neighborhoods (58.8%).
- Additional write-in responses indicated that creating safe and fun areas, trails and transportation routes for local families as well as protecting the environment is an important function of Parks and Recreation. Attracting tourist populations was also a common reoccurring theme for responses.

## Maintenance

6. How would you rate the quality of maintenance for Moses Lake's parks and facilities (on a scale of 1 - 5, 1 being poor, and 5 being excellent)?

Answer	Count	Percentage
1 - poor	20	2.5%
2 - fair	46	5.7%
3 - good	215	26.6%
4 - very good	394	48.8%
5 - excellent	125	15.5%
No answer	8	1.0%
Total	808	100.00%



- Over half of the respondents indicated that they felt that the quality of our maintenance for parks and facilities were either Very Good (48.8%) or Excellent (15.5%).

## Park & Facility Usage

### 7. How often do you use the following parks and community facilities when they are in season?

Parks & Attractions	Weighted Average	Rank
A park near my home	2.04	1
McCosh Park	2.00	2
Surf 'n Slide Water Park	1.91	3 *
Cascade Park	1.74	4
Blue Heron Park (former state park)	1.91	3 *
Larson Playfield	1.55	8
Moses Lake Museum & Art Center	1.59	7
Japanese Garden	1.61	6
Civic Center Park	1.36	10
Moses Lake Skate Park	1.26	11
Ice Rink	1.68	5
BMX Track	1.19	12
The Learning Center	1.18	13
Larson Recreation Center (excluding the ice rink)	1.47	9
		* facilities tied for 3 <sup>rd</sup> rank

- Parks near respondents' homes and McCosh Park were most frequently visited. Closely following were the Surf 'n Slide Water Park and Blue Heron Park.

## 8. What are the main reasons you don't use parks or recreation facilities in Moses Lake more often?

Answer	Count	Percentage
N/A	162 of 808	20.0%
Not interested	132 of 808	16.3%
No time	310 of 808	38.4%
Lack of facilities that interest me	155 of 808	19.2%
Too far away, not conveniently located	90 of 808	11.1%
Too crowded	72 of 808	8.9%
Don't know what is available	73 of 808	9.0%
Poorly maintained	41 of 808	5.1%
Feel unsafe	38 of 808	5.9%
Don't know where they are located	37 of 808	4.6%
Do not have transportation	32 of 808	4.0%
Other	88 of 808	10.9%

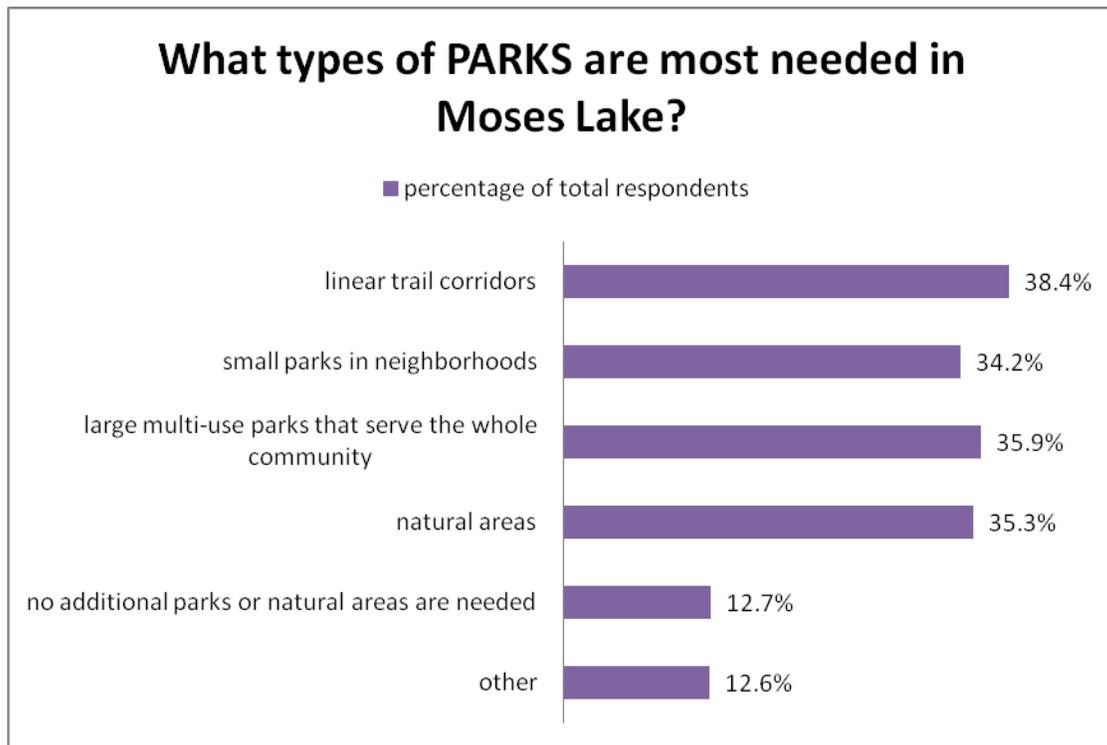


- Not enough “time” during the day was the leading reason indicated why respondents said they don’t use parks or recreation facilities. “Lack of facilities” and “Not interested” were also common responses, however 20% of respondents indicated that this question was not applicable to them.
- Write-in comments included the lack of funding for facilities resulting in closures such as the ice rink and Larson Recreation Center, parks being unkempt and a lack of shade in parks being reasons for not using parks and recreation facilities.
- Recreational opportunities were also seen mainly for younger children and people without children and senior citizens saw few opportunities.

# Park & Facility Needs

## 9. What types of PARKS are most needed in Moses Lake?

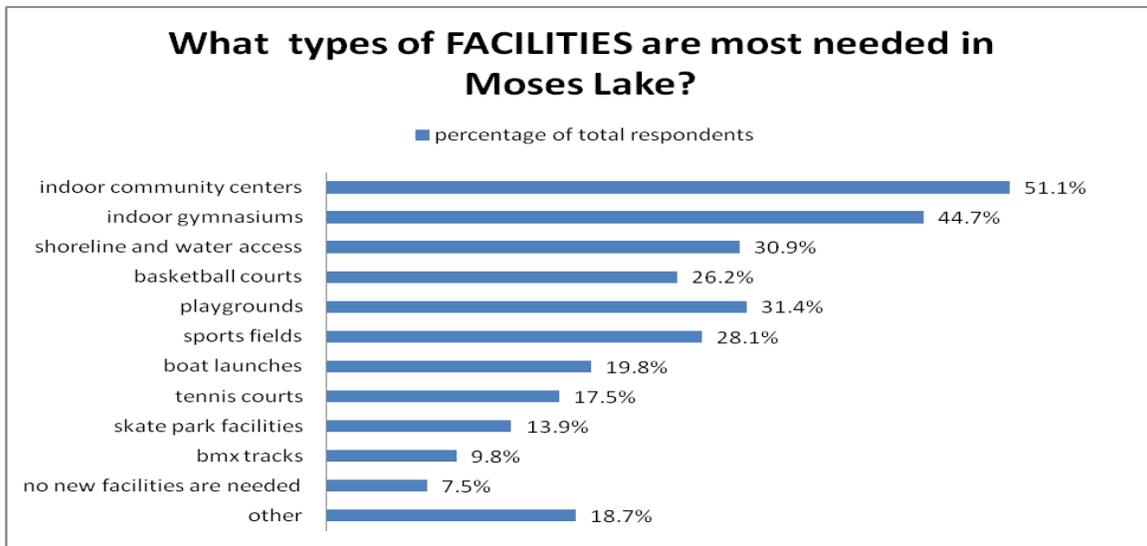
Answer	Count	Percentage
Linear trail corridors	310 of 808	38.4%
Small parks in neighborhoods	276 of 808	34.2%
Large multi-use parks that serve the whole community	290 of 808	35.9%
Natural areas	285 of 808	35.3%
No additional parks or natural areas are needed	103 of 808	12.7%
Other	102 of 808	12.6%



- “Linear Trail Corridors” were indicated as being most needed for parks. Other options were also all heavily represented. Only 12.7% of people felt that we didn’t need additional parks or natural areas.
- Respondents would also like to see improved safety and maintenance of trails and parks. They would also like to enlarge the current parks and connect them together with multi-use paths. Some improvements that were suggested include more shade trees and better playground equipment.

## 10. What types of recreation FACILITIES are most needed in Moses Lake?

Answer	Count	Percentage
Indoor community centers	413 of 808	51.1%
Indoor gymnasiums	361 of 808	44.7%
Shoreline and water access	250 of 808	30.9%
Basketball courts	212 of 808	26.2%
Playgrounds	254 of 808	31.4%
Sports fields	227 of 808	28.1%
Boat launches	160 of 808	19.8%
Tennis courts	141 of 808	17.5%
Skate park facilities	112 of 808	13.9%
BMX tracks	79 of 808	9.8%
No new facilities are needed	61 of 808	7.5%
Other	151 of 808	18.7%

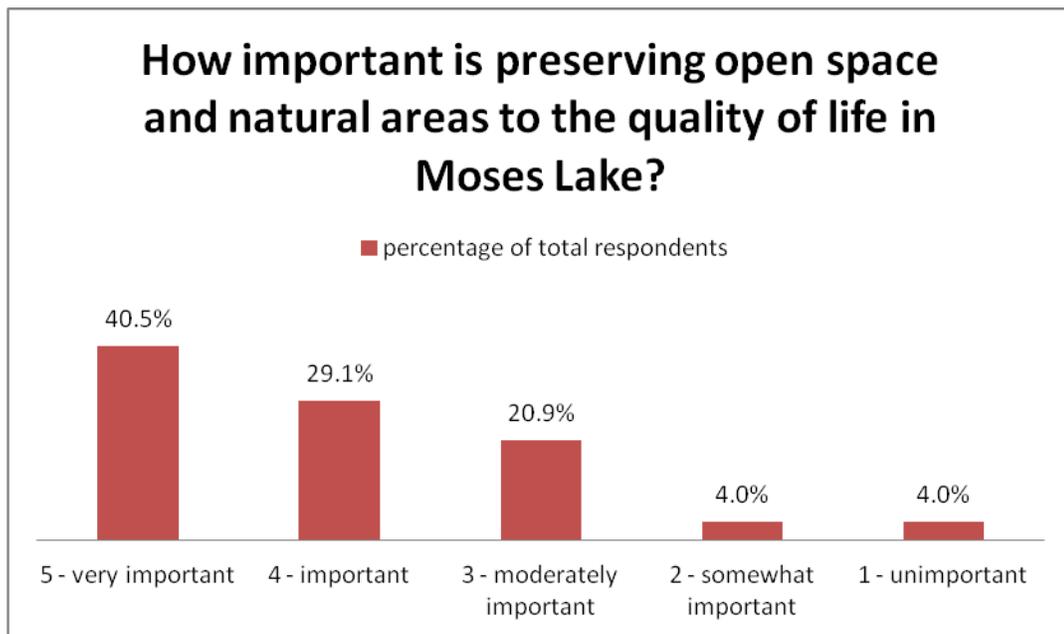


- An indoor community center (51.1%) and indoor gymnasium (44.7%) are the two most desired facilities by our community.
- Additional facilities that would offer year round recreational opportunities were a common theme by all respondents. Creation of an indoor community/recreation center to feature activities such as basketball, ice hockey, roller skating, tennis, mini-golf, racquetball, batting cages, soccer was listed several time in survey results.
- Respondents would also like splash pads and more swimming/beach areas at existing parks near the lake.

## Open Space, Natural Areas & Trails – Attitude

### 11. How important is preserving open space and natural areas to the quality of life in Moses Lake?

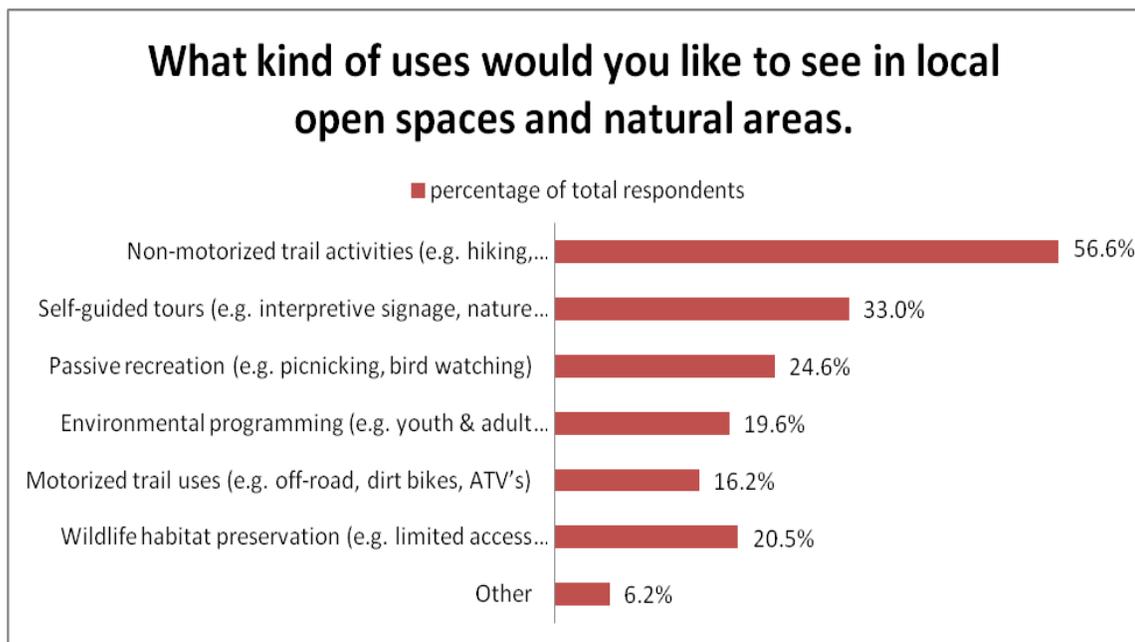
Answer	Count	Percentage
1 – Unimportant	32 of 808	4.0%
2 – Somewhat important	32 of 808	4.0%
3 – Moderately important	169 of 808	20.9%
4 – Important	235 of 808	29.1%
5 – Very important	327 of 808	40.5%



- Preserving open space and natural areas are of great value to nearly 70% of respondents indicating “Important” (29.1%) and “Very Important” (40.5%).

## 12. What kind of uses would you like to see in local open spaces and natural areas?

Answer	Count	Percentage
Non-motorized trail activities (e.g. hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking)	457	56.6%
Self-guided tours (e.g. interpretive signage, nature walks)	267	33.0%
Passive recreation (e.g. picnicking, bird watching)	199	24.6%
Environmental programming (e.g. youth & adult classes, tours, etc.)	158	19.6%
Motorized trail uses (e.g. off-road, dirt bikes, ATV's)	131	16.2%
Wildlife habitat preservation (e.g. limited access for public)	166	20.5%
Other	50	6.2%

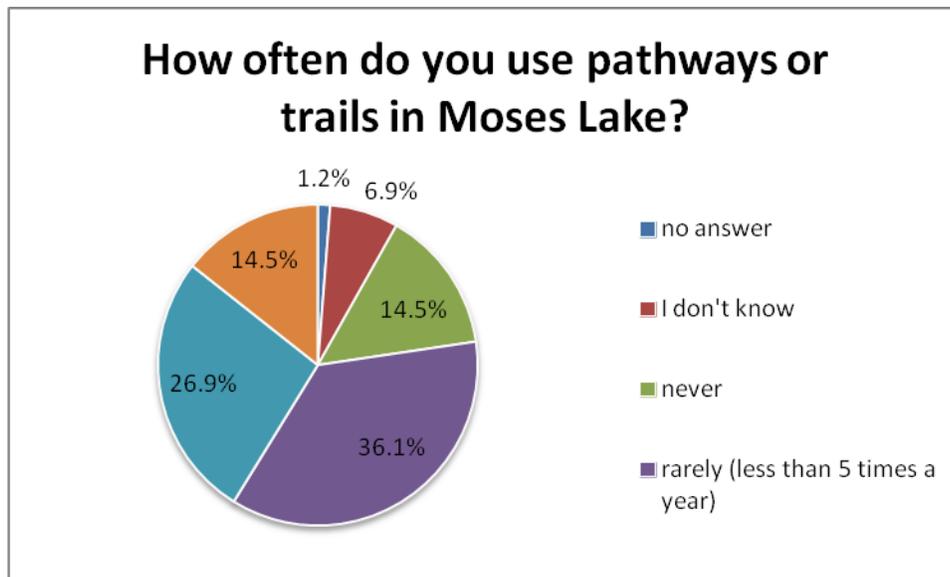


- Over half of respondents would like to see our local space and natural areas used for non-motorized trail activities (56.6%). Second were self-guided tours (33.0%).
- Creating non-motorized areas of the lake for activities like kayaking were a common response as well as preserving the natural and open spaces by leaving them untouched.
- Trails that respondents felt were needed include use for walking, biking, ORV, etc.

## Trail Usage

### 13. How often do you use pathways or trails in Moses Lake?

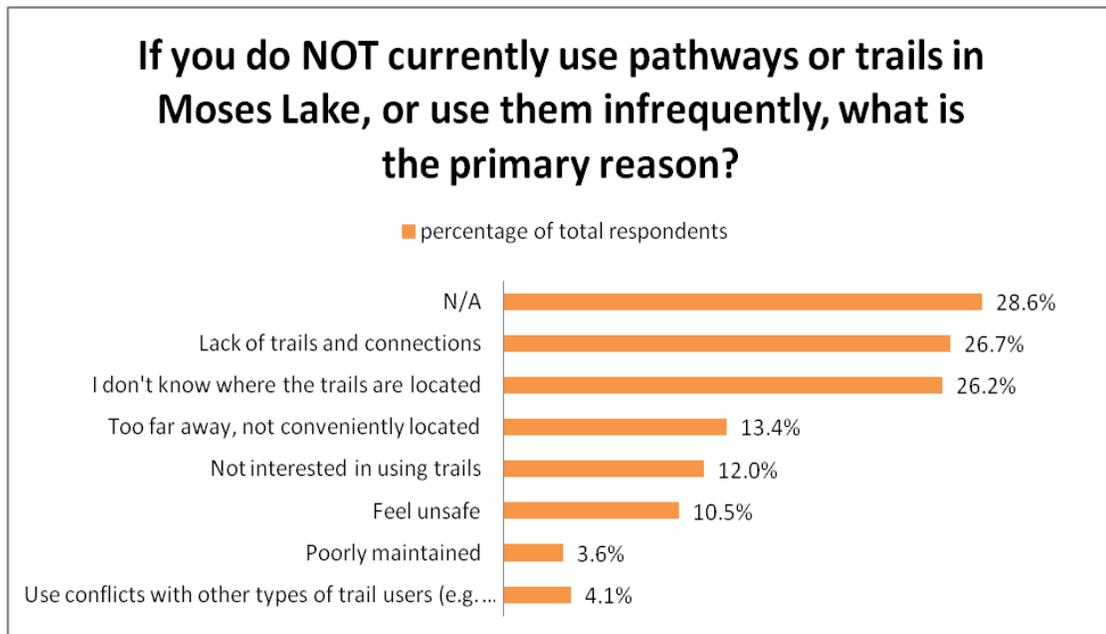
Answer	Count	Percentage
Frequently (once a week or more)	116	14.4%
Sometimes (1-2 times a month)	217	26.9%
Rarely (less than 5 times a year)	292	36.1%
Never	117	14.5%
I don't know	56	6.9%
No answer	10	1.2%
Total	808	100.00%



- Trails and pathways are used at some level of frequency by 77.4% of respondents.

**14. If you do NOT currently use pathways or trails in Moses Lake, or use them infrequently, what is the primary reason?**

Answer	Count	Percentage
N/A	231 of 808	28.6%
Lack of trails and connections	216 of 808	26.7%
I don't know where the trails are located	212 of 808	26.2%
Too far away, not conveniently located	108 of 808	13.4%
Not interested in using trails	97 of 808	12.0%
Feel unsafe	85 of 808	10.5%
Poorly maintained	29 of 808	3.6%
Use conflicts with other types of trail users (e.g. pedestrian vs. bicycle)	33 of 808	4.1%

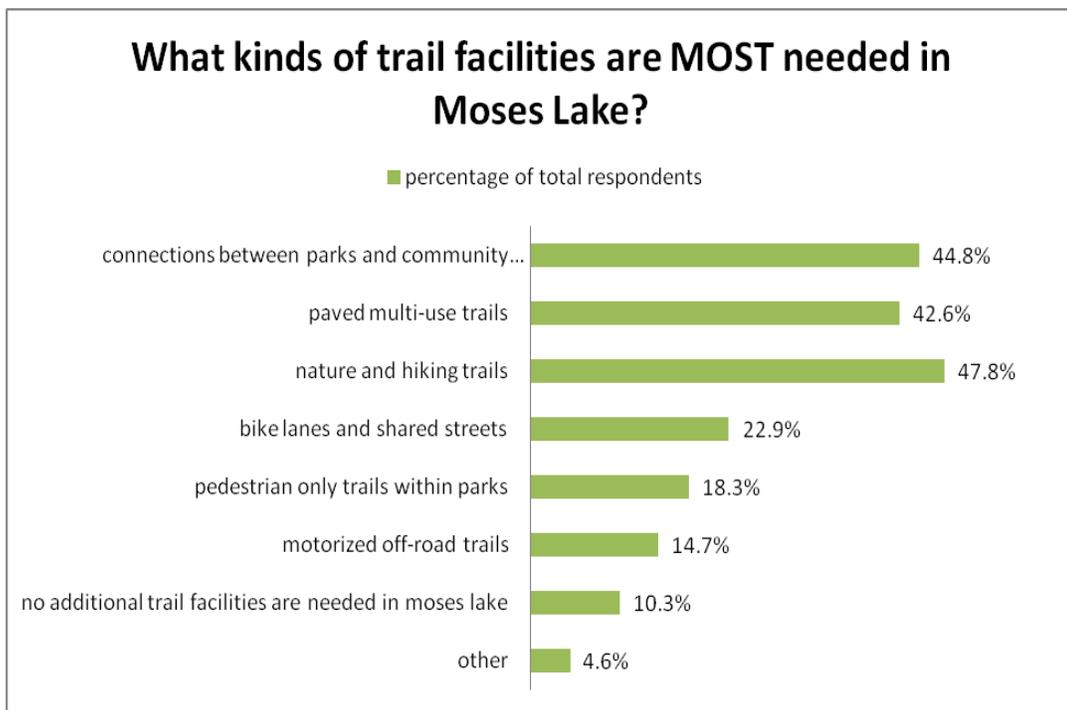


- The greatest reasons for respondents not using trails are a lack of trails and connections (26.7%) and knowledge of where the trails are located (26.2%). Safety and maintenance of the trails did not seem to be a reason why people don't use the trails or pathways. Of all responses, 28.6% of respondents didn't feel this question was applicable to them.

# Trail Needs

## 15. What kinds of trail facilities are MOST needed in Moses Lake?

Answer	Count	Percentage
Connection between parks and community destinations (e.g. downtown loop)	362	44.8%
Paved multi-use trails	344	42.6%
Nature and hiking trails	386	47.8%
Bike lanes and shared streets	185	22.9%
Pedestrian only trails within parks	148	18.3%
Motorized off-road trails	119	14.7%
No additional trail facilities are needed in Moses Lake	83	10.3%
Other	37	4.6%

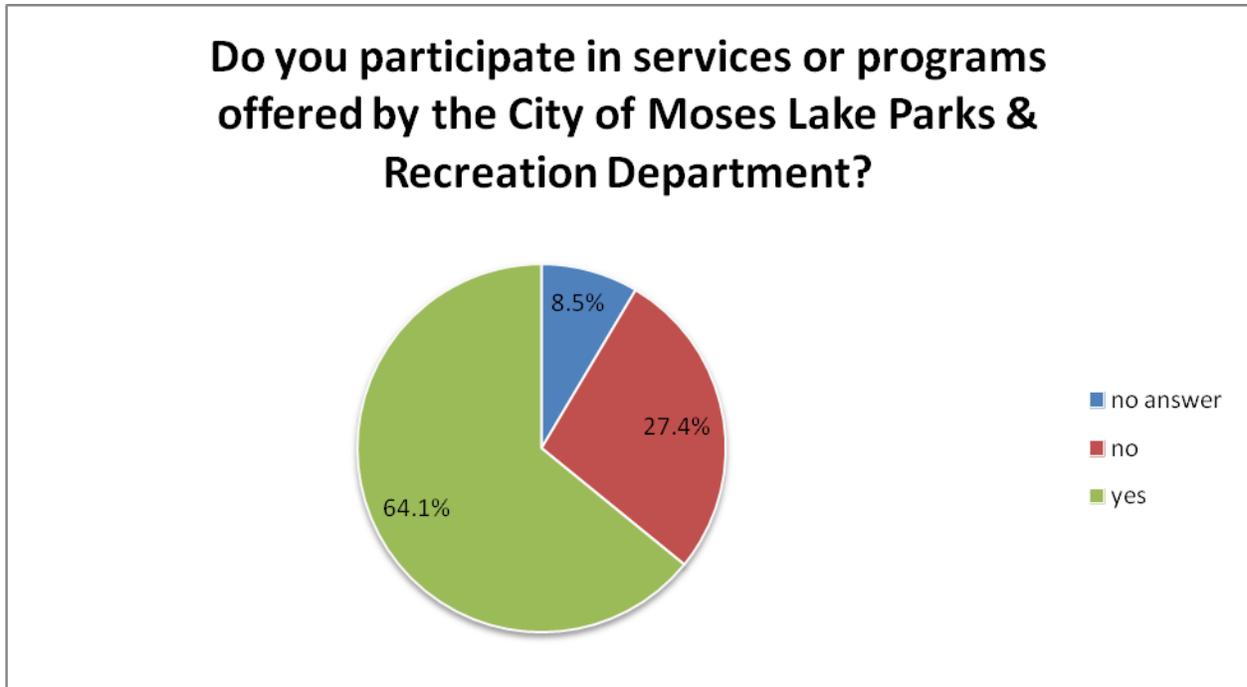


- The greatest response to trail needs were “Nature & hiking trails” (47.8%), “Connections between parks and community destinations” (44.8%) and “Paved multi-use trails” (42.6%).
- Multiple respondents requested for more visible and well lit trails including trails that are unpaved for jogging.
- Water trails for non-motorized watercraft such as for kayaks and paddleboards were a reoccurring request.

## Programming - Participation

### 16. Do you participate in services or programs offered by the City of Moses Lake Parks & Recreation Department?

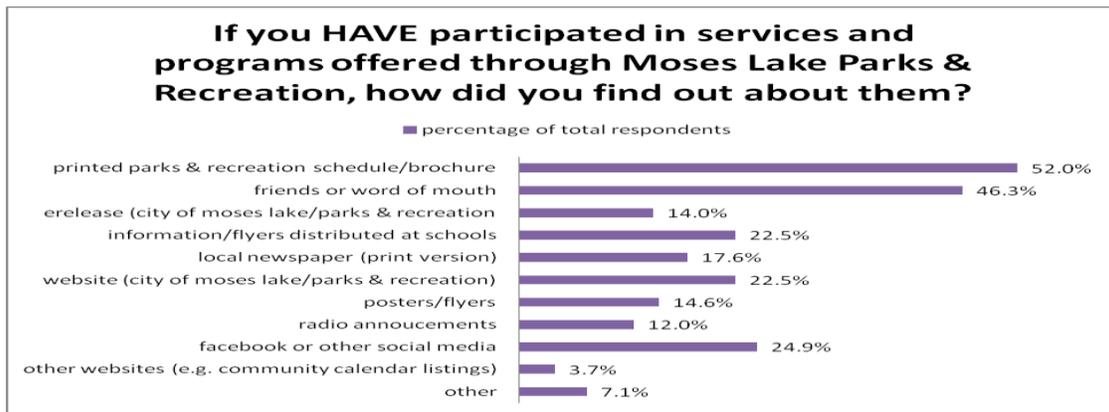
Answer	Count	Percentage
Yes	518	64.1%
No	221	27.4%
No answer	69	8.5%
Total	808	100.00%



- Nearly 65% of all respondents participate in programs offered by Parks & Recreation.

## 17. If you HAVE participated in services and programs offered through Moses Lake Parks & Recreation, how did you find out about them?

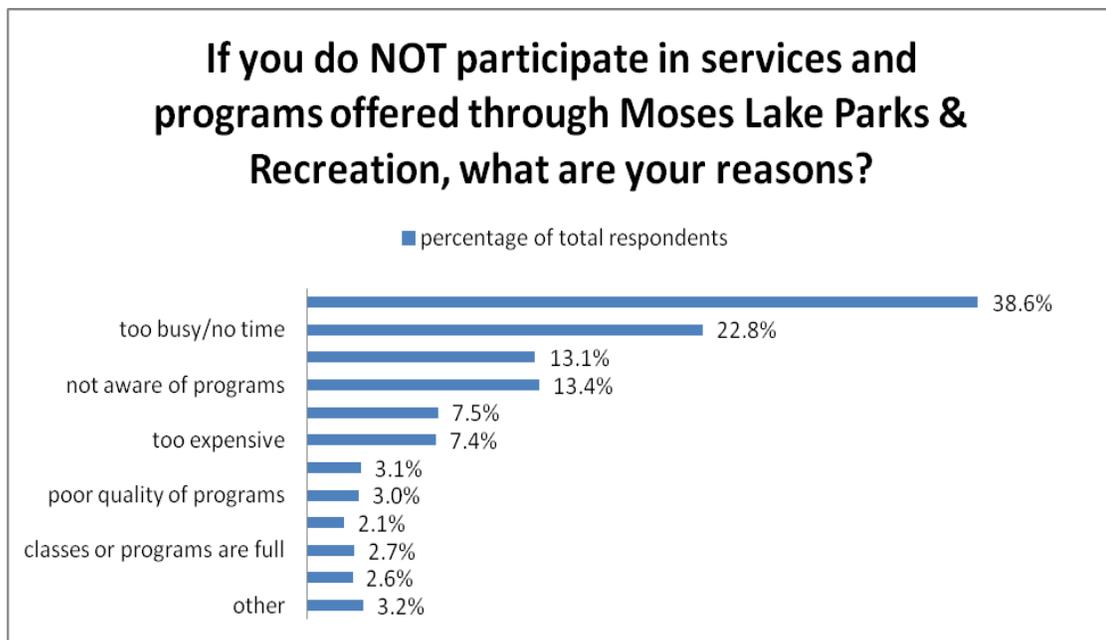
Answer	Count	Percentage
Printed Parks & Recreation schedule/brochure	420 of 808	52.0%
Friends or word of mouth	374 of 808	46.3%
eRelease (City of Moses Lake/Parks & Recreation)	113 of 808	14.0%
Information/flyers distributed at schools	182 of 808	22.5%
Local newspaper (print version)	142 of 808	17.6%
Website (City of Moses Lake/Parks & Recreation)	182 of 808	22.5%
Posters/flyers	118 of 808	14.6%
Radio announcements	97 of 808	12.0%
Facebook or other social media	201 of 808	24.9%
Other websites (e.g. community calendar listings)	30 of 808	3.7%
Other	57 of 808	7.1%



- The greatest way that people find out about Parks & Recreation programs is from the “Printed Parks & Recreation schedule/brochure” (52.0%) and “Friends or word of mouth” (46.3%). Utilization of “Facebook and other social media” (24.9%) as well as “posters/flyers” (22.5%) also seem to be very effective ways to promote programs.
- Most people find out about program opportunities from materials created by the Parks and Recreation department either by published scheduling or digital media. Evidence of this can be seen by the response to this question and the response to question 16 where 64.1% of respondents that indicated that they participate in programs offered by the department.
- Many respondents learn about programs from being involved in existing Parks and Recreation programs. Other write-in responses include schools, church, youth action groups and the newspaper.

**18. If you do NOT participate in services and programs offered through Moses Lake Parks & Recreation, what are your reasons?**

Answer	Count	Percentage
N/A	312 of 808	38.6%
Too busy/no time	184 of 808	22.8%
Don't offer activities I'm interested in	106 of 808	13.1%
Not aware of programs	108 of 808	13.4%
Held at inconvenient times	61 of 808	7.5%
Too expensive	60 of 808	7.4%
Need child care to participate	25 of 808	3.1%
Poor quality of programs	24 of 808	3.0%
Held at inconvenient locations	17 of 808	2.1%
Classes or programs are full	22 of 808	2.7%
Lack of transportation	21 of 808	2.6%
Other	26 of 808	3.2%



- The main reason that people don't participate in programs is due to a lack of time or being too busy (22.8%). Only 13.4% of respondents stated that they were not aware of programs while 13.1% said that Parks & Recreation doesn't offer activities that they're interested in.
- Other reasons for a lack of participation included the inability to register for programs online. This highlights "time" being a major reason for not participating in programs. Other commitments or leisure activities outside of Parks and Recreation were also included write-in responses.
- Respondents felt that there are age gaps in programming.

# Programming - Needs

## 19. What kinds of recreation PROGRAMS are most needed in Moses Lake?

Answer	Count	Percentage
General interest classes (e.g. music lessons, computers)	179 of 808	22.2%
Fitness classes (e.g. aerobic, yoga)	176 of 808	21.8%
Special events (e.g. concerts in the park, festivals)	307 of 808	38.0%
Before/after school programs	189 of 808	23.4%
Aquatic programs (e.g. kayaking, paddle boarding)	246 of 808	30.4%
Arts/Culture (e.g. drama camp, painting, crafts)	161 of 808	19.9%
Programs for a specific group (e.g. youth, adults, seniors or disabled)	134 of 808	16.6%
Outdoor/environmental programs (e.g. nature walks, bird watching)	102 of 808	12.6%
Free activities (e.g. punt-pass & kick, soccer challenge, lectures, free family activities)	240 of 808	29.7%
Athletics (e.g. soccer, basketball)	195 of 808	24.1%
Ice skating (e.g. hockey, skating lessons)	177 of 808	21.9%
No additional recreation programs are needed	37 of 808	4.6%
Other	56 of 808	6.9%

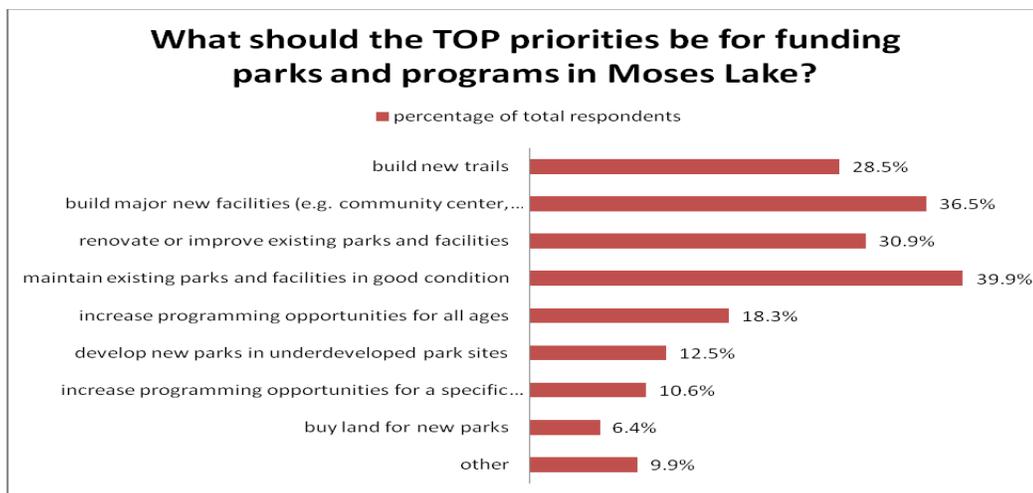


- Respondents within our community stated that the programs we need the most are special events (38.0%), aquatic programs (30.4%) and free activities (29.7%). In the past we have offered free events programs and events such as the concert series and movies in the park, which have been cut due to budget reasons.
- Indoor facilities with programs for young children and additional programs designed for teenagers respondents felt were needed most as well as free concerts in the park.

## Funding Priorities

### 20. What should the TOP priorities be for funding parks and programs in Moses Lake?

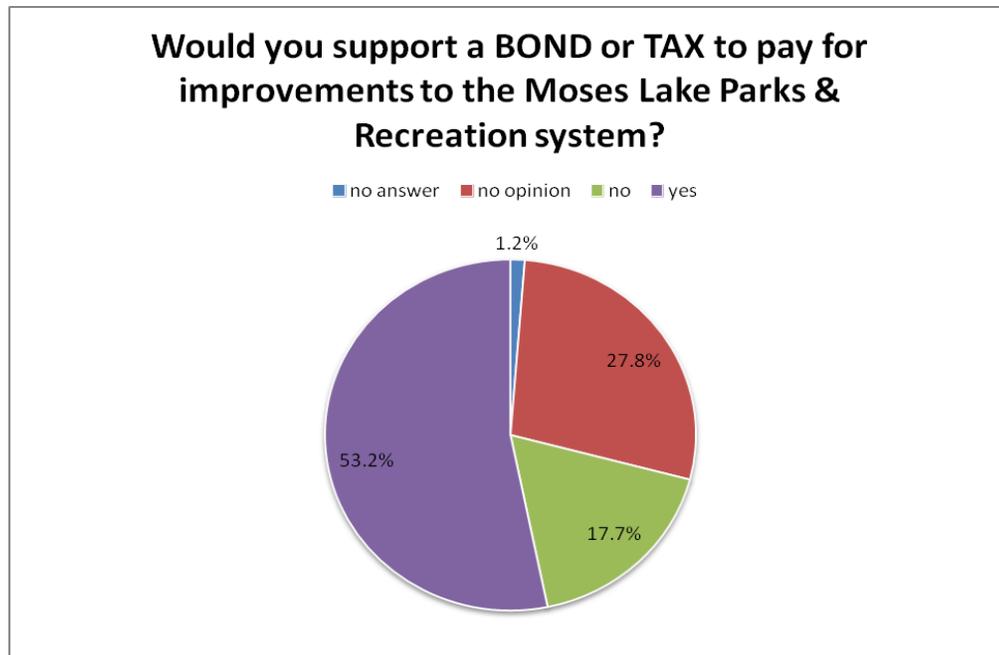
Answer	Count	Percentage
Build new trails	230 of 808	28.5%
Build major new facilities (e.g. community center, sports complex)	296 of 808	36.5%
Renovate or improve existing parks and facilities	250 of 808	30.9%
Maintain existing parks and facilities in good condition	322 of 808	39.9%
Increase programming opportunities for all ages	148 of 808	18.3%
Develop new parks in underdeveloped park sites	101 of 808	12.5%
Increase programming opportunities for a specific group (e.g. youth, adult, senior or disabled)	86 of 808	10.6%
Buy land for new parks	52 of 808	6.4%
Other	80 of 808	9.9%



- A majority of respondents would like to see the Parks & Recreation department maintain the existing parks and facilities (39.9%) with improvements such as replacing ball field lights and build major new facilities (36.5%).
- Write-in responses also include a desire to reopen the closed facilities and programs such as the Larson Recreation Center, continue movies in the park and the free summer concert series, as well as enclose the ice rink.
- Building an indoor recreation center for the community to include activities and sports all year around was also requested by many respondents.

**21. Would you support a BOND or TAX to pay for improvements to the Moses Lake Parks & Recreation system?**

Answer	Count	Percentage
Yes	430	53.2%
No	143	17.7%
No opinion	225	27.8%
No answer	10	1.2%
Total	808	100.00%



- Over 53% of respondents indicated that they would support a bond or tax to pay for improvements to the department. About 28% did not have an opinion which could mean that they would need more information to what specifically this bond or tax would improve or create. Less than 18% stated that they wouldn't support additional taxes.
- Some write-in comments about bonds and taxes indicated that a high school should be built first which has been an important issue in our community. This may have negatively swayed survey responses.
- Better education of separation and differences between the city and school district when promoting a tax or bond could positively affect results with even more in favor of a tax or bond.