

**2021**

**City of Olympia  
Parks, Arts, &  
Recreation Needs  
Assessment  
Open-Ended  
Comments**

Presented to the  
City of Olympia Parks, Arts, and  
Recreation Department  
of Olympia, Washington.

March 2021





# City of Olympia Parks, Arts, & Recreation Needs Assessment

## Open-Ended Comments



### Q14a. In which parks do you not feel safe, and why don't you feel safe?

- All of them.
- All of them.
- All of them due to rampant homeless intimidation.
- All of them with the large number of homeless.
- All of them!! The homeless population is out of control!
- All of them, obvious reasons.
- All of them, they are invaded by the homeless.
- All of them, too many homeless and drug addicts.
- All of them, vagrants present, drugs, and needles.
- All of them. Professional homeless people and drug addicts.
- All parks. Too many homeless.
- All parks near downtown because of extremist/militia type groups with weapons recently. Particularly unsafe for children.
- All that have the homeless living in them.
- All the ones that house the homeless.
- All the parks, homeless/drug issues
- All the pocket parks, nothing good happens.
- All, especially those near I-5 and downtown.
- All. Homeless and all the trash and drugs.
- Any after dark, due to homeless.
- Any after dark.
- All.
- Any park in the dusk-evening time.
- Any park where there is evidence of homelessness or drugs.
- Any parks. No safety.
- Any wooded nature trails near homeless encampments. I just will not go walking alone.
- Anyplace secluded like Garfield trail or anyplace at night.
- Anywhere houseless frequent.
- Around the lake, the bike trails to woodland bay, the homeless, drugs and garbage everywhere.
- Back of LBA, trails when alone. Signs of drug use, sales, occasional homeless. Lots of dogs off leash that are not under owners control.
- Bigelow park at night.
- Bigelow, not enough lighting at night.
- Bike trails along the freeway.
- Bike trails near my home.
- Always drug deals going and needles.
- Capitol lake. Aggressive homeless people. Will not go near areas with camps of homeless people.
- Capitol lake, marathon, homeless and junkies.
- Decatur woods, heritage, woodland trail too many homeless especially at night.
- Decatur woods park. Fire at the church and community.
- Decatur woods park, Yauger park. Aggressive homeless or addicts. We constantly see needles littered in every park.
- Decatur woods, high presence of homeless and drug abuse.
- Decatur woods. Numerous incidents of harassment or items stolen, graffiti, or smoking on playgrounds. Bathrooms used for drugs.
- Do not know the name it is near downtown.

# City of Olympia Parks, Arts, & Recreation Needs Assessment

## Open-Ended Comments



- Downtown
- Downtown area. Cleanliness of parks and presence of homeless people. I feel sorry and insecure in their presence.
- Downtown/Percival, and the fountain.
- Due to the epic rise in homelessness and vicious crimes, there is not a park that I feel completely safe.
- Eastbay waterfront, Yauger park has too many homeless.
- Eastside nature trail due to large percent of after hour population and what appears to be drug activity all day. I used to love that trail.
- Every park with or near homeless and drug users we have found needles all over.
- Garfield at dark and capitol lake with the homeless.
- Garfield, west bay, Percival.
- Grass lake nature park, homeless encampments at watershed park.
- Grass lake, we found tents.
- Grass Lake trail, off leash dog park.
- Heritage park, too many transients.
- Homeless encampments.
- Homeless encampments. Filth on the streets caused by this.
- Homeless everywhere!
- Homeless people on trails. Chehalis, watershed, woodland trail. Amount of brush in watershed is a fire hazard.
- I am just disappointed in how trashy Percival is.
- I am old, not brave, or strong enough to protect myself.
- I have had men, who were hidden in the woods, pop out unexpectedly. I stopped using the trail because of it.
- I have literally found needle, feces, and vagrants in every Olympia park. It is sad.
- Intrusion from outsiders (not residents).
- Junkies leaving used needles everywhere.
- Karen Fraser woodland trail. Homeless camp.
- Karen Fraser, woodland trail, sunrise park, grass lake.
- Lakefront, homeless encampment. Bayside is not safe.
- LBA.
- LBA, and PPP, due to the homeless and the dogs running around not leashed.
- LBA, no one around if I need help.
- Lions park.
- Lions park and Bigelow because of people using drugs and behaving erratically, smoking, and screaming around kids.
- Many of them have aggressive homeless and camps.
- Marathon park.
- Marathon park homeless camp.
- Marathon park: needles on the lawn and it is clear the people experiencing homelessness use facilities beyond their capacity.
- Marathon park, because the homeless camp there.
- Marathon park, capital lake, Sylvester park- homelessness, property damage, poor security.
- Marathon (at night).
- McGrath woods: creepy at night with parked cars there.
- McGrath woods park
- McGrath woods park. Constant drug deals, very sketchy people.
- Mission creek: have come across some individuals who we are unsure about.

# City of Olympia Parks, Arts, & Recreation Needs Assessment

## Open-Ended Comments



- Mission creek, lacey-woodland, and occasionally neighborhood park like lions and Bigelow. Homeless encampments, insufficient lighting.
- Most all the ones that have homeless living in them.
- Most neighborhood park restrooms have drug paraphernalia. I do not let my kids use the bathrooms. The parks are not well maintained except for Bigelow, friendly grove, and lions.
- Most of them due to homeless camps.
- Mostly downtown.
- Neighborhood dog parks felt unsafe at sunrise.
- Olympia woodland trail if on foot.
- Olympia woodland trail.
- Olympia woodland trail.
- Olympia woodland trail, homeless camps.
- Olympia woodland trail, homeless.
- Parks that house the homeless.
- Parts of woodland trail near restroom.
- Percival landing.
- Percival landing.
- Percival landing.
- Percival landing: homeless infestation.
- Percival landing and capital lake.
- Percival landing playground, evidence of drug use and homeless people.
- Percival landing (vagrants, drug paraphernalia).
- Percival landing found drug needles on the ground.
- Percival landing, I was verbally assaulted by a homeless woman in the bathroom. I had to call police.
- Percival landing, lions park, drug paraphernalia and mattresses under play scape.
- Percival landing, too many homeless. Sunrise park, drug deals.
- Percival landing, transient population.
- Percival landing.
- Percival landing, woodland trail. Lots of homeless people, drugs, trash, needles.
- Percival, heritage: too many homeless people. Garbage and drug paraphernalia everywhere.
- Percival, public showers next to playground invite homeless traffic. Marathon, homeless encampment close by threatens safety.
- Percival-homeless camps, Garfield homeless.
- Priest point park.
- Priest point park.
- Priest point park. Lack of lighting and isolated areas.
- Priest point, but this is based on rumors I have heard of people doing drugs there.
- Rather not say, but close to or in downtown.
- Some of the small ones (pocket parks) I would not go alone. Seems too dark from trees or unprotected.
- Sometimes in parks with trails. Due to pesticide use, unleashed dogs, and folks who may be camping/using the woods for purposes beyond walking/recreation.
- Sometimes the walk under I-5 by the brewery is not very nice.
- Sometimes, early morning, late evening if I am walking solo (female).
- Sunrise park, marathon park/homeless, needles, unruly people, trash.
- Sunrise, drug use.
- Sunset.
- Sylvester.

# City of Olympia Parks, Arts, & Recreation Needs Assessment

## Open-Ended Comments



- Sylvester and heritage and Percival landing downtown.
- Sylvester park and heritage park. Recognizing those are state parks.
- Sylvester park and watershed and anywhere downtown! Because of homeless population and drug use.
- Sylvester park got harassed by homeless.
- Sylvester park, heritage park, the homeless.
- Sylvester park, needles, litter, human waste.
- Sylvester, heritage, and most of downtown.
- Sylvester, heritage parks
- Sylvester, downtown.
- Sylvester, downtown
- The addict tent camps.
- The lake.
- The lake, homeless people.
- The large transient population.
- The ones i want to go to, more wooded and remote.
- The ones with large homeless communities nearby.
- The parking lot at priest park on flora vista road.
- There are certain parks where we have seen drug deals or residents passed out in bathrooms. Overall, I believe the city has done a good job ensuring the parks do not have camping, trash, needles. We just use our judgement about time of day and when to play.
- Trail corridors: homeless.
- Watershed along wheeler road. Homeless.
- Watershed Decatur woods, Yauger, Sylvester square all due to homeless and sketchy people hanging out.
- Watershed park.
- Watershed park.
- Watershed park.
- Watershed park.
- Watershed park.
- Watershed park: evidence of homeless camps and people are scary sometimes.
- Watershed park: unhoused population concerns
- Watershed park: unseemly characters
- Watershed park: it just feels creepy.
- Watershed park, woodland trail.
- Watershed park. When the homeless occupy the park, we do not go there at all. And it is a waste of taxpayer money.
- Watershed park/trails.
- Watershed trail.
- Watershed, artesian park.
- Watershed feels dangerous.
- Watershed, homeless and drugs.
- Watershed, woodland trail.
- Vagrant population.
- Watershed. Homeless camps.
- We frequently visit bigelow park as my children love the playground, but I feel more cautious at this park than I do at others.
- West bay park is the only park I feel safe in. I do not go to any parks or trails without my husband.
- West bay trail between west bay and muddy co-op.

# City of Olympia Parks, Arts, & Recreation Needs Assessment

## Open-Ended Comments



- West side, Garfield.
- What woman is safe alone?
- Where transients live.
- Woodland park trail, homeless camps.
- Woodland trail.
- Woodland trail.
- Woodland trail.
- Woodland trail.
- Woodland trail.
- Woodland trail area, watershed park area.
- Woodland trail because of homeless, trash, crime, etc.
- Woodland trail due to the homeless.
- Woodland trail: loose dogs, drug addicts approaching me and my family trying to intimidate us.
- Woodland trail: people living there, drug deals.
- Woodland trail: sketchy adult men
- Woodland trail the homeless.
- Woodland trail, capitol lake, marathon park, grass lake, Percival creek park. Large amounts of transient persons, trash, needles, biohazards, mental health concerns. Do not get me wrong, I do not dislike the entire homeless population. It is an extremely complex issue. That said, when dumpsters and toilets are provided and not used by these encampments, it upsets me. Every green space feels like a homeless encampment. I think a fair percentage of that population takes advantage of services provided, trash community spaces, and leave dangerous items like needles on the ground, all over.
- Woodland trail, eastside to Blvd. And further east.
- Woodland trail, paraphernalia along the trail.
- Woodland trail, watershed park, yashiro japanese garden, Harrison avenue because homeless.
- LBA park because people are not respectful of leash requirements.
- Woodland trails, people living in the woods, popping out when you walk by. Watersheds feel safe but found needles on a bench.
- Yashiro Japanese garden had people in it that were smoking, drinking, and being very loud (substance abuse). A group of 7-10.
- Yauger park.
- Yauger park, drugs and homeless.
- Yauger, good amount of people not masked.
- Yauger, grass lake, heritage, and marathon, homeless, drugs and vagrants.
- Yauger, to much drug use, junkies live there.
- Yes, the ones with very limited lighting.

# City of Olympia Parks, Arts, & Recreation Needs Assessment Open-Ended Comments



Q20a. If your household has not participated in any City of Olympia recreation programs during the last 2 years, what are some of the reasons you do not participate?

Q20a-20. Other

The word cloud below summarizes the comments to this question for all responses. Individual comments are provided on the following pages.





# City of Olympia Parks, Arts, & Recreation Needs Assessment

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**Q20a. If your household has not participated in any City of Olympia recreation programs during the last 2 years, what are some of the reasons you do not participate?**

**Q20a-20. Other**

- All ways hear about it after the fact.
- Busy.
- Work.
- Caregiver.
- Cost is higher than I want to pay.
- Covid.
- Covid and new to the area.
- Do not care for this sort of thing.
- Do not think about it.
- Evenings work best but will not go downtown it is not safe.
- Homeless people around the building, I do not feel safe.
- I was traveling and otherwise out of town much of 2019, and then not going out due to COVID-19 in 2020. (I usually go to several programs at the Olympia Center in a year.)
- Just moved here.
- Just moved here.
- Kids are older now.
- Lack of mailings.
- Lazy.
- Lived here for less than 1 year.
- Moved here 11/2020.
- Moved to Olympia eight months ago.
- My son is grown.
- Need more programs for 65 and older. All venues should be ADA accessible.
- New to the area.
- Not aware of how to find available programs.
- Not interested.
- Only lived here for 18 months, Covid has restricted us from using facilities.
- Pandemic.
- Pandemic restrictions.
- Lack of parking at the Community Center.
- Prior to Covid, new to area.
- Soccer cancelled last minute, COVID.
- The Olympia Center has very few interesting programs compared to other Washington communities.
- Too many homeless.
- Transition in child/teens life and activities.
- Tried volunteer, no support.
- We are gamers.
- Working during normal business hours.



# City of Olympia Parks, Arts, & Recreation Needs Assessment

## Open-Ended Comments



**Q20a. If your household has not participated in any City of Olympia recreation programs during the last 2 years, what are some of the reasons you do not participate?**

### Q20a-20. Other

- A public indoor pool.
- Activities for blind and visually impaired.
- Adult kickball, senior center activities open to others.
- Aquatic.
- Aquatic center.
- Aquatics facility, theatre.
- Archery.
- Art based economic development.
- Art classes for kids.
- Art classes, painting, watercolor, acrylic, pastels, and charcoal.
- ATV/dirt bike park.
- Baby gym.
- Better swimming options for the elderly.
- Ceramics studio.
- Children's wilderness survival.
- City of Olympia should run an all-ages music performance space.
- City pool.
- City swimming pool.
- Climbing wall.
- Community pool.
- Community sailing/paddle sports facility.
- Concerts.
- Covered picnic areas should be more widely available , there are currently too few, and are always I use, when the weather is suitable!
- Covered playground.
- Dance and singing classes due to covid.
- Dark room photography.
- Develop/build park at Whitmore glen.
- Disc golf.
- Disc golf.
- Disc golf.
- Disc golf.
- Dodgeball.
- Early morning yoga.
- Expand pottery studio.
- Free access to water.
- Free/disabled scholarships.
- Gaming-video board cards.
- Gardening, landscaping, home canning and preserving.
- Computer help for senior citizens.
- Community bingo or other games.
- Go karts.
- Hockey youth club.
- Hunting or fishing class for kids.

# City of Olympia Parks, Arts, & Recreation Needs Assessment

## Open-Ended Comments



- I do not know what is offered.
- Ice rink (year-round/permanent).
- Indoor and outdoor pool.
- Indoor/outdoor swimming pool.
- Indoor swimming pool.
- Indoor swimming pool.
- Indoor swimming pool.
- Indoor swimming pool.
- Indoor water park with activities and a climbing wall for climbers.
- Indoor/outdoor swimming pool.
- Japanese garden maintenance.
- Kayaking for kids.
- Lake swimming.
- Lap swimming, water aerobics, environmental programs, tours.
- Modern dance.
- More activities for 13–19-year old's.
- More aquatic centers.
- More areas with green spaces/trees, developed for older people to walk. Also, quiet places to sit and look at the water, gardens, sunsets, etc. That are not part of playgrounds and recreation or athletic fields.
- More arts for youth.
- More fitness and others available after work.
- More indoor pickle ball.
- More kayak opportunities.
- More language learning classes.
- More outdoor concerts.
- More outdoor music festivals.
- More public beach access to the sea.
- More teenage youth classes.
- More water activities.
- Mountain biking and swimming.
- Not enough picnic areas in neighborhood and pocket parks.
- Off leash dog park.
- Off leash dog park.
- Off leash dog park.
- Off leash dog park.
- Off leash dog park-west.
- Off leash dog park.
- Ones for parents specifically.
- Organized dancing.
- Outdoor climbing wall.
- Outdoor swimming pools.
- Outdoor public swimming pools.
- Outdoor space for concerts.
- Outdoor swimming pools.
- Outdoor swimming pools.
- Outdoor swimming pools.
- Overall, great job with youth programs. Sometimes there is a shortage of available programming.

# City of Olympia Parks, Arts, & Recreation Needs Assessment

## Open-Ended Comments



- Pickleball.
- Pilates and more young kid programs.
- Pool.
- Pottery studios, crafts.
- Programs for toddlers.
- Public indoor pool.
- Public outdoor pool.
- Public swimming pool.
- Public swimming pool.
- Public swimming pool.
- Public swimming pool.
- Public swimming pool.
- Public swimming pool and program.
- Public swimming pool near downtown.
- Public swimming pool.
- Public swimming, swim lessons, water safety.
- Quality skate park.
- Racquetball courts.
- Restoring senior programs pre-covid.
- Rock climbing.
- Rock climbing and pool.
- Sailing, snowboarding, various crafts such as book making.
- Sailing/boating expansion.
- Self-defense awareness.
- Self-defense for women.
- Senior volunteer and activity programs.
- Sports shooting groups.
- Square dancing.
- Stop motion movie making for adults.
- Swim facility.
- Swimming.
- Swimming.
- Swimming.
- Swimming.
- Swimming.
- Swimming.
- Swimming.
- Swimming.
- Swimming.
- Swimming lessons for adults, by adults.
- Swimming pool.
- Swimming pool.
- Swimming pool.
- Swimming pool, mountain bike trails and public access to the sound.
- Swimming pool, neighborhood community centers.
- Swimming pool.

# City of Olympia Parks, Arts, & Recreation Needs Assessment Open-Ended Comments



- Swimming pool.
- Swimming pool.
- Swimming, dancing.
- Swimming, kayaking, sailing.
- Swimming, more adult sports, and women's basketball.
- Swimming, mountain biking.
- Swimming. Exercise facilities. Children's activities.
- Swimming. Aquatic Center.
- Swimming. Public pool.
- Table tennis.
- Tai chi classes for elders, people with disabilities, with a leader who speaks up.
- Tennis and pickleball leagues.
- Tennis courts, canoe launch.
- The use of capitol lake.
- Unaware.
- Walking clubs, outdoor yoga in sunny months.
- Water activities.
- Water, canoeing and rowing.
- Wildlife viewing, invasive weed removal, nonviolent communication.
- Youth activities.
- Youth ballet classes.
- Youth sports league.
- Youth tennis leagues.
- Youth volleyball.
- Zoom arts.