

2 PROBLEM STATEMENT

2.1 PROBLEM STATEMENT

2017 Comprehensive Plan Process

Since its establishment 2003 Si View Metropolitan Park District has conducted two comprehensive planning efforts and made updates to the Si View Metro Parks Comprehensive Plan every six years as a way to remain current with local interests and establish and path forward for enabling and enhancing high quality, community-driven parks, trails, open space and recreational opportunities. The comprehensive plan update process involves a detailed study of the community and demographics to create a community profile, a substantial outreach effort, an inventory of existing parks, open spaces and great outdoor spaces, a needs assessment and establishment of goals, objectives & capital planning and action strategies to accomplish them. As part of the the 2017 Comprehensive Plan update statistically valid surveys were conducted of District residents and residents of the City of Snoqualmie.

2016 Si View Metropolitan Park District Community Priorities Survey

This statistically valid survey was designed to assess district residents' evaluation of Si View Metro Parks performance, priorities for future park and recreation services and facilities, including level of potential support, and overall satisfaction with value delivered to taxpayers by Si View Metro Parks. A new aquatic center was listed as a top priority in this survey. Respondents also indicated a high willingness to pay for such a facility. Four hundred and four heads of household in the Si View Metro Parks District took part in this survey.

2016 Si View Metropolitan Park District City of Snoqualmie Survey

This statistically valid survey was designed to assess City of Snoqualmie residents use of Si View Facilities, opinion about the need for a new swimming pool in the region, and opinions about funding a new pool. Seventy percent of those surveyed thought that a new pool was needed in the region, and seventy seven percent supported a Si View Metro Parks + City of Snoqualmie collaboration to fund a new pool. One hundred and eighty-six adult heads of household in the City of Snoqualmie took part in this survey.

Interviews with local agencies

As part of the comprehensive plan process Si View Metro Parks also interviewed the City of North Bend and the City of Snoqualmie. Both municipalities expressed interest in a new indoor swimming pool or aquatic center to serve the region. Si View Metro Parks also interviewed the Snoqualmie Valley School District, who also expressed interest.

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2.2 SI VIEW METROPOLITAN PARK DISTRICT MISSION, GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

2.2.1 SI VIEW METROPOLITAN PARK DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT

Si View Metropolitan Park District was formed in 2003 when the historic Si View Community Center and Pool faced closure by King County due to budget shortfall. As an independent, regional unit of government similar to a fire, hospital or school district, formation of the District allows local control of Si View Park, Pool, Community Center and other District managed parks and facilities. Si View Metropolitan Park District was formed with the primary mission of improving the quality of life for all residents of the Snoqualmie Valley region regardless of age or ability through partnership w/ the community and recreational programs and parks.

2.2.2 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FROM THE SI VIEW METRO PARKS COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

In service of the Si View Metro Parks mission statement the following goals and objectives were developed as part of the 2017 Comprehensive Plan process, all of which are supported by the development of a new regional aquatic center:

-Goal 1: Encourage meaningful public involvement in park and recreation planning and inform residents through District communications. Public outreach and public meetings played an important role in developing facility program options and determining the preferred option. Additionally, public outreach during the comprehensive plan process helped determine that a new aquatic center was a priority for the region.

-Goal 2. Recreation Programs: Provide a variety of recreational services and programs that promote the health and well-being of residents of all ages and abilities. A new aquatic center for the region has the potential to improve the health and well-being of residents of all ages.

-Goal 3. Events: Foster community interaction and enhance the quality of life of Valley residents through the promotion of events and festivals. A new aquatic center can provide additional space for festivals and events, and become a venue to support Aquatics related events not currently supported in the region.

-Goal 4. Recreation Facilities: Maintain and enhance the District's facilities to provide recreational opportunities, community services and opportunities for residents to connect, learn and play. A new aquatic center can provide enhanced water based recreational opportunities not currently available in the district. A new aquatic center also has the potential to provide such enhanced water based recreational opportunities to residents of a wider range of ages and abilities than the current facility.

-Goal 5. Maintain existing parks and amenities at levels that meet or exceed the public's desire for safety, cleanliness and utility. Develop new parks and facilities to meet the current and future needs of Snoqualmie Valley residents. Based on polling of District residents and non-residents during the comprehensive plan process, public outreach, and market research associated with the current study a new aquatic center constitutes a current need for Snoqualmie Valley residents.

-Goal 6. Actively encourage the collaboration of local jurisdictions, King County, and state and federal land managers to help address the gaps in trails and public lands for a more coordinated and connected system. Given the resources and public involvement needed to design, build and maintain a new aquatic center this effort creates an opportunity for collaboration between jurisdictions. Additionally, as a major draw for residents, siting of a new aquatic center could generate trail growth, coordination and connection.

-Goal 7. Administration: Provide leadership and management of parks, facilities and recreation programs throughout the District. Development of a new aquatic center informed by the Si View mission statement and comprehensive plan is consistent with this Goal.

-Goal 8. Staff Resources: Grow the professional staffing of the District to meet request-ed services and leadership roles. A new aquatic center will provide a unique regional opportunity for growing aquatic based professional staffing.

-Goal 9. Funding: Use traditional and new funding sources to adequately and cost-effectively maintain and enhance the quality of the District's park and recreation system. Given the resources and public involvement needed to design, build and maintain a new aquatic center, this effort creates a great opportunity for collaboration between jurisdictions which is a new / non-traditional funding source.

-Goal 10. Governance: As the legislative body of the District, the six member Commission has the fiduciary responsibility to guide the District's future. Development and study of new aquatic center is consistent with this goal.

2.2.3 FEASIBILITY STUDY

Based on the results of the previous surveys and in service of Si View Metro Parks mission statement and goals established in the 2017 Comprehensive Plan the Si View Board of Commissioners identified that further study for the potential construction of an aquatic center has high priority for 2018-2019. Si View Metro Parks began the selection process for a team to conduct an aquatic center feasibility study in fall of 2018.

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2.3 EXPLORATION OF FACILITY GOALS, PROGRAM ELEMENTS AND PREFERRED LOCATION VIA PUBLIC OUTREACH

2.3.1 INTRODUCTION

In addition to the specific needs and program elements uncovered during market research and those based on the Si View Metro Parks' overall mission and comprehensive planning process, specific program elements and aspirations for the new aquatic center were identified through a public outreach process conducted by the feasibility study team's outreach consultant, Berk Consulting. The public outreach process for this study consisted of two public outreach workshops and an online survey.

2.3.2 FIRST PUBLIC OUTREACH WORKSHOP

Meeting Purpose and Overview

The first public outreach workshop had three goals: to confirm community support for a new aquatic center, to hear community opinions about a preferred location, and to hear community opinions about amenities that they want for the new facility. Attendees took part in four structured exercises and had discussions with each other as well as Si View Metro Parks and feasibility study team staff.

Attendance

Staff counted attendees with a clicker at the door and totaled 141 individuals. The maximum number of live poll responders recorded was 84 individuals. Due to the family nature of this event it is likely that one representative per family responded to the live poll.

Public and Stakeholder Dot Map

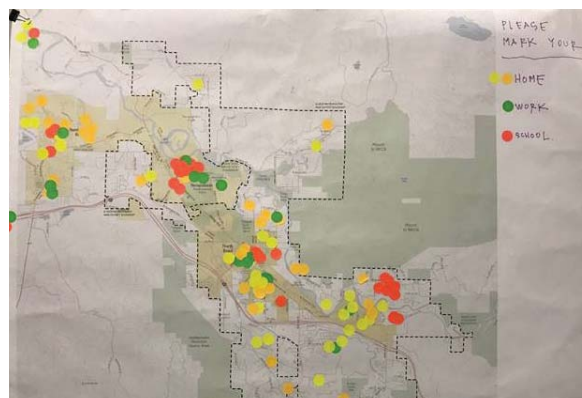


Figure 2-1- Public & Stakeholder Dot Map

Upon entering the public meeting, participants were asked to indicate where they lived on a map of the Si View Metro Park District and the surrounding area. They were also asked to indicate where they work (if applicable) or attend school on the map with different colored dots.

Poll Everywhere Live Polling



Figure 2-2- Poll Everywhere Word Collage

This exercise used a live polling system operated through text messages to poll participants and display real time results as part of the workshop presentation. Handouts with the live polling questions were available for those who did not have phones or did not want to participate with their phones. Polling questions indicated a wide range of ages and levels of use for the current pool. Ninety percent of attendees favored construction of a new aquatic facility. A word collage was constructed by the software based on the frequency with which specific words were texted to the presenter. Swim team, swim meets, exercise and competitive swimming were important to those present based on the collage results.

Site Location Preference

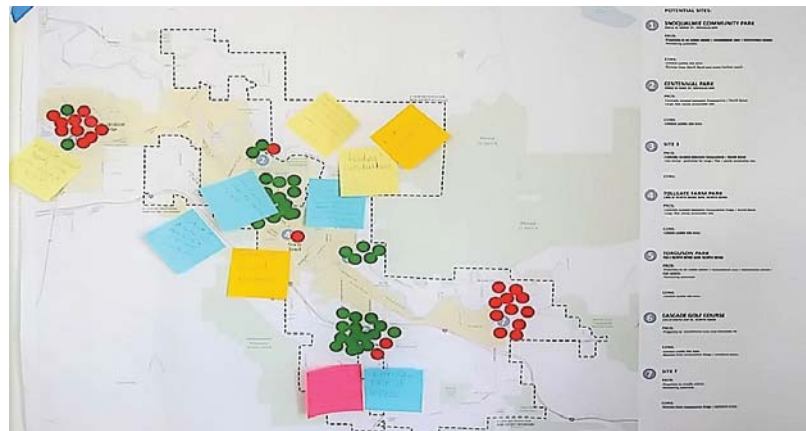


Figure 2-3- Site Location Preference Map

For this exercise participants were divided into five groups and each group was given a map of the Si View Metro Parks District with seven potential sites for the building. Participants were asked to locate their least and most preferred site. Participants were also encouraged to list pros and cons for each site.

Based on the results of this exercise the most preferred site was Site 3, followed in order of preference by Site 6, Sites 5 and 4. The least preferred site was Site 1 followed closely by site 7. Participants were split regarding Site 2. These results support that, at least among meeting attendees, a site located centrally between the Cities of North Bend and Snoqualmie is desirable.

Facility Visioning Exercise



Figure 2-4- Visioning Board

For this exercise participants were divided into eight groups and given booklets with images of aquatic center program features and amenities and large presentation boards. Groups were encouraged to cut out images they found desirable and tape them to the group display board. They were also encouraged to add individual comments and consensus comments to poster boards.

Themes that arose from group vision board consensus comments include:

- Bleachers and other elevated seating
- Length and width allow for multiple purposes and competition size requirements (i.e. 50 meters by 25 yards)
- Designated lap pool, or section with many lanes
- Multiple pools with depth/temperature to suit specific activities and health needs
- Variety in changing/locker room types (i.e. female, male, unisex, family, accessible, individual)

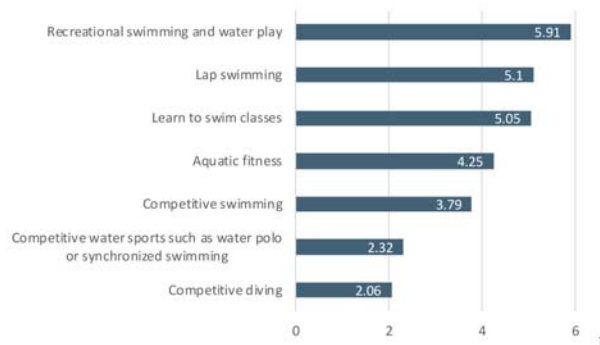
Roughly half the participants expressed interest in play features such as water slides and splash pads, health-conscious alternatives such as use of a saltwater sanitation system, and indoor gym space and ball courts such as for pickleball, racquetball, and tennis. Unique ideas included a cane stall for the elderly and those in need, and roll-up style exterior walls/windows to seamlessly move outdoors.

A memo summarizing this workshop can be found in Appendix 8.1 First Public Outreach Workshop Memo.

2.3.3 ONLINE SURVEY

The Si View Metropolitan Parks District gathered information about public priorities for a new aquatic center through an online survey conducted March 12-25, 2019. Outreach for the survey included notifications on the Si View Website, email notification of interested parties, posters in community locations, and social media messaging. The survey received over 940 responses. Over ninety percent of respondents lived in Snoqualmie, North Bend, or the surrounding unincorporated area. Sixty-nine percent of respondents were aged 35-54. Eighty percent of respondents had one or more children in their household.

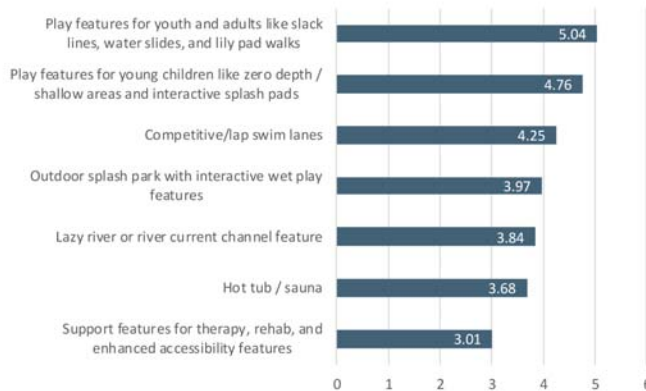
4. If Si View built a new aquatic center, how would you and your household use the pool? (n=809)



Respondents were asked to rank their preferred uses. The maximum score a use could receive is seven, showing that the primary preferred uses are recreational swimming and water play, lap swimming, and learn to swim classes. Competitive activities such as swimming, water sports, and diving were ranked lowest by the greatest number of respondents.

Respondents were asked to rank their preferred uses (Question 4). The maximum score a use could receive was seven, and showed that the primary preferred uses are recreational swimming and water play, lap swimming, and learn-to-swim classes. Competitive activities such as swimming, water sports, and diving were ranked lowest by the greatest number of respondents.

6. If Si View built a new aquatic center, what types of water features should be included? (n=801)



Respondents were asked to rank their preferred types of water features in a new aquatic center. The maximum score a feature could receive is seven. Play features were the highest scoring categories across the young children, youth, and adult age ranges.

Respondents were asked to rank their preferred types of water features in a new aquatic center (Question 6). The maximum score a feature could receive was seven. Play features were the highest scoring categories across the young children, youth, and adult age ranges.

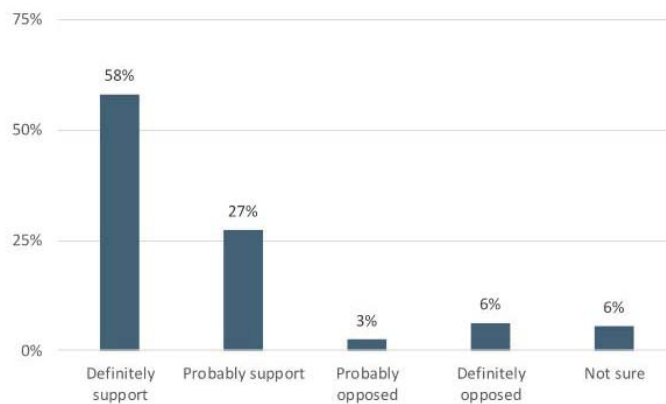
8. If Si View built a new aquatic center, what types of non-water features should be included? (n=757)



Respondents were asked to rank their preferred types of non-water features in a new aquatic center. The maximum score a feature could receive is seven. The non-water features that scored highest among respondents were exercise focused: a weights/cardio area, a walk/jog track, and a group exercise room. The concessions or pro shop scored lowest among respondents.

Respondents were asked to rank their preferred types of non-water features in a new aquatic center (Question 8). The maximum score a feature could receive was seven. The non-water features that scored highest among respondents were exercise focused: a weights/cardio area, a walk/jog track, and a group exercise room. The concessions or pro shop scored lowest among respondents.

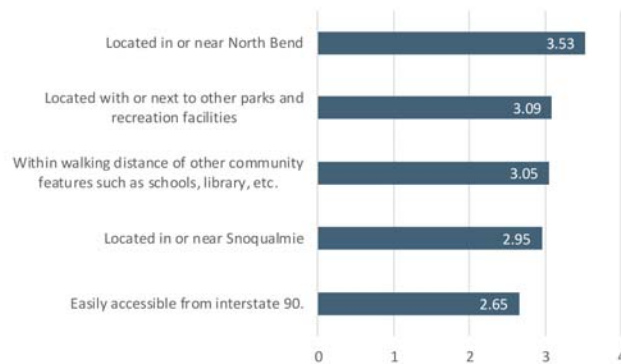
10. Preliminary estimates suggest that to build and operate a new aquatic center could increase taxes on an average home in the District by about \$12 a month. Would you support this increase? (n=816)



Nearly 60% of respondents would definitely support the increase to taxes at the \$12/month rate provided.

Of those who took the survey fifty-eight percent said they would definitely support a new Aquatic Center, with an additional twenty-seven percent saying that they probably would, even with a \$12 a month increase in taxes in the district (Question 10).

12. If Si View built a new aquatic center, what is most important about the location of the facility?
(n=780)



Respondents were asked to rank their location preferences for a new aquatic center. The maximum score a feature could receive is five. The highest scoring location was in or near North Bend, followed by proximity to other community hubs such as other parks and recreation facilities and within walking distance of schools, libraries, etc. The lowest scoring location consideration was easy access from Interstate 90.

Respondents prioritized a location located in or near the City of North Bend over one located in the City of Snoqualmie (Question 12). Respondents preferred a location located next to or within walking distance from other parks and recreation facilities and other community features such as schools, libraries, etc.

A memo summarizing the results of the survey can be found in Appendix 8.2 Online Survey Memo.