

Table of Contents

Overview.....2

Outreach materials.....2

 a. Notifications2

 b. Tools2

Community Meeting Summary3

Appendix A. Flyer/Share Post4

Appendix B. Social Media Posts5

Appendix C. Radio & Newspaper Advertisements8

Appendix D. Editorials.....9

Appendix E. PUD Survey Results..... 10

Overview

The Confluence Parkway (Project) aims to address transportation problems in the North Wenatchee area and prepare for traffic growth by creating a parallel route to N Wenatchee Avenue, which also provides grade separated railroad crossings and a new bridge across the Wenatchee River. The Project will also impact a portion of the Apple Capital Loop Recreation Loop Trail (Trail).

As part of the ongoing community outreach effort, the City organized a site walk “Let’s Loop Together Tour” (Tour) along the existing Trail to educate interested stakeholders on the proposed improvements.

Outreach materials

Various materials were developed as part of the outreach effort. The following outlines the notifications, tools, and physical materials that were used throughout the outreach process.

a. Notifications

- Flyer/Share Post Graphic (Appendix A) in both English and Spanish was circulated to inform the public of the upcoming Tour and direct online traffic to the project website.
- Social Media (Appendix B) posts in both English and Spanish were used to advertise the event, project website, and share general project information on multiple platforms. Posts were shared on The City of Wenatchee’s Facebook page, The Wenatchee World’s Facebook page, and on the City’s Twitter page. These posts encouraged interaction with the public through information, sharing stories and general commentary.
- Radio and Paid Advertising: (Appendix C) City staff and elected officials appeared on a variety of local radio shows to discuss the Project and advertise the tour in addition to paid ads.
- Email updates: Emails were sent out to specific community members and groups who frequently recreate on the Trail (over 250 users) asking them to participate in the Loop tour or share their stories on how they use the Trail. Additionally, a follow up email was sent with a video that shared highlights from the tour after the event and a call to take the PUD survey.

b. Tools

- An online project website is currently hosted on the City of Wenatchee’s website. The website was updated to include details of the upcoming Tour, including time, date and purpose. The site allows community members to provide feedback and comments through an online form.
- Editorials: (Appendix D) Four editorials were submitted and published by the Wenatchee World regarding the Project from Link Transit, Ballard Ambulance, North Central Washington Audubon Society, TREAD and Mayor Frank Kuntz. The editorials were published in the print and online version of the Wenatchee World.
- Concurrently, the Chelan County Public Utilities Districted #1 (PUD) released a survey to collect feedback on the proposed improvements and mitigation. The City’s marketing, messaging, and materials encouraged residents to submit written feedback through the PUD Survey Monkey link. A recap of the survey responses received is included as Appendix E.

Community Meeting Summary

Event Details

Date: March 19, 2022

Time: 8:00am to 9:30am

Location: Begin at Walla Walla Point Park, 3 mile walk along the Trail.

Attendees: Approximately 30 community members attended the Tour.

Key Topics:

- Background on Confluence Parkway road component
- Details on impacts to the Trail
- Information regarding implementation, timeline, and proposed improvements and mitigation
- Encouraged community members to provide feedback via PUD Survey, email, or City's website comment form.

Key Feedback on important challenges

- Comments about ensuring passive trails in Horan Natural Area are not impacted. These passive trails are outside of the Project area footprint; users of the passive area will experience visual and noise impacts. Staff discussed proposed design considerations.
- Comments recommending a phased reconstruction of the Trail to avoid user impacts during construction.
- Questions regarding how noise and other impacts will be mitigated, staff discussed proposed design considerations.

CONFLUENCE PARKWAY
LET'S LOOP TOGETHER TODAY
FOR A GREATER GOOD TOMORROW

LET'S LOOP TOGETHER TOUR

8AM
SATURDAY, MARCH 19
WALLA WALLA PARK
STARTING AT THE
FLAG POLE

Come walk the loop trail to learn about the \$10m enhancements as part of the fully funded Confluence Parkway project. The City of Wenatchee's Executive Services Director, Laura Merrill will be guiding the tour.



Lets Loop Together

#LetsLoopTogether
#VamosAlRecorrido

Where can I get more information
www.wenatcheeva.gov
email: cpnepa@wenatcheeva.gov



Appendix B. Social Media Posts



SATURDAY, MARCH 19, 2022 AT 8 AM

Let's Loop Together

1351 Walla Walla Ave, Wenatchee, WA 98801-1528, United States

About Discussion Edit

Details

55 people responded

Event by City of Wenatchee Government

1351 Walla Walla Ave, Wenatchee, WA 98801-1528, United States

Public · Anyone on or off Facebook

Saturday, March 19

Tour the future enhancement of the Loop Trail with City of Wenatchee's Executive Services Director Laura Merrill.

Meet at the Walla Walla Point Park flag pole at 8:00 am, for a 3 mile walking tour (Walla Walla to Pedestrian Bridge).





As an avid user and supporter of the Loop, we would love to hear from you to learn what it means to have local trail access. Feel free to share your Loop experiences and any photos of you or your group of friends enjoying the Loop amenities!

Would you please share your story, photos, and help share our posts?
Please submit to cpnepa@wenatchee.wa.gov on or before March 30.

When posting, please use the hashtag, [#LetsLoopTogether](#) [#vamosalrecorrido](#) [#confluencepkwy](#)
Let's Loop Together today for the greater good tomorrow! [See less](#)

Insights


Last 7 Days: Apr 5 - Apr 12

 People Reached	 Responses
2,104 +0 last 7 days	55 +0 last 7 days
 Audience	 Track ticket sales
Women 45-54 16% of total reach	Track ticket sales on your next event by adding a ticket link



Wenatchee World ✓
March 31 at 12:41 PM · 


Residents, government and elected officials discussed on Wednesday proposed changes to the Apple Capital Recreation Loop Trail — on and off the trail — as part of the Confluence Parkway project.



WENATCHEEWORLD.COM

Weighing the pros and cons of Wenatchee's Confluence Parkway project

WENATCHEE — Residents, government and elected officials discussed on Wednesday propose...

  57 37 Comments 6 Shares

Key lawmakers have fully funded the Confluence Parkway project, including a new bridge over the Wenatchee River.



WENATCHEEWORLD.COM

Funding for north Wenatchee bridge included in transportation package

WENATCHEE — Key lawmakers have fully funded the Confluence Parkway project, including a ...

234

47 Comments 38 Shares

Confluence Parkway is a generational project, a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to lay down the foundation for sustainable growth to support an ever-changing community, writes Mayor Frank Kuntz.

TRAIL SEGMENT OVERVIEW



WENATCHEEWORLD.COM

Opinion | Wenatchee Mayor Frank Kuntz: Confluence Parkway: More than just a road

62

23 Comments 5 Shares



NCWLIFE

March 23 at 2:13 PM · 🌐



The North Wenatchee Avenue bypass would reconfigure a portion of the Apple Capital Loop Trail and require a six-acre exchange of property with the PUD.



NCWLIFE.COM

Chelan County PUD survey on Confluence Parkway now available

As promised, Chelan County PUD has posted an online survey to get people's thoughts on ho...

👍👎 53

21 Comments 8 Shares

Appendix C. Radio & Newspaper Advertisements

- Radio Interviews:
 - Laura Merrill regarding Confluence Parkway on KOHO radio on 02/21/2022
 - Councilmember Mark Kulaas regarding Confluence Parkway and potential funding on KOHO on 03/28/2022
 - Mayor Frank Kuntz on KPQ regarding Confluence Parkway and PUD partnership 04/05/2022
- Wenatchee World paid ads posted weekend of March 26th, 2022:

SINCE 2010, THE REGION HAS BEEN PLANNING
CONFLUENCE PARKWAY
FOR A BETTER TOMORROW

Confluence Parkway is a multi-modal project that includes the following benefits:

- A new bridge over the Wenatchee River!
- The Parkway is designed for 35 mph with two travel lanes and bike lanes in both directions. There will be NO STOPLIGHTS once you are on the main stretch of the Parkway.
- This means less traffic congestion along SR 285/North Wenatchee Avenue.
- Ride the bus? The Parkway will support Link Transit's regional bus rapid transit service.
- A \$10 million investment in the Apple Capital Recreation Loop Trail between Hawley Street and the existing pedestrian bridge. The Loop will no longer be a sidewalk trail with vehicle conflicts, it will have its own, safe, dedicated path and a wider pedestrian bridge.
- In exchange for lands needed for the Parkway, this project will add over 4 acres of restored habitat to the Horan Natural Area.
- Did we mention a new bridge over the Wenatchee River?

Lets Loop Together

#LetsLoopTogether
#VamosAlRecorrido

Where can I get more information
www.wenatcheewa.gov
email: cpnepa@wenatcheewa.gov

Safety Valve: Letters from readers

Editor's note: The city of Wenatchee arranged for the writing of these columns about the Confluence Parkway project.

Parkway project supports improved Loop access and quality of life

Those of us fortunate to call the Wenatchee Valley home understand what an asset it is to our community to have the Apple Capital Recreation Loop Trail.

For me it is access to a year-round safe place to exercise and nourish my soul. It is a connection to the wild places that I crave when winter trail closures keep me out of Sage Hills and deep snow prevents access to the mountains. Like an old friend, it is always there.

I recognize the privilege I enjoy every time I step on this trail. I marvel at the tireless efforts of community leaders like Bob Parlette and Joan VanDivort whose shared vision and passion turned the town dump into the Wenatchee Valley's crown jewel.

The improvements proposed within the Confluence Parkway Project, in my mind have the potential to enhance the experience of trail users like myself. I especially like the idea of moving the path away from the roadway and below the current Chelan County PUD shops. This buffer creates separation from the busyness of the outside world, allowing a more immersive natural experience.

The Confluence Parkway Project, as proposed, supports the original visioning for the 10-mile Loop and extensions, promising to improve access and quality of life for all of us with better pedestrian routes from surrounding neighborhoods. I am especially excited about the potential to build on this trail network with trails to the west along the Wenatchee River, connecting Wenatchee to Cashmere and Leavenworth. Confluence Parkway will not do that work, but it sets the stage for future trail expansion.

I also have hope this project may make it easier and more convenient for commuters to leave their cars at home during the afternoon and morning commute. While it might seem counterintuitive to expect fewer people in personal vehicles with the construction of yet another bridge, it is my hope that the options presented by this project actually make it more attractive to use public transportation, ride a bicycle, or even walk to and from work.

As with all public projects, there are tradeoffs. Safer access could mean a longer distance to trail access for some of us. The Confluence Parkway Bridge is engineered to share with pedestrians, which is less than ideal for those of us used the current alignment. The construction phase will have its inevitable noise impacts and traffic disruptions.

But the good it can do potentially outweighs these side effects. The project comes with a \$10 million

investment in improved access to the Loop Trail, an opportunity to improve habitat by bringing more water and four more acres to the Horan Natural Area and a new electric bus rapid transit service. And anyone who has driven North Wenatchee Avenue during busy commute times is aware of the need to take the pressure off of this major corridor. The Confluence Parkway Project does that.

I am excited about the Confluence Parkway vision for the Wenatchee Valley. I look forward to it introducing many more generations to the benefits of access to the beautiful spaces the Apple Capital Recreation Loop Trail provides. I look forward to living in a pedestrian-friendly city that connects all of us to this invaluable natural space. I encourage our leaders to remember and consider the words of Bob Parlette as he described how our collective relationship with the Columbia River has evolved:

"When I came to town, I wanted to go down to the river. I went to the bottom of Fifth Street, and there was a big fence there and a 'Do No enter' sign. I just couldn't believe there was no way to access the river. Now when I go down to the riverfront, it gladdens my heart to see people riding bikes and smiling at each other as they walk on the trail. For decades, we had our backs to the river, and today we have turned our faces to the river."

Let's keep our faces to the river, respect the vision that gives us the privileged access we enjoy today and continue to make it easier for all of us to share in this amazing legacy. The Confluence Parkway Project is one giant leap in this direction and I look forward to its completion.

Selina Danko is an avid outdoor recreationalist who spends many hours a week running or walking on the Apple Capital Recreation Loop Trail.

What the project means to your safety in an emergency

Those of us that call the Wenatchee Valley home are painfully aware of the "Dreaded North End Traffic."

The annoyance of sitting in the bottleneck of North Wenatchee can be so frustrating as we enter or exit the north end of Wenatchee. Cars everywhere, bumper to bumper, as we inch forward to our destination.

In the world of Emergency Services this annoyance can have challenges many might not think of. Responding to emergency calls on the north end of town during rush hour is a stressful and dangerous task for emergency crews. Driving with lights and sirens activated is arguably the most consistent daily risk/liability

ty that emergency crews deal with.

On a good day, with minimal traffic it is challenging enough to respond to calls. The law requires that drivers yield for emergency vehicles. Stop and pull to the right is what we were all taught in driver's education. How on earth is that accomplished in the midst of the north-end congestion? Often the only way for emergency vehicles to get through the traffic is to pull out into turn lanes or sometimes even into oncoming traffic lanes. This increases the risk to everyone on the road.

Getting to calls is only part of the job for emergency crews. What about getting patients back to the hospital? Think of how arduous it is to fight through the congestion coming into the north end. Frustrated. Annoyed. Irritated. Those are probably the emotions most people are experiencing while driving in or out of town. EMS crews transporting sick and injured people to emergency rooms have a different perspective and different emotions. Fear: Are we going to get our patient to the hospital in time? Anxiety: How am I going to navigate this horrible mess of traffic with a critically ill patient in the back? When dealing with sick and injured patients, time can be very precious. Delays can have tragic consequences.

We in emergency services welcome the Confluence Parkway. The additional access point for emergency crews is going to improve public safety in emergency situations. Response times to calls and transports to the emergency departments will be safer, quicker, and more efficient. We look forward to having the infrastructure in place to better serve the community in an emergency.

Mike Battis is the Director of Operations for Ballard Ambulance.

Horan Nature Reserve is an important sustainable resource

Currently, there are two major planning efforts underway that stand to influence the social, environmental, and cultural character of the Wenatchee Valley. The city of Wenatchee is planning a major transportation project, the Confluence Parkway. The Chelan County PUD is in the initial stages of relicensing the Rock Island Dam with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). These projects overlap on the land and, to a degree, over time.

Guest OPINION



Bruce McCammon

Guest OPINION



Susan Ballinger

Both projects, if implemented, offer opportunities to improve cultural, ecological, social, and educational conditions in an area that the North Central Washington Audubon Society (NCWAS) places high value on: the Horan Natural Area (HNA).

NCWAS in 2018 prepared a vision of desirable future conditions within the HNA. We have continued to advocate for these improvements during the ensuing time. We believe that major improvement can be accomplished in the HNA if the city and PUD closely coordinate their efforts.

The Horan Natural Area is unique in the Wenatchee valley. Historically, the area was of special significance to the p'Squosa/Wenatchi people who resided in the area spanning both sides of the Columbia River. Today, there is no visible evidence of this important cultural use within the HNA. The city and PUD projects provide a chance for tribal leaders to design a meaningful representation of their history within the HNA.

The Horan Natural Area is a "made environment." The natural Wenatchee River delta that extended far into the Columbia River is largely under water impounded by Rock Island Dam. The land we know as the HNA today has been altered over time and now contains a set of constructed ponds that are drying up due to termination of surface water supply to the area. The value of wildlife and bird habitat, as well as the aesthetics of the area, has shrunk along with the ponds. The City and PUD projects offer a chance to re-establish a viable, flowing water supply to, and within, the HNA.

Weeds are common throughout the valley and are well established in the HNA. Valuable native plants, including important cultural species (dogbane, milkweed) compete for survival with the weeds and introduced plant species. Vegetation management in the area is largely custodial. A comprehensive vegetative management plan is needed. The two planning efforts can set the framework to make that happen.

Use of the HNA area by birders, walkers, runners, and watercraft is increasing. The area is used for bilingual environmental education purposes. Previous input to the PUD clearly shows that the natural setting, including its wildlife and birds, is extremely important to them.

The NCWAS continues to promote the idea that the HNA can represent a world-class park that provides valuable educational and recreational opportunities as well as bird and wildlife habitat. The city and PUD planning timeframes overlap today. NCWAS supports the Confluence Parkway and FERC relicensing projects. It is critical that the importance of the value of the HNA for the future of the Wenatchee valley is carefully coordinated between the two entities. Residents and visitors to the Wenatchee valley will be well served when the Horan Natural Area evolves into an ecologically and socially sustainable resource.

Bruce McCammon is a North Central Washington Audubon Society board member. Susan Ballinger is a naturalist and educator.

Let's Loop together

The tranquil setting of the green grass, trimmed garden beds, and the Columbia River has provided our family with endless family memories.

We enjoy the smiles of strangers and meeting new four-legged friends along the way, or bumping into our best friends also enjoying the Loop Trail. The Loop Trail provides us with a safe family-friendly outdoor environment.

You can find me juggling drinking an iced coffee from Little Red's Coffee and pushing our 2-year-old in the stroller while he is eating a muffin the size of his head. Up ahead my 5-year-old is loving the sunshine, riding her purple bike enjoying the independence this distance provides her on a safe non-motorized trail.

The Loop Trail provides my family a quick escape to the outdoors without planning and during all seasons.

Autumn may be our favorite, but we enjoy it year-round.

Lisa Foster, Operations Director for TREAD, a nonprofit focused on outdoor recreation.

Guest OPINION



Mike Battis

The annoyance of sitting in the bottleneck of North Wenatchee can be so frustrating as we enter or exit the north end of Wenatchee. Cars everywhere, bumper to bumper, as we inch forward to our destination.

In the world of Emergency Services this annoyance can have challenges many might not think of. Responding to emergency calls on the north end of town during rush hour is a stressful and dangerous task for emergency crews. Driving with lights and sirens activated is arguably the most consistent daily risk/liability

ICONIC SHIRTS

ZELENSKY'S



PUTIN'S



KEVIN SIERS © 2022
CHARLOTTE OBSERVER NEWS AND OBSERVER. PoliticalCartoons.com

THE WENACHEE WORLD


THE FIERCELY INDEPENDENT VOICE OF NORTH CENTRAL WASHINGTON

SEAN FLAHERTY: Publisher

RUFUS G. WOODS: Publisher emeritus

RUSS HEMPHILL: Managing editor

FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED SINCE 1905

An aerial photograph showing a river confluence area. The river flows from the top left towards the bottom left. The surrounding land is a mix of green trees and brownish, cleared areas. A residential or commercial development is visible on the right side of the image. A blue semi-transparent box is overlaid on the bottom half of the image, containing white text.

Confluence Parkway/Wenatchee Confluence State Park
Community Outreach & Survey

April 18, 2022

Justin Erickson/Neil Neroutsos



CHELAN COUNTY

Why We're Here Today

- Summary of outreach
- Survey review
- Next steps



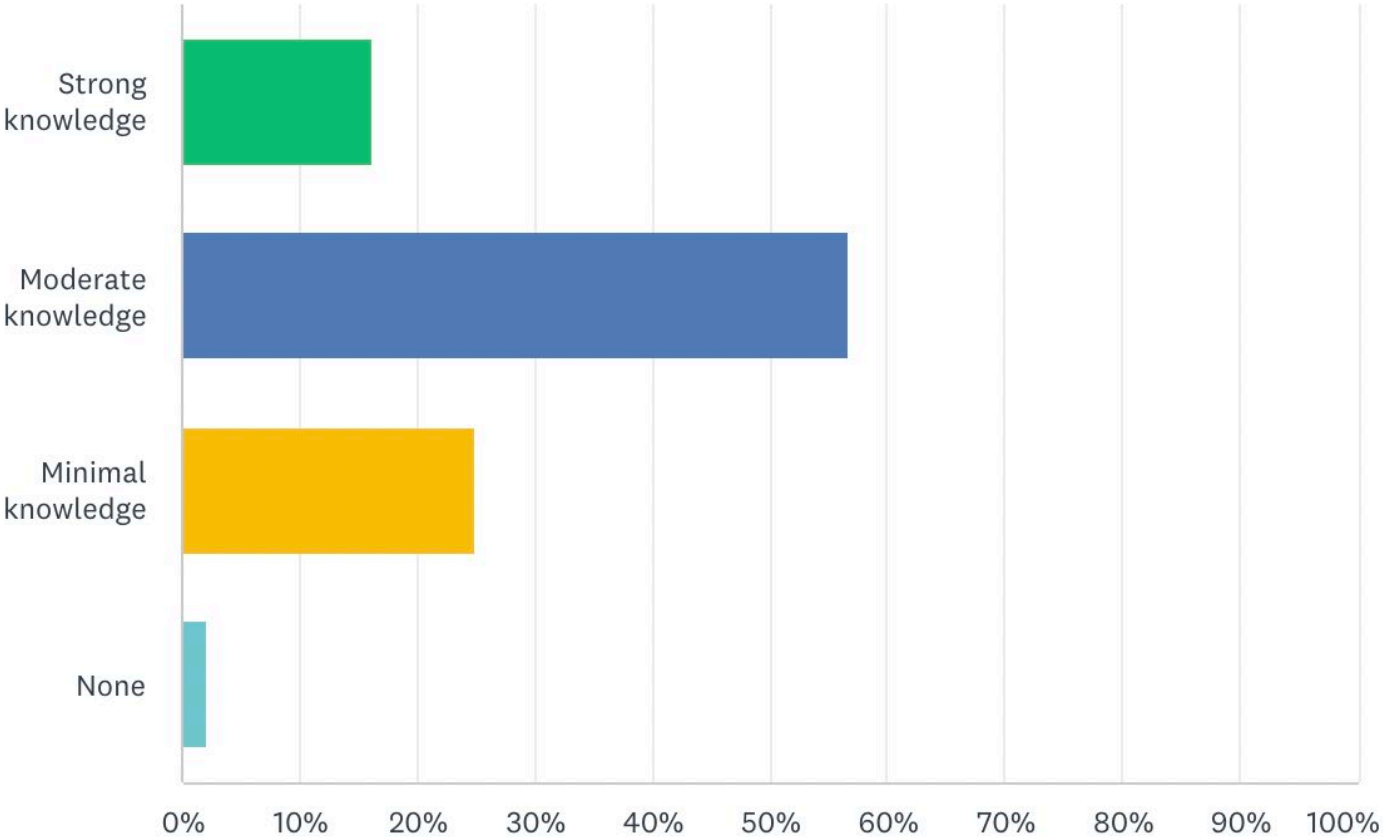
Summary of Outreach

- Held two workshops at the CTC and two self-guided trail walks on March 30, with about 100 attendees
- Online survey ran March 21 – April 4, receiving about 970 responses, including letters/emails
- Process promoted via:
 - Print/radio ads
 - Press release/media interviews
 - Webpage
 - Social media
 - Emails to key stakeholders
 - Both English & Spanish outreach



Survey Review

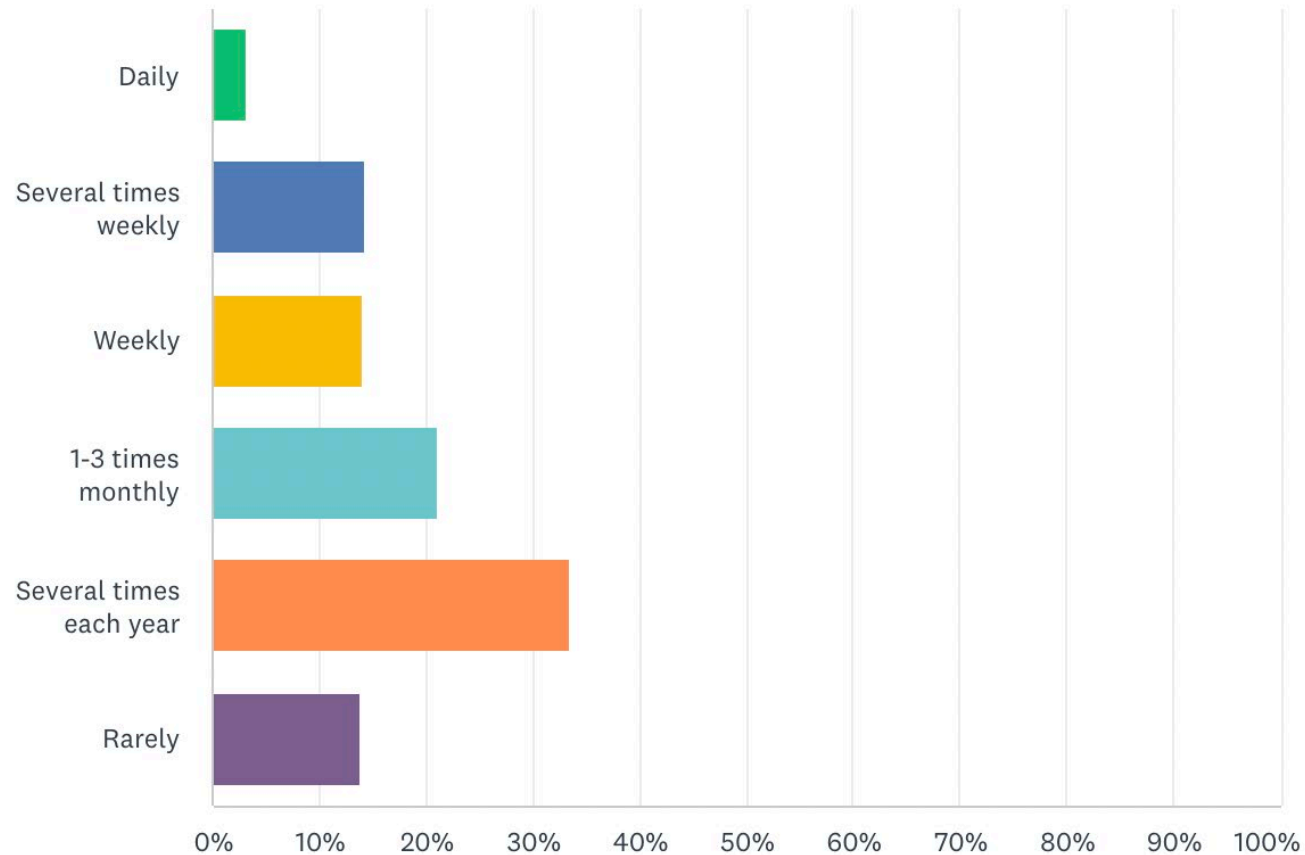
Q1: How much do you know about the Confluence Parkway project?



N = 946

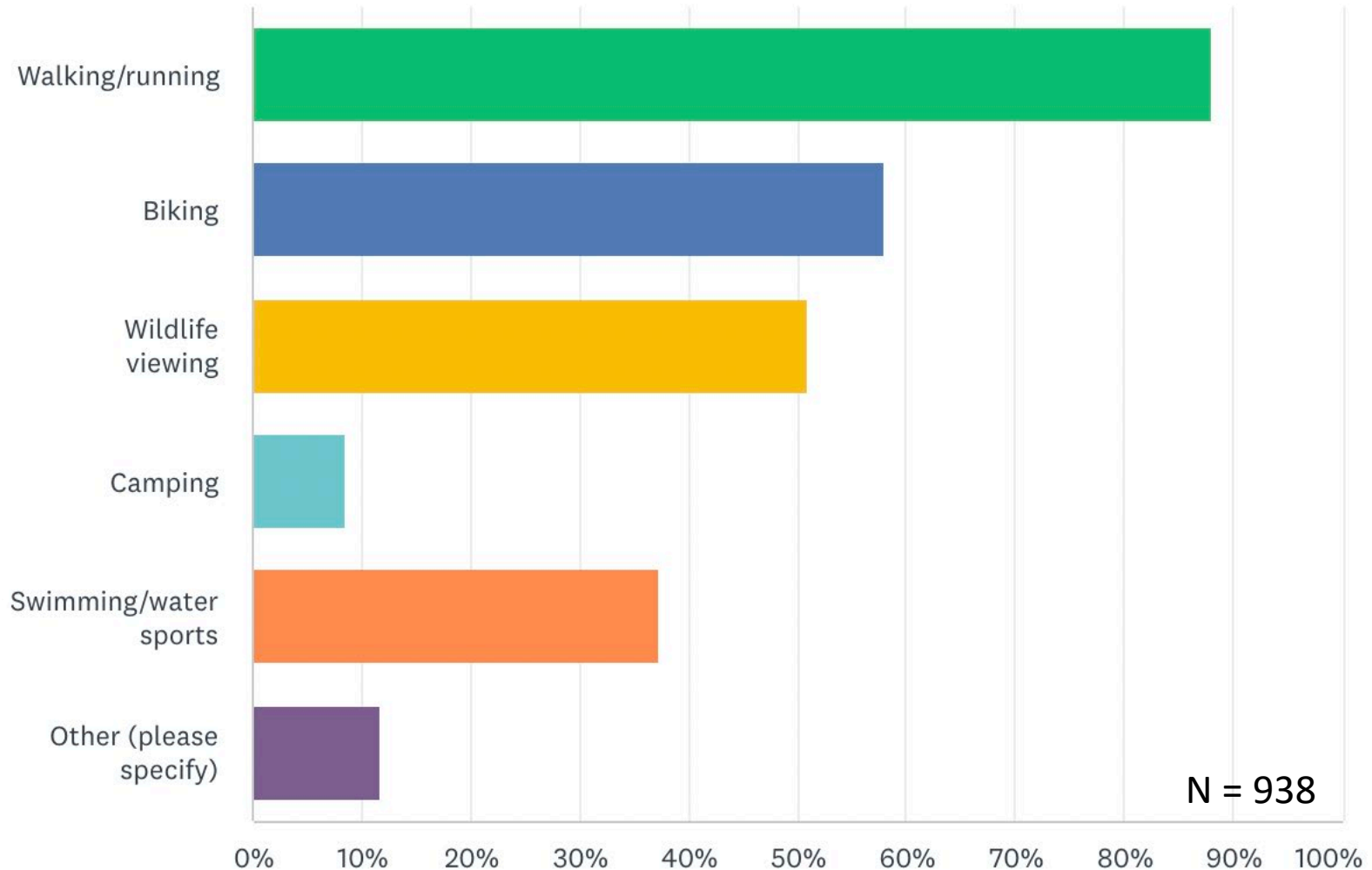


Q2: How often do you visit Confluence State Park or the Horan Natural Area?

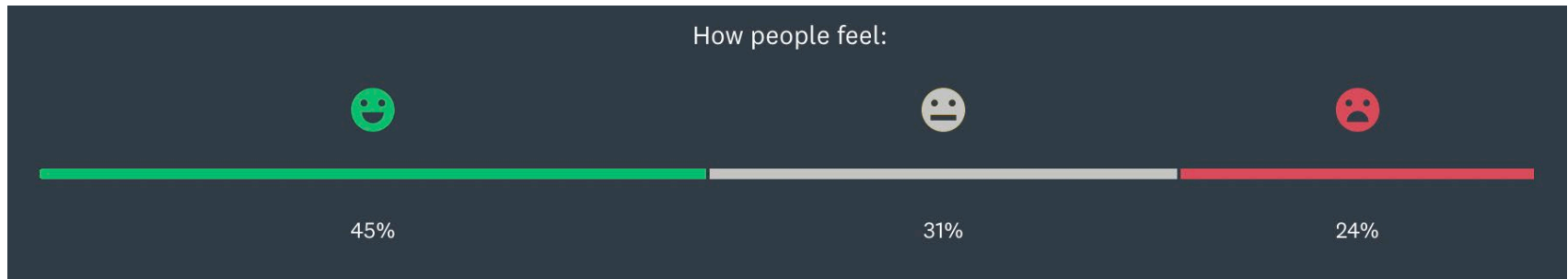


N = 946

Q3: What types of activities do you do in these park areas? (Select all that apply)



Q4: Overview of the proposed Confluence Parkway alignment, including the area to run parallel to Wenatchee Confluence State Park.



N = 514

Q5: Proposed alignment of the Confluence Parkway and Apple Capital Recreation Loop Trail within the Wenatchee Confluence State Park and the Horan Natural Area.



N = 431

Q6: Proposed Apple Capital Recreation Loop Trail modification, moving off Hawley Street to an area along the southern border of the Horan Natural Area.

How people feel:



67%



24%

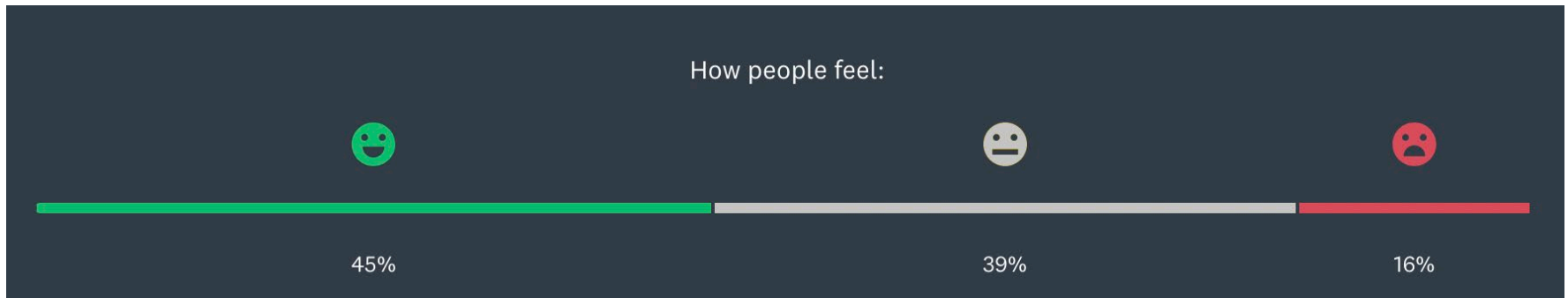


8%

N = 407

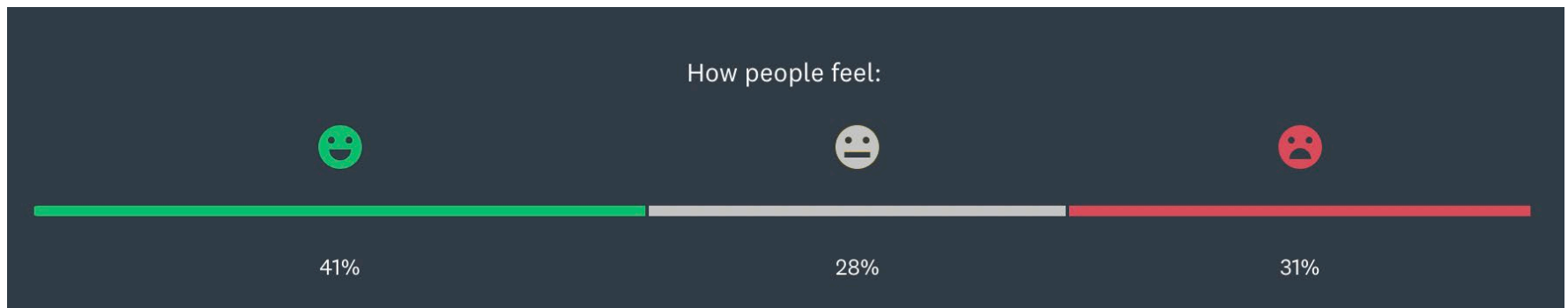
Q7: Proposed Apple Capital Recreation Loop Trail boardwalk at a “pinch point” location where space for both the Confluence Parkway and Loop Trail is tight.

The proposal includes a sound wall (4-feet) and lowered trail (4-foot grade difference) to create an approx. 8 ft high barrier to minimize noise and aesthetics impacts.



N = 404

Q8: Proposed “combined” Confluence Parkway and pedestrian bridge (increasing from 8 feet wide to 16 feet wide) crossing the Wenatchee River, east of the historic railway bridge. The existing pedestrian bridge is proposed for removal as part of this design.



N = 440

Q9: Proposed exchange of nearly 6 acres of land to accommodate the Confluence Parkway alignment, including land removed from the park boundary along the railroad and nearly equivalent amount of land replaced to the park along the southern border of the Horan Natural Area.

How people feel:



N = 340

Q10: What other types of design features would you like to see on the trail?

- Interpretive signage
- Bathrooms
- Bike racks
- River access
- Lighting/safety enhancements
- Addressing homelessness/drug use

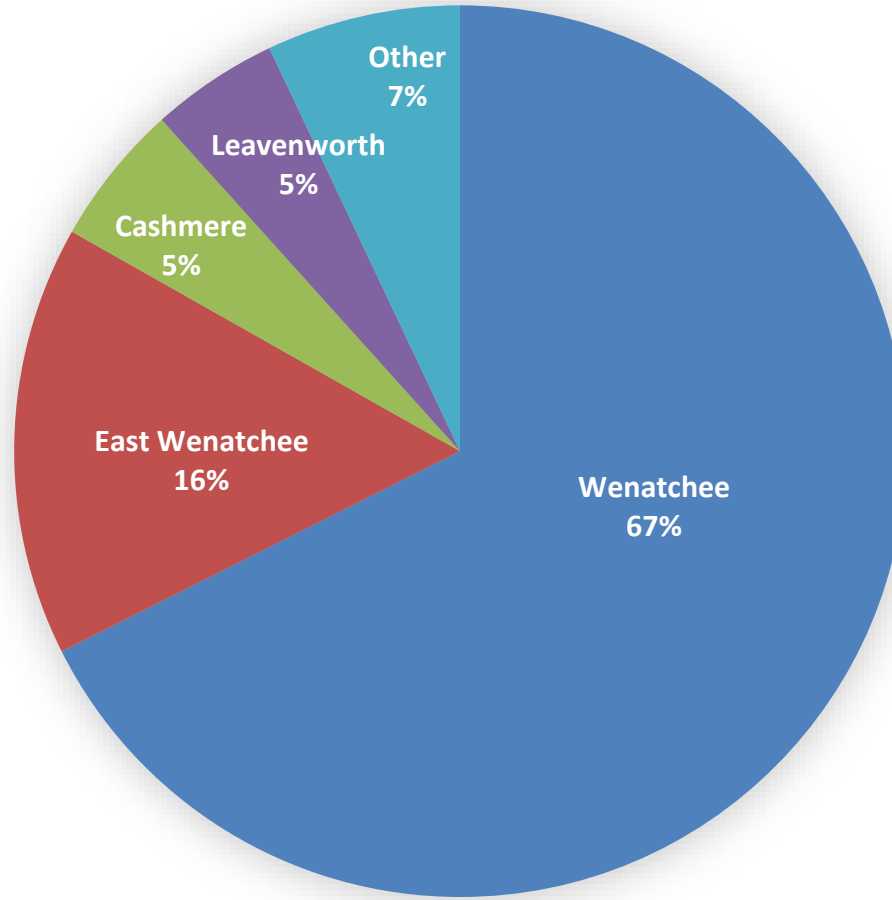
N = 340

Q11: Do you have any other comments you would like to share with the PUD Board of Commissioners?

- Both support and concerns
- Noise
- Interest in higher barriers
- Wildlife/ecosystem impacts
- Positive reactions to moving trail off Hawley St.
- Appreciation for viewing/rest areas
- Safety issues

N = 357

Reporting Respondents by Zip Code



N = 586

Next Steps

Questions and comments

Information requests

Additional mitigation and safety measures to explore with City