

PARK SURVEY SUMMARY

| | <u>Number of</u> | <u>Weighted Score</u> | <u>Weighted</u> | <u>Priority</u> |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| | <u>Respondents</u> | | <u>Score Totals</u> | |
| <u>WATERFRONT BOARDWALK</u> | | | | 1 |
| | 5 | 56 | 280 | |
| | 4 | 14 | 56 | |
| | 3 | 6 | 18 | |
| | 2 | 6 | 12 | |
| | 1 | 5 | 5 | |
| Total | 87 | | 371 | |
| <u>SKATEBOARD PARK</u> | | | | 2 |
| | 5 | 27 | 135 | |
| | 4 | 14 | 56 | |
| | 3 | 11 | 33 | |
| | 2 | 9 | 18 | |
| | 1 | 12 | 12 | |
| Total | 73 | | 254 | |
| <u>JORDAN STREET END</u> | | | | 3 |
| | 5 | 5 | 25 | |
| | 4 | 23 | 92 | |
| | 3 | 18 | 54 | |
| | 2 | 16 | 32 | |
| | 1 | 14 | 14 | |
| Total | 76 | | 217 | |
| <u>PIONEER PARK</u> | | | | 4 |
| | 5 | 6 | 30 | |
| | 4 | 18 | 72 | |
| | 3 | 16 | 48 | |
| | 2 | 24 | 48 | |
| | 1 | 13 | 13 | |
| Total | 77 | | 211 | |
| <u>BENTON STREET STAIRS</u> | | | | 5 |
| | 5 | 7 | 35 | |
| | 4 | 15 | 60 | |
| | 3 | 25 | 75 | |
| | 2 | 13 | 26 | |
| | 1 | 14 | 14 | |
| Total | 74 | | 210 | |

PARK SURVEY COMMENTS - APRIL, 2010

Other Recommended Priorities:

- ▶ Need some active play areas for older kids and teens, such a rock climbing feature and skate park
- ▶ Add seat at library bus stop
- ▶ Improve boat launch
- ▶ Maybe add a “guide to La Conner” sign or two so visitors can find Pioneer Park and other areas along First Street where they can see the Channel. More of a kids play area would be great – somewhere on First Street for the very young kids who get bored just walking around. Some more picnic areas would be nice
- ▶ Renovation of 3rd and Morris Street stairs
- ▶ Add sidewalk on all streets around town, on one side of the street
- ▶ Purchase Potlatch Pool for public use
- ▶ Negotiate with farmers or dike districts to allow walking on the dikes by the school and by the treatment plant
- ▶ Add water faucets/drinking fountains in current parks
- ▶ Camping for cyclists and kayakers at the end of 4th Street
- ▶ Third Street sidewalk from Morris to Port. The sidewalk is very dangerous for walkers
- ▶ Morris Street end
- ▶ An area (contained) on the Channel for swimming
- ▶ Sidewalk on south side of Caledonia
- ▶ Preserve large, old trees throughout La Conner, not just in the historic area

- ▶ #1 priority - acquire Potlatch Resort swimming pool before the Port paves it over

Comments:

- ▶ Focus on the skateboard park. The Town of La Conner community has talked about the skateboard park for more than 10 years. This is a project that benefits local children. The other items benefit visitors more than locals. The other projects are worthwhile, but nothing will happen unless all energies and monies are directed at them one-at-a-time, on a priority basis. I am a senior citizen. I have no personal vested interest, but am concerned about continual disappointment of our youth.
- ▶ I love the boardwalk idea!!!
- ▶ Please ban skateboards, except at skateboard park.
- ▶ Benton Street stairs is the only project needed. This is a lawsuit waiting to happen. Everything else is a tax burden on the citizens.
- ▶ We don't need to spend money if we don't have to.
- ▶ Let's get Benton Street stairs done – and done right to last a lifetime!!
- ▶ If private donations are funding the skateboard park then I would give it a higher ranking. Tax money should be used for something more people will benefit from - Grandma won't be using the skate park and neither will out of town tourists.
- ▶ The waterfront boardwalk is the only, and most desirable, option. The wood trellis on the waterfront side of Gilkey Square is not a good idea. It will look terrible in a couple of years. I suggest a small covered gazebo over the area where signs are now located.
- ▶ The kids really need the skate park and it will get them off the streets. The Benton Street stairs really need to be replaced - they get slippery when wet/icy and it's a lawsuit waiting to happen.
- ▶ Please, please give the kids a safe, well-lit, secured (web cam?) place to skate. We've been promising for so long and now finally have a great location! How can I help?
- ▶ I do not think a skateboard park is any benefit to the town.
- ▶ I'm generally in favor of doing nothing. How many town people would use these facilities to make it worthwhile?
- ▶ Town should provide kayak facilities to attract outdoor recreation tourism.

- ▶ Waterfront boardwalks have proven themselves as providing economic vibrancy, increased social/community connectedness, a defining characteristic of a sense of 'place' that is appealing to local residents, visitors and tourists. A waterfront boardwalk will be good for residents, helpful to businesses, and help define La Conner as a vibrant community.
- ▶ The waterfront boardwalk is my first priority because it would benefit the most people. The Jordan Street end project would complement the boardwalk. It would be great if these two could be done together. The skateboard park would serve the needs of a relatively narrow group of users. We see the same handful of skateboarders at the various "de facto" skateboard parks around town. The park would likely draw others to the sport. I doubt it would become a destination park for many people from out of town. Major beneficiaries would be those who are exposed to/annoyed by the current noise and disruption and are adjacent to active skateboarder sites around town. Pioneer Park has invasive ivy taking over and needs regular attention. This could be a great annual or semi-annual volunteer project.
- ▶ Please don't make too many big changes to Pioneer Park. Don't cut down any trees.
- ▶ The waterfront boardwalk would be nice, but expensive. What about maintenance? Skateboard park – kids need a place to skate/play. Pioneer Park – No - it's already okay but under used. Benton Street Stairs – okay but not required. What about a fundraiser? Jordan Street end - would be nice, but expensive. Right now it's an eyesore and unsafe. Might be good to fix this up and use. What about maintenance?
- ▶ Great ideas. Will benefit business and waterfront area. The skateboard park will keep young people off the hills and roads.
- ▶ Not interested at all in a skateboard park or a project at Jordan Street end. Would like to keep La Conner as a walkable community for residents, with direct enhancements toward that goal.
- ▶ We need to work on our kids' skateboard park if we don't want them skating around town. They need a place to have fun without getting in trouble.
- ▶ The problem with this ranking is that we're asked to compare projects that are complex and expensive with others that are relatively simple and inexpensive. From a long-term, strategic perspective, nothing is more important to the town than the boardwalk project. This would tie together businesses and the broader community in a way that would make La Conner unique in the Northwest, and even more of a tourist destination. None of the other projects offer anything like this kind of transforming opportunity, but are important in the short term. Perhaps some of these could be elements of the boardwalk project.
- ▶ The waterfront boardwalk as planned amounts to the taking of private property. This is not pretty or practical, and walking along the muddy piling sounds disgusting to

me. There are many street-end parks for people to enjoy the Channel. Focus on benefits for the townspeople, rather than tourists. Let's get the kids off the streets and onto a skateboard park. It's been talked about forever - no one believes it is going to happen. Make this a safe, healthy place for kids.

- ▶ Leave Pioneer Park a natural area.
- ▶ The teenagers and kids need a place to skate - keep them off the street. Skateboard park definitely!!!!
- ▶ Pioneer Park has become a very user-friendly facility. I doubt whether the expenditure for playground equipment is a worthwhile expenditure. Instead, I would like to see more tree limbing, and more accessibility for camping or RV use. The tree slab needs protection and an explanation of some kind.
- ▶ While I understand the desire to modernize, we must remember that people come to visit La Conner precisely because we are the way we are. Residents are generally happy with the status quo, and their happiness is of much greater concern to me than the occasional tourist complaining that we don't have McDonald's. I do see a need for more picnic tables.
- ▶ So very few kids use skateboards, I don't see how this would in any way benefit our community. A boardwalk would be used by all. Accessible public waterfront would enhance the town for both residents and visitors. We need a small boat/kayak spot.
- ▶ Waterfront boardwalk is a priority, subject to available funding.
- ▶ Unlock Pioneer Park bathrooms – they are always locked. Benton Street stairs are dangerous right now. A skateboard park is a total waste of money and time, and the skateboarders vandalize the town everywhere already.
- ▶ Maintain the streets and sidewalks we already have. Don't start unnecessary projects during this recession. It's disruptive to the merchants and expensive for the town budget. Infrastructure work must be done and provide employment (i.e. Benton Street Stairs). The other 4 projects – NO.
- ▶ The boardwalk would be the greatest improvement for business and tourism, but the skateboard park is what our community needs most. Working out a small area for younger children around the big oak tree and picnic area for parents would make it even more useful. The truth is they all need doing. I'm so happy Brian Scheuch is leading us in the right direction and re-working Gilkey Square to be more useful and inviting.
- ▶ We need a place we teenagers can go - make the skateboard park – La Conner has been talking about it long enough.

- ▶ The safety of all town residents should come first. Benton Street stairs need to be completed ASAP.
- ▶ Low impact camping at end of 4th Street – no RV's.
- ▶ I've made the skateboard park #1 only because the middle and high school population has waited so long. It's a matter of fairness. My main concern with the Benton Street stairs is that people are falling on them in icy weather. The town could be at risk of a suit. The Jordan Street end project seems like a good way to bring tourists without cars to town and clean up an eyesore. A waterfront boardwalk would be fun, assuming we plan for rising ocean levels.
- ▶ Let's let our economy be our guide. There is no reason to add to our debt at the present time. These are all worthwhile projects. With so many out of work, raising taxes for projects is not a viable option.
- ▶ While favoring the waterfront boardwalk we realize that funding for that project is a bigger issue, so completing projects like the street-end and the stairs would be more feasible.
- ▶ Skateboard park doesn't have to be too fancy as proposed years back by that park maker. Ask the kids to design it, besides, they like to be in public – not tucked away in the back of town.
- ▶ A waterfront boardwalk is a horrific, alarming idea! It would complete the transformation of a once honest, hard-working community into a phony theme park and pseudo-historic tourist trap.
- ▶ We really need a skate park!
- ▶ I like the natural state of Pioneer Park – no “improvements” necessary!
- ▶ The kids really need a skate park!
- ▶ Upgrade Gilkey Square
- ▶ Benton Street stairs are okay as-is. Abandon the boardwalk concept – too expensive, too much maintenance, violates private (leasehold) property rights. We have had this dream since 1980 – forget it! Please combine Jordan Street end and Kirsch property into one project. You always want to sell the Kirsch lot - commit to keeping it and improving it along with Jordan Street. Kayaks - yes; boats – no.
- ▶ Pioneer Park and Benton Street stair renovations are not a priority.

2. *The Planning Commission and Park Commission are interested in developing walking and biking trails throughout town. Do you feel this is a priority?*

Yes: 54

No: 50

Comments:

- ▶ Walking and biking are already very convenient. Don't waste money on this.
- ▶ Walking/biking trails are a priority subject to available funding.
- ▶ It is all well and good to build infrastructure to accommodate visitors, but please keep the needs of local residents in mind when planning.
- ▶ La Conner should be more of a walking town than it is. Designated trails would greatly help reach this goal.
- ▶ Walking trails only. Not interested in biking trails.
- ▶ It depends on where they want to put them. I think there are higher priorities with the money. When and how often are walkers or bikers hit/injured by cars? I feel you need to be more frugal with the money.
- ▶ Great idea.
- ▶ Where does the money come from? Stop spending our money!
- ▶ I don't know about this being a #1 priority, but it's important.
- ▶ Walking trails – yes, biking – no. Bicyclists ride 3-4 abreast rather than single file – let's not encourage more, please.
- ▶ This is an absolute priority. This is an excellent concept which, it has historically been shown, will increase the vitality of our community, provide increased tourism and visitors, enhance our sense of 'place' and basically be good for the town. Support for non-motorized transportation is important to our long-term development.
- ▶ Walking and biking are pretty easy now. Is there a potential for mountain biking? We love Pioneer Park trails for walking.
- ▶ Only biking trails. Would not like to see beautiful trees chopped down for unnecessary walkways.
- ▶ More hiking, walking, biking trails – great for residents and visitors.

- ▶ I like the Maple Avenue bike path idea but see no need to include a sidewalk. Nine feet is a huge chunk from well-established yards.
- ▶ If the bike trail could avoid First Street – it already gets so crowded on weekends and tulip days.
- ▶ Not at the present time. Town is already very pedestrian and bike-friendly. Money and time should be put elsewhere.
- ▶ This is a small town. We don't need any trails at all – we only need sidewalks. We don't need to add more taxes because of these projects.
- ▶ Complete projects already started before beginning any others.
- ▶ Walking and biking trails or designated lanes should be encouraged. Golf carts, however, should be discouraged unless human-powered.
- ▶ I am vehemently opposed to the plan to add a bike path along Maple Avenue. There are many suitable places to walk and bike throughout town. Additional paths are unnecessary and could infringe on quality of life for our residents.
- ▶ Riding a bike here is scary! Bike/walking paths would encourage leaving cars home.
- ▶ Safe sidewalks would be good. I ride my bike often in town and the roads are safe for careful riders. Have there been accidents enough to support the expense? No.
- ▶ Just as we are seeing now with the proposed bike path on Maple, homeowners don't want tourists to be the priority, or going through our front yards, even though they would be used by citizens as well.
- ▶ This should only come after Benton Street stairs, waterfront boardwalk, Jordan Street end and Pioneer Park.
- ▶ If adjacent to existing streets.
- ▶ We need to fix the (Benton Street) stairs.
- ▶ Not a priority, but it would be nice.
- ▶ Trails shouldn't infringe upon or reduce the privacy of residents.
- ▶ Consider putting in exercise stations as has been done in some Seattle parks. Mazes similar to the one painted in the parking lot of Joan Cross's building are fun too.
- ▶ I am more interested in walking trails as they would serve more people.

- ▶ There are few people walking or biking, except at scheduled events. On Maple Avenue the sidewalk on the west side is seldom used.
 - ▶ I'd really like La Conner become a leader in "green transportation" and light-pollution free small town. We are in a jewel of a location!
 - ▶ I think sidewalks are just fine.
 - ▶ Yea!
 - ▶ Only a waterfront boardwalk would make La Conner – like the one in front of the Lime Dock building.
 - ▶ Not so much, but not affected by any of it either.
 - ▶ We need to build the skateboard park this year! I don't feel you should wait for government funds to build the waterfront boardwalk or the skateboard park. Pioneer Park should be set up with basic camping facilities. It should be kept simple and a city worker should be in charge of the park. This would be great for biking groups. Forget more play areas, trails and especially lighting. We've got too many lights as it is!
 - ▶ No bike paths if it infringes on the yards of residents. Painted bike paths on main streets would be fine. It's a small town – if they're energetic enough to bike they'll find their way around!
 - ▶ Tourist traffic in our little town makes me very uneasy when my kids are on bikes with no where to go but the street.
3. *Have you read the Town of La Conner's Parks Plan, which is available on the Town website on the Commissions/Park Commission page? (www.townoflaconner.org)*

Yes: 26

No: 68

Plan to: 12

Comments:

- ▶ A lot to absorb but thanks for making me aware of it.
- ▶ Excellent project ideas. Are town citizens footing the funding? How do you propose to tax out-of-towners benefiting from the projects?
- ▶ We have enough parks and open space.

- ▶ Is it available in printed form?
- ▶ A good plan, comprehensive, but lacking an overall encompassing vision and a detailed plan to implement that vision over time.
- ▶ The Park Plan lists hiking along sloughs and dikes as a goal. This has not been met. Why?
- ▶ We're a small town with big ideas. Ask for more volunteer help. The Pioneer Park project was a great success.
- ▶ The plan lacks a map that shows where the sites are located. A map would help me understand it more.
- ▶ This survey prompted me to look at it.
- ▶ Thank you for doing this survey and for having public meetings. They may not be fun but they are appreciated.
- ▶ I have read part of it.
- ▶ No, but now I will since I know it's there.
- ▶ I will read the plan – wasn't aware of it.