



# Visitor Survey of Day-use and Overnight Visitors at Mary S. Young State Recreation Area

Final Report

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*Nature*  
**HISTORY**  
*Discovery*

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## ***EXECUTIVE SUMMARY***

### **Objectives**

Understanding opinions of park users about issues such as the quality of facilities, social and resource conditions, and how they use these parks is critical to providing adequate programs and services. Project objectives were to describe day user activities, demographic characteristics, and opinions about conditions and management at this park and provide recommendations for maintaining or improving conditions at this park.

### **Methods**

Data were obtained from questionnaires administered to random samples of day user visitors to the park between July 4 and August 11, 2013. The day-use visitor survey involved on-site intercepts. The total number of completed questionnaires was  $n = 404$  with a response rate of 84%. The sample size allows generalizations about the population of day users at Mary S. Young State Recreation Area at a margin of error of  $\pm 4.9$  at the 95% confidence level.

### **Results**

#### ***Personal and Visit Characteristics***

- The most popular activities were hiking or walking (70%), dog walking (62%), and exercising dog at off-leash area (54%). The least popular activities were playing lacrosse (1%), playing soccer (3%), bicycling on trails and local roads (both 4%), and outdoor photography (8%).
- The most common main activity groups were exercising dog at off-leash area (36%), dog walking (25%), and hiking or walking (20%). The least common activity groups were outdoor photography (<1%), bird or wildlife watching, sightseeing, playing soccer, and bicycling on local roads (all 1%).
- Day users spent almost two hours in the park, with 93% of users spending up to three hours in the park. The majority of day users (54%), however, spent just one hour in the park.
- The majority of visitors were local, with 66% living within 5 miles from the park, and another 21% living within 6 to 10 miles from the park. Only 13% of respondents traveled over 10 miles to reach the park. Day users, on average, traveled approximately 6 miles to visit the park.
- In total, 90% of respondents had visited this park before, whereas 10% had not visited previously.
- Users had visited an average of approximately 70 times in the past 12 months. The highest proportion (51%) had visited the park over 24 times, with 17% visiting six to 12 times and 12% visiting 13 to 24 times in the past year. Only 3% of users had never visited the park before with 6% making just one trip during the last 12 months.
- Average group size was over two and a half people. Groups most commonly consisted of one (52%) and two people (28%). Few users visited in larger groups of 11 to 25 people (3%) or in groups greater than 25 people (1%). Only 8% of users visited in groups of five or more people.
- In total, 67% of park users brought dogs with them and 33% did not bring dogs.
- Most users arrived at the park in their family's personal vehicle (92%), 3% arrived in somebody else's vehicle, and another 5% arrived in another form of transportation. On average, there were 1.96 people in each personal family vehicle, 1.89 people in

somebody else's vehicle, and 1.20 people in other forms of transportation (i.e., by walking, bicycle). For all day use vehicles, there was an average of 1.95 people in each vehicle.

- Almost all (91%) of users considered this park their main destination for their recreational activities with 5% indicating the visit to this park was for recreation, but was not their main destination.
- If they had been unable to go to Mary S. Young State Recreation Area for this visit, most park visitors would have either gone somewhere else for the same activity (70%), come back another time (12%), or stayed home (10%). Furthermore, if unable to visit the park, day users reported that they would have traveled approximately seven miles for the same activity and four and a half miles for a different activity.
- If they had been unable to go to Mary S. Young State Recreation Area for this visit, many day users would have gone to Cook Community Park, Tryon Creek State Park, Forest Park, Robinwood Park, Wilsonville Memorial Park, Browns Ferry Park, George Rogers Park, Clackamette Park, Luscher Farm City Park, Milo McIver State Park, Molalla River State Park, Willamette Park, Hazelia Field Dog Park, and other dog parks around the Lake Oswego area.

### ***Physical Activity***

- A majority of all visitors indicated that they participated in moderate physical activity (68%), while 24% indicated participating in vigorous physical activity. Visitors who indicated participating in moderate and vigorous physical activity spent an average of approximately 43 minutes participating in moderate physical activity and 34 minutes participating in vigorous physical activity.
- Almost half (45%) of all visitors indicated that their level of physical activity during their visit to Mary S. Young State Recreation Area was about the same as their daily life, whereas 39% indicated it was more, and 16% indicated it was less.
- Park visitors reported their visit helped to reduce stress (85%), improve mental health (84%), and reduce anxiety (77%). Fewer users indicated that their visit improved their level of physical fitness (62%) or improved their physical health (69%).

### ***Obtaining Information about the Parks***

- Almost all users (99%) were able to find the information they needed when planning their visit to this park, and the few (1%) who did not find it would like better directions to dog beach, trail maps in park and online, and signs with directions from Highway 205.
- The most heavily used sources of information were previous visits (77% used sometimes or often), friends or family members (65%), official internet websites (57%), and highway signs (47%). The least used sources were videos or DVDs (6%), health care providers (7%), television (11%), and community organizations (12%). The most popular other ways users obtained information about the park was through team practices, geocaching, or by living near the park.
- Official internet websites (e.g., Oregon State Parks, Travel Oregon; 64%) was the first primary source used by most respondents, followed by friends or family members (18%), and previous visits (6%). Few people used other sources when obtaining information.

### ***Satisfaction with Experiences and Conditions***

- Users considered the most important characteristics at this park were the park's overall cleanliness (e.g., lawn care, lack of graffiti; 96%), absence of litter (94%), cleanliness / conditions of toilets / bathrooms (87%), condition and number of park trails (87% to 83%), personal safety (85%), and opportunities to escape crowds of people (84%). The least important attributes were the number and quality of information and education programs or materials (26% to 31%), presence of park rangers or personnel (29%), ease of movement or access (e.g., wheelchair, elderly, stroller; 33%), facilities for groups to gather (34%), and signs with direction to the park (41%).
- Overall satisfaction among users was extremely high, as 96% were satisfied with the highest proportion of users being "very satisfied" (71%). Almost no respondents (4%) were dissatisfied.
- Users were most satisfied with the park's overall park cleanliness (94%), personal safety (93%), condition and number of park trails (92% to 91%), absence of litter (87%), opportunities to escape crowds of people (85%), and parking for vehicles (85%). Users were least satisfied with the number and quality of education programs (48% to 50%), presence of park rangers or personnel (54%), information specifically about conditions or hazards in the park (55%), ease of movement or access (e.g., wheelchair, elderly, stroller; 57%), and signs with directions to the park (58%).
- An Importance – Performance analysis showed that almost all park attributes were in the "keep up the good work" category, indicating that users thought that staff were doing a good job managing conditions and experiences. There was, however, one attribute that was important to day users, but fell into the "concentrate here" category, indicating that users were only slightly satisfied with this important attribute. These results reveal that managers should consider monitoring the cleanliness / conditions of toilets / bathrooms in the park.
- Most respondents were also satisfied with the natural environment (96%), and the facilities and services (88%).
- Most respondents (98%) said they were likely to return to this park in the future.
- Almost all visitors (99%) to Mary S. Young State Recreation Area would recommend the park to their friends or family.
- The most commonly reported outstanding features and things to do at Mary S. Young State Recreation Area involved: (a) off leash area for dogs; (b) close proximity to home; (c) the beauty of the natural scenery; (d) easy access to river and river activities (swimming, fishing); (e) openness of park for many activities; (f) friendliness of dogs and their owners; and (g) trails for running and hiking.
- Day users felt not at all to slightly crowded, with 36% of all park users feeling some degree of crowding on their visit. These results suggest that crowding in this park is in the "low normal" range, and access, displacement, or crowding problems are not likely to exist at this time and may offer unique low-density experiences.

### ***Attitudes About Management Strategies***

- Users most strongly supported management strategies designed to provide more opportunities at the park for escaping crowds (76%), more opportunities for viewing wildlife (74%), more opportunities for hiking (71%), more recycling containers (66%), making the park more pet friendly (64%), to not change anything (64%), and to provide more natural buffers to block views of development outside park (62%). The least

supported strategies were to close the park to all recreation and tourism activities (7%), limit the number of people allowed per day (9%), provide food for sale (restaurants, snack shops; 17%), require all dogs be kept on leash at all times (24%), provide downloadable mobile phone applications (27%), and wireless internet access in the park (29%).

- There was overall low support for service reductions in the park. The highest support was for returning the park to a natural area (24%), fewer ranger patrols (20%), and reduced ground maintenance (e.g., mowing; 15%) with the lowest support for reducing the number of hours open (4%), reducing janitorial services (11%), and scaling down facilities (e.g., restrooms, shelters; 11%).

### ***Sociodemographic Characteristics of Users***

- There was a similar amount of female (51%) and male (49%) users at this park.
- The average age of users was approximately 46 years old, and the largest proportions of users were 50 to 59 years old (24%) and 40 to 49 years old (21%).
- The average annual household income before taxes of respondents was \$82,400, and the largest proportion of users had incomes from \$30,000 to \$49,999 (18%) and \$50,000 to \$69,999 (17%). Visitors to Mary S. Young State Recreation Area are generally wealthier than the Oregon population at large (Oregon median household income in 2010 was \$51,994).
- Most respondents were white (i.e., Caucasian; 94%) with few Asians (2%), Hispanic / Latinos (1%), American Indian / Alaska Natives (1%), and Blacks / African Americans (< 1%).
- Almost all respondents (99%) reported English as their primary language spoken in their homes.
- Approximately 98% of users resided in Oregon, 2% resided in Washington, and 1% resided in Utah. Among park users, 94% resided in the Portland Metro region of Oregon, 2% resided in other states, and fewer than 2% resided in each of the Mt. Hood / Gorge, Willamette Valley, and the Central Oregon regions of the state. No respondents indicated residing in the Coastal, Southern, and Eastern regions of the state.
- In total, 92% of users said that nobody in their group had a disability, whereas 8% had at least one group member with a disability. Of those who had a disability, the most common was associated with walking (6% of park users), while 1% had a hearing disability, 1% had learning disabilities, and 1% had impaired sight.

## **Recommendations**

### ***Management Recommendations***

- Almost all day and overnight users traveled to this park in their own vehicles (92%), so adequate parking is important and should be considered in planning and management.
- Two thirds of day users (67%) brought dogs with them to this park, so it will be important to ensure adequate facilities to accommodate dogs and their owners (e.g., pick up bags, signs specifying regulations or restrictions). There were also various concerns in the narrative portions of the survey (Appendix A) regarding off leash dogs, and the mess left behind by dogs. Managers may want to consider examining enforcement of existing pet regulations in these areas. Furthermore, 24% of all visitors supported requiring dogs be on leash at all times and 64% supported making the park more pet friendly.

- Almost all users (96%) were satisfied with their experiences and the conditions at this park. Satisfaction, however, was consistently lower for the amount (48%) and quality (50%) of information and education materials and programs. Managers may wish to evaluate these services to users to ensure they are meeting visitor needs.
- Users were also somewhat less satisfied with the ease of movement and access around the park (e.g., wheelchair, stroller, elderly; 57%). Given that over 21% of park visitors were over the age of 60 and 8% of users had disabilities (6% with disabilities related to walking), managers may want to consider evaluating access throughout the park and perhaps even obtaining a current ADA or related audit.
- Approximately 36% of day users felt crowded at the park. These results suggest that crowding in this park is in the “low normal” range, and access, displacement, or crowding problems are not likely to exist at this time and may offer unique low-density experiences. Monitoring of park use levels may be needed, especially given that 76% of day users supported the provision of more opportunities for escaping crowds.
- Users most strongly supported strategies designed to provide more opportunities at the park for escaping crowds (76%), more opportunities for viewing wildlife (74%), more opportunities for hiking (71%), more recycling containers (66%), making the park more pet friendly (64%), to not change anything (64%), and to provide more natural buffers to block views of development outside park (62%). Managers may want to consider some or all of these strategies.
- An Importance – Performance analysis showed that almost all park attributes were in the “keep up the good work” category, indicating that users thought that staff were doing a good job managing conditions and experiences. There was, however, one attribute that was important to day users that fell into the “concentrate here” category, indicating that users were only slightly satisfied with these important attributes. These results reveal that managers should consider monitoring the cleanliness / conditions of toilets / bathrooms in the park.
- The largest proportion of users depended on official internet websites (64%) as the first primary source of obtaining information about parks such as Mary S. Young State Recreation Area. Given these findings, it is imperative for staff to ensure that agency and park internet websites are easy to navigate, up to date, and provide comprehensive information.
- Almost all park visitors (99%) were able to find the information they needed when planning their visit to Mary S. Young State Recreation Area. However, some visitors (1%) were not able to find all information needed. The most popular information needed was directions to dog beach, trail maps in park and online, and signs with directions from Highway 205.
- Users also provided 330 verbatim open ended comments on what they found to be the most outstanding features or things to do at Mary S. Young State Recreation Area. The most common outstanding features and things to do involved: (a) off leash area for dogs; (b) close proximity to home; (c) the beauty of the natural scenery; (d) easy access to river and river activities (swimming, fishing); (e) openness of park for many activities; (f) friendliness of dogs and their owners; and (g) trails for running and hiking.
- Two thirds (66%) of the users at Mary S. Young State Recreation Area travel five miles or less to reach the park, with 90% of all users having visited the park before. Furthermore, users have visited an average of approximately 70 times in the previous 12

months. Managers may want to consider public activities designed to bring these users together to help strengthen the community that visits the park (i.e., volunteering, music, art).

- Users provided 202 verbatim open ended positive and negative comments, and suggestions for possible improvement of Mary S. Young State Recreation Area and other park related issues. The most common concerns raised involved: (a) better enforcement of off leash dogs and the mess created by dogs; (b) allow times or places (trails, fenced areas) where dogs can be off leash; (c) enforcement of parking laws; (e) address invasive species (English Ivy); (f) bathroom facilities (maintenance and cleanliness); (g) underage drinking; (h) trail maintenance (fix cracks, add wood chips, signage); (i) increase hours park is open; (j) no smoking; (k) lawn maintenance; (l) more picnic tables and barbecue pits; (m) community events; and (n) more bicycling paths.

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## ***INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVES***

The Oregon State Parks system provides public access to a collection of the state's outstanding natural, cultural, scenic, and outdoor recreation resources. Understanding the opinions of park users regarding issues such as the quality of facilities, recreational opportunities, social and resource conditions, and how they use these parks is critical to providing effective facilities, programs, and services. Project objectives were to describe day user activities, demographic characteristics, and opinions about conditions and management at this park and provide recommendations for maintaining or improving conditions at this park.

## ***METHODS***

Data were obtained from questionnaires (see Appendix B) administered to randomly selected sample of day users at Mary S. Young State Recreation Area between July and August 2013. An on-site (face to face) survey method was used. A respondent was only allowed one opportunity to complete a questionnaire.

### **Onsite Survey of Day Users**

Day users 18 years of age and older who visited Mary S. Young State Recreation Area between July 4 and August 11, 2013 were approached in person (face to face) and asked to complete the six page questionnaire onsite at this park. Day users were asked if they would be willing to complete the questionnaire and asked to immediately complete and return the full length questionnaire onsite. Questionnaires were printed on both sides of two legal sized (8 ½ x 14) pages and folded into a small booklet, and took most respondents approximately 15 to 20 minutes to complete. Respondents were provided with a clipboard and pen to complete the questionnaire. A number of volunteers (e.g., Camp Hosts) administered these questionnaires to reduce costs.

### **Sample Sizes and Response Rates**

As shown in Table 1, the total number of completed questionnaires was  $n = 404$  with an estimated total response rate of 84%.

Table 1. Sample sizes and response rates

	Initial contacts	Completed surveys ( <i>n</i> )	Response rate (%)
Day Users	481	404	84

The sample size allows generalizations about the population of day users at Mary S. Young State Recreation Area at a margin of  $\pm 4.9\%$ , at the 95% confidence level, which is better than the conventional standard of  $\pm 5\%$  that has been widely accepted and adopted in recreation and tourism research (Mitra & Lankford, 1995; Vaske, 2008).

Questionnaires included questions on a range of topics such as prior visitation, activity participation, satisfaction, support of management, and demographic characteristics. To highlight key findings, data were often recoded into major response categories (e.g., agree, disagree; support, oppose), but basic descriptive findings of uncollapsed questions (i.e., strongly, slightly agree) are provided in Appendix C.

## ***RESULTS***

### **Personal and Visit Characteristics**

***Activity Groups.*** The questionnaires asked respondents to check all of the activities in which they participated at Mary S. Young State Recreation Area on their most recent trip. Table 2 shows that the most popular activities at this park were hiking or walking (70%), dog walking (62%), and exercising dog at off-leash area (54%). The least popular activities were playing lacrosse (1%), playing soccer (3%), bicycling on trails and local roads (both 4%), and outdoor photography (8%).

Respondents were then asked to specify the one primary activity in which they participated most often during their recent visit to Mary S. Young State Recreation Area. Table 3 shows that the most common primary activity groups were exercising dog at off-leash area (36%), dog walking (25%), and hiking or walking (20%). The least common activity groups were outdoor photography (<1%), bird or wildlife watching, sightseeing, playing soccer, and bicycling on local roads (all 1%).

Table 2. Day user recreation activities at the park

Activity	Participation (%) <sup>a</sup>
Hiking or walking	70
Dog walking	62
Exercising dog at off-leash area	54
Sightseeing	23
Running or jogging	19
Bird or wildlife watching	17
Other <sup>b</sup>	14
Picnicking or barbecuing	12
Outdoor photography	8
Bicycling on local roads	4
Bicycling on trails	4
Playing soccer	3
Playing lacrosse	1

<sup>a</sup> Cell entries are percentages (%) of users who reported participating in the activity at the park on their most recent visit. Percentages do not sum to 100% because respondents could check more than one activity from the list.

<sup>c</sup> The most popular “other” activities were: swimming in the river, playing on the beach, fishing, sunbathing, geocaching, remote control airplanes, and rock hunting.

Table 3. Primary day-use activities at the park

Activity	Day Users (%)
Exercising dog at off-leash area	36
Dog walking	25
Hiking or walking	20
Other	7
Running or jogging	6
Picnicking or barbecuing	4
Bicycling on local roads	1
Playing soccer	1
Sightseeing	1
Bird or wildlife watching	1
Outdoor photography	< 1

**Duration of Visit.** Day users were asked to report how many *hours* they spent at Mary S. Young State Recreation Area on their recent trip. Table 4 shows that, on average, day users spent almost two hours in the park, with 93% of users spending up to three hours in the park. The majority of day users (54%), however, spent just one hour in the park.

Table 4. Duration of visit at the park <sup>a</sup>

1 hour	54
2 hours	31
3 hours	8
4 to 5 hours	5
6 to 9 hours	1
10 or more hours	1
Mean / average hours	1.76

<sup>a</sup> Cell entries are percentages (%) unless specified as means / averages

**Distance Traveled.** Respondents were also asked to report about how far from home they traveled to get to the park. Table 5 shows that the vast majority of visitors were local with 66% living within five miles from the park, and another 21% originating six to 10 miles from the park. Only 13% of respondents traveled over 10 miles to reach the park. Day users, on average, traveled approximately six miles to visit the park.

Table 5. Day user distance traveled to the park <sup>a</sup>

5 miles or less	66
6 to 10 miles	21
11 or more miles	13
Mean / average	5.81

<sup>a</sup> Cell entries are percentages (%) unless specified as means / averages

**Previous Visitation.** Users were asked if they had ever visited Mary S. Young State Recreation Area before their most recent trip. Table 6 shows that 90% of respondents had visited this park before, whereas 10% had not visited previously.

Table 6. Day user previous visitation to the park

	Day Users (%)
Yes, visited park before	90
No, not visited park before	10

Users who had previously visited this park were then asked how many trips they had made to this park in the past 12 months. Table 7 shows that users had visited an average of approximately 70 times in the past 12 months. The highest proportion (51%) had visited the park over 24 times, with 17% visiting six to 12 times and 12% visiting 13 to 24 times in the past year. Only 3% of users had never visited the park before with 6% making just one trip during the last 12 months.

Table 7. Day user number of previous visits to the park in the last 12 months <sup>a</sup>

	Day Users (%)
0 Trips	3
1 Trip	6
2 Trips	5
3 to 5 Trips	7
6 to 12 Trips	17
13 to 24 Trips	12
More than 24 Trips	51
Mean / average trips <sup>c</sup>	69.98

<sup>a</sup> Cell entries are percentages (%) unless specified as means / average

**Group Size.** Respondents were asked to report how many people, including themselves, accompanied them at Mary S. Young State Recreation Area on their most recent trip. Table 8 shows that the average group size was over two and a half people. Groups most commonly consisted of one (52%) and two people (28%). Few users visited in larger groups of 11 to 25 people (3%) or in groups greater than 25 people (1%). Only 8% of users visited in groups of five or more people.

Table 8. Day user group size at the park <sup>a</sup>

	Day Users (%)
1 Person (alone)	52
2 People	28
3 or 4 People	12
5 to 10 People	4
11 to 25 People	3
More than 25 People	1
Mean / average <sup>c</sup>	2.67

<sup>a</sup> Cell entries are percentages (%) unless specified as means / average

**Bringing Dogs to the Park.** The questionnaires asked respondents if they or anyone else in their group brought dog(s) with them to Mary S. Young State Recreation Area. Table 9 shows that 67% of park users brought dogs with them and 33% did not bring dogs.

Table 9. Day users bringing dogs with them to the park

	Day Users (%)
No, did not bring dog(s)	33
Yes, brought dog(s)	67

**Transportation to the Park.** Respondents were asked how they got to Mary S. Young State Recreation Area on their most recent trip. Table 10 shows that almost all users arrived at the park in their family’s personal vehicle (92%), 3% arrived in somebody else’s vehicle, and another 5% arrived in another form of transportation. On average, there were 1.96 people in each personal family vehicle, 1.89 people in somebody else’s vehicle, and 1.20 people in other forms of transportation (i.e., by walking, bicycle). The most popular “other” ways people reached the park was by bicycle, running, or walking. For all day use vehicles, there was an average of 1.95 people in the vehicle.

Table 10. Day user transportation to the park

	Day Users (%)
My family’s personal vehicle <sup>a</sup>	92
Somebody else’s personal vehicle <sup>b</sup>	3
Other <sup>c</sup>	5

<sup>a</sup> Number of people in vehicle: mean / average = 1.96

<sup>b</sup> Number of people in vehicle: mean / average = 1.89

<sup>c</sup> Number of people in vehicle: mean / average = 1.20

**Reasons for Visiting.** Visitors were asked if this park was the main reason for their trip. Table 11 shows that 91% of users considered this park their main destination for their recreational activities with 5% indicating the visit to this park was for recreation, but was not their main destination.

Table 11. Day users in whether the park was their main destination <sup>a</sup>

	Day Users (%)
Primarily for recreation – this park was main destination	91
Primarily for recreation – main destination was not this park	5
Primarily for business, family, or other reasons – park was side trip	2
Some other reason	2

**Alternatives to Visit.** Respondents were then asked what things they would have considered doing if they were not able to go to Mary S. Young State Recreation Area for this visit. As shown in Table 12, most users responded that, if unable to go to the park for this visit, they would have either gone somewhere else for the same activity (70%), come back another time (12%), or stayed home (10%). Furthermore, if unable to visit the park, day users reported that they would have traveled approximately seven miles for the same activity and four and a half miles for a different activity.

Table 12. Day user alternatives to park visit

	Day Users (%)
Gone somewhere else for same activity <sup>a</sup>	70
Come back another time	12
Stayed home	10
Something else (none of these)	5
Gone somewhere else for a different activity <sup>b</sup>	4
Gone to work at my regular job	< 1

<sup>a</sup> If gone somewhere else for same activity, how far from home is the place you would have gone instead: mean / average = 7.17 miles.

<sup>b</sup> If gone somewhere else for different activity, how far from home is the place you would have gone instead: mean / average = 4.50 miles.

Respondents were also asked to specify what other park they would consider going to if they had not been able to go to Mary S. Young State Recreation Area. Many users indicated that they would visit Cook Community Park, Tryon Creek State Park, Forest Park, Robinwood Park, Wilsonville Memorial Park, Browns Ferry Park, George Rogers Park, Clackamette Park, Luscher Farm City Park, Milo McIver State Park, Molalla River State Park, Willamette Park, Hazelia Field Dog Park, and other dog parks around the Lake Oswego area.

**Section Summary.** Taken together, results in this section showed that:

- The most popular activities were hiking or walking (70%), dog walking (62%), and exercising dog at off-leash area (54%). The least popular activities were playing lacrosse (1%), playing soccer (3%), bicycling on trails and local roads (both 4%), and outdoor photography (8%).
- The most common main activity groups were exercising dog at off-leash area (36%), dog walking (25%), and hiking or walking (20%). The least common activity groups were

outdoor photography (<1%), bird or wildlife watching, sightseeing, playing soccer, and bicycling on local roads (all 1%).

- Day users spent almost two hours in the park, with 93% of users spending up to three hours in the park. The majority of day users (54%), however, spent just one hour in the park.
- The majority of visitors were local, with 66% living within 5 miles from the park, and another 21% living within 6 to 10 miles from the park. Only 13% of respondents traveled over 10 miles to reach the park. Day users, on average, traveled approximately 6 miles to visit the park.
- In total, 90% of respondents had visited this park before, whereas 10% had not visited previously.
- Users had visited an average of approximately 70 times in the past 12 months. The highest proportion (51%) had visited the park over 24 times, with 17% visiting six to 12 times and 12% visiting 13 to 24 times in the past year. Only 3% of users had never visited the park before with 6% making just one trip during the last 12 months.
- Average group size was over two and a half people. Groups most commonly consisted of one (52%) and two people (28%). Few users visited in larger groups of 11 to 25 people (3%) or in groups greater than 25 people (1%). Only 8% of users visited in groups of five or more people.
- In total, 67% of park users brought dogs with them and 33% did not bring dogs.
- Most users arrived at the park in their family's personal vehicle (92%), 3% arrived in somebody else's vehicle, and another 5% arrived in another form of transportation. On average, there were 1.96 people in each personal family vehicle, 1.89 people in somebody else's vehicle, and 1.20 people in other forms of transportation (i.e., by walking, bicycle). For all day use vehicles, there was an average of 1.95 people in the vehicle.
- Almost all (91%) of users considered this park their main destination for their recreational activities with 5% indicating the visit to this park was for recreation, but was not their main destination.

- If they had been unable to go to Mary S. Young State Recreation Area for this visit, most park visitors would have either gone somewhere else for the same activity (70%), come back another time (12%), or stayed home (10%). Furthermore, if unable to visit the park, day users reported that they would have traveled approximately seven miles for the same activity and four and a half miles for a different activity.
- If they had been unable to go to Mary S. Young State Recreation Area for this visit, many day users would have gone to Cook Community Park, Tryon Creek State Park, Forest Park, Robinwood Park, Wilsonville Memorial Park, Browns Ferry Park, George Rogers Park, Clackamette Park, Luscher Farm City Park, Milo McIver State Park, Molalla River State Park, Willamette Park, Hazelia Field Dog Park, and other dog parks around the Lake Oswego area.

**Physical Activity and Other Health Benefits**

Day users were asked their extent of participation in moderate physical activity (e.g., walking, bicycling, canoeing at a moderate pace), and vigorous physical activity (e.g., jogging, walking, or bicycling at a vigorous pace, breaking a sweat, heart beating rapidly) during their trip to Mary S. Young State Recreation Area (Table 13). A majority of all visitors indicated that they participated in moderate physical activity (68%), while 24% indicated participating in vigorous physical activity. Visitors who indicated participating in moderate and vigorous physical activity spent an average of approximately 43 minutes participating in moderate physical activity and 34 minutes participating in vigorous physical activity.

Table 13. Day user participation in moderate and vigorous physical activity during visit <sup>a</sup>

Moderate Physical Activity	
No	32
Yes	68
Avg (min)	42.67
Vigorous Physical Activity	
No	76
Yes	24
Avg (min)	34.48

<sup>a</sup> Cell entries are percentages (%) of users who reported participating in physical activity unless otherwise specified as average minutes participating in moderate or vigorous physical activity.

Furthermore, 45% of all visitors indicated that their level of physical activity during their visit to Mary S. Young State Recreation Area was about the same as their daily life, whereas 39% indicated it was more, and 16% indicated it was less (Table 14).

Table 14. Comparison of day user level of physical activity at park to daily life

	Day Users (%)
Physical activity ABOUT THE SAME as daily life	45
Physical activity MORE than daily life	39
Physical activity LESS than daily life	16

Park visitors were asked to rate the degree that their visit to Mary S. Young State Recreation Area had improved their mental and physical health. Table 15 shows that, overall, park visitors reported their visit helped to reduce stress (85%), improve mental health (84%), and reduce anxiety (77%). Fewer users indicated that their visit improved their level of physical fitness (62%) or improved their physical health (69%).

Table 15. Day user physical and mental health benefits related to park visitation

	Day Users (%) <sup>a</sup>
Reducing stress	85
Improving mental health	84
Reducing anxiety	77
Improving physical health	69
Improving level of physical fitness	62

<sup>a</sup> Cell entries are percentages (%) of users who reported benefiting “much” or “a great deal” from visit to park.

**Section Summary.** Taken together, results in this section showed that:

- A majority of all visitors indicated that they participated in moderate physical activity (68%), while 24% indicated participating in vigorous physical activity. Visitors who indicated participating in moderate and vigorous physical activity spent an average of approximately 43 minutes participating in moderate physical activity and 34 minutes participating in vigorous physical activity.
- Almost half (45%) of all visitors indicated that their level of physical activity during their visit to Mary S. Young State Recreation Area was about the same as their daily life, whereas 39% indicated it was more, and 16% indicated it was less.

- Park visitors reported their visit helped to reduce stress (85%), improve mental health (84%), and reduce anxiety (77%). Fewer users indicated that their visit improved their level of physical fitness (62%) or improved their physical health (69%).

**Obtaining Information about the Parks**

The questionnaires contained several questions examining how users obtained information about state parks such as Mary S. Young State Recreation Area and whether they were able to obtain the information they needed. Table 16 shows that almost all users (99%) were able to find the information they needed when planning their visit to this park, and the few (1%) who did not find the information they needed would like: directions to dog beach, trail maps in park and online, and signs with directions from Highway 205.

Table 16. Whether day users found the information needed about the park

	Day Users (%)
Yes, found the information needed	99
No, did not find the information needed <sup>c</sup>	1

<sup>a</sup> The most popular information needed was: directions to dog beach, trail maps in park and online, and signs with directions from highway 205.

Respondents were also presented with a list of 16 possible sources for finding information and asked how often they obtained information from these sources when thinking about visiting a park such as Mary S. Young State Recreation Area. Table 17 shows that the most heavily used sources of information were previous visits (77% used sometimes or often), friends or family members (65%), official internet websites (57%), and highway signs (47%). The least used sources were videos or DVDs (6%), health care providers (7%), television (11%), and community organizations (12%). The most popular other ways users obtained information about the park was through team practices, geocaching, or by living near the park.

Table 17. Day user use of information sources <sup>a</sup>

	Day Users (%) <sup>a</sup>
Previous visits	77
Friends / family	65
Official internet websites	57
Highway signs	47
Other <sup>b</sup>	31
Brochures	26
Social media websites	24
Books	21
Newspapers	20
Magazines	19
Work	19
Radio	17
Community organizations (Church, etc.)	12
Television	11
Health care providers	7
Videos / DVD's	6

<sup>a</sup> Cell entries are percentages (%) of users who used the information source “sometimes” to “often.”

<sup>b</sup> The most popular “other” ways were: live near park, team practices, and geocaching.

Respondents were then asked to specify from this list of information sources what one source they would first use when obtaining information about a park such as Mary S. Young State Recreation Area. Table 18 shows that official internet websites (e.g., Oregon State Parks, Travel Oregon; 64%) was overwhelmingly the first primary source used by most respondents, followed by friends or family members (18%), and previous visits (6%). Few people used other sources when obtaining information.

Table 18. Day user’s primary information sources

	Day Users (%)
Official internet websites	64
Friends or family members	18
Previous visits	6
Social media websites	3
Highway signs	3
Brochures	2
Other	2
Newspapers	1
Books	1
Television	1
Magazines	< 1
Work	< 1

**Section Summary.** Taken together, results in this section showed that:

- Almost all users (99%) were able to find the information they needed when planning their visit to this park, and the few (1%) who did not find it would like better directions to dog beach, trail maps in park and online, and signs with directions from Highway 205.
- The most heavily used sources of information were previous visits (77% used sometimes or often), friends or family members (65%), official internet websites (57%), and highway signs (47%). The least used sources were videos or DVDs (6%), health care providers (7%), television (11%), and community organizations (12%). The most popular other ways users obtained information about the park was through team practices, geocaching, or by living near the park.
- Official internet websites (e.g., Oregon State Parks, Travel Oregon; 64%) was the first primary source used by most respondents, followed by friends or family members (18%), and previous visits (6%). Few people used other sources when obtaining information.

**Satisfaction with Experiences and Conditions**

**Overall Satisfaction.** Respondents were asked “overall, how dissatisfied or satisfied were you with your *overall experience* at Mary S. Young State Recreation Area?” Table 19 shows that overall satisfaction was extremely high, as 96% were satisfied and almost no respondents (4%) were dissatisfied. In addition, the highest proportion of users was “very satisfied” (71%).

Table 19. Day user overall satisfaction

	Day Users (%)
Very Satisfied	71
Satisfied	25
Dissatisfied or Neutral	4

**Satisfaction and Expectations with Specific Characteristics.** Although almost all users were satisfied with their overall visit at Mary S. Young State Recreation Area, this does not indicate that they were satisfied with every aspect of this park. This project, therefore, first measured respondent *expectations* by asking them the extent they believed that several attributes of Mary S. Young State Recreation Area were *important* to their visit (e.g., absence of litter, personal safety, signs, parking). Then, respondents reported their *satisfaction* of these same attributes at this park to measure *performance* of these attributes.

Table 20 shows that the most important characteristics were the park’s cleanliness (e.g., lawn care, lack of graffiti; 96%), absence of litter (94%), cleanliness / conditions of toilets / bathrooms (87%), condition and number of park trails (87% to 83%), personal safety (85%), and opportunities to escape crowds of people (84%). The least important attributes were the number and quality of information and education programs or materials (26% to 31%), presence of park rangers or personnel (29%), ease of movement or access (e.g., wheelchair, elderly, stroller; 33%), facilities for groups to gather (34%), and signs about direction to the park (41%).

Table 20. Day user specific *expectations* at the park

	Day Users (%) <sup>a</sup>
Overall cleanliness of park (e.g., graffiti, lawn care)	96
Absence of litter	94
Cleanliness / conditions of toilets / bathrooms	87
Condition / maintenance of park trails	87
Personal safety	85
Opportunities to escape crowds of people	84
Number of park trails	83
Courteousness of park rangers / personnel	72
Parking for vehicles	72
Number of toilets / bathrooms	68
Signs with directions in the park	65
Information specifically about conditions or hazards in the park	55
Variety of things to do	53
Signs with directions to the park	41
Facilities for groups to gather	34
Ease of movement or access (e.g., wheelchair, elderly, stroller)	33
Quality of information / education programs or materials	31
Presence of park rangers / personnel	29
Number of information / education programs or materials	26

<sup>a</sup> Cell entries are percentages (%) of users who rated the characteristic as “somewhat” or “extremely important.”

Table 21 shows that the majority of users were satisfied with most of these characteristics at Mary S. Young State Recreation Area. Users were most satisfied with overall park cleanliness (94%), personal safety (93%), condition and number of park trails (92% to 91%), absence of litter (87%), opportunities to escape crowds of people (85%), and parking for vehicles (85%). Users were least satisfied with the number and quality of education programs (48% to 50%), presence of park rangers or personnel (54%), information specifically about conditions or hazards in the park (55%), ease of movement or access (e.g., wheelchair, elderly, stroller; 57%), and signs about directions to the park (58%).

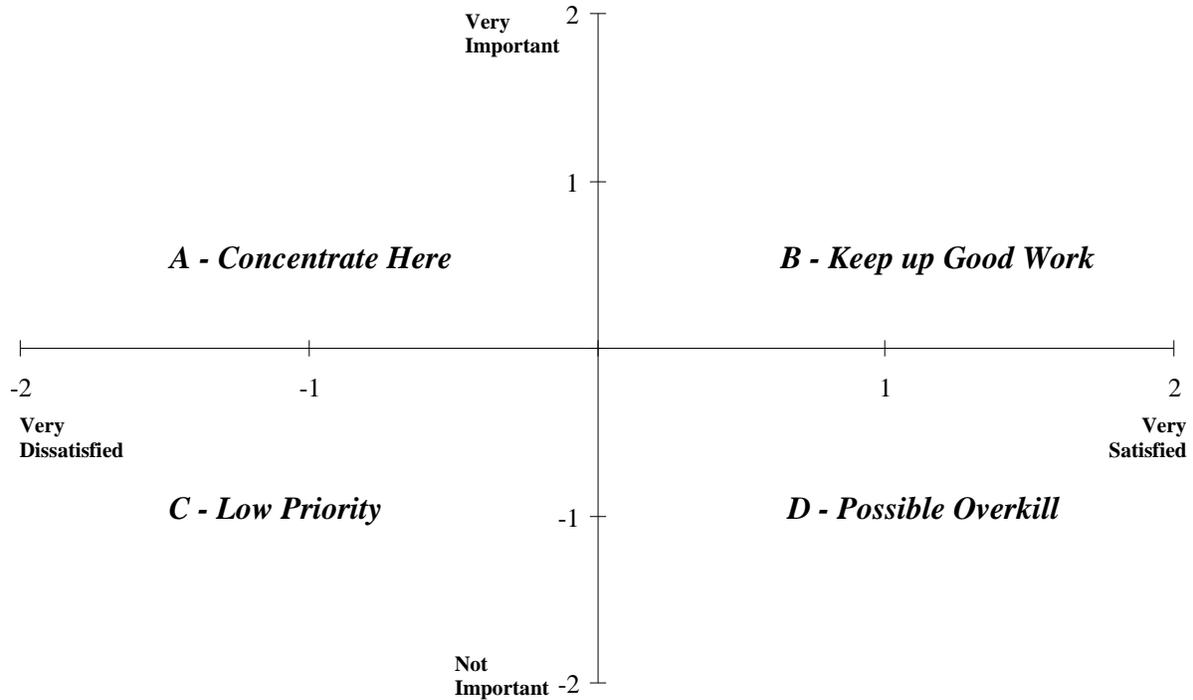
Table 21. Day user specific *satisfactions* at the park

	Day Users (%) <sup>a</sup>
Overall cleanliness of park (e.g., graffiti, lawn care)	94
Personal safety	93
Condition / maintenance of park trails	92
Number of park trails	91
Absence of litter	87
Opportunities to escape crowds of people	85
Parking for vehicles	85
Number of toilets / bathrooms	78
Variety of things to do	77
Courteousness of park rangers / personnel	72
Cleanliness / conditions of toilets / bathrooms	70
Signs with directions in the park	64
Facilities for groups to gather	59
Signs with directions to the park	58
Ease of movement or access (e.g., wheelchair, elderly, stroller)	57
Information specifically about conditions or hazards in the park	55
Presence of park rangers / personnel	54
Quality of information / education programs or materials	50
Number of information / education programs or materials	48

<sup>a</sup> Cell entries are percentages (%) of users who rated the characteristic as “satisfied” or “very satisfied.”

**Importance – Performance Analysis.**

Figure 1. Importance-performance (I-P) analysis matrix



One approach for visualizing relationships between expectations (i.e., importance of attributes) and satisfaction (i.e., performance of these attributes) is Importance – Performance (I-P) analysis (Figure 1). Importance or expectations are represented as averages (i.e., means) on the vertical axis (i.e., y-axis) and average performance or experiences (i.e., satisfaction) are measured on the horizontal axis (i.e., x-axis). When combined, these axes intersect and produce a matrix of four quadrants that can be interpreted as “concentrate here” (high importance or expectation, low satisfaction or poor experiences; Quadrant A), “keep up the good work” (high importance or expectation and high satisfaction or good experiences; Quadrant B), “low priority” (low importance or expectation and low satisfaction or poor experiences; Quadrant C), and “possible overkill” (low importance or expectation, high satisfaction or good experiences; Quadrant D). This matrix provides managers with an easily understandable picture of the status of services, facilities, and conditions as perceived by users, and reveals conditions that may or may not need attention (Bruyere, Rodriguez, & Vaske, 2002; Vaske, Beaman, Stanley, & Grenier, 1996).

Figure 2. Importance-performance (I-P) analysis matrix for day users

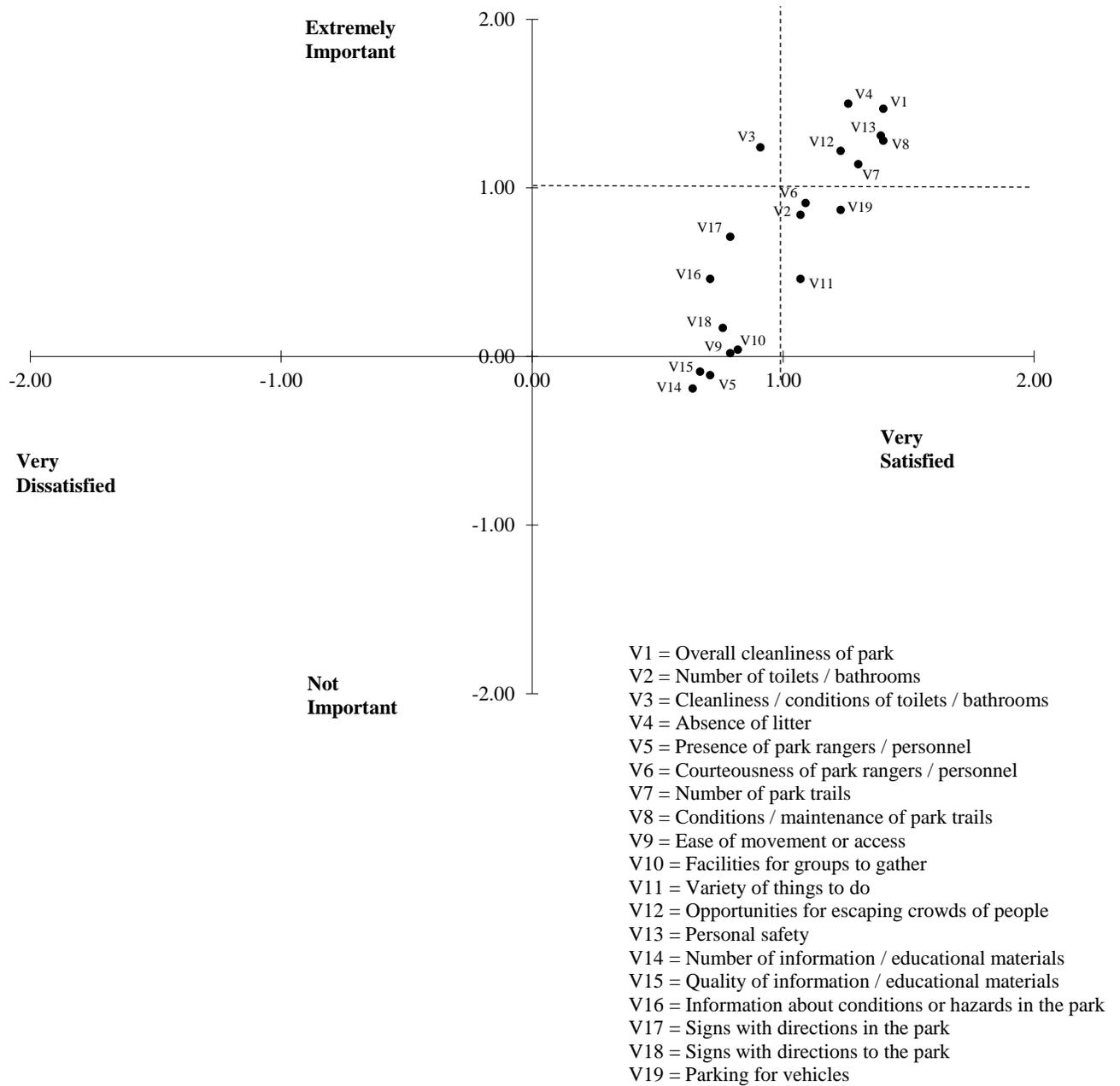


Figure 2 is the I-P matrix for day users. The matrix shows that almost all attributes were in the “keep up the good work” quadrant, indicating that users thought that park staff were doing a good job managing conditions and experiences at Mary S. Young State Recreation Area. For this state park visitor survey project, we are also taking a closer examination of I-P scores in the “keep up the good work” quadrant within the dashed lines included in Figures 2. These results reveal that managers should consider monitoring the cleanliness / conditions of toilets / bathrooms in the park.

Respondents were asked several additional questions about their satisfaction with Mary S. Young State Recreation Area, including this park’s natural environment, facilities and services, and fees. Users were also asked how likely they would return to this state park. Table 22 shows high user satisfaction with the environment (96%), and the facilities and services (88%). In total, 98% of respondents said they were likely to return to this park in the future.

Table 22. Day user likelihood of returning and satisfaction with the park facilities and environment

	Day Users (%)
Satisfaction with natural environment <sup>a</sup>	96
Satisfaction with facilities and services <sup>a</sup>	88
Likelihood of returning <sup>b</sup>	98

<sup>a</sup> Cell entries are percentages (%) of users who rated the characteristic as “satisfied” or “very satisfied.”

<sup>b</sup> Cell entries are percentages (%) of users who said they were “likely” or “very likely” to return to the park in the future.

Table 23 shows that almost all visitors (99%) to Mary S. Young State Recreation Area would recommend the park to their friends or family.

Table 23. Day user recommendation of park to friends and family

	Day Users (%)
Yes, recommend park	99
No, would not recommend park	1

**Outstanding Features.** Users also provided 330 verbatim open ended comments on what they found to be the most outstanding features or things to do at Mary S. Young State Recreation Area. The most common outstanding features or things to do involved: (a) off leash area for dogs; (b) close proximity to home; (c) the beauty of the natural scenery; (d) easy access to river and river activities (swimming, fishing); (e) openness of park for many activities; (f) friendliness of dogs and their owners; and (g) trails for running and hiking.

**Perceived Crowding.** *Perceived crowding* is a subjective and negative evaluation that this reported number of encounters or people observed in an area is too many. Research suggests that when users perceived an area to be crowded, they likely encountered more than their maximum acceptance (i.e., their norm) of impacts (e.g., use levels) for the particular setting (Manning, 2010; Needham & Rollins, 2009).

Table 24 shows that, on average, day users felt not at all to slightly crowded. More specifically, 36% of all park users felt some degree of crowding on their visit. According to Shelby, Vaske, and Heberlein (1989), and Vaske and Shelby (2008), these results suggest that crowding in this park is in the “low normal” range, and access, displacement, or crowding problems are not likely to exist at this time and may offer unique low-density experiences.

Table 24. Day user crowding evaluations

	Day Users
Perception of crowding <sup>a</sup>	2.52
Reported feeling crowded (%)	36

<sup>a</sup> Mean on 9 point crowding scale of 1-2 “not at all crowded” to 3-4 “slightly crowded” to 5-7 “moderately crowded” to 8-9 “extremely crowded.” (Median = 2, Mode = 1).

**Section Summary.** Taken together, results in this section showed that:

- Users considered the most important characteristics at this park were the park’s overall cleanliness (e.g., lawn care, lack of graffiti; 96%), absence of litter (94%), cleanliness / conditions of toilets / bathrooms (87%), condition and number of park trails (87% to 83%), personal safety (85%), and opportunities to escape crowds of people (84%). The least important attributes were the number and quality of information and education programs or materials (26% to 31%), presence of park rangers or personnel (29%), ease of movement or access (e.g., wheelchair, elderly, stroller; 33%), facilities for groups to gather (34%), and signs with direction to the park (41%).
- Overall satisfaction among users was extremely high, as 96% were satisfied with the highest proportion of users being “very satisfied” (71%). Almost no respondents (4%) were dissatisfied.
- Users were most satisfied with the park’s overall park cleanliness (94%), personal safety (93%), condition and number of park trails (92% to 91%), absence of litter (87%),

opportunities to escape crowds of people (85%), and parking for vehicles (85%). Users were least satisfied with the number and quality of education programs (48% to 50%), presence of park rangers or personnel (54%), information specifically about conditions or hazards in the park (55%), ease of movement or access (e.g., wheelchair, elderly, stroller; 57%), and signs with directions to the park (58%).

- An Importance – Performance analysis showed that almost all park attributes were in the “keep up the good work” category, indicating that users thought that staff were doing a good job managing conditions and experiences. There was, however, one attribute that was important to day users, but fell into the “concentrate here” category, indicating that users were only slightly satisfied with this important attribute. These results reveal that managers should consider monitoring the cleanliness / conditions of toilets / bathrooms in the park.
- Most respondents were also satisfied with the natural environment (96%), and the facilities and services (88%).
- Most respondents (98%) said they were likely to return to this park in the future.
- Almost all visitors (99%) to Mary S. Young State Recreation Area would recommend the park to their friends or family.
- The most commonly reported outstanding features and things to do at Mary S. Young State Recreation Area involved: (a) off leash area for dogs; (b) close proximity to home; (c) the beauty of the natural scenery; (d) easy access to river and river activities (swimming, fishing); (e) openness of park for many activities; (f) friendliness of dogs and their owners; and (g) trails for running and hiking.
- Day users felt not at all to slightly crowded, with 36% of all park users feeling some degree of crowding on their visit. These results suggest that crowding in this park is in the “low normal” range, and access, displacement, or crowding problems are not likely to exist at this time and may offer unique low-density experiences.

### **Attitudes About Management Strategies**

Several items in the questionnaire examined user attitudes about possible management strategies at Mary S. Young State Recreation Area. Users were asked, for example, the extent they opposed

or supported several potential new strategies for this park. Table 25 shows that the most strongly supported strategies were to provide more opportunities at the park for escaping crowds (76%), more opportunities for viewing wildlife (74%), more opportunities for hiking (71%), more recycling containers (66%), making the park more pet friendly (64%), to not change anything (64%), and to provide more natural buffers to block views of development outside park (62%). The least supported strategies were to close the park to all recreation and tourism activities (7%), limit the number of people allowed per day (9%), provide food for sale (restaurants, snack shops; 17%), require all dogs be kept on leash at all times (24%), provide downloadable mobile phone applications (27%), and wireless internet access in the park (29%).

Table 25. Day user attitudes about management at the park

	Day Users (%)
More opportunities for escaping crowds	76
More opportunities for viewing wildlife	74
More opportunities for hiking	71
More recycling containers	66
Make the park more pet friendly	64
Do not change anything / keep things as they are now	64
Natural buffers to block views of development outside park	62
Improved maintenance or upkeep of facilities / services	58
More trash cans	56
More information / education (nature, history, archeology)	52
Restore park to historical conditions	52
More programs led by park rangers	35
More enclosed shelters	33
More group picnic areas	31
Limit the number of large groups allowed per day	31
More paved trails	30
Wireless internet access in the park	29
Downloadable mobile phone applications	27
Require all dogs be kept on leash at all times	24
Food for sale (restaurants, snack shops, etc.)	17
Limit the number of people allowed per day	9
Close this park to all recreation / tourism activities	7

<sup>a</sup> Cell entries are percentages (%) of users whose response was “support” or “strongly support” management action.

Park users were also asked the extent that they would oppose or support possible service reductions at Mary S. Young State Recreation Area. Table 26 shows overall low support for service reductions with the highest support for returning the park to a natural area (24%), fewer ranger patrols (20%), and reduced ground maintenance (e.g., mowing; 15%). The least supported service reductions were for reducing the number of hours open (4%), reducing janitorial services (11%), and scaling down facilities (e.g., restrooms, shelters; 11%).

Table 26. Day user support of possible service reductions at the park

	Day Users (%)
Return the park to a natural area	24
Few ranger patrols	20
Reduced ground maintenance (e.g., mowing)	15
Scaled down facilities (e.g., restrooms, shelters)	11
Reduced janitorial services	11
Fewer hours open	4

<sup>a</sup> Cell entries are percentages (%) of users whose response was “support” or “strongly support.”

**Section Summary.** Taken together, results in this section showed that:

- Users most strongly supported management strategies designed to provide more opportunities at the park for escaping crowds (76%), more opportunities for viewing wildlife (74%), more opportunities for hiking (71%), more recycling containers (66%), making the park more pet friendly (64%), to not change anything (64%), and to provide more natural buffers to block views of development outside park (62%). The least supported strategies were to close the park to all recreation and tourism activities (7%), limit the number of people allowed per day (9%), provide food for sale (restaurants, snack shops; 17%), require all dogs be kept on leash at all times (24%), provide downloadable mobile phone applications (27%), and wireless internet access in the park (29%).
- There was overall low support for service reductions in the park. The highest support was for returning the park to a natural area (24%), fewer ranger patrols (20%), and reduced ground maintenance (e.g., mowing; 15%) with the lowest support for reducing the number of hours open (4%), reducing janitorial services (11%), and scaling down facilities (e.g., restrooms, shelters; 11%).

**Sociodemographic Characteristics of Users**

Table 27. Day user demographic characteristics

	Day Users <sup>a</sup>
<b>Gender</b>	
Female	51
Male	49
<b>Age</b>	
Less than 20 years old	2
20 – 29 years	16
30 – 39 years	16
40 – 49 years	21
50 – 59 years	24
60 – 69 years	16
70 – 79 years	5
80+ years old	0
Average age (mean years)	46
<b>Household income (before taxes)</b>	
Less than \$10,000	2
\$10,000 – \$29,999	6
\$30,000 – \$49,999	18
\$50,000 – \$69,999	17
\$70,000 – \$89,999	14
\$90,000 – \$109,999	9
\$110,000 – \$129,999	8
\$130,000 – \$149,999	6
\$150,000 – \$169,999	7
\$170,000 or more	14
Average income (mean dollars)	82,400
<b>Ethnicity</b>	
White (Caucasian)	94
Asian	2
Hispanic / Latino	1
Other	1
American Indian / Alaska Native	1
Black / African American	< 1
<b>Language spoken most often at home</b>	
English	99
Other	1

<sup>a</sup> Cell entries are percentages (%) unless specified as means or averages.

Table 27 shows demographic characteristics of users. There were a similar amount of female (51%) and male (49%) users at Mary S. Young State Recreation Area. The average age of respondents was 46 years old, and the largest proportions of users were 50 to 59 years old (24%) and 40 to 49 years old (21%). Almost all respondents were white (i.e., Caucasian; 94%) with few Asians (2%), Hispanic / Latinos (1%), American Indian / Alaska Natives (1%), and Blacks / African Americans (< 1%). The average annual household income before taxes of respondents was approximately \$82,400, and the largest proportion of users had incomes from \$30,000 to \$49,999 (18%) and \$50,000 to \$69,999 (17%). Visitors to Mary S. Young State Recreation Area are generally wealthier than the Oregon population at large (Oregon median household income in 2010 was \$51,994). Almost all users (99%) considered English as the primary language spoken in their homes.

Table 28 shows that all users resided in the USA (100%) with 98% of users residing in Oregon, 2% resided in Washington, and 1% resided in Utah. Among park users, 94% resided in the Portland Metro region of Oregon (<http://www.guidetooregon.com/regions/map.html>), 2% resided in other states, and fewer than 2% resided in each of the Mt. Hood / Gorge, Willamette Valley, and the Central Oregon regions of the state. No respondents indicated residing in the Coastal, Southern, and Eastern regions of the state.

Table 28. Day user location of residence

	Day Users (%)
Country	
USA	100
State	
Oregon <sup>a</sup>	98
Washington	2
Utah	< 1

<sup>a</sup> In total, 94% of park users resided in the Portland Metro region of Oregon, 2% resided in other states, 1% resided in the Mt. Hood / Gorge region, 1% resided in the Willamette Valley region, and 1% resided in Central Oregon. No respondents lived in the Coastal, Southern, and Eastern regions of the state.

Table 29 shows that 92% of users said that nobody in their group had a disability, whereas 8% had at least one group member with a disability. Of those who had a disability, the most common was associated with walking (6% of park users), while 1% had a hearing disability, 1% had a learning disability, and 1% had impaired sight.

Table 29. Day user disabilities

Disability in group	Day Users (%)
No	92
Yes <sup>a</sup>	8

<sup>a</sup> Types of disabilities: walking = 6%, hearing = 1%, learning = 1%, sight = 1%, other = 1%

**Section Summary.** Taken together, results in this section showed that:

- There was a similar amount of female (51%) and male (49%) users at this park.
- The average age of users was approximately 46 years old, and the largest proportions of users were 50 to 59 years old (24%) and 40 to 49 years old (21%).
- The average annual household income before taxes of respondents was \$82,400, and the largest proportion of users had incomes from \$30,000 to \$49,999 (18%) and \$50,000 to \$69,999 (17%). Visitors to Mary S. Young State Recreation Area are generally wealthier than the Oregon population at large (Oregon median household income in 2010 was \$51,994).
- Most respondents were white (i.e., Caucasian; 94%) with few Asians (2%), Hispanic / Latinos (1%), American Indian / Alaska Natives (1%), and Blacks / African Americans (< 1%).
- Almost all respondents (99%) reported English as their primary language spoken in their homes.
- Approximately 98% of users resided in Oregon, 2% resided in Washington, and 1% resided in Utah. Among park users, 94% resided in the Portland Metro region of Oregon, 2% resided in other states, and fewer than 2% resided in each of the Mt. Hood / Gorge, Willamette Valley, and the Central Oregon regions of the state. No respondents indicated residing in the Coastal, Southern, and Eastern regions of the state.
- In total, 92% of users said that nobody in their group had a disability, whereas 8% had at least one group member with a disability. Of those who had a disability, the most common was associated with walking (6% of park users), while 1% had a hearing disability, 1% had learning disabilities, and 1% had impaired sight.

## ***RECOMMENDATIONS***

### **Management Recommendations**

Based on these results from surveys of day and overnight users, the following recommendations, in no particular order, are proposed for management of Mary S. Young State Recreation Area:

- Almost all day and overnight users traveled to this park in their own vehicles (92%), so adequate parking is important and should be considered in planning and management.
- Two thirds of day users (67%) brought dogs with them to this park, so it will be important to ensure adequate facilities to accommodate dogs and their owners (e.g., pick up bags, signs specifying regulations or restrictions). There were also various concerns in the narrative portions of the survey (Appendix A) regarding off leash dogs, and the mess left behind by dogs. Managers may want to consider examining enforcement of existing pet regulations in these areas. Furthermore, 24% of all visitors supported requiring dogs be on leash at all times and 64% supported making the park more pet friendly.
- Almost all users (96%) were satisfied with their experiences and the conditions at this park. Satisfaction, however, was consistently lower for the amount (48%) and quality (50%) of information and education materials and programs. Managers may wish to evaluate these services to users to ensure they are meeting visitor needs.
- Users were also somewhat less satisfied with the ease of movement and access around the park (e.g., wheelchair, stroller, elderly; 57%). Given that over 21% of park visitors were over the age of 60 and 8% of users had disabilities (6% with disabilities related to walking), managers may want to consider evaluating access throughout the park and perhaps even obtaining a current ADA or related audit.
- Approximately 36% of day users felt crowded at the park. These results suggest that crowding in this park is in the “low normal” range, and access, displacement, or crowding problems are not likely to exist at this time and may offer unique low-density experiences. Monitoring of park use levels may be needed, especially given that 76% of day users supported the provision of more opportunities for escaping crowds.
- Users most strongly supported strategies designed to provide more opportunities at the park for escaping crowds (76%), more opportunities for viewing wildlife (74%), more opportunities for hiking (71%), more recycling containers (66%), making the park more

pet friendly (64%), to not change anything (64%), and to provide more natural buffers to block views of development outside park (62%). Managers may want to consider some or all of these strategies.

- An Importance – Performance analysis showed that almost all park attributes were in the “keep up the good work” category, indicating that users thought that staff were doing a good job managing conditions and experiences. There was, however, one attribute that was important to day users that fell into the “concentrate here” category, indicating that users were only slightly satisfied with these important attributes. These results reveal that managers should consider monitoring the cleanliness / conditions of toilets / bathrooms in the park.
- The largest proportion of users depended on official internet websites (64%) as the first primary source of obtaining information about parks such as Mary S. Young State Recreation Area. Given these findings, it is imperative for staff to ensure that agency and park internet websites are easy to navigate, up to date, and provide comprehensive information.
- Almost all park visitors (99%) were able to find the information they needed when planning their visit to Mary S. Young State Recreation Area. However, some visitors (1%) were not able to find all information needed. The most popular information needed was directions to dog beach, trail maps in park and online, and signs with directions from Highway 205.
- Users also provided 330 verbatim open ended comments on what they found to be the most outstanding features or things to do at Mary S. Young State Recreation Area. The most common outstanding features and things to do involved: (a) off leash area for dogs; (b) close proximity to home; (c) the beauty of the natural scenery; (d) easy access to river and river activities (swimming, fishing); (e) openness of park for many activities; (f) friendliness of dogs and their owners; and (g) trails for running and hiking.
- Two thirds (66%) of the users at Mary S. Young State Recreation Area travel five miles or less to reach the park, with 90% of all users having visited the park before. Furthermore, users have visited an average of approximately 70 times in the previous 12 months. Managers may want to consider public activities designed to bring these users

together to help strengthen the local community that visits the park (i.e., volunteering, music, art).

- Users provided 202 verbatim open ended positive and negative comments, and suggestions for possible improvement of Mary S. Young State Recreation Area and other park related issues. The most common concerns raised involved: (a) better enforcement of off leash dogs and the mess created by dogs; (b) allow times or places (trails, fenced areas) where dogs can be off leash; (c) enforcement of parking laws; (e) address invasive species (English Ivy); (f) bathroom facilities (maintenance and cleanliness); (g) underage drinking; (h) trail maintenance (fix cracks, add wood chips, signage); (i) increase hours park is open; (j) no smoking; (k) lawn maintenance; (l) more picnic tables and barbecue pits; (m) community events; and (n) more bicycling paths.

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## APPENDIX A: OPEN-ENDED COMMENTS

### *Positive Comments*

- In general, the park is great the way it is.
- We like the new trail around the off leash area. Thank you for the new trails.
- Continue to maintain and improve trails.
- Don't change a thing. I mostly just use the off leash dog area. Have been bringing my dog here for 10 years or so; 2 to 3 times a day. We love it. It is one the highlights of living in the area. It's well maintained, the restrooms are kept reasonably clean, the refuse is removed pretty promptly, and the dog poo bags are kept pretty well stocked. There are scores of us who treasure using this as a place for us and our dogs to socialize or just be quiet, read a book (me) or chew a ball (her).
- Don't try to fix something that is not broken. Maintenance crews do an awesome job here. Please keep dog off leash area. No fence is required or needed. Dog owners here do a great job working together to help clean the park and keep "The Peace." I and many others love this park. See your reviews on yelp.
- Enjoy it currently.
- For me and at my age, everything is just fine the way it is.
- Great as it is.
- Great park w/good visitors; no caretakers.
- Great place.
- Great to know you care about the area. Wish we had a park with easy access where I'm from.
- I love everything. We moved to West Linn recently and the influence on our decision was this off leash area.
- I love this park and find it extremely well maintained. We use the park on a near daily basis for personal and dog exercise. Our (now grown) kids used to participate in group sports here. It's a very positive part of living in West Linn. Thank you for your efforts to maintain the park.
- I love this park for walking and running. It is safe and dog friendly. I would not change anything.
- I love this park. I walk my dog here about 5 times a week and enjoy this opportunity in such a state and beautiful place. Please keep it available for us. Cooperation between Oregon State Parks and West Linn Parks has worked well.
- I really like it the way it is.
- I so much enjoy the park just the way it is.
- I think its fine as it is.
- Is an informal community meeting place for people and dogs. It facilitates a good local exchange of ideas.
- It is pretty good the way it is.
- It's all good.

- 
- It's great just the way it is.
  - It's great. No changes necessary.
  - It's pretty much fine.
  - It's a great park, great trails, dog poop bags, dog off leash area.
  - Keep it clean.
  - Keep it easy, welcoming, and less crowded from groups on fields and more welcome to dogs - off leash.
  - Keep it like it is and don't screw it up.
  - Keep it the same.
  - Keep it the same. Love it here.
  - Keep it the way it is; appears to be working well.
  - Keep it within its current scale of size and activities.
  - Keep the dog park.
  - Keep up the good work.
  - Love it. So glad it is close to home. It is perfect the way it is.
  - Love this park and how well manicured it is. I use the beach area to swim my dog. She loves to come here. Thanks for maintaining such a beautiful facility. I didn't realize it was a state park. I thought it was a city park.
  - M.S. Young has a very large and nice dog play area.
  - Maintain its present beauty.
  - This is a nice park, let's keep it up.
  - We love everything else.
  - Great park.
  - MSY is the best place in the area. Keep it clean, keep the trails maintained, and continue the terrific work of removing invasive plant species. Greatly appreciate the work of the volunteers who work on trails and pull ivy.
  - MSY park is a gem.
  - Nice the way it is.
  - Keep it the way it is.
  - Love it just as it is. Keep up the great work. Thanks for such a great place to bring our dog off leash. We are here all the time.
  - Place is a treasure.
  - Please keep the dog park.
  - Thank you for asking.
  - Thank you.
  - This park is great.
  - Use park 4 to 5 times a week. Run trail and walk dog.
  - We are here very often, and have our favorite trails. This is a treasure for our community. Thank you.
  - We like the park as is.
  - We often run here on the trails.

- We think it's just fine as it is.
- You are doing a great job. Thank you.
- You are doing a great job.

### ***Negative Comments and / or Issues for Improvement***

- 1 or 2 more "potty bag" posts and cans in the dog park. Provide the big sized bags that Lake Oswego parks / George Rogers has.
- It would be helpful to a park ranger, or other official, to walk through the off leash area occasionally in order to inform some users of this area about inappropriate behavior (the most common one I see is parents with very young children permitting them to wander among the off leash dogs - this is asking for trouble).
- Actually, I've never seen a park ranger at M.S.Y. park.
- Move park benches back to the dog park.
- The dog park is very muddy in the winter. The grass need to be plugged and reseeded.
- People fall all the time in potholes at the dog park.
- During hot weather, need more pools and hoses to cool off.
- Whole disc golf course. Use current land and incorporate into a tree lined large field. Only issue would be keeping course outside of areas used by other visitors like soccer areas and running paths.
- Add an enclosed area in off leash dog exercise area for small dogs only. Add a fence where off leash area is adjacent to the road.
- Add more music venues, art, theatre, productions to the park during the summer period.
- Add more trails if possible.
- Do something about the smell at the dog park. It's not terrible quite yet.
- Add, or allow, more off-road mountain biking via single track on non-paved trails.
- Allow dogs off leash on unpaved paths; the winding paths with loose dirt makes it difficult to enjoy the natural beauty when I have to focus on maneuvering with my dog on a leash.
- A disc golf course would be pretty awesome.
- Allow for unleashed animals during allotted hours 7am -10am.
- Annex more land.
- Barrier to drive along the off leash area.
- Bathroom near dog park, and a vending machine for like water. Thank you.
- Bathrooms need updating.
- Better orientating signs on trails. Better signs to different beach areas.
- Bridges on the way down to the river are a little scary. Need to be less wobbly.
- Cleaner bathrooms.
- Cleaner men's restroom near gazebo.
- Better trail signage.
- Create off-leash wooded trails.
- Create official swimming area.
- Develop the waterfront to boat landing picnic tables water fire pits.

- Do not fence dog off leash area.
- Designate a few hiking trails as off leash trails. Require off leash dogs to be spayed/neutered or have separate area for intact dogs.
- A coin operated light that requires users to pay for use would be welcomed. One large light will do.
- Enforce parking laws throughout park.
- This is a beautiful park that is wonderfully cared for. Hats off to West Linn's maintenance efforts.
- Dog walking on trails if you have control of your dog off leash. Aggressive dogs don't belong in park.
- Large plastic dog pool for warm days.
- More rain shelter in off-leash dog park area; maybe built by eagle scouts for their projects.
- Get rid of ivy.
- The only thing I would prefer would be to not continue to clear out the foliage bordering the off leash area. It helps keep the dogs from running into the road.
- More emphatically, mark and enforce the "no parking" along the entrance road which is constantly used by "soccer moms and dads".
- Soccer moms need to be more accepting of dog park and not block roadway to main parking lots.
- Enforcement of "poop pick-up" is only concern.
- Enforce leash rule for dogs.
- Address cedar island invasive plants and restoring plants and wildlife. Plant diversity. Clean streams. Eliminate erosion.
- Erosion of pavement.
- Fence the dog park. Add some more running loops.
- Garbage and parking are an issue at the lower end with "in season" use. Maybe restrooms at the lower end could be useful; it might reduce trash and human waste along the beach and on Cedar Island. A children's play area might be fun for family visitors. Ranger programs would be good.
- Garbage can down by the Sandy River.
- Gathering facilities with less shaded area.
- Make main beach dog friendly.
- Have MSY park be an off leash park and be able to walk the trails without having dogs leashed up. Dogs need to be on voice command to do this activity.
- Have off leash dog walking trails.
- Have some dog poop stations, bags available throughout park. I stepped in some, otherwise, I wouldn't have thought of it.
- Hikes where dogs can be off leash. More mountain biking trails.
- I would like park to open at 6am for running trails.

- I would like to see at least one hiking trail dedicated to off leash use even if the hours are limited. Don't waste money by fencing off leash area.
- I would love to see a non-paved trail that allows bike riding. I travel 1 - 3 hours round trip to ride my mountain bike.
- I would suggest making the running walking paths a little better along the trails; it is easy to digress from your intended path. Also it is difficult for some who have trouble walking to get to the river.
- Improve maintenance of bathrooms. More trail signs. More ranger patrols. Make informational signs consistent.
- Improve signs on trails. More patrols for off-leash dogs. Info on who to call for patrol.
- Improved bathroom cleanliness.
- Improved signage within trail system.
- Trim brush by entrance road where joggers cross road.
- Fix leak at men's restroom by gazebo.
- Fix signs at entrance and main kiosk.
- Limit large groups, and sports activities that bring large crowds.
- That one part, down at the river is an eye sore. You know what I mean if you see it.
- Ivy removal.
- Add some more attractions or stuff to do.
- Other parks supplement playing fields. Limiting group activities helps preserve sense of tranquility. Even if an annual user fee has to be considered.
- Ivy removal and path maintenance.
- Keep up with trail maintenance. Signs at trail forks or y's would be helpful. I, personally, know the park very well, but know of people who get a little turned around in here. A mini version of the full map, with "you are here" marked might be nice.
- Leash laws enforced.
- Light at the dog park for winter for when dusk arrives early.
- Longer hours.
- Longer running trails please, and off leash hours on trails.
- Lower bathroom is often dirty, toilets/urinals broken.
- Less ivy and more native plants.
- It would be nice to have a side for small dogs and puppies, and another side for large dogs. I have seen many disputes between over active puppies and small dogs w/larger mature breeds.
- Mary S Young wished to leave this as a wilderness nature reserve. So improve the natural acreage of the park by removing sports fields and non-wilderness structures. Continue to restore native plant and animal habitat. Reduce dog park area, enforce dogs of leash laws. They kill/harass wildlife, save all native trees, provide wilderness education. Less cars, dogs development, more wilderness. Thanks.

- Maybe turn it back into a State Park. Have the city of West Linn Parks do a better job of upkeep. It's like they patch and go. When the state had it the restrooms were cleaner, trails clean, parking lot cleaner. Also need to fence in the dog area.
- Message board tacks fall off and are dangerous for the dogs.
- Shade and shelter would be nice.
- Might repair some of the worst cracks in paved trails. These can be a trip hazard or dangerous for bikers.
- Monitor the parking during sporting events. People often park on the road where it is posted as 'No Parking'.
- Monitor underage drinking.
- More animal identification, tools (posters, classes).
- More BBQ pits please.
- More garbage and recycling cans. More toilet paper in restrooms. Keeping the access road clear during, before, and after athletic field activities.
- More litter clean up.
- More maps that give distance of trails.
- More off leash areas.
- Better bike paths.
- More off leash areas, with a few paths available for off leash. More shaded beaches and water fountains. Dog agility equipment.
- More off leash dog access.
- More off leash opportunities for dogs.
- More off leash options. More shaded bench areas and better potties. More, higher quality poop bags & trash cans. More permanent water/cool off area for dogs. More grooming trails, water/soda machines, basic workout things for people, agility area for dogs.
- More paved biking trails.
- More rangers and safety personnel.
- More trail signs.
- More trash cans down the trails every 100 yds - is it and an alternative entrance/exits. A police car now and again (never seen one).
- More/better sign/maps and educational kiosks/statins and opportunities for group volunteering (cleanups, invasive species removal).
- Most owners do not have dogs on leash on trails. Not monitored by city.
- Off-leash trails.
- Parking light. Off leash trail. Small net that divides off leash area between small dogs & puppies with large adults. Larger covered area for dog area. Keep brush down at cross walks for pedestrians & drivers to view.
- Parking when large sports tournaments are going on. Maybe some river/beach patrols when it's hot out. Young drinkers that leave trash behind.
- Patrol more for underage drinking over by the docks/the cove. Young kids take advantage of the distance from supervision.

- Patrol trails from time to time and enforce leash laws.
- Perhaps closer bathrooms to dog area.
- Picnic areas down by the sand. And restrooms. No smoking. More park rangers.
- Picnic tables nearer to the river. Restrooms near the river. Garbage cans and recycle cans, No smoking. Patrols every 2-3 hours.
- Keep the trails wood chipped in winter.
- A couple more bathroom for convenience.
- Please do not allow any more square, cement uninspired buildings, such as the bathroom. Its "Tex-Mex" steel, concrete appearance is uninspired. And, the glaring yellow light is so disappointing in texture. I recommend no more buildings.
- Post trail maps at trailheads so people know how long the walk is & how the trails are different.
- Fix the plumbing in the restrooms. It looks like the toilets are somehow overflowing onto the floors.
- A walkway along the river would be nice.
- Provide a nature center/outdoor education facility. Encourage community involvement, such as citizen service projects, removal of non-native plants, etc.
- Really wish the dog area could be fenced.
- Reduce litter. Keep trails accessible.
- Reduce mud/improve drainage in off leash area.
- Restoration of natural habitat.
- Somehow prevent the off leash dog area from turning into a mud pit when it rains. I typically go to Memorial park 9-10 months of the year w/my dog. We use MSY during the summer months only.
- Specifically off leash area.
- Longer hours open, 9pm; especially in winter. As many people do not get off work before dark.
- 'Dog poop' powered light for winter evenings.
- A couple more picnic tables for dog area.
- Off-leash hours on the trails, morning & evening.
- 'Red' fire curbs on the road into the park by the ball field as ball players' parents cause traffic jams and fire/emergencies blockages to the park even with NO PARKING signs.
- Would love to see a large gazebo style shelter built in the center of the off-leash area as it would be used daily by the off-leash dog crowd.
- Better off-leash access to river.
- Stop development. Leave it natural. If you are going to encourage dog exercising in the park, enforce leash use outside of dog exercise area. It's badly abused.
- Add surveillance camera for trails (safety for women walking dogs during low use). More park patrols of trails during low use hours.
- Bathrooms look scary I have never gone in there.

- 
- The bathrooms should have better maintenance. The urinals don't work and the place seems kind of messy.
  - The off leash area could very easily use 3 or 4 more picnic tables. A good share of the folks that come to Mary S Young are older folks and could use more tables & perhaps one more covered table.
  - Big deal: a few people insist on smoking in the off leash area and they often throw their cig butts on the ground which is very bad for the dogs. Please mount a couple of signs asking to refrain from smoking in the off leash area.
  - The park is a great low key park. It's appealing to a large cross section. However, children are not one of them. I have seen a lot of dog owners get upset about kids in the off leash area. For little ones it is hard for them to participate with the family and dogs - the kids love the dogs as many of them came with them - some dogs and dog owners do not appreciate the children. I was bitten by a dog here protecting a young child.
  - The parking with the soccer moms needs to be enforced. Blocking traffic. More beach area for the dogs. No fence around the off leash area.
  - There could be more signs within to tell me how long each path is.
  - Off leash area is great, except for the arrogant dog owners who don't clean up after their dog; especially when you make it so easy.
  - Water the grass, if possible.
  - Seems there is a lot of unnecessary clearing out of underbrush.
  - I like the trails as well before all the work on them began over 10 years ago.

**APPENDIX B: QUESTIONNAIRES**

**Day Visitor Experiences and Perceptions  
at Mary S. Young State Recreation Area**



**Please Complete this Survey and Return it as Soon as Possible**

Participation is Voluntary and Responses are Anonymous

Thank You for Your Participation

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A Study Conducted by:



*Nature*  
**HISTORY**  
*Discovery*

We are conducting this survey to learn about your experiences at Mary S. Young State Recreation Area. Your input is important and will assist managers improve your experiences at this park. **Once you have completed this survey, please return it as soon as possible.**

1. Before this trip, had you ever visited Mary S. Young State Recreation Area? (check **ONE**)
  - No
  - Yes → if yes, how many day trips have you made to this park in the past 12 months? (write number) \_\_\_\_\_ trip(s)
  
2. How many hours did you spend at Mary S. Young SRA on this trip? (write number) \_\_\_\_\_ hour(s)
  
3. Please check **all** recreation activities you did at Mary S. Young SRA on this trip. (check **ALL THAT APPLY**)
 

<input type="checkbox"/> A. Hiking or walking	<input type="checkbox"/> F. Outdoor photography	<input type="checkbox"/> K. Bird or wildlife watching
<input type="checkbox"/> B. Dog walking	<input type="checkbox"/> G. Playing lacrosse	<input type="checkbox"/> L. Exercising dog at off-leash dog area
<input type="checkbox"/> C. Running or jogging	<input type="checkbox"/> H. Playing soccer	<input type="checkbox"/> M. Other (write response) _____
<input type="checkbox"/> D. Bicycling on local roads	<input type="checkbox"/> I. Sightseeing	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> E. Bicycling on trails	<input type="checkbox"/> J. Picnicking or barbecuing	
  
4. From activities in Question 3 above, what **ONE primary activity** did you do at Mary S. Young SRA on this trip? (write a letter that matches your response)  
 Letter for primary activity \_\_\_\_\_
  
5. Which of the following best describes the purpose of your trip? (check **ONE**)
  - Primarily for recreation – this park was my main destination
  - Primarily for recreation – my main destination was NOT this park
  - Primarily for business, family, or other reasons – this park was a side trip
  - Some other reason
  
6. About how far from your home did you travel to get to this park? (write number of miles) \_\_\_\_\_ mile(s)
  
7. Overall, how dissatisfied or satisfied were you with your **overall experience** at Mary S. Young SRA? (check **ONE**)
  - Very Dissatisfied       Dissatisfied       Neither       Satisfied       Very Satisfied
  
8. How dissatisfied or satisfied were you with the **natural environment** at Mary S. Young SRA? (check **ONE**)
  - Very Dissatisfied       Dissatisfied       Neither       Satisfied       Very Satisfied
  
9. How dissatisfied or satisfied were you with the **facilities / services** at Mary S. Young SRA? (check **ONE**)
  - Very Dissatisfied       Dissatisfied       Neither       Satisfied       Very Satisfied
  
10. How unlikely or likely are you to return to Mary S. Young SRA in the future? (check **ONE**)
  - Very Unlikely       Unlikely       Neither       Likely       Very Likely

11. How **important** is it to you that each of the following is at Mary S. Young SRA? (circle one number for EACH)

	Not Important		Neither		Extremely Important
Overall cleanliness of park (e.g., graffiti, lawn care).	1	2	3	4	5
Number of toilets / bathrooms.	1	2	3	4	5
Cleanliness / conditions of toilets / bathrooms.	1	2	3	4	5
Absence of litter.	1	2	3	4	5
Presence of park rangers / personnel.	1	2	3	4	5
Courteousness of park rangers / personnel.	1	2	3	4	5
Number of park trails.	1	2	3	4	5
Condition / maintenance of park trails.	1	2	3	4	5
Ease of movement or access (e.g., wheelchair, elderly, baby stroller).	1	2	3	4	5
Facilities for groups to gather.	1	2	3	4	5
Variety of things to do.	1	2	3	4	5
Opportunities to escape crowds of people.	1	2	3	4	5
Personal safety.	1	2	3	4	5
Number of information / education programs or materials.	1	2	3	4	5
Quality of information / education programs or materials.	1	2	3	4	5
Information specifically about conditions or hazards in the park.	1	2	3	4	5
Signs about directions within the park.	1	2	3	4	5
Signs about directions to the park.	1	2	3	4	5
Parking for vehicles.	1	2	3	4	5

12. Now, how **dissatisfied or satisfied** were you with the following at Mary S. Young SRA? (circle a number for EACH)

	Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Neither	Satisfied	Very Satisfied
Overall cleanliness of park (e.g., graffiti, lawn care).	1	2	3	4	5
Number of toilets / bathrooms.	1	2	3	4	5
Cleanliness / conditions of toilets / bathrooms.	1	2	3	4	5
Absence of litter.	1	2	3	4	5
Presence of park rangers / personnel.	1	2	3	4	5
Courteousness of park rangers / personnel.	1	2	3	4	5
Number of park trails.	1	2	3	4	5
Condition / maintenance of park trails.	1	2	3	4	5
Ease of movement or access (e.g., wheelchair, elderly, stroller).	1	2	3	4	5
Facilities for groups to gather.	1	2	3	4	5
Variety of things to do.	1	2	3	4	5
Opportunities to escape crowds of people.	1	2	3	4	5
Personal safety.	1	2	3	4	5
Number of information / education programs or materials.	1	2	3	4	5
Quality of information / education programs or materials.	1	2	3	4	5
Information specifically about conditions or hazards in the park.	1	2	3	4	5
Signs about directions within the park.	1	2	3	4	5
Signs about directions to the park.	1	2	3	4	5
Parking for vehicles.	1	2	3	4	5

13. To what extent do you **oppose or support** each of the following possible management actions at Mary S. Young SRA? **(circle one number for EACH)**

	Strongly Oppose	Oppose	Neither	Support	Strongly Support
Provide more opportunities for escaping crowds of people.	1	2	3	4	5
Provide more opportunities for viewing wildlife.	1	2	3	4	5
Food for sale (restaurants, snack shops, etc.)	1	2	3	4	5
Provide more group picnic areas.	1	2	3	4	5
Provide more opportunities for hiking.	1	2	3	4	5
Provide more paved trails.	1	2	3	4	5
Provide more trash cans.	1	2	3	4	5
Provide more recycling containers.	1	2	3	4	5
Provide more information / education about nature, history, or archeology.	1	2	3	4	5
Provide more programs led by park rangers.	1	2	3	4	5
Provide wireless internet access within the park.	1	2	3	4	5
Provide downloadable mobile phone applications.	1	2	3	4	5
Provide more enclosed shelters.	1	2	3	4	5
Improve maintenance or upkeep of facilities / services.	1	2	3	4	5
Require all dogs be kept on leash at all times.	1	2	3	4	5
Make the park more pet friendly.	1	2	3	4	5
Provide natural buffers to block views of development outside the park.	1	2	3	4	5
Restore it to historical conditions (e.g., replace non-native with native plants)	1	2	3	4	5
Limit the number of people allowed per day.	1	2	3	4	5
Limit the number of large groups allowed (e.g., no more than 10-20 people).	1	2	3	4	5
Close this park to all recreation / tourism activities.	1	2	3	4	5
Do not change anything / keep things as they are now.	1	2	3	4	5

As agency budgets for management of this park decrease over time, we may be faced with difficult decisions related to service reductions. Before making any changes, however, we feel that it is important to know what changes would be supported or opposed by current visitors. As a result, the following questions list various hypothetical changes that managers could make in the future. Please indicate your level of opposition or support to these possible changes.

14. To what extent would you **oppose or support** each of the following possible service reductions at Mary S. Young SRA? **(circle one number for EACH)**

	Strongly Oppose	Oppose	Neither	Support	Strongly Support
Fewer hours open.	1	2	3	4	5
Fewer ranger patrols.	1	2	3	4	5
Scaled down facilities (e.g., fewer restrooms, picnic shelters).	1	2	3	4	5
Reduced janitorial services.	1	2	3	4	5
Return the park to a natural area.	1	2	3	4	5
Reduced ground maintenance (e.g., mowing, landscaping).	1	2	3	4	5

15. To what extent did you feel crowded at Mary S. Young State Recreation Area on this trip? **(circle a number)**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Not at all Crowded		Slightly Crowded			Moderately Crowded		Extremely Crowded	

16. **Including yourself**, how many people accompanied you at Mary S. Young State Recreation Area on this trip? \_\_\_\_\_ person(s)

17. Did you or anyone in your group bring dog(s) with you to Mary S. Young SRA? **(check ONE)**  No  Yes

18. Did anyone in your group have a disability?

- No  
 Yes → if yes, what are these disabilities? (**check ALL THAT APPLY**)  
 Hearing    Sight    Walking  
 Learning    Other \_\_\_\_\_

19. When you were thinking about visiting an Oregon State Park such as Mary S. Young State Recreation Area, about how often did you obtain information from each of the following sources when making your decision? (**circle one number for EACH**)

	Never	1	2	Sometimes	3	4	Often	5
A. Official internet websites (e.g., Oregon State Parks, Travel Oregon).	1	2	3	4	5			
B. Social media internet websites (e.g., Facebook, Twitter).	1	2	3	4	5			
C. Brochures.	1	2	3	4	5			
D. Newspapers.	1	2	3	4	5			
E. Magazines.	1	2	3	4	5			
F. Books.	1	2	3	4	5			
G. Television.	1	2	3	4	5			
H. Videos / DVDs.	1	2	3	4	5			
I. Radio.	1	2	3	4	5			
J. Community organization or church.	1	2	3	4	5			
K. Health care providers.	1	2	3	4	5			
L. Work.	1	2	3	4	5			
M. Friends or family members.	1	2	3	4	5			
N. Highway signs.	1	2	3	4	5			
O. Previous visit.	1	2	3	4	5			
P. Other (write response) _____	1	2	3	4	5			

20. From the list of sources in question 19 above, which **ONE** would you use **FIRST** when obtaining information about an Oregon State Park? (**write letter**)

Letter \_\_\_\_\_

21. When planning your visit to Mary S. Young SRA, were you able to find the information you needed? (**check ONE**)

- Yes  
 No → if no, what additional information did you need? (**write response**) \_\_\_\_\_

22. How did you get to Mary S. Young State Recreation Area on this trip? (**check ONE**)

- My family's personal vehicle → how many total people were in the vehicle? \_\_\_\_\_ person(s)  
 Somebody else's personal vehicle → how many total people were in the vehicle? \_\_\_\_\_ person(s)  
 Other (write response) → how many total people were in the vehicle? \_\_\_\_\_ person(s)

23. If you had NOT been able to go to Mary S. Young State Recreation Area for this visit, what would you have done? (**check ONE**)

- Gone somewhere else for the same activity → how far from home is the place you would go instead? \_\_\_\_\_ miles(s)  
 Gone somewhere else for a different activity → how far from home is the place you would go instead? \_\_\_\_\_ miles(s)  
 Come back another time  
 Stayed home  
 Gone to work at my regular job  
 Something else (none of these)

24. If you had NOT been able to go to Mary S. Young State Recreation Area for this visit, what other park(s) would you have considered going to instead? (**list park names**)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

25. Would you recommend a Mary S. Young State Recreation Area visit to friends or family members? (check **ONE**)

- Yes
- No → if no, why not? (write response) \_\_\_\_\_

26. What do you feel are the most outstanding features or things to do at Mary S. Young State Recreation Area? (write response)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

27. Did you participate in any moderate physical activity during this trip (for example walking, bicycling, canoeing at a moderate pace)? (check **ONE**)

- No
- Yes → if yes, how much time did you spend in moderate physical activity for this trip? \_\_\_\_\_ minutes

28. Did you participate in any vigorous physical activity during this trip (for example jogging, walking, or bicycling at a vigorous pace, breaking a sweat, heart beating rapidly)? (check **ONE**)

- No
- Yes → if yes, how much time did you spend in vigorous physical activity for this trip? \_\_\_\_\_ minutes

29. Is your level of physical activity at Mary S. Young State Recreation Area more than, less than, or about the same as your level of physical activity in your day-to-day life? (check **ONE**)

- My physical activity is MORE at Mary S. Young State Recreation Area than my daily life.
- My physical activity is LESS at Mary S. Young State Recreation Area than in my daily life.
- My physical activity is ABOUT THE SAME at Mary S. Young State Recreation Area as it is in my daily life.

30. To what degree did this Mary S. Young State Recreation Area visit result in the following health benefits for you? (circle one number for EACH)

	Not at all					A great deal
A. Reducing your stress.	1	2	3	4	5	
B. Improving your level of physical fitness.	1	2	3	4	5	
C. Improving your physical health.	1	2	3	4	5	
D. Improving your mental health.	1	2	3	4	5	
E. Reducing your anxiety.	1	2	3	4	5	

31. Are you: (check **ONE**)  Male  Female

32. How old are you? (write response) \_\_\_\_\_ years old

33. Which of the following best describes you? (check **ONE**)

- White (Caucasian)  Hispanic / Latino  American Indian or Alaskan Native  Other (write response)
- Black / African American  Asian  Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander \_\_\_\_\_

34. What language is spoken most often at your home? (check **ONE**)

- English  Spanish  Russian  Other (write response) \_\_\_\_\_

35. Where do you live? (**write responses**) City / town \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_ Zipcode \_\_\_\_\_

36. Which of these broad categories best describes your *current annual household income before taxes*? (**check ONE**)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less than \$10,000   | <input type="checkbox"/> \$90,000 to \$109,999  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$10,000 to \$29,999 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$110,000 to \$129,999 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$30,000 to \$49,999 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$130,000 to \$149,999 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50,000 to \$69,999 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$150,000 to \$169,999 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$70,000 to \$89,999 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$170,000 or more      |

Please tell us how we can improve Mary S. Young State Recreation Area:

Thank you, your input is important! *Please return this survey as soon as possible.*

**APPENDIX C: UNCOLLAPSED PERCENTAGES**

# **Day Visitor Experiences and Perceptions at Mary S. Young State Recreation Area**



**Please Complete this Survey and Return it as Soon as Possible**

Participation is Voluntary and Responses are Anonymous

Thank You for Your Participation

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A Study Conducted by:



*Nature*  
**HISTORY**  
*Discovery*

We are conducting this survey to learn about your experiences at Mary S. Young State Recreation Area. Your input is important and will assist managers improve your experiences at this park. ***Once you have completed this survey, please return it as soon as possible.***

1. Before this trip, had you ever visited Mary S. Young State Recreation Area? (**check ONE**)
  - 10% No
  - 90% Yes → if yes, how many day trips have you made to this park in the past 12 months? (**write number**) 69.98 trip(s)
  
2. How many hours did you spend at Mary S. Young SRA on this trip? (**write number**) 1.76 hour(s)
  
3. Please check all recreation activities you did at Mary S. Young SRA on this trip. (**check ALL THAT APPLY**)
 

70% <b>A.</b> Hiking or walking	8% <b>F.</b> Outdoor photography	17% <b>K.</b> Bird or wildlife watching
62% <b>B.</b> Dog walking	1% <b>G.</b> Playing lacrosse	54% <b>L.</b> Exercising dog at off-leash dog area
19% <b>C.</b> Running or jogging	3% <b>H.</b> Playing soccer	14% <b>M.</b> Other (write response) <u>see report</u>
4% <b>D.</b> Bicycling on local roads	23% <b>I.</b> Sightseeing	
4% <b>E.</b> Bicycling on trails	12% <b>J.</b> Picnicking or barbecuing	
  
4. From activities in Question 3 above, what **ONE primary activity** did you do at Mary S. Young SRA on this trip? (**write a letter that matches your response**)
 

**Letter** for primary activity see report
  
5. Which of the following best describes the purpose of your trip? (**check ONE**)
  - 91% Primarily for recreation – this park was my main destination
  - 5% Primarily for recreation – my main destination was NOT this park
  - 2% Primarily for business, family, or other reasons – this park was a side trip
  - 2% Some other reason
  
6. About how far from your home did you travel to get to this park? (**write number of miles**) 5.81 mile(s)
  
7. Overall, how dissatisfied or satisfied were you with your **overall experience** at Mary S. Young SRA? (**check ONE**)
 

3% Very Dissatisfied	0% Dissatisfied	1% Neither	25% Satisfied	71% Very Satisfied
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8. How dissatisfied or satisfied were you with the **natural environment** at Mary S. Young SRA? (**check ONE**)
 

2% Very Dissatisfied	< 1% Dissatisfied	2% Neither	29% Satisfied	67% Very Satisfied
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9. How dissatisfied or satisfied were you with the **facilities / services** at Mary S. Young SRA? (**check ONE**)
 

2% Very Dissatisfied	2% Dissatisfied	8% Neither	44% Satisfied	44% Very Satisfied
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10. How unlikely or likely are you to return to Mary S. Young SRA in the future? (**check ONE**)
 

1% Very Unlikely	1% Unlikely	1% Neither	12% Likely	86% Very Likely
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11. How **important** is it to you that each of the following is at Mary S. Young SRA? (circle one number for **EACH**)

	Not Important		Neither		Extremely Important
Overall cleanliness of park (e.g., graffiti, lawn care).	1%	1%	2%	43%	54%
Number of toilets / bathrooms.	2	5	24	43	25
Cleanliness / conditions of toilets / bathrooms.	2	2	10	44	42
Absence of litter.	< 1	1	5	37	57
Presence of park rangers / personnel.	16	16	39	22	7
Courteousness of park rangers / personnel.	4	4	20	42	31
Number of park trails.	1	2	14	47	36
Condition / maintenance of park trails.	1	2	11	43	44
Ease of movement or access (e.g., wheelchair, elderly, baby stroller).	15	13	40	21	12
Facilities for groups to gather.	15	13	38	23	12
Variety of things to do.	7	9	32	37	16
Opportunities to escape crowds of people.	1	2	13	41	43
Personal safety.	2	3	10	34	52
Number of information / education programs or materials.	17	16	41	21	5
Quality of information / education programs or materials.	17	13	39	25	7
Information specifically about conditions or hazards in the park.	10	8	27	37	18
Signs about directions within the park.	7	5	23	41	24
Signs about directions to the park.	12	13	34	27	14
Parking for vehicles.	3	4	21	47	25

12. Now, how **dissatisfied or satisfied** were you with the following at Mary S. Young SRA? (circle a number for **EACH**)

	Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Neither	Satisfied	Very Satisfied
Overall cleanliness of park (e.g., graffiti, lawn care).	< 1%	1%	5%	47%	48%
Number of toilets / bathrooms.	1	4	18	43	35
Cleanliness / conditions of toilets / bathrooms.	1	6	24	41	29
Absence of litter.	< 1	2	11	45	42
Presence of park rangers / personnel.	1	4	42	33	21
Courteousness of park rangers / personnel.	0	1	27	34	38
Number of park trails.	0	1	8	51	40
Condition / maintenance of park trails.	0	< 1	7	45	47
Ease of movement or access (e.g., wheelchair, elderly, stroller).	1	2	41	31	26
Facilities for groups to gather.	< 1	2	39	35	24
Variety of things to do.	0	1	22	45	32
Opportunities to escape crowds of people.	< 1	1	14	45	40
Personal safety.	1	0	6	47	46
Number of information / education programs or materials.	0	2	50	31	18
Quality of information / education programs or materials.	0	2	49	30	19
Information specifically about conditions or hazards in the park.	1	3	41	34	21
Signs about directions within the park.	2	6	28	40	24
Signs about directions to the park.	1	2	39	35	23
Parking for vehicles.	1	1	14	44	41

13. To what extent do you **oppose or support** each of the following possible management actions at Mary S. Young SRA? **(circle one number for EACH)**

	Strongly Oppose	Oppose	Neither	Support	Strongly Support
Provide more opportunities for escaping crowds of people.	1%	1%	22%	41%	35%
Provide more opportunities for viewing wildlife.	1	1	24	41	34
Food for sale (restaurants, snack shops, etc.)	33	29	21	9	7
Provide more group picnic areas.	8	13	48	22	9
Provide more opportunities for hiking.	1	2	26	44	27
Provide more paved trails.	11	19	40	21	9
Provide more trash cans.	2	4	38	41	15
Provide more recycling containers.	< 1	3	31	45	21
Provide more information / education about nature, history, or archeology.	2	4	42	37	15
Provide more programs led by park rangers.	5	11	50	28	7
Provide wireless internet access within the park.	22	17	32	17	11
Provide downloadable mobile phone applications.	16	11	46	18	9
Provide more enclosed shelters.	7	12	47	24	9
Improve maintenance or upkeep of facilities / services.	2	2	39	45	13
Require all dogs be kept on leash at all times.	44	17	15	14	11
Make the park more pet friendly.	3	6	27	30	34
Provide natural buffers to block views of development outside the park.	2	4	33	38	24
Restore it to historical conditions (e.g., replace non-native with native plants)	6	7	36	31	20
Limit the number of people allowed per day.	36	31	24	7	2
Limit the number of large groups allowed (e.g., no more than 10-20 people).	16	21	32	20	10
Close this park to all recreation / tourism activities.	51	23	20	4	3
Do not change anything / keep things as they are now.	1	4	31	35	29

As agency budgets for management of this park decrease over time, we may be faced with difficult decisions related to service reductions. Before making any changes, however, we feel that it is important to know what changes would be supported or opposed by current visitors. As a result, the following questions list various hypothetical changes that managers could make in the future. Please indicate your level of opposition or support to these possible changes.

14. To what extent would you **oppose or support** each of the following possible service reductions at Mary S. Young SRA? **(circle one number for EACH)**

	Strongly Oppose	Oppose	Neither	Support	Strongly Support
Fewer hours open.	40%	41%	16%	3%	1%
Fewer ranger patrols.	12	19	50	15	5
Scaled down facilities (e.g., fewer restrooms, picnic shelters).	23	39	28	8	3
Reduced janitorial services.	27	41	26	4	2
Return the park to a natural area.	14	23	39	15	9
Reduced ground maintenance (e.g., mowing, landscaping).	19	36	30	13	3

15. To what extent did you feel crowded at Mary S. Young State Recreation Area on this trip? **(circle a number)**

44%	20%	14%	6%	6%	6%	3%	0%	3%
Not at all Crowded	Slightly Crowded	Moderately Crowded	Extremely Crowded					

16. **Including yourself**, how many people accompanied you at Mary S. Young State Recreation Area on this trip? 2.67 person(s)

17. Did you or anyone in your group bring dog(s) with you to Mary S. Young SRA? **(check ONE)** 33% No 67% Yes

18. Did anyone in your group have a disability?

92% No

8% Yes → if yes, what are these disabilities? (**check ALL THAT APPLY**) 1% Hearing 1% Sight 6% Walking  
1% Learning 1% Other see report

19. When you were thinking about visiting an Oregon State Park such as Mary S. Young State Recreation Area, about how often did you obtain information from each of the following sources when making your decision? (**circle one number for EACH**)

	Never	Sometimes	Often
A. Official internet websites (e.g., Oregon State Parks, Travel Oregon).	37%	6%	17%
B. Social media internet websites (e.g., Facebook, Twitter).	66	10	4
C. Brochures.	60	14	1
D. Newspapers.	68	13	2
E. Magazines.	69	12	1
F. Books.	66	14	3
G. Television.	76	14	< 1
H. Videos / DVDs.	80	14	< 1
I. Radio.	71	12	1
J. Community organization or church.	77	11	1
K. Health care providers.	83	11	< 1
L. Work.	71	10	1
M. Friends or family members.	28	7	20
N. Highway signs.	42	11	8
O. Previous visit.	20	3	42
P. Other (write response) <u>see report</u>	62	7	12

20. From the list of sources in question 19 above, which **ONE** would you use **FIRST** when obtaining information about an Oregon State Park? (**write letter**)

**Letter** see report

21. When planning your visit to Mary S. Young SRA, were you able to find the information you needed? (**check ONE**)

99% Yes

1% No → if no, what additional information did you need? (**write response**) see report

22. How did you get to Mary S. Young State Recreation Area on this trip? (**check ONE**)

92% My family's personal vehicle → how many total people were in the vehicle? 1.96 person(s)

3% Somebody else's personal vehicle → how many total people were in the vehicle? 1.89 person(s)

5% Other (write response) → how many total people were in the vehicle? 1.20 person(s)

23. If you had NOT been able to go to Mary S. Young State Recreation Area for this visit, what would you have done? (**check ONE**)

70% Gone somewhere else for the same activity → how far from home is the place you would go instead? 7.17 miles(s)

4% Gone somewhere else for a different activity → how far from home is the place you would go instead? 4.50 miles(s)

12% Come back another time

10% Stayed home

< 1% Gone to work at my regular job

5% Something else (none of these)

24. If you had NOT been able to go to Mary S. Young State Recreation Area for this visit, what other park(s) would you have considered going to instead? (**list park names**) see report

25. Would you recommend a Mary S. Young State Recreation Area visit to friends or family members? (check **ONE**)

99% Yes

1% No → if no, why not? (write response) see report

26. What do you feel are the most outstanding features or things to do at Mary S. Young State Recreation Area? (write response)

see report

27. Did you participate in any moderate physical activity during this trip (for example walking, bicycling, canoeing at a moderate pace)? (check **ONE**)

32% No

68% Yes → if yes, how much time did you spend in moderate physical activity for this trip? 42.67 minutes

28. Did you participate in any vigorous physical activity during this trip (for example jogging, walking, or bicycling at a vigorous pace, breaking a sweat, heart beating rapidly)? (check **ONE**)

76% No

24% Yes → if yes, how much time did you spend in vigorous physical activity for this trip? 34.48 minutes

29. Is your level of physical activity at Mary S. Young State Recreation Area more than, less than, or about the same as your level of physical activity in your day-to-day life? (check **ONE**)

39% My physical activity is MORE at Mary S. Young State Recreation Area than my daily life.

16% My physical activity is LESS at Mary S. Young State Recreation Area than in my daily life.

45% My physical activity is ABOUT THE SAME at Mary S. Young State Recreation Area as it is in my daily life.

30. To what degree did this Mary S. Young State Recreation Area visit result in the following health benefits for you? (circle one number for EACH)

	Not at all				A great deal
A. Reducing your stress.	1%	2%	12%	31%	54%
B. Improving your level of physical fitness.	3	6	29	29	33
C. Improving your physical health.	3	4	24	33	36
D. Improving your mental health.	1	2	12	37	47
E. Reducing your anxiety.	2	4	17	33	44

31. Are you: (check **ONE**) 49% Male 51% Female

32. How old are you? (write response) M = 46 years old

33. Which of the following best describes you? (check **ONE**)

94% White (Caucasian) 1% Hispanic / Latino 1% American Indian or Alaskan Native 1% Other (write response)  
 < 1% Black/African American 2% Asian 0% Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander see report

34. What language is spoken most often at your home? (check **ONE**)

99% English 0% Spanish 0% Russian 1% Other (write response) \_\_\_\_\_

35. Where do you live? (**write responses**) City / town \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_ Zipcode see report

36. Which of these broad categories best describes your **current annual household income before taxes?** (**check ONE**)

- |                          |                           |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2% Less than \$10,000    | 9% \$90,000 to \$109,999  |
| 6% \$10,000 to \$29,999  | 8% \$110,000 to \$129,999 |
| 18% \$30,000 to \$49,999 | 6% \$130,000 to \$149,999 |
| 17% \$50,000 to \$69,999 | 7% \$150,000 to \$169,999 |
| 14% \$70,000 to \$89,999 | 14% \$170,000 or more     |

Please tell us how we can improve Mary S. Young State Recreation Area:

see report

Thank you, your input is important! ***Please return this survey as soon as possible.***