



CITY OF MOUNTLAKE TERRACE  
RECREATION, PARKS AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

**Summary Report 3:  
Public Involvement Findings**

June 2008



Prepared by MIG, Inc.



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## INTRODUCTION

This summary report is the third produced during the Recreation, Parks, and Open Space Master Plan process. These summary reports are intended to allow for review of the progress in developing the updated plan. This document summarizes the input obtained from a series of community involvement activities. Included in this report are the summarized results of eight focus group, highlights of the March 5<sup>th</sup> 2008 community vision workshop and results of the community recreation survey conducted during April and May of 2008.



## KEY FINDINGS

The overall themes that developed from all of the public involvement opportunities are summarized below. Other input from the public during the planning process will be considered in analysis and recommendations on specific parks and programs. These key findings will be particularly important to setting the overall strategic direction for the updated plan.

### GENERAL

- important to Mountlake Terrace's quality of life.
- Mountlake Terrace residents primarily use parks to enjoy the outdoors and nature and to walk or bike for exercise.
- Many residents are unaware of both where parks and trails are and what programs are offered.
- Youth also use parks to meet friends and to play sports.

### NATURAL OPEN SPACE AND TRAILS

- Protection of natural open space is important, and users should be able to access and enjoy the green spaces in the community.
- Trails and trail-related activities are important and should be a focus of future efforts.

### RECREATION FACILITIES AND PROGRAMMING

- There is considerable support for the existing park system; residents would like to see upgrades to the parks and facilities.
- Residents enjoy and would like to see more special events, such as concerts and community festivals.



- School facilities are not widely used by the community, but the partnership with Terrace Park School is seen as a success.
- The Recreation Pavilion is the primary public recreation center used by residents, while also providing a draw for people from surrounding communities.
- A number of new and improved major facilities are suggested, including a reconstructed Recreation Pavilion with a different mix of indoor spaces.
- A dog park facility is well-supported by the public input, with many residents reporting dog walking and visiting dog parks as important activities as well.
- The idea of a natural amphitheater at the Recreation Pavilion was also supported.
- Organized sports are very important to youth in Mountlake Terrace, and additional/upgraded facilities were frequently mentioned.





## FOCUS GROUPS

A series of eight focus group discussions were conducted with Mountlake Terrace's community members over December 5 and 6, 2007. The discussions were facilitated by members of the consultant team. The purpose of these discussions was to present members of the community with opportunities to share their ideas and concerns for the future of recreation, parks, and open space in Mountlake Terrace. Participant groups included:

- Premera Blue Cross Employees;
- Local Public Agency Representatives;
- Local Business Community Members;
- Organized Youth and Adult Sports;
- Open Space and Conservation Interests;
- Recreation Program Participants;
- Parks and Recreation Maintenance Employees;
- Senior Recreation Participants; and
- Mountlake Terrace Recreation Pavilion Staff.

A similar agenda was used with each group. This agenda included introductions and a brief overview of the planning process, with the greater portion of time spent on open discussion of current conditions, as well as future needs and possibilities. This document summarizes the key elements of these discussion sessions. Summaries of individual groups' discussions are also available.

### Key Roles

Groups were asked to describe the key role of Mountlake Terrace Recreation and Parks in the community. Though there were numerous answers to this question, common themes did emerge:

- Provide amenities to attract and retain residents and visiting tourists.
- Provide recreation opportunities for local residents.
- Support downtown redevelopment efforts through connectivity and beautification of the community.
- Provide equal access to all user groups.
- Preserve and care for natural open spaces in the urban setting.

Further discussion revealed strengths as well as issues and opportunities for improvement of the current recreation and parks

system. Common themes and ideas in each of these areas are summarized in the following lists.

### **Key Strengths**

- Dedicated recreation and parks staff provide excellent customer service and maintain facilities in good working order,
- An inclusive process is being pursued during planning,
- Programming is available to nearly every user group,
- The Recreation Pavilion provides a wide variety of programs, facilities, and services,
- Established successful inter-local agreements.
- Strong fiscal management at the City.

### **Key Issues**

- There are limited opportunities for land acquisition/ new development of parks.
- There is a lack of connectivity between parks, the town center area and other established residential areas. I-5 and Highway 99 are physical and conceptual barriers to cross-town transportation.
- Despite excellent care by the maintenance staff, most facilities and amenities are outdated and in need of repairs or upgrade.
- The new town center plan sets a new standard for the quality of new development/ services/ facilities – this new standard should also be applied to other City services such as parks.
- Parking is very limited at parks and other destinations.
- There is significant interest in creation of public / common gathering spaces for social and recreational uses.
- There is concern over the increase in staff and maintenance that future facility expansions will require.
- Teens are viewed as the most underserved (and difficult to serve) recreation user group.
- As the population ages, and baby boomers retire, recreation needs and desires will change.
- There are varying levels of support, interest and concern around the idea of a skateboarding facility.



## Ideas and Opportunities

- Renovation and increases in amenities at existing parks are favored over expensive acquisition of new park land.
- People already come from the surrounding areas to use Mountlake Terrace facilities; increasing leisure amenities could help capture some of their consumer dollars.
- Mountlake Terrace is demographically well positioned, with a relatively young population, for supporting increased recreation and leisure amenities.
- Partnerships between local businesses and the City could help provide labor and funding for improvements.
- Partnerships with local agencies can increase efficient uses of funds, and avoid competition and duplication of services.
- Volunteers and service groups could become community partners to maintain existing and potential facilities.
- The Inter-Urban Trail is an element that can help focus the cooperation and efforts of several interested user groups.
- Conservation of existing open space is important to the community.
- Recreation users of all ages participate in programming offered by the City.
- Some user groups are underserved, and efforts should be made to engage these groups in the planning process and to address their recreation needs. The following groups were identified specifically but may not include all underserved populations:
  - Active seniors;
  - Stay at home parents / primary care givers;
  - Teens (10-18 years); and
  - Non-native English speakers.
- Improvements to sport fields would have a significant impact on a large number of regular users and could save the City time and expense in the future.
- A strategic plan and schedule for repairs and improvements could help create priorities and use funding and staff time more efficiently.
- As the community begins to outgrow the current recreation pavilion, future possibilities for a new building or site can be explored, as well as future uses for the current facility.



## COMMUNITY VISION WORKSHOP SUMMARY

On March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2008 the Recreation and Parks Department of the City of Mountlake Terrace held a public visioning workshop to connect with a broad audience of residents about their desires and priorities for future development of recreation programming and the park system. The planning team made a brief presentation about Mountlake Terrace's existing park system and the planning process of which this workshop is an important part. The workshop included a variety of input opportunities, including individual consideration, one-on-one interactions with the planning team, small group discussions with their neighbors, and a facilitated discussion including all participants.



### Board Exercises

At the beginning of the workshop a series of display boards presented a series of questions relating to behaviors and opinions about the recreation and park system in Mountlake Terrace. The following findings are summarized from the board exercises.

- Participants in the workshop live in all parts of Mountlake Terrace.
- Walking and driving are the primary means of transportation to area recreation and park activities.
- The amenities considered most needed in Mountlake Terrace parks are natural areas and off-leash dog parks.
- Aquatics were indicated as the most participated-in activity during the last year, followed by weight room use and other classes/activities.
- Respondents indicated they utilized the Recreation Pavilion as their primary choice for indoor recreation activities. A private gym or other sports facility was their second selection.
- The two categories most needed in Mountlake Terrace as seen by respondents are outdoor/environmental programs and special events (concerts in the park, festivals). Fitness classes were also indicated, although fewer individuals chose this as their top priority.

## Strengths, Challenges, and Opportunities

Following the introductory remarks and presentation on the planning process, the group discussed the current situation in Mountlake Terrace, focusing on existing strengths and challenges while at the same time discussing opportunities.

### STRENGTHS

- Lots of parks
- Trees
- Great pool
- Ability to hold sports tournament
- Freeway exits/access
- Lighted tennis
- Terrace Creek Park

### CHALLENGES

- Parks block access through City
- Invasive species of plants and aging tree canopy
- Pavilion serves younger kids only; need teen/youth programs
- More programs
  - Older adults
  - Diverse cultural groups
- Pedestrian access
  - Need more crosswalks



### OPPORTUNITIES

- Indoor track
- Amphitheater at Pavilion
- Access between parks
- Need permanent restrooms and water fountains
- Forest replacement plan

## Maximizing the Park System

The majority of the workshop time was used for a small group exercise that allowed five to ten residents to work together, with maps of the city's parks. Each group was asked to identify community destinations and challenges in travelling to or utilizing these places. The groups were also asked to locate or simply identify any ideas they had about improvements to the park system. From the identified ideas, destinations, and challenges, each group

was asked to report back to the larger group their top four or five priorities. These priorities were also recorded and are presented below. In addition to these priorities, other comments and map notes will also be considered in the development of plan recommendations.

## PRIORITIES

- Update playgrounds
- New parks on the west side of the city
- Update/upgrade sports fields
- Farmers' market
- Community gardens
- Improved indoor facilities
  - Replace Pavilion with two-story facility
  - Multicultural center
  - Multi-age center
- Large group gathering places
- Safety improvements
- Maintain local character
- Permanent restrooms
- Acquire land where available
- Teen activities
- Upgrade trails
  - Benches
  - Amenities
- Habitat improvements

## COMMUNITY RECREATION SURVEY

This report summarizes the findings of the Mountlake Terrace Community Recreation Survey. The purpose of the survey was to obtain input on Mountlake Terrace's recreation and park needs. (Appendix A includes the survey instruments, which include both a four-page adult form and a two-page youth targeted survey. Findings for each are presented separately. Appendix B includes write-in responses to survey questions.)

### Methodology

MIG, Inc. and Northwest Survey and Data Services conducted a Community Recreation Survey for the City of Mountlake Terrace between April and May of 2008 to establish priorities for future improvement of recreation and parks facilities, programs, and services within the community. The survey was administered by mail and designed to obtain statistically valid results representative of households within the Mountlake Terrace city limits. A random sample of 2,000 households was selected based on active telephone numbers.

Each randomly selected household was mailed a questionnaire with a postage-paid envelope to facilitate return. Three weeks after the initial mailing, a second copy of the questionnaire was mailed to households that had not responded. The total numbers for mailing and returns are detailed below.

### Return Rate Calculation

Total Good Addresses in Sample	1707
Total Adult Returns	410
Response Rate	24%

410 responses from the random sample provide a 95% level of confidence with a margin of error of +/- 4.79%. In other words, we can be 95% certain that the survey findings vary no more than 4.79 percent from the results that would have been obtained if everyone in the City had been surveyed. The return rate and resulting

margin of error are extremely good, indicating a high level of interest in recreation and parks in Mountlake Terrace.

### Adult Form

The main instrument was an adult survey that included questions about specific program and facility needs, park types and usage, current, and desired recreation participation. The complete adult form can be found in Appendix A to this report. This form included instructions to complete the questions as they apply to the individual completing the form (not the entire household) and to return it with a youth form, if one was completed. The analysis of these results included cross tabulating results to determine if differences existed between male and female respondents as well as other demographic features selected by respondents. Where differences existed, they are noted in the analysis.

Results of this survey were also compared to the recent Citizen Survey. Respondents appear to have similar use patterns for parks and the Recreation Pavilion. Comparison comments are included with the relevant questions below.

### DEMOGRAPHIC QUESTIONS

Question: What is your age?

	Total
	403
18-24	5 1.2%
25-34	38 9.4%
35-44	64 15.9%
45-54	99 24.6%
55-64	95 23.6%
65+	102 25.3%

- Most of the adult respondents were above the age of 45. This is a typical result in mailed surveys

Question: Male or Female?

	Total
	359
Male	165 46%
Female	194 54%

- Slightly over half of respondents were female. Many mailed surveys have a higher response rate by females.

Question: Where in Mountlake Terrace do you live?

	Total
	397
West of I-5 & North of 228th St.	52 13.1%
West of I-5 and South of 228th St.	46 11.6%
East of I-5 and South of 228th St.	148 37.3%
East of I-5 and North of 228th St.	151 38.0%

- Over 70% of respondents live on the east side of Interstate 5 in Mountlake Terrace.

Question: How long have you lived in Mountlake Terrace?

	Total
	400
3 years or less	51 12.8%
4-6 years	63 15.8%
7-10 years	34 8.5%
11-19 years	63 15.8%
20+ years	189 47.3%

- The largest group of respondents has lived in Mountlake Terrace for over 20 years.
- A second large group of respondents (28.6%) has lived in Mountlake Terrace for less than seven years.

Question: Do you own or rent your home?

	Total
	401
Rent	45 11.2%
Own	356 88.8%

- 88% of respondents are homeowners. This is consistent with the older, established nature of respondents indicated in previous questions.

#### RECREATION AND PARKS QUESTIONS

Question: How important are parks, recreation services, and open space to Mountlake Terrace's quality of life?

	Total
	397
Not Important	8 2.0%
Not Important - Important	6 1.5%
Important	68 17.1%
Important - Very Important	75 18.9%
Very Important	235 59.2%
No Opinion	5 1.3%

- Over 95% of respondents feel that parks, recreation services, and open space are between important and very important to Mountlake Terrace's quality of life.

Question: How often do you use the following parks and community facilities when they are in season? *For each park, please mark the column that describes how often you visit.*

	Total	Frequently (Once a week or more)	Sometimes (1-2 times/month)	Rarely (Less than 5 times /year)	Never
City park in your neighborhood	358 100.0%	104 29.1%	97 27.1%	85 23.7%	72 20.1%
Trails (walking, hiking, biking, etc.)	364 100.0%	94 25.8%	91 25.0%	93 25.5%	86 23.6%
Natural Areas (i.e. Terrace Creek Park Corridor)	358 100.0%	75 20.9%	92 25.7%	102 28.5%	89 24.9%
Recreation pavilion	361 100.0%	62 17.2%	57 15.8%	137 38.0%	105 29.1%
School gym, field, or playground	352 100.0%	45 12.8%	47 13.4%	98 27.8%	162 46.0%
A park primarily made up of ball fields (i.e. Forest Crest, Evergreen)	346 100.0%	43 12.4%	46 13.3%	107 30.9%	150 43.4%

- Over 50% of respondents reported using a neighborhood park at least once a month, with 29% visiting once a week or more.
- Male respondents appear to be less likely to use neighborhood parks as frequently. (This tendency emerged after cross-tabulation of survey results by age, gender, and other factors.)
- 33% of respondents reported visiting the Recreation Pavilion at least once a month.
- Over 50% of respondents reported using trails at least once a month.
- Over 45% of respondents reported visiting a natural area at least once a month.
- 26.2% of respondents reported using a school gym, field, or playground at least once a month.
- Over 45% of respondents never visit school gyms, fields or playgrounds.
- 25.7% of respondents reported using a park primarily made up of ball fields at least once a month.
- Most respondents never (over 40%) or rarely (nearly 75%) use parks that are primarily ball fields.

Question: What are the primary reasons that you use parks in Mountlake Terrace? *Please check your top two choices.*

	Total
	630
Enjoy the outdoors or nature	192 30.5%
Walk or bike for exercise	173 27.5%
Participate in family activities	64 10.2%
Don't use parks	50 7.9%
Picnic and general leisure activities	41 6.5%
Use a specific facility at a park	36 5.7%
Attend special events/concerts	34 5.4%
Play sports	32 5.1%
Meet friends	8 1.3%

- The most frequently selected reasons that respondents say they use parks for are to enjoy the outdoors or nature (30.5%) and to walk or bike for exercise (27.5%)
- Youth respondents use parks primarily for playing sports and meeting friends.

Question: If you seldom use or do not use the parks in Mountlake Terrace what are your reasons? *(Please check your top 2 choices)*

	Total
	300
Not interested/no time	112 37.3%
Don't know what is available	43 14.3%
Don't know where they are	33 11.0%
Feel unsafe	32 10.7%
Lack of facilities	31 10.3%
Poorly maintained	22 7.3%
Too far away; not conveniently located	19 6.3%
Too crowded	5 1.7%
Do not have transportation	3 1.0%

- The most frequently chosen reason for not using Mountlake Terrace Parks was not interested/no time (37.3%).
- Many respondents reported being unaware of parks and locations.
- Lack of facilities and safety are also identified issues.

Question: How would you rate the importance of natural open space?

	Total
	393
Not Important	4 1.0%
Not Important - Important	9 2.3%
Important	64 16.3%
Important - Very Important	69 17.6%
Very Important	241 61.3%
Don't Know	6 1.5%

- Over 95% of respondents think that natural open space is either important or very important.
- The importance of natural open space aligns with the results of the importance of the park system as a whole.

Question: How should natural areas be used? *Please check only 1 choice.*

	Total
	373
No public use (preserved for wildlife habitat)	12 3.2%
Limited public use (trails, viewpoints, etc.)	86 23.1%
Semi-active recreational use (picnicking, playgrounds, etc.)	49 13.1%
Combination of the above	111 29.8%
Depends on the site	115 30.8%

- Almost a third of respondents said natural area use should depend on the site. Another 30% feel that a combination of uses is appropriate.
- Nearly all respondents believe some access is appropriate.

Question: If you do not currently use pathways or trails in Mountlake Terrace, what are your primary reasons? *(Please check your top 2 choices.)*

	Total
	330
Don't know where they are located	98 29.7%
Not interested in using trails	72 21.8%
Feel unsafe	59 17.9%
Lack of trails and connections	42 12.7%
Too far away, not conveniently located	34 10.3%
Poorly maintained	17 5.2%
Conflicts with other types of trail users	8 2.4%

- The most common reason respondents gave for not using Mountlake Terrace trails was not knowing where they are located (29.7%).
- Approximately 18% say they do not use trails because they feel unsafe. Safety after dark in parks was an issue identified on the Citizen Survey.
- Safety is a bigger concern for females and older respondents (finding determined by cross-tabulation of results).
- Lack of connections and convenience were also cited.

### PARKS AND FACILITIES QUESTIONS

Question: What type of amenities should be provided to encourage trail use? *Please check your top 2 choices.*

	Total
	624
Trail signage and mileage markers	141 22.6%
Restrooms	126 20.2%
More access points and trailheads	104 16.7%
Educational features (signs)	86 13.8%
Viewpoints and overlooks	71 11.4%
Active recreation features (playgrounds, paved courts, etc.)	48 7.7%
Picnic areas	48 7.7%

- Trail signage and mileage markers (22.6%) and restrooms (20.2%) were the amenities most respondents thought should be provided to encourage trail use.
- The “trail signage” response is consistent with the previous finding about lack of awareness of trails.

Question: Which of the following facilities would you support adding to the park system? *Please check all that apply*

	Total
	726
Amphitheater	173 23.8%
Off-leash dog park	168 23.1%
Water playground	134 18.5%
Skateboard park/features	112 15.4%
Horseshoe pits	80 11.0%
Bocce courts	59 8.1%

- An amphitheater (23.8%) and off-leash dog park (23.1%) were the facilities respondents supported the most.
- A water playground (18.5%) also received significant support.

Question: What type of indoor recreation spaces are most needed? *Please check your top 2 choices*

	Total
	606
Space for senior citizen activities	101 16.7%
Indoor swimming pool	99 16.3%
Space for teen activities	89 14.7%
Multi-use gymnasium	80 13.2%
Weightroom/fitness room	58 9.6%
Performance space	53 8.7%
Aerobics/exercise classrooms	48 7.9%
Large multi-purpose/reception room	34 5.6%
Childcare	22 3.6%
Meeting rooms/classrooms	22 3.6%

- Specialized indoor spaces for seniors and teens were frequent choices. The quality of senior services ranked below the norm in the Citizen Survey, while youth services were similar to the norm.
- Large indoor facilities including a swimming pool and gymnasium were also popular.
- The existing facilities for meeting rooms, aerobics classrooms, and childcare may have deemphasized their importance in this response.

Question: How can Mountlake Terrace's park system be improved?  
*Please check your top 2 choices.*

	Total
	671
Upgrading existing parks	219 32.6%
Maintaining existing parks and facilities	215 32.0%
Acquiring natural areas	84 12.5%
Acquiring land for future parks	67 10.0%
Developing new parks	52 7.7%
Building major new facilities, such as pools or community centers	34 5.1%

- Most respondents felt that upgrading existing parks (32.6%) and maintaining existing parks and facilities (32%) are the most needed improvements to Mountlake Terrace's park system.
- Building major new facilities was the least selected choice.
- Quality of existing parks and the appearance/maintenance of parks rated considerably below the norm on the Citizen Survey

Question: Do you participate in recreation, cultural, senior, or sports programs offered by Mountlake Terrace?

	Total
	389
Yes	132 33.9%
No	257 66.1%

- A third of respondents (33.9%) currently participate in recreation, cultural, senior, or sports programs offered by Mountlake Terrace. This is a high percentage compared to other communities surveyed by MIG.
- This is approximately the same percentage that uses the Recreation Pavilion regularly.
- Women and younger respondents were more likely to participate in recreation, cultural, senior, or sports programs offered by Mountlake Terrace (as determined by cross-tabulation).

Question: If you do not participate in recreation or sports programs offered by Mountlake Terrace, what are your reasons? (*Please check all that apply*)

	Total
	419
Too busy; no time	142 33.9%
Not aware of programs	88 21.0%
Don't have activities that I am interested in	65 15.5%
Held at inconvenient times	47 11.2%
Too expensive	44 10.5%
Need child care in order to participated	10 2.4%
Held at inconvenient locations	9 2.1%
Poor quality of programs	8 1.9%
Lack of transportation	5 1.2%
Classes of programs are full	1 0.2%

- The response most frequently given for not participating in recreation or sports programs was too busy/no time (33.9%)
- A significant percentage (21%) of respondents were not aware of Mountlake Terrace programs.
- Mix of activities, times, and cost appear to be other significant reasons for lack of participation.

- On the Citizen Survey the range and variety of classes rated similar to the norm while the quality of classes exceeded the norm.
- Transportation to and accessibility of the Recreation Pavilion does not seem to be an issue on this or the Citizen Survey.

Question: Which types of recreation activities are most needed in Mountlake Terrace? *Please check your top 2 choices.*

	Total
	630
Special events (dances, concerts in the park, festivals, etc.)	160 25.4%
Outdoor/environmental programs (hiking, canoeing, nature programs, etc.)	99 15.7%
Arts (performing, visual, cultural)	73 11.6%
Drop-in activities (gymnasium, game room, computers, etc.)	71 11.3%
Fitness classes (aerobics, yoga, etc.)	52 8.3%
Aquatic programs (swimming, scuba diving, water fitness, etc.)	50 7.9%
No new activities needed	49 7.8%
Sports (baseball, tennis, etc.)	35 5.6%
Other: _____	28 4.4%
Extreme sports/outdoor adventure (rock climbing, mountain biking, snowboarding, etc.)	13 2.1%

- A quarter of respondents think that special events are the most needed recreation activity in Mountlake Terrace.
- Outdoor/environmental programs (15.7%), arts (11.6%), and drop-in activities (11.3%) are also activities many respondents think are needed.

Question: What types of cultural arts program should Mountlake Terrace offer? *(Please check your top 2 choices)*

	Total
	642
Concerts in the parks	220 34.3%
Community art festivals and special events	124 19.3%
Performing arts programs (theater, dance, music, etc.)	86 13.4%
Visual arts classes (drawing, painting, photography, etc.)	62 9.7%
Multi-cultural activities and programming	46 7.2%
Art in public spaces, such as murals, sculpture, and statues	46 7.2%
I do not support the City's providing cultural arts programs and services	33 5.1%
Literary arts (reading groups, lectures)	17 2.6%
Other: _____	8 1.2%

- Special events such as concerts in the parks (34.3%) and community art festivals (19.3%) are the cultural arts program most respondents would like to see Mountlake Terrace offer.

Question: In general, would you support a tax measure to maintain and improve existing parks and trails, acquire more parks and natural areas, or develop more trails, parks and recreation facilities?

	Total
	385
I would support it, depending on the amount and projects.	168 43.6%
Yes, I would support it.	86 22.3%
No, I would not support it.	55 14.3%
I would support it, depending on the projects proposed.	43 11.2%
I would support it, depending on the amount.	33 8.6%

- Over 80% of respondents would provisionally support a tax measure.
- 14% said they would not support a tax measure.

- Both the cost and project mix are important decision factors.

A final question included an opportunity for respondents to add any additional comments. The results from this question, along with responses to open-ended “Other” answer choices, are included in Appendix B.

## Youth Form

The youth instrument was included in the survey package to each household with instructions requesting that if a youth from 10-18 lives in the household that they should complete the targeted questions and return the form with the adult’s survey. The results from the youth forms returned are summarized below.

## DEMOGRAPHIC QUESTIONS

Question: How old are you?

	Total
	42
10	6 14.3%
11	6 14.3%
12	8 19.0%
13	5 11.9%
14	6 14.3%
15	5 11.9%
16	0 0.0%
17	3 7.1%
18	3 7.1%

- Most youth respondents were between the ages of 10 and 15.
- 85% of the youth respondents were under 16.

Question: Male or Female? *Circle one.*

	Total
	43
Male	23 53.5%
Female	20 46.5%

- Slightly over half of youth respondents were male.

### RECREATION AND PARKS QUESTIONS

Question: Where are the best places to play, hang out, or have fun in Mountlake Terrace? *Open ended question.*

A wide variety of responses were received to this open ended question. Some of the commonly cited responses include:

- Parks (particularly Terrace Creek or “Candy Cane” Park)
- Recreation Pavilion
- Library and Veteran’s Park
- Various schools

Question: How do you usually get to parks or recreation activities? *Please check your top 2 choices.*

	Total
	68
Walk	23 33.8%
Bike	18 26.5%
Ride with parents or someone else	14 20.6%
Skateboard, rollerblade, scooter	5 7.4%
Take transit	4 5.9%
Drive myself	2 2.9%
Other: _____	2 2.9%

- The majority of youth respondents walk or bike to get to parks or recreation activities.

- Other youth respondents ride with parents or use other modes of transportation.

Question: What are the primary reasons that you use parks in Mountlake Terrace? *Please check your top two choices.*

	Total
	75
Play sports	22 29.3%
Meet friends	19 25.3%
Walk or bike for exercise	11 14.7%
Enjoy the outdoors or nature	10 13.3%
Use a specific facility at a park	3 4.0%
Picnic and general leisure activities	3 4.0%
Participate in family activities	3 4.0%
Attend special events/concerts	2 2.7%
Don't use parks	2 2.7%

- Most youth respondents use parks to play sports (29.3%) or meet friends (25.3%).
- As with adults, walking, biking, and enjoying nature are important.

## PARKS AND FACILITIES QUESTIONS

Question: What type of indoor recreation spaces are most needed?

*Please check your top 2 choices*

	Total
	72
Indoor swimming pool	19 26.4%
Multi-use gymnasium	17 23.6%
Space for teen activities	15 20.8%
Weightroom/fitness room	11 15.3%
Performance space	5 6.9%
Large multi-purpose/reception room	2 2.8%
Space for senior citizen activities	2 2.8%
Meeting rooms/classrooms	1 1.4%
Aerobics/exercise classrooms	0 0.0%
Childcare	0 0.0%

- Youth results were similar to the adult responses to this question with additional emphasis on space for teen activities and weightroom/fitness room.

Question: Which of the following sport facilities are most needed by youth in Mountlake Terrace? *Please check your top 2 choices.*

	Total
	80
Turf fields (soccer, lacrosse, football, etc.)	17 21.3%
Swimming pool	14 17.5%
Skate park	14 17.5%
Baseball/softball fields	11 13.8%
Outdoor basketball courts	10 12.5%
BMX track	5 6.3%

Gymnasiums	4 5.0%
Frisbee or disc golf course	2 2.5%
Other: _____	2 2.5%
No new facilities are needed	1 1.3%

- The sports facilities most youth respondents thought were most needed were turf fields (21.3%), swimming pool (17.5%), and skate park (17.5%).

Question: Which types of recreation activities are most needed in Mountlake Terrace? *Please check your top 2 choices.*

	Total
	78
Extreme sports/outdoor adventure (rock climbing, mountain biking, snowboarding, etc.)	17 21.8%
Sports (baseball, tennis, etc.)	14 17.9%
Outdoor/environmental programs (hiking, canoeing, nature programs, etc.)	12 15.4%
Drop-in activities (gymnasium, game room, computers, etc.)	12 15.4%
Special events (dances, concerts in the park, festivals, etc.)	10 12.8%
Arts (performing, visual, cultural)	6 7.7%
Aquatic programs (swimming, scuba diving, water fitness, etc.)	3 3.8%
Fitness classes (aerobics, yoga, etc.)	2 2.6%
Other: _____	1 1.3%
No new activities needed	1 1.3%

- Extreme sports/outdoor adventure (21.8%) and sports (17.9%) were the recreation activities most youth respondents thought are most needed.
- While swimming pool facilities were selected as a popular need by youth in Mountlake Terrace, less than 5% of youth respondents thought aquatic programs are most needed.

Question: Where should youth recreation activities be provided (i.e. where would you feel most comfortable going?) *Please check all that apply.*

	Total
	89
School	19 21.3%
Recreation Pavilion	19 21.3%
Parks	18 20.2%
The mall (or in a shopping area)	13 14.6%
Teen Center	12 13.5%
Don't Know	6 6.7%
Other: _____	2 2.2%

- Respondents indicated youth recreation activities should be provided either at school, a recreation pavilion, or in parks.
- These results are similar to the open ended responses to the best places to play, hang out, or have fun.

Question: Does lack of transportation ever keep you from participating?

	Total
	39
No	20 51.3%
Don't know	11 28.2%
Yes	8 20.5%

- 20% of youth respondents say that lack of transportation keeps them from participation.
- 51% of youth respondents say that lack of transportation does not keep them from participating.

## Recreation Participation

The final question on both the adult and youth forms of the survey was a two-part inquiry into the current and preferred recreation activities in which residents participate. The first set of results below includes the total of both the adult and youth responses to the question, with the values representing the average participation of an average person in each of fifty activities. This result is compared to the MIG Average – the average of the most recent 20 communities MIG has surveyed – to indicate the relative popularity of the activity across these communities. Some activities do not have a MIG Average value (indicated as N/A) due to the limited number of times the activity has been included in MIG surveys.

Question: What activities have you done in the past 2 years?

		Total 405	MIG Average
1	Walking for Pleasure	7.27	6.15
2	Dog Walking/Dog Parks	4.32	3.38
3	Exercising/Aerobics	3.61	4.97
4	Gardening	3.55	4.53
5	Bird Watching/Feeding	2.84	2.85
6	Nature Walks	2.63	2.26
7	Playground (visit/play)	2.36	2.43
8	Swimming (pool)	1.97	2.71
9	Bicycling for Pleasure	1.92	3.23
10	Weight Training	1.80	2.66
11	Jogging/Running	1.75	2.35
12	Arts and Crafts	1.74	1.66
13	Photography	1.51	2.02
14	Wildlife Watching	1.49	2.58
15	Fairs and Festivals	1.41	2.25
16	Basketball	1.05	1.30
17	Football	1.02	1.07
18	Cooking (gourmet)	1.01	1.42
19	Baseball	0.98	1.22
20	Concerts (attend)	0.97	1.78
21	Volunteer Activities	0.96	N/A
22	Hiking/Backpacking	0.85	1.89
23	Golf	0.84	1.61
24	Fishing	0.81	1.42
25	Swimming (beach, river)	0.80	3.41
26	Picnicking	0.78	1.56
27	Soccer	0.74	1.16
28	Yoga/Pilates	0.69	0.89
29	Softball	0.68	1.01

		Total 405	MIG Average
30	Cultural Events (attend)	0.63	1.32
31	Tennis	0.46	1.01
32	Bicycling (BMX)	0.41	0.58
33	Dancing (social)	0.41	0.87
34	Volleyball	0.40	0.57
35	Drama (participate)	0.39	0.73
36	Collections (coin/stamp, etc.)	0.39	N/A
37	Dancing (ballet, tap, etc.)	0.39	0.88
38	Boating (sailing)	0.37	N/A
39	Skateboarding	0.34	0.64
40	Martial Arts	0.31	0.32
41	Canoe/Kayaking	0.30	0.55
42	Handball/Racquetball	0.29	N/A
43	Other:	0.24	0.57
44	Ultimate Frisbee	0.19	N/A
45	Disc Golf	0.18	N/A
46	Group Day Trips	0.18	N/A
47	Orienteering/Geocaching	0.15	N/A
48	Rock Climbing	0.14	0.54
49	Gymnastics	0.11	0.47
50	Lacrosse	0.04	0.13

- Walking for pleasure is the most participated-in activity, even higher than the MIG Average.
- Many of the top activities (gardening, bird watching, nature walks) are related to enjoying nature, one of the top reasons people use parks.
- Trail-related activities, including dog walking, nature walks, and jogging/running, were five out of the top 11 activities.
- Many of the special event type activities – concerts and fairs/festivals – have relatively low participation when compared to the MIG Average
- Basketball and football are the most frequently played sports among respondents, ranking at 16 and 17 respectively.
- Other organized, active sports such as baseball, soccer, and softball rank in the middle of the list.

In the follow-up question, respondents are requested to select the activities they would most like to do, establishing the ranked list of preferred activities. This list is compared against the ranked order of the current activities to illustrate the unmet demand for recreation in the community.

Table 25: Circle the 5 activities you would like to do most. Assume you have the time, money, and transportation to do whichever 5 activities you want.

	Preferred	Current
Walking for Pleasure	1	1
Fairs and Festivals	2	15
Concerts (attend)	3	18
Dog Walking/Dog Parks	4	2
Nature Walks	5	6
Swimming (pool)	6	8
Gardening	7	4
Arts and Crafts	8	9
Bicycling for Pleasure	8	12
Fishing	10	24

- Walking and other trail-related activities are not only the activity that people are doing most now but are also in demand.
- Attending concerts, fairs and festivals moved up the list considerably, showing a desire to attend more of these special event activities than are currently available.
- Fishing, ranked number 10 on the preferred activity list, which is notable due to the movement from number 24 on the current activities listing, showing unmet demand for fishing activities in Mountlake Terrace.

## YOUTH

The responses from youth 18 and under make up an important subset of the total results in the responses to the recreation participation questions. To illustrate the differences in activities that youth are participating in, the averages and ranked list for youth-only are presented below. The ranked order for the total result (both youth and adults) is presented for comparison. The largest changes between these lists indicate the activities that are more or less popular with youth than the community as a whole.

Question: What activities have you done in the past 2 years?

	Total	Youth Rank Current	Total Rank Current
	41		
Football	5.95	1	17
Playground (visit/play)	5.71	2	7
Basketball	5.61	3	16
Baseball	4.24	4	19
Walking for Pleasure	4.24	4	1
Swimming (pool)	3.98	6	8
Bicycling for Pleasure	3.73	7	9
Dog Walking/Dog Parks	3.34	8	2
Soccer	3.02	9	27
Jogging/Running	2.83	10	11
Softball	2.46	11	29
Volleyball	2.41	12	34
Bicycling (BMX)	2.17	13	32
Skateboarding	2.02	14	39
Exercising/Aerobics	1.88	15	3
Arts and Crafts	1.78	16	12
Swimming (beach, river)	1.71	17	25
Weight Training	1.68	18	10
Fairs and Festivals	1.41	19	15
Photography	1.39	20	13
Tennis	1.32	21	31
Concerts (attend)	1.27	22	18
Cooking (gourmet)	1.10	23	30
Drama (participate)	1.10	23	35
Nature Walks	1.02	25	6
Fishing	.93	26	24
Hiking/Backpacking	.85	27	22
Martial Arts	.76	28	40
Other:	.76	28	43
Golf	.66	30	23
Ultimate Frisbee	.66	30	44
Handball/Racquetball	.56	32	42
Gardening	.49	33	4
Picnicking	.44	34	26
Boating (sailing)	.41	35	38
Gymnastics	.39	36	49
Dancing (ballet, tap, etc.)	.34	37	35
Canoe/Kayaking	.29	38	35
Cultural Events (attend)	.29	38	41
Disc Golf	.29	38	21
Rock Climbing	.29	38	48
Volunteer Activities	.29	38	45
Collections (coin/stamp, etc.)	.22	43	20
Yoga/Pilates	.20	44	28
Group Day Trips	.15	45	14
Orienteering/Geocaching	.15	45	45
Wildlife Watching	.15	45	47
Bird Watching/Feeding	.07	48	32
Dancing (social)	.07	48	5
Lacrosse	.07	48	50

- The most popular youth activities are football, playing on playgrounds, basketball, baseball, and walking for pleasure.
- In comparison to the total results, youth are participating in organized sports, football, basketball, baseball, soccer, volleyball, etc., at much higher rates than the population as a whole.
- Other activities that jump up the list include BMX bicycling and skateboarding.
- Some of the activities that are top in the overall responses, such as walking for pleasure, swimming (pool) and bicycling for pleasure are also ranked highly in the youth-only list.

The final step in analyzing the participation results is to examine the youth-only preferred recreation activities to the current participation ranking.

Question: Circle the 5 activities you would like to do most. Assume you have the time, money, and transportation to do whichever 5 activities you want.

	Youth Rank Preferred	Youth Rank Current
Basketball	1	3
Swimming (pool)	2	6
Fairs and Festivals	3	19
Football	3	1
Rock Climbing	3	38
Baseball	6	4
Fishing	6	26
Volleyball	6	12
Dog Walking/Dog Parks	9	8
Playground (visit/play)	10	2

- Many youth would like to participate in swimming, attending fairs and festivals, football, rock climbing, baseball, fishing, and volleyball.
- Rock climbing and fishing moved the furthest up the list, indicating a stronger unmet demand for these activities.