



# PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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## MEMO

**To:** Mayor Erickson and City Council  
**From:** Mary McCluskey, Parks and Recreation Director  
Nikole Coleman, Associate Planner  
**Subject:** **Urban Paths of Poulsbo – 2018 Update**  
**Date:** October 1, 2018

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### **Background**

A 2007 community survey indicated a strong demand for trails. The city heard this and began the process of developing a 20-year trails plan. Over the course of two years, the Poulsbo Trails Committee, city staff, organizations, residents and users worked to create the 2012 Urban Paths of Poulsbo (UPP).

From the start, the UPP was conceived as a trails plan to connect neighborhoods, parks, shopping and schools, and then link to regional trail systems leading from the city and into Kitsap County and beyond. The UPP highlights the need for non-motorized options with the community.

The UPP is intended to be a “living document” in that it includes considerations for future actions that may not be clearly defined at the time of adoption. This format is intentional and creates flexibility to be responsive to new opportunities and evolving priorities. Broadly, any new proposal or deviation from the plan priorities will always be evaluated against the policies in the Parks Recreation and Open Space Plan and the Comprehensive Plan.

### **2018 Update**

In 2018, the Poulsbo Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC) worked with city staff and residents to update the UPP with the goal of improving access to non-motorized facilities for all residents. The 2018 UPP updates outdated language, highlights progress made over the last six years, and identifies new opportunities for connectivity.

### **Survey Summary**

Surveys conducted since 2007 have all confirmed that citizens consider trails/paths and sidewalks as a top priority for park development and traffic improvements. Provided below are summaries of each survey conducted as it relates to nonmotorized transportation:

- **2007 | Comprehensive Plan Update Survey**

Sidewalks were a top traffic investment priority in 2007, with 88.2%. The other selections chosen included, bike paths (64%), neighborhood connectivity (63.9%), and a citywide trail system (62.3%).

- **2009-2011 | Trails Committee Survey**

In 2009, the Trails Committee conducted an online survey which provided valuable citizen feedback in the creation of the UPP Plan. 80% of the respondents said that they expected to use the trails weekly, their top desired destinations were downtown and parks, and safety was a major concern.

- **2015 | Parks and Recreation Community Survey**

The 2015 Parks and Recreation community survey reaffirmed that opportunities for walking and hiking continued to be very important to residents. 43.38 % of the respondents chose walking/jogging trails as an amenity they would like to see offered in new parks. Shoreline access followed with 34.25%, bike paths with 33.33%, and safe road bicycling with 32.42%.

- **2015 | Comprehensive Plan Update Survey**

A survey conducted for the 2016 Comprehensive Plan and Development Regulations update identified a citywide trail system as a highly desired amenity. In addition, sidewalks emerged as the most important

traffic improvement (77.55%), followed by bike paths (52.24%), pavement restoration (52.65%), and a citywide trail system (51.84%).

- **2018 | Skate Park Survey**

51.62% stated that walking paths were a desirable amenity or feature for a new park.

***Primary Tasks and Timeline***

Updating the UPP included a review and analysis of park and recreation related surveys, update of the existing inventory, and identification of new opportunities for connectivity. The Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC) held four public meetings (2/26/18, 4/23/18, 6/25/18, 8/27/18) and one open house (6/25/18) to review the proposed amendments and consider public comment. At the August meeting, the PRC voted to recommend approval of the 2018 Urban Paths of Poulsbo.

***City Council Confirmation***

The UPP lives in Appendix B (Functional Plans) of the Comprehensive Plan. The purpose of adoption by resolution is for the City Council to confirm the proposed amendments prior to official adoption via the 2019 Comprehensive Plan Amendment Cycle.

