

How Many Parks and Trails are Enough?

A Recommendation on How to Estimate Need for Active Local Recreation Facilities

Our assignment

◆ "The interagency committee for outdoor recreation shall develop recommendations for a statewide approach to a recreation level of service for local and regional active recreation facilities, including indicators with which to measure progress in achieving level of service objectives." **ESSB6384, Sec. 228**

What We Did

- ◆ Formed advisory committee
- ◆ Secured independent assistance
- ◆ Defined terms
- ◆ Developed and tested options
- ◆ Consulted with the public
- ◆ Narrowed the options
- ◆ Selected a recommendation

Formed Advisory Committee

- ◆ **Larry Otos**, Washington Parks and Recreation Association
- ◆ **Speed Fitzhugh**, recreation planner, Avista Utilities
- ◆ **Nancy Craig**, recreation planner, Grant County PUD
- ◆ **Grant Griffin**, planner, Pierce County Parks
- ◆ **Greg Jones**, Wenatchee Park Board
- ◆ **Linda Steinman**, Office of Financial Management
- ◆ **Leonard Bauer**, CTED



Secured independent assistance

- ◆ **Competitive process**
- ◆ **Hired EDAW**
 - Seattle office of an international consulting firm
 - Extensive recreation planning, GIS and other expertise

Defined terms

- ◆ **Local:** division of local government
- ◆ **Regional:** purpose built to serve multiple jurisdictions
- ◆ **Active:** predominantly human muscle powered



We Did Not Include

- ◆ "Open space"
- ◆ School facilities
- ◆ Activities not predominantly human-muscle powered (e.g., picnics)
- ◆ Low- or no-data activities (e.g., paddling)
- ◆ ... because of our instructions and our need to narrow our focus

The Context (Big Picture)

- | | |
|--|----------------------|
| 1. Walking | 8. ORV use |
| 2. Picnic, cookout | 9. Fishing |
| 3. Sightseeing | 10. Camping |
| 4. Nature: gardening, wildlife viewing | 11. Hunting |
| 5. Bicycling | 12. Snow/ice |
| 6. Sports, play | 13. Equestrian |
| 7. Water: swimming, boating | 14. Air (ultralight) |

What is Covered (Big Picture)

- | | |
|--|----------------------|
| 1. Walking | 8. ORV use |
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Developed Options

- ◆ Original options developed by staff
- ◆ Expanded by IAC-EDAW collaboration
- ◆ Refined by advisory committee



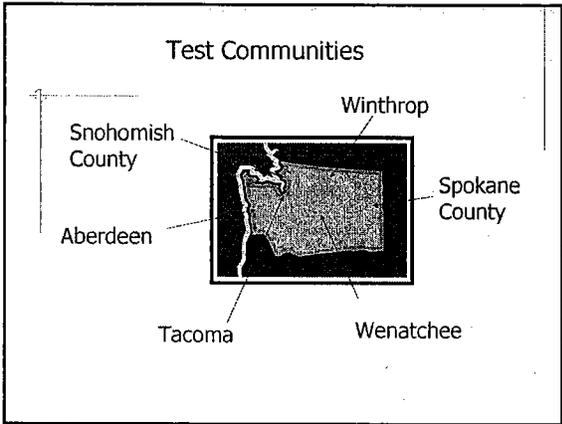
The Options

- ◆ A. Population ratio (NRPA)
- ◆ B. Service area (GIS-based)
- ◆ C. Community-driven ("those who speak up")
- ◆ D. Demand-based ("actual play")
- ◆ E. Service area/population ratio
- ◆ F. Community-Driven/demand based
- ◆ G. Preferred service area

Testing the Options

- ◆ Selected 6 Washington communities
- ◆ Collected available data on inventory, participation, population from each
- ◆ Calculated estimated outcomes





Outcomes from the test...

Compared results to reality when possible

- ◆ Example finding: "Population ratio" says Winthrop should have zero facilities

A stylized icon featuring a central lightbulb with radiating lines, surrounded by gears and a starburst, representing a key finding or idea.

Consulting with the Public

- ◆ 8 workshops in 5 communities
- ◆ Web page made available for those not able to attend

An aerial photograph showing a large, dense crowd of people, likely at a public event or workshop.

Your Turn
For a Brief Workshop
