



Public Works, Parks & Trails

Background:

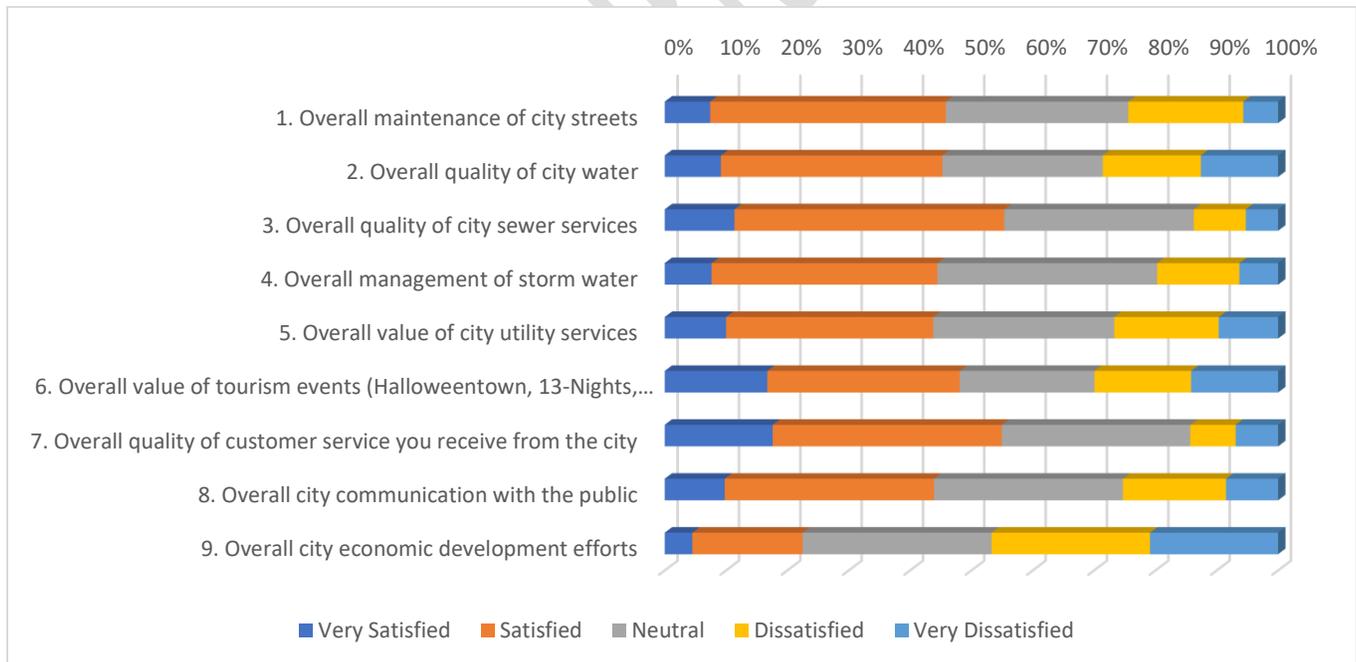
The City of St. Helens is strengthening our governance and is committed to fostering an effective organization and sustainable long-term planning. City Council is committed to more thorough community engagement through responding to community need, expanding information sharing and instilling trust with our community. The input will help us deliver the best possible services and make important decisions over the next several years.

The City has not directly asked about citizen satisfaction by conducting a survey in over a decade. Our city is growing rapidly and, as is characteristic of local governments in Oregon, has limited resources. As we grow and serve new residents, we need to be strategic with how we use our limited resources.

We set out to better understand:

- What residents think of the current services we provide
- What our community expects of City leadership and services
- If voters think we are heading in the right direction
- How citizens engage with city government

Major categories of services provided by the City of St Helens are listed below. How satisfied are you with...



Key takeaways-

For core services survey respondents reported satisfaction or neutral feelings. The percentage of “neutral” responses (a rating of “3” on a 5-point scale) indicates that residents are, for the most part,



satisfied with City services. They believe improvements could be made, but they do not have strong feelings of dissatisfaction for a particular service.

Raw Numbers -In order of least negative responses:

City Sewer services - 80.13 % have positive or neutral (not dissatisfied)

Storm Water management – 76.35% positive or neutral

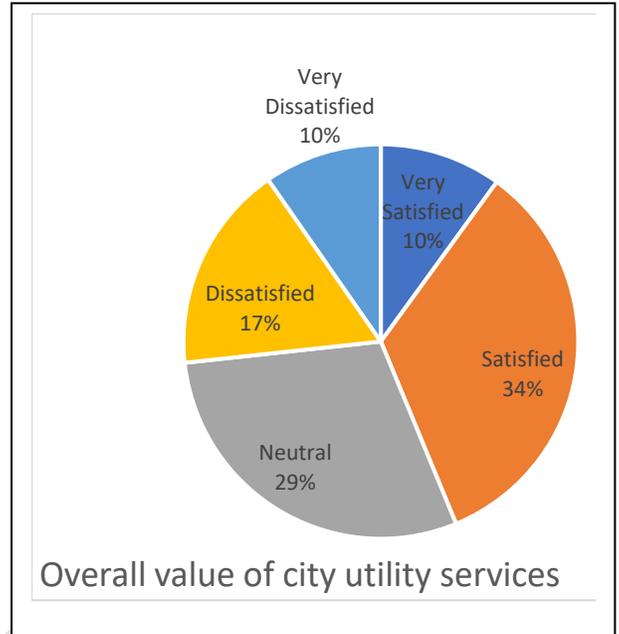
Overall maintenance of city streets – 75% positive or neutral

Overall quality of city water – 68.5% positive or neutral

Overall value of city utility services – 69.06% positive or neutral

St. Helens does a solid job of delivering core services with combined positive and neutral rankings for Street maintenance, sewer, stormwater management and City Communication all above 70%.

Of all responses, 70% report as positive and neutral the overall value of city utility services is (not dissatisfied).



Parks and Trails

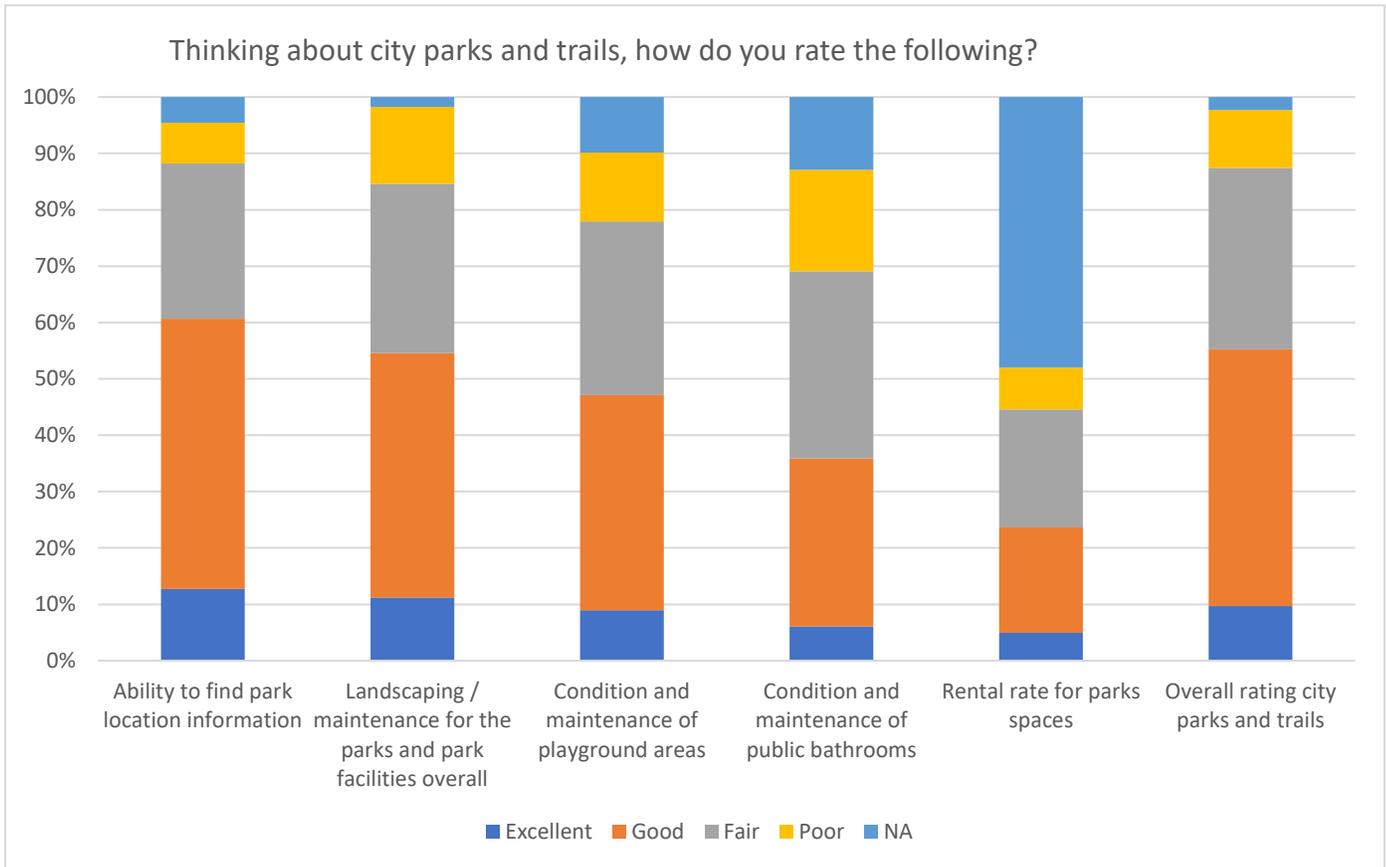


602 responses

The ability to find a park is highly ranked with 88% ranking this as excellent, good or fair.

Parks and trails receive a positive or neutral response from 87% of respondents.

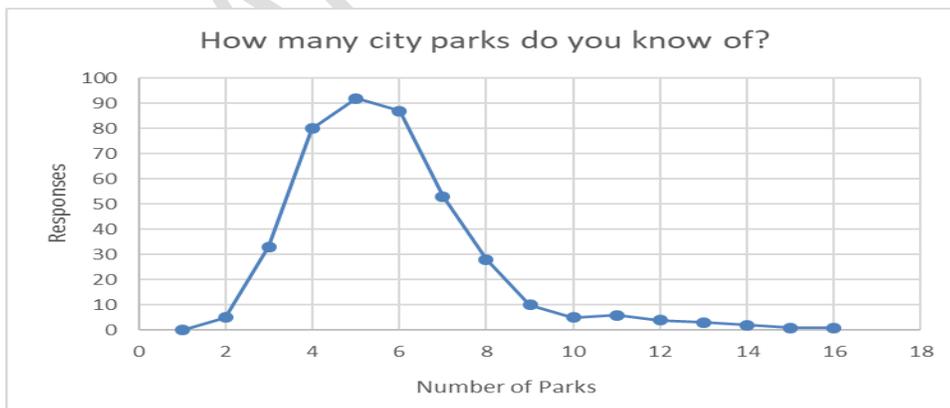
Many commented that safety in our parks is a priority.



Most respondents (68%) rate parks and trails as excellent or good with highest marks for the ability to find park location and the landscaping and maintenance of park facilities.

The item with the most room for improvement is potentially the most difficult to improve, the condition and maintenance of public restrooms.

This is interesting, though many respondents report an excellent or good ability to find a park, when asked, 445 respondents report being aware of a varying number of parks.





All comments (74)

McCormick & Campbell fields need serious upkeep

- Keep drugs out
- Need more biking trails
- I don't see a lot of pride in our parks
- Playgrounds need to be fenced in
- Would like more trails, natural areas for biking
- Only complaint would be constantly stepping in dog poop
- There needs to be actual trails to use. Waterfront trails would be tremendous.
- Im concerned about the vagrants in Campbell and McCormick park.
- To me this is the city's biggest weakness. The landscaping is almost nonexistent. Weeds are growing rampant and trash is all over the ground. The trash cans are often overflowing. Playground equipment has had broken glass all over it and is often broken. We have rented park spaces several times and have tons how up early to pick up all the trash and wipe down the dirty tables, only to find every garbage can overflowing. Plus no soap or toilet paper in the bathrooms. What is it we're paying for?
- Parks have been taken over by druggies. Not a good place for families any more.
- I am SO grateful for McCormick park and that it is closed to camping. With Portlands homeless migrating this direction camping in the park will ruin the park. Please keep camping closed. McCormick park is where I walk my dog daily and it is special to me because I spend so much time there. The crew that tends to the garbage, dog poop bags, and overall maintenance are amazing and I appreciate them greatly
- Look forward to playground equipment improvements at Godfrey Park
- Thank you for new trail on Fifth St ROW.
- All the St. Helens and Columbia city playgrounds need to be updated - other than the river front park. My young children - younger than 3 are not safe on these playgrounds, I would like to see a place safe for ages 2-5.
- I wish we had a good paved multi-use trail for bicycles etc at least 10 miles long
- We're a small town. What we have is good.
- need doggy poop bags at Knobb hill entrance from s. 3rd street
- Tried to use Botanical Gardens & the trail was unpassable just a few yards from the entrance. // People are still camping out hidden between the trails at McCormack Park.
- Not really many useable trails- mud, overgrown. Main good walking area at waterfront.
- Are we yet calling waterfront a park? Should be and without blocking the views.
- Hoping for some kind of fencing across the front of the McCormick dog park.
- It saddens me that Campbell Park's tennis courts have never seemed to be a priority. They have been in shambles for at least 10 years. As a tennis player that lives close to this park, it would be nice to have quality
- Some parks are scary during the day with dogs running off leash and junkies walking around.
- McCormick park disc golf course is world class.
- Campbell park seems to be messy most of the time I go there.
- There needs to be soap in bathrooms
- Dog owners are not cleaning up after their dogs. My children also visit the park and they don't need to slip or fall in dog poop
- We have some nice parks here. :)
- Some parks really need a facelift or painting of equipment
- It's not safe anymore because of homeless and drug use
- Knowing park funds are low it would be nice to see an organized effort to create citizen groups to help maintain and help create a psychological investment to the community.
- I am very impressed on the beautiful, well maintained parks and trails.
- McCormick and Campbell Parks have become a little too inviting to less child friendly people.



- Another area that is neglected. The skate park is full of graffiti, the parking lots need to be repaired. Our parks need to be updated.
- Excited for the planned improvements to Campbell park and Especially eager for Godfrey park upgrades
- Put more time in parks Less on Halloween town. Use the public employee's on parks
- No police down at st helens park- sexual predators and creepy homeless have taken over parks- not safe anymore also not enough free beach access- st helens lacks enough parks its all port and railroad owned
- It seems almost impossible to enjoy a trip to a park with my young kids. The parks are littered with garbage and drug paraphernilia, homeless people, or even just creepy men parked in the parking lot in a truck with no one else around. Definitely not getting my children out of the car in any of those situations.
- Bob Hill Park is Dangerous and should be closed & secured before some kid falls to their Death
- There are too many after hours visitors at the park. Police should be checking out parks more often. It is obvious there are drug deals in a couple of the patks
- Unleashed dogs that are NOT following the Leash Law violate the law and make me feel uncomfortable, I do not enjoy City Parks or Trails.
- I would like a nice park with a water fountain, I would appreciate better sidewalks on Columbia Blvd
- Needs more attention to our parks and trails.
- Dog park needs more than a fence. Needs small dog area as well.
- The parks are often dirty and not maintained at all (See campbell park) The lack of things like a basketball court and parks in general is asstounding
- I've only been to the Zellerbach trail, which isn't much a trail and the dog park.
- I would like to know of a trail map
- Please bring camping back to McCormick park and salmon berry lake
- We need more
- Please remove glysohate from the city parks and public areas.
- New playground at Campbell park would be nice
- Please limit the # of campsites on Sand Island to what the restrooms can handle.
- The new computer system for renting is confusing. Also, there is usually a lot of puddles at the playgrounds, like the McCormick park swings, which means I can only go when it's dry or my kids get sopping wet. I think we need more park people to work on stuff like adding bark chips or spraying for weeds
- there needs to be more bark chips placed under swings and areas at McCormick that keep flooding.
- need better parking for the boat ramp
- It would be lovely to have a fenced dog park (a la Columbia City's) -- unfenced does not work for all dogs.
- Playground equipment needs to be maintained and inspected.
- 6th street park is overrun with mole hills. Lawsuit waiting to happen when someone breaks an ankle playing baseball....
- During peak use garbage cans and grounds need more attention and we need garbage cans back in downtown 1st street.
- With all the druggies in St. Helens, who wants to visit the parks where they often go? No thanks.
- Water at McCormick ruins the trails every winter. Would be nice to see some improvement of those.
- Especially love the walking trails at McCormick Park
- Want to thank all park employees for there dedication to keep the parks in the best shape they can with the funding available to the department
- Too unsafe
- Sand island is too expensive.
- Less poison oak in McCormic Park
- Could expand more
- Need more city trails
- With the homeless issues I will not go out on trails alone
- I have been to a couple of our parks, one in particular McCormick (who has a paid caretaker) that is not being taken care of as nice as it once was. The paid living caretaker's house looks trashy. It needs to look nice and inviting. The bathrooms should be clean and always in repair. The person on site has one job and that is to keep McCormick Park clean and running smoothly. People have mentioned this before



and still nothing has been done. This person is saving over 2000.00 a month and his house along with the park should be clean and nice. Pull up old photos and look at them. Also, I think the jail inmates should be utilized more for community service in keeping these parks up. They did an amazing job downtown On the amphitheater and think they would enjoy getting out helping. The safe ones anyway. I feel we need to use more volunteer people who are willing to help and get more community involvement like it used to be.

- Bring camping to the river!! All these spot\$ we could be banking\$\$ by adding river access and recreation... It's a real shame we have all this real estate and don't use it to its potential but rather cut trees down at Wilkerson to pay the bills when we have other smarter ways.. We could be a real destination for vacations instead of us leaving the area. Giving our \$ elsewhere.
- Please stop the third party for profit activity I.e. the island access and ficc D.C. profit camping. The third party city planning out elected official need to secure deals and collect funds.
- Our parks are beautiful! Would like to see some new play structures.

DRAFT For Internal Use