



## Monroe Town Hall Meeting and National Night Out Summary

A Parks Town Hall meeting was held on July 29th, 2021, as part of the City's Parks, Recreation & Open Space (PROS) Plan update. The goal at this meeting was to gather the opinions of various members of the community to understand the needs and priorities of Monroe's park users and reflect them in the future planning. Among those in attendance were government officials, including the Mayor and some Council members, members of the Monroe/Sky Valley Family YMCA and Monroe School District, as well as Monroe residents who live there with their families.

At the start of the meeting, MIG's Director of Parks + Recreation, Cindy Mendoza, gave a PowerPoint presentation on highlights from the PROS Plan including its vision, goals, recommendations along with key results of the online questionnaire. MIG then facilitated a discussion of the participants' thoughts on what they believed Monroe's greatest needs and opportunities were. This was followed by a series of polls to quantify the diverse responses. The discussion and the poll were recorded using Jamboard, a digital interactive whiteboard, and participants were able to see their ideas and comments added to whiteboard pages during the meeting.

To ensure broader public engagement, City staff took the same questions to National Night Out 2021 event, an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie. On the event date of August 3rd, 2021, display boards with the survey questions were set up at Lake Tye Park, and residents were encouraged to respond to questions using stickers to indicate their answers.

This summary presented the combined survey results from the two activities.

The majority of participants agreed that *Keeping parks clean and green* is the greatest challenge for Monroe Parks, followed by *Offering a variety of recreation activities to make parks more interesting*. Among the five goals for the park system identified by the Master Plan, *Vibrant Riverfront* was considered as the top priority and *Outdoor Recreation Hub* came next.

When asked to choose one park investment to see happen first, about 55% of respondents ranked *Connecting people to Monroe's riverfront* as the most critical improvement. They also agreed that the city should invest in maintenance more than it does now to increase care for park assets, landscaping, and natural resources. Regarding their favorite activities, *New ways to get active in the outdoors* came first, followed by *Walking, biking, jogging and more on trails*. For the specific park amenities, many participants showed their preference of *Zipline and Spray/Play Fountain*. Attached is the detailed result of the survey.

TABLE 1: SURVEY RESULT FROM TOWNHALL MEETING AND NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

| 1. What is the most pressing challenge in Monroe's Parks?                  | National Night Out | Townhall | Total | Percentage |
|--|--------------------|----------|-------|------------|
| Keeping parks clean and green  | 35                 | 2        | 37    | 43.5%      |
| Offering a variety of recreation activities to make parks more interesting | 21                 | 1        | 22    | 25.9%      |
| Having enough parks to serve the whole town                                | 9                  | 2        | 11    | 12.9%      |
| Ensuring park safety   | 10                 | 0        | 10    | 11.8%      |
| Providing park opportunities for Monroe residents and visitors             | 3                  | 2        | 5     | 5.9%       |
| Total  | 78                 | 7        | 85    |            |

| 2. Among the five goals from the Master Plan, Which ONE is most important to YOU? | National Night Out | Townhall | Total | Percentage |
|---|--------------------|----------|-------|------------|
| Vibrant riverfront  | 27                 | 0        | 27    | 29.7%      |
| Outdoor recreation hub  | 19                 | 2        | 21    | 23.1%      |
| Well-stewarded parks  | 14                 | 3        | 17    | 18.7%      |
| Park access   | 11                 | 2        | 13    | 14.3%      |
| Connectivity  | 12                 | 1        | 13    | 14.3%      |
| Total   | 83                 | 8        | 91    |            |

| 3. Which ONE bigger investment would you like to see happen FIRST to expand recreation opportunities? | National Night Out | Townhall | Total | Percentage |
|---|--------------------|----------|-------|------------|
| Connecting people to Monroe's riverfront, including trails and improvements                           | 35                 | 3        | 38    | 55.1%      |
| Enhancing Lake Tye Park as an outdoor recreation hub  | 14                 | 2        | 16    | 23.2%      |
| Developing a new urban plaza along Tjerne Place   | 13                 | 2        | 15    | 21.7%      |
| Total   | 62                 | 7        | 69    |            |

| 4. For each new park, how much should the City invest in maintenance?                      | National Night Out | Townhall | Total | Percentage |
|--|--------------------|----------|-------|------------|
| More than we spend now to increase care for our assets, landscaping, and natural resources | 36                 | 4        | 40    | 80%        |
| About the same as we spend now   | 8                  | 2        | 10    | 20%        |
| Total  | 44                 | 6        | 50    |            |

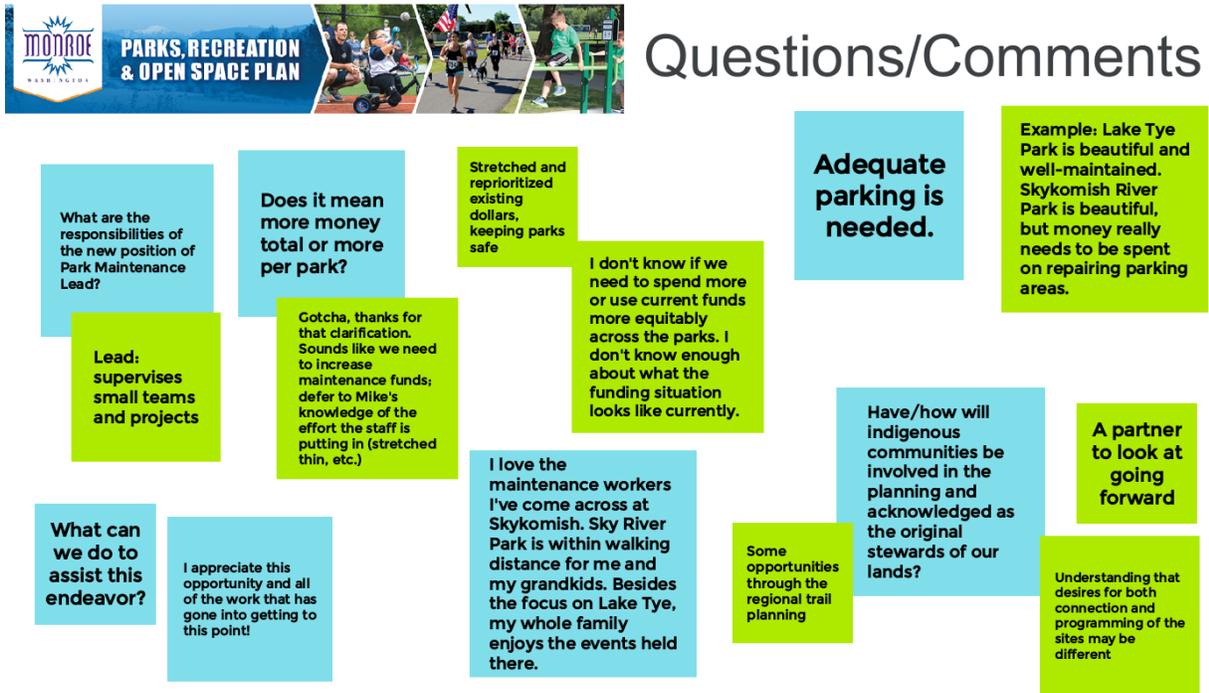
| 5. Which ONE of the following activities is MOST important to YOU? | National Night Out | Townhall | Total | Percentage |
|--|--------------------|----------|-------|------------|
| New ways to get active in the outdoors                             | 35                 | 0        | 35    | 30.2%      |
| Walking, biking, jogging and more on trails                        | 27                 | 1        | 28    | 24.1%      |
| Relaxing and playing in parks                                      | 19                 | 2        | 21    | 18.1%      |
| Large events that draw visitors and people from all over town      | 14                 | 2        | 16    | 13.8%      |
| Enjoying and connecting to nature                                  | 14                 | 2        | 16    | 13.8%      |
| Total  | 109                | 7        | 116   |            |

| 6. The PROS Plan recommends several park amenities. Which of the following are priorities to build? | National Night Out | Townhall | Total | Percentage |
|---|--------------------|----------|-------|------------|
| Zipline   | 53                 | 1        | 54    | 16.8%      |
| Spray/Play Fountain   | 48                 | 5        | 53    | 16.5%      |
| Dog Park  | 33                 | 0        | 33    | 10.2%      |
| Climbing Wall   | 26                 | 4        | 30    | 9.3%       |
| Developed Beach Swimming Area   | 19                 | 3        | 22    | 6.8%       |
| Canoe and kayak Launch / Rentals  | 19                 | 2        | 21    | 6.5%       |
| Mountain Bike Loop Trails   | 16                 | 5        | 21    | 6.5%       |
| Pickleball Court *  | 16                 | 0        | 16    | 5.0%       |
| Unique playground   | 13                 | 3        | 16    | 5.0%       |
| Bike pump Track or Bike Skills Course   | 13                 | 2        | 15    | 4.7%       |
| Interpretive Nature Trails  | 11                 | 2        | 13    | 4.0%       |
| Community Garden  | 9                  | 2        | 11    | 3.4%       |
| Outdoor Fitness Equipment   | 9                  | 0        | 9     | 2.8%       |
| Disc Golf Course  | 8                  | 0        | 8     | 2.5%       |
| Total   | 293                | 29       | 322   |            |

\* At the National Night Out event, 55 stickers were placed on pickleball. Many of the extra "votes" were from a few people who wanted to emphasize the importance of providing pickleball courts in Monroe.

FIGURE 1: TOWNHALL MEETING JAMBOARD RESULTS



**MONROE WASHINGTON** PARKS, RECREATION & OPEN SPACE PLAN

1. What is the most pressing challenge in Monroe's parks?

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Keeping parks clean and green  | 29% |
| Having enough parks to serve the whole town                                | 29% |
| Ensuring the safety of park visitors                                       | 0%  |
| Offering a variety of recreation activities to make parks more interesting | 14% |
| Providing park opportunities for Monroe residents and visitors             | 29% |



2. The Master Plan identified five goals for the park system. All of these are important to the community.

Which ONE is most important to YOU?

WELL-STEWARDDED PARKS: Manage, maintain, and revitalize parks, facilities, and natural resources to support safe, attractive and engaging recreation space and green space. **38%**

VIBRANT WATERFRONT: Enhance parks, recreation amenities, and trails along the Skykomish River to create a riverfront system that supports local use and recreation tourism. **0%**

OUTDOOR RECRETATION HUB: Provide unique recreational amenities that attract residents and visitors to Monroe’s outdoor activities, programs and events. **25%**

PARK ACCESS: Develop parks and minimize barriers to ensure residents have equitable access to recreation opportunities within walking or biking distance from home. **25%**

CONNECTIVITY: Provide an interconnected network of multi-use trails, walkways and bikeways connecting city and regional destinations. **13%**



3. Which ONE bigger investment would you like to see happen FIRST to expand recreation opportunities?

Connecting people to Monroe’s riverfront, including trails and improvements to Al Borlin Park and the Cadman site **43%**

Enhancing Lake Tye Park as an outdoor recreation hub **29%**

Developing a new urban plaza along Tjerne Place to support community gatherings and local businesses **29%**



4. Many parks will be able to support new activities. Which ONE of the following activities is MOST important to YOU?

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Large events that draw visitors and people from all over town | 29% |
| Walking, biking, jogging and more on trails                   | 14% |
| Enjoying and connecting to nature                             | 29% |
| New ways to get active in the outdoors                        | %   |
| Relaxing and playing in parks                                 | 29% |

It also depends on the options offered next to that choice.



5. For each new park, how much should the City invest in maintenance?

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| ABOUT THE SAME as we spend now  | 33% |
| MORE than we spend now to increase care for our assets, landscaping, and natural resources. | 67% |



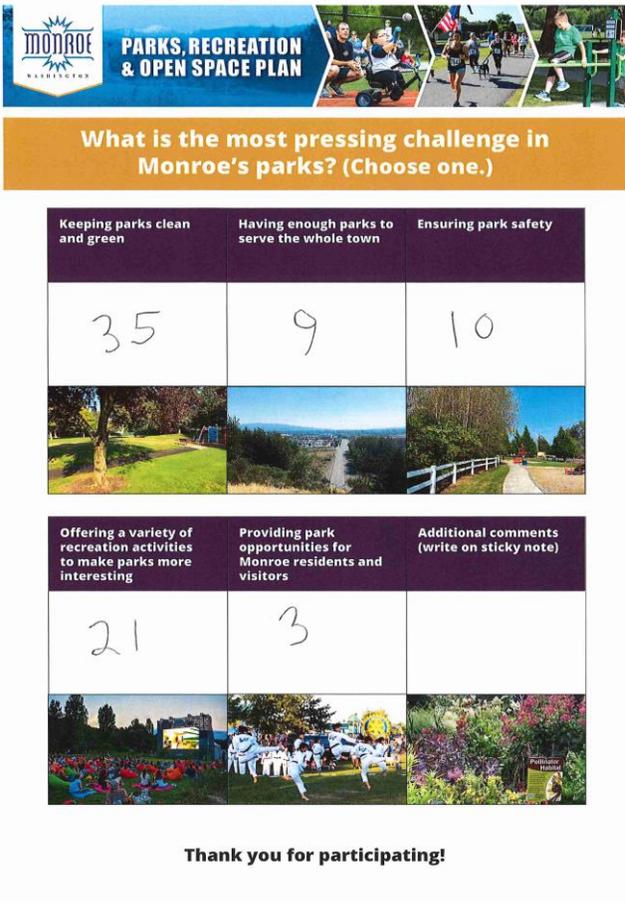
6. The PROS Plan recommends several new types of park amenities.

Which of the following are priorities to build? (Name your top 3 in the chat).

- |  |   |                               |   |
|--|---|-------------------------------|---|
| a. Unique playground                     | 4 | i. Mountain bike loop trails  | 5 |
| b. Spray/play fountain                   | 5 | j. Interpretive nature trails | 2 |
| c. Climbing wall                         | 4 | k. Dog park                   |   |
| d. Zip line                              | 1 | l. Disc golf course           |   |
| e. Outdoor fitness equipment             |   | m. Community garden           | 2 |
| f. Canoe and kayak launch/rentals        |   | n. Pickleball court           |   |
| g. Developed beach swimming area         | 3 | o. Soccer field               | 1 |
| h. Bike pump track or bike skills course | 2 |                               |   |

would be helpful to have expert recommendation as far as time, cost and feasibility of each/combo. Top three vote encourages "bigger" projects, even smaller things like exercise equipment could add

FIGURE 2: SURVEY RESULT FROM NATIONAL NIGHT OUT EVENT





Some existing amenities in parks are older, worn, and in need of replacement. Some areas of the city, such as North Hill, are growing and will need new neighborhood parks. City staff will prioritize these critical park improvements, including playground replacements.

Beyond these critical projects, which ONE bigger investment would you like to see happen FIRST to expand recreation opportunities?

| Connecting people to Monroe's riverfront, including trails and improvements to Al Borlin Park and the Cadman site | Enhancing Lake Tye Park as an outdoor recreation hub | Developing a new urban plaza along Tjorne Place to support community gatherings and local businesses |
|---|--|--|
| 35  | 14   | 13   |

Monroe is adding more parks and will need more funding to keep all parks clean, safe, and fun.

For each new park, how much should the City invest in maintenance?

| ABOUT THE SAME as we spend now. | MORE than we spend now to increase care for our assets, landscaping, and natural resources. | Additional comments (write on sticky note) |
|---------------------------------|---|--|
| 8                               | 36  |  |

Thank you for participating!



Many parks will be able to support new activities. Which ONE of the following activities is MOST important to YOU?

| Large events that draw visitors and people from all over town | Walking, biking, jogging and more on trails | Enjoying and connecting to nature  |
|---|---|--|
| 14  | 27  | 14   |
|   |   |  |
| New ways to get active in the outdoors                        | Relaxing and playing in parks               | Additional comments (write on sticky note)                                 |
| 35  | 19  | 1<br>PEOPLE WALKING CATS ON LEASHES IS A DROWNING TRAP. HELP US STAY SAFE. |
|   |   |  |

Thank you for participating!



The PROS Plan recommends several new types of park amenities. Which of the following are priorities to build? (Choose your top 3).

| Unique Playground | Spray/Play Fountain | Climbing Wall | Zipline |
|-------------------|---------------------|---------------|---------|
| 13                | 48                  | 26            | 53      |

| Outdoor Fitness Equipment | Canoe and Kayak Launch/Rentals | Developed Beach Swimming Area | Bike Pump Track or Bike Skills Course |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 9                         | 19                             | 19                            | 13                                    |

| Mountain Bike Loop Trails | Interpretive Nature Trails | Dog Park | Disc Golf Course |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|----------|------------------|
| 16                        | 11                         | 33       | 8                |

| Community Garden | Pickleball Court  | Additional Comments (write on a sticky note) |
|------------------|---|--|
| 9                | 55 (OBSERVED HEAVY OVERVOTING BY A GROUP OF 3 MULTIPLE VOTES) | 7 (NO COMMENTS RECEIVED)                     |

Thank you for participating!