

Opportunities:

Improved and new trails will provide access to and appreciation for our existing waterfront parks and Poulsbo's downtown. Improving connections between the very popular Liberty Bay Trail and Fish and Nelson parks could enhance the places and experiences residents most like to walk, enjoy nature and bring guests. Many amenities requested are relatively inexpensive: dirt trails, connecting existing trails, providing signs, garbage receptacles and benches with a scenic view or to watch birds. The commonly desired but expensive paved path will require cost-sharing and grant funding but as a connection to the cross-state trail and paralleling a major commute route, we may be able to find those opportunities and resources.



Poulsbo Trail Survey 2009

Summary of responses

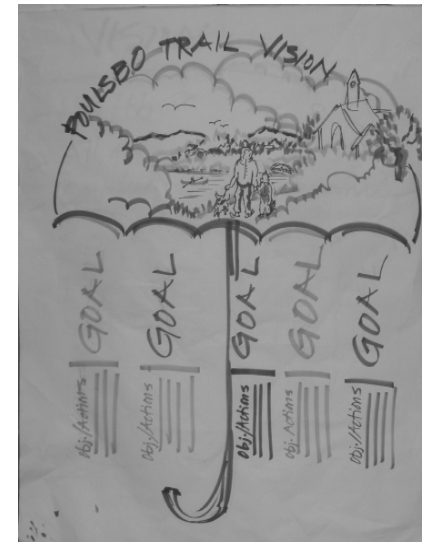


What was the survey all about?

This was an online survey on Survey Monkey, available on the City of Poulsbo website April-June of 2009. Of the 273 respondents, 54% live in the city and 81% live in the 98370 zip code. Two thirds answered for their households, one third as individuals. Eight-five percent of respondents were adults aged 30-64, 8% were over 65. Eighty percent expect to use the trails for exercise or pleasure but many want to use trails for errands (19%) or commuting (16%).

Activities and frequency of use:

Eighty percent of respondents stated they expect to use the trail weekly or more, 28% expect to use it daily. When asked the top three activities they expect to participate in, most participants answered walking (86%) and bicycling (77%) but close to a third of people included nature observation/ birding, running, walking pets or going shopping or to public places.



*For more information please contact
Poulsbo Parks and Recreation at 360.779.9898*

Connections & Favorites:

The top choice for connections within Poulsbo was the historic downtown (75%), while 62% want connections to parks, 50% to shopping and 41% to schools. When asked their favorite bike destination beyond Poulsbo, after the top choice of Port Gamble area trails, people were equally split between not knowing of a safe place to ride or wanting to connect to Big Valley or Bainbridge Island. The best route named to show visitors Poulsbo was the waterfront boardwalk, followed by downtown Front Street and the Liberty Bay Trail. The best wildlife viewing was Fish Park, followed by the boardwalk and Liberty Bay Trail. When asked their favorite place to bike, Liberty Bay Trail came in #1, but more distant paved trails (such as Olympic Discovery in Clallam Co. and the Burke Gilman in Seattle) had the most votes when combined.



Design preferences:

The top requested design elements were a paved trail 51%, restrooms 46%, and benches 40%, but 33% of respondents requested garbage and pet waste disposal and 20% asked for dirt trails, native plantings,



Safety and access:

When asked about impediments to walking and bicycling, the overwhelming answer was a concern about safety, with traffic too close and inadequate shoulders and sidewalks (55%). Another problem is lack of connections (22%) and lack of signs and maps (1%). We received many comments such as "We are desperately in need of safe, paved bicycling", "Make it easy to get out of cars and bike or walk away from cars" and even "The drivers seem to want to kill or maim me!"



Priorities:

The top locations requested for improvements were the waterfront trail from Lemolo through downtown and to Fish/Nelson Park; loops near the High school/Wilderness Park/Raab Park; a safe connection by Finn Hill and improving connections to downtown/schools; and connecting the Westside, Olhava and to Clear Creek and Big Valley. Specific suggestions about route priorities, existing "informal trails" and other connections are best understood by reading the written comments.

