

# Report for Bear Lake Regional Park - Phase 1 Master Plan (Shoreline Focus)

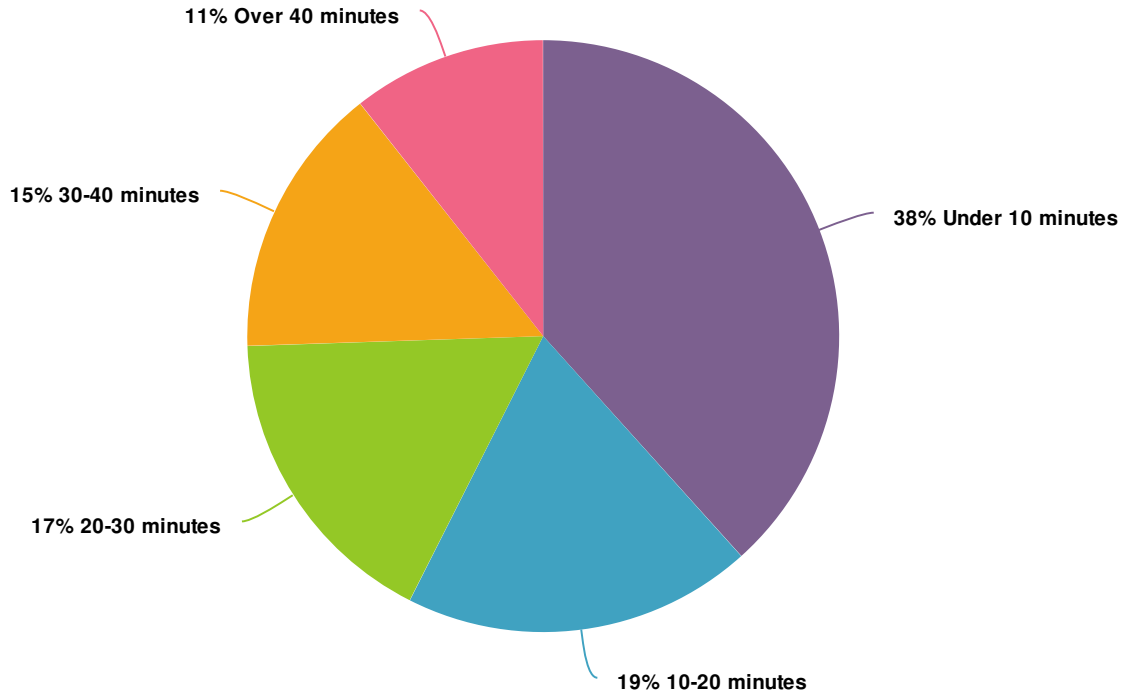
## Response Counts


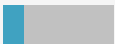





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Totals: 49

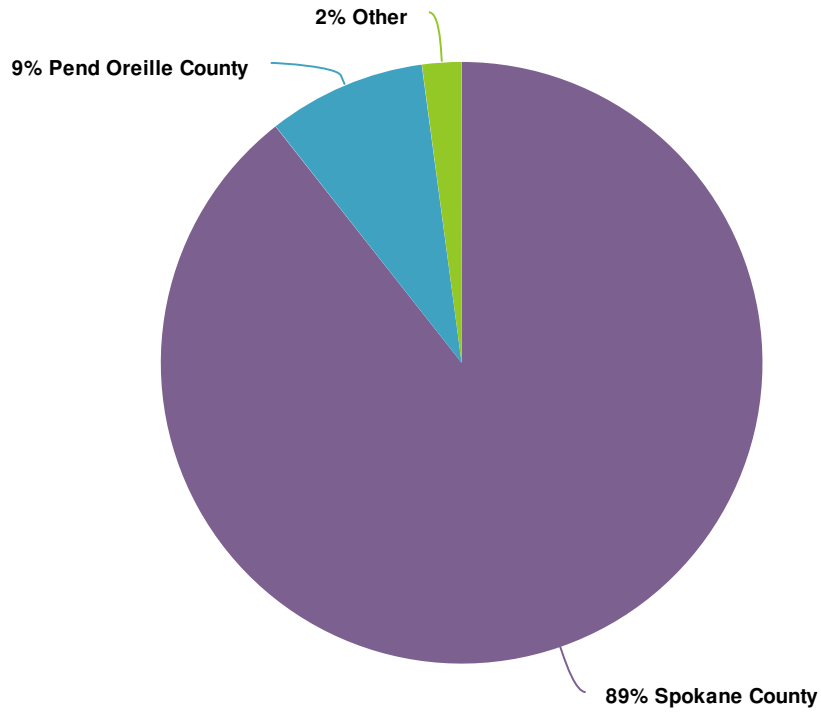
# 1. How long is your travel time to visit Bear Lake Regional Park?






Value		Percent	Responses
Under 10 minutes		38.3%	18
10-20 minutes		19.1%	9
20-30 minutes		17.0%	8
30-40 minutes		14.9%	7
Over 40 minutes		10.6%	5

Totals: 47

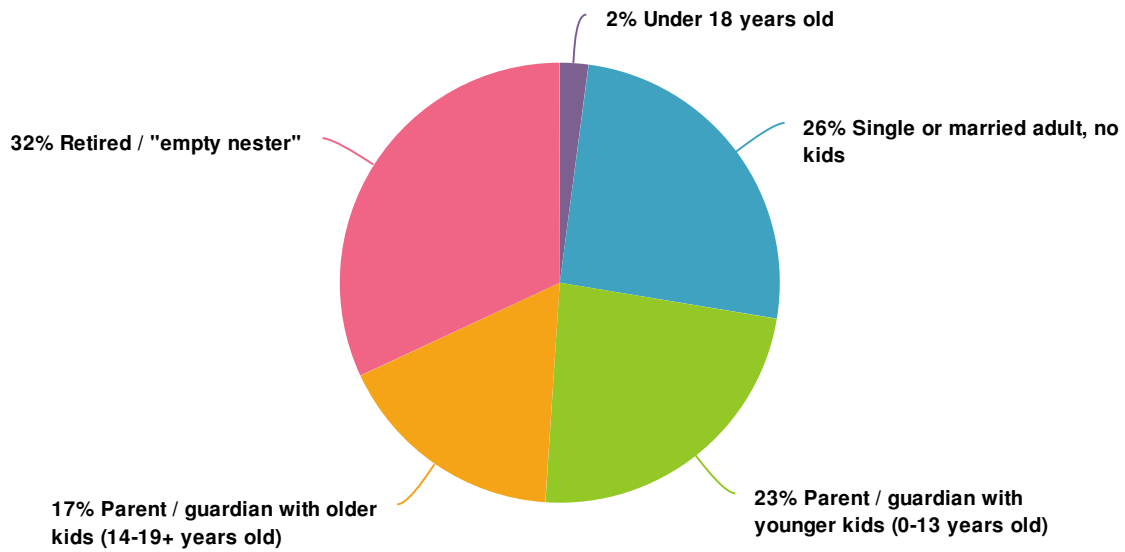
## 2. Which county do you live in?



Value		Percent	Responses
Spokane County		89.4%	42
Pend Oreille County		8.5%	4
Other		2.1%	1

Totals: 47

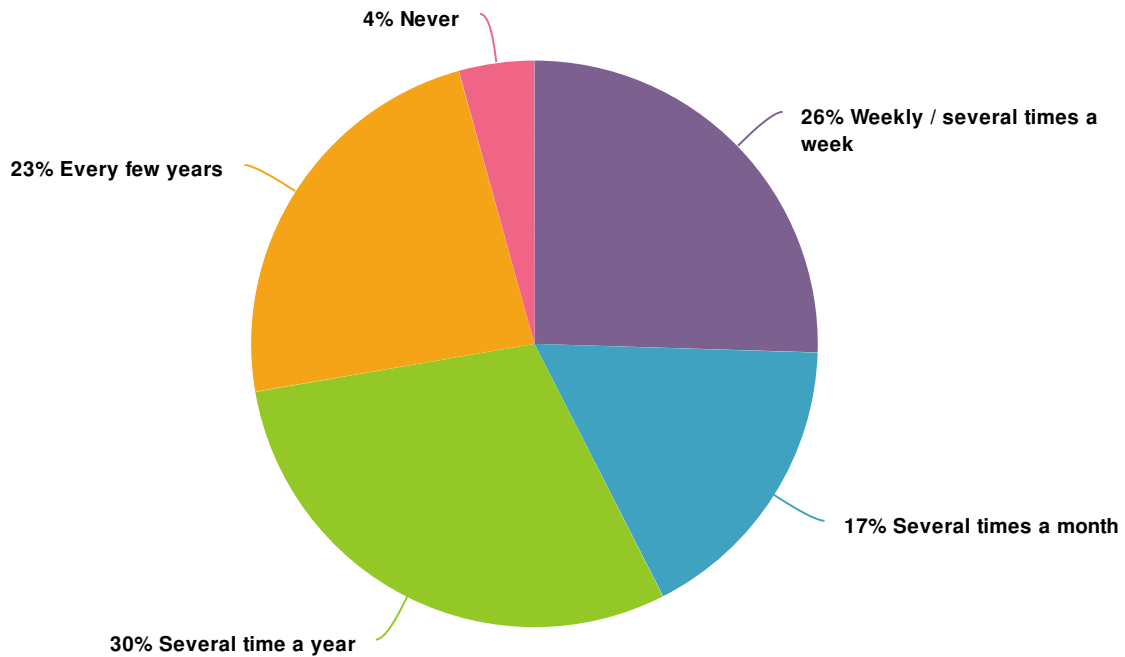
### 3. Which of the following best describes your situation?



Value	Percent	Responses
Under 18 years old	2.1%	1
Single or married adult, no kids	25.5%	12
Parent / guardian with younger kids (0-13 years old)	23.4%	11
Parent / guardian with older kids (14-19+ years old)	17.0%	8
Retired / "empty nester"	31.9%	15

Totals: 47

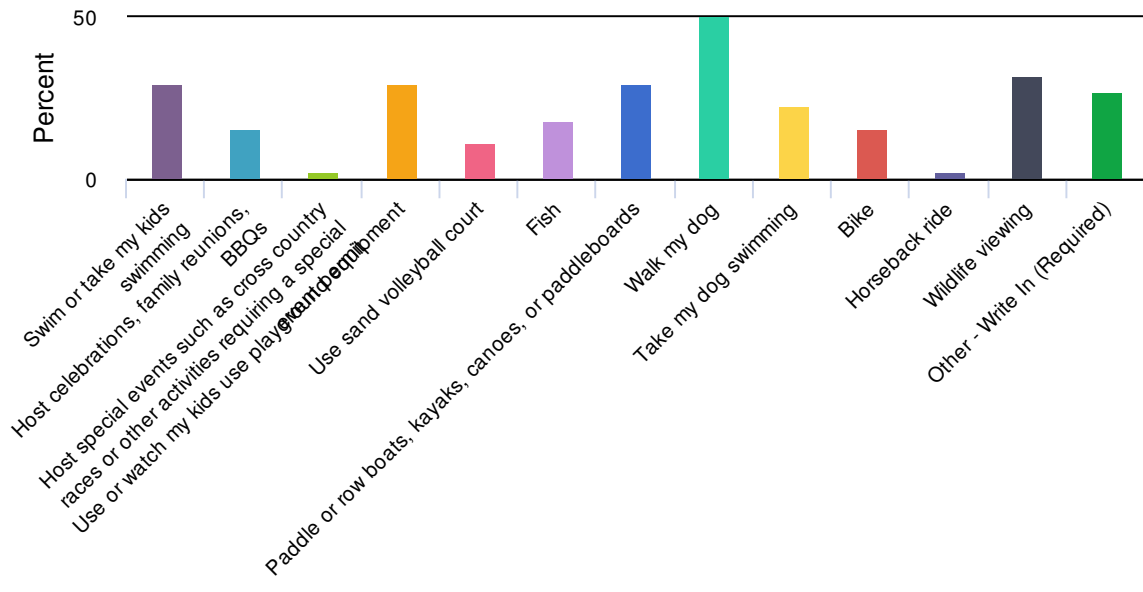
#### 4. How often do you visit Bear Lake Regional Park?
















Value	Percent	Responses
Weekly / several times a week	25.5%	12
Several times a month	17.0%	8
Several time a year	29.8%	14
Every few years	23.4%	11
Never	4.3%	2

Totals: 47

5. Which of the following activities best describe your visit(s) to Bear Lake Regional Park (Please check all that apply)? I visit Bear Lake to:

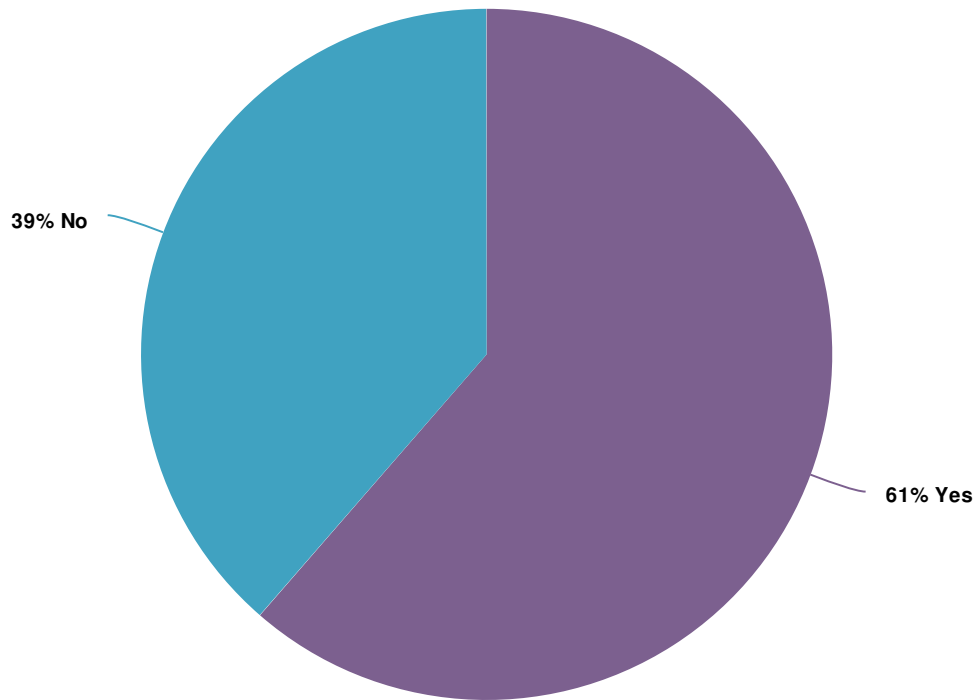




Value		Percent	Responses
Swim or take my kids swimming		29.5%	13
Host celebrations, family reunions, BBQs		15.9%	7
Host special events such as cross country races or other activities requiring a special event permit		2.3%	1
Use or watch my kids use playground equipment		29.5%	13
Use sand volleyball court		11.4%	5
Fish		18.2%	8
Paddle or row boats, kayaks, canoes, or paddleboards		29.5%	13
Walk my dog		50.0%	22
Take my dog swimming		22.7%	10
Bike		15.9%	7
Horseback ride		2.3%	1
Wildlife viewing		31.8%	14
Other - Write In (Required)		27.3%	12

Other - Write In (Required)	Count
Help disabled children, and to help maintain/repair as a volunteer	1
Hike	1
Picnic using tables by beach. Parking is difficult too far for older, disabled,	1
The only time we've tried to visit Bear Lake it was locked up or over-crowded.	1
Walk around & enjoy the area	1
Walk around the lake	1
Walk around the lake (laps) with stroller	1
Walk with my parents	1
Walking	1
Walking Hiking	1
disabled accessible walking	1
walking around the lake for exercise	1
Totals	12



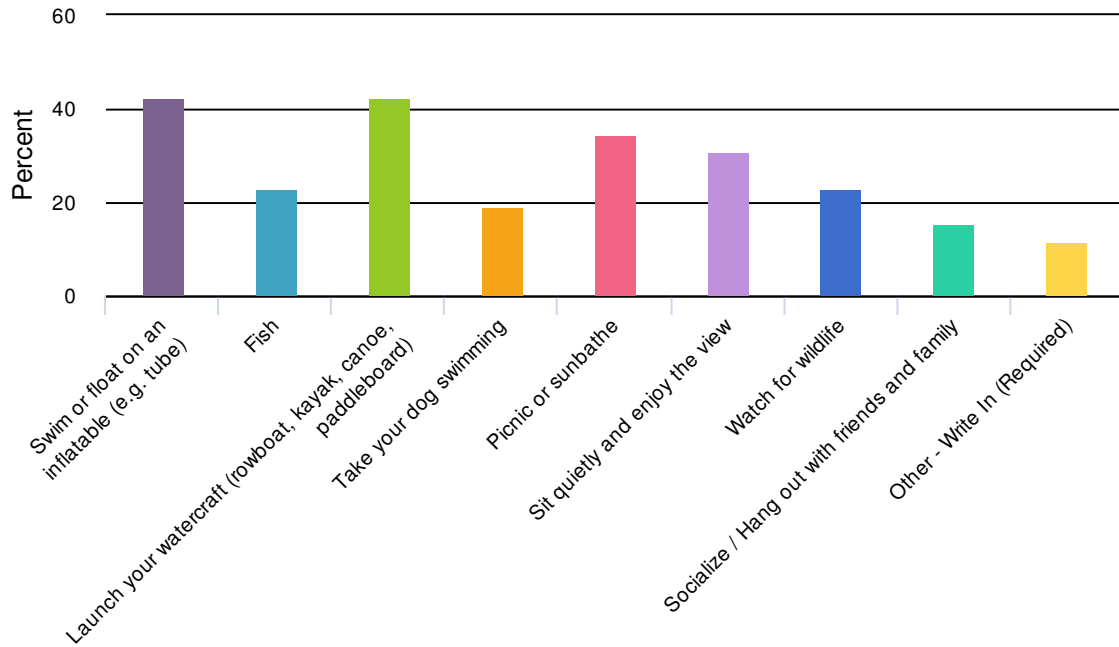
6. Is your primary reason for visiting Bear Lake Regional Park to access the water (e.g. swim (you and/or your dog(s), fish, paddle, or view lake-based wildlife)?



Value		Percent	Responses
Yes		61.4%	27
No		38.6%	17

Totals: 44

7. Please tell us how you typically use or would like to use the shoreline or lake. Please select up to three choices.



Value	Percent	Responses
Swim or float on an inflatable (e.g. tube)	42.3%	11
Fish	23.1%	6
Launch your watercraft (rowboat, kayak, canoe, paddleboard)	42.3%	11
Take your dog swimming	19.2%	5
Picnic or sunbathe	34.6%	9
Sit quietly and enjoy the view	30.8%	8
Watch for wildlife	23.1%	6
Socialize / Hang out with friends and family	15.4%	4
Other - Write In (Required)	11.5%	3

<b>Other - Write In (Required)</b>	<b>Count</b>
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exercise	1
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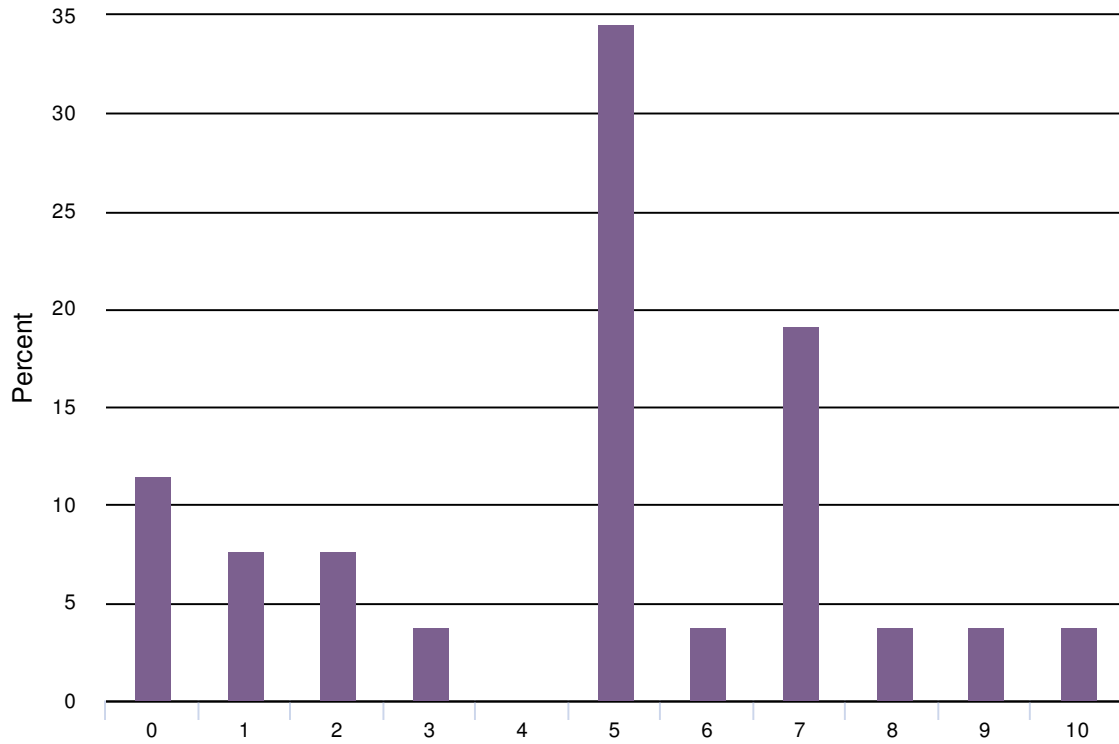
sit to rest periodically	1
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walk trails alone or with dog and kids	1
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Totals	3
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8. On a scale of 0 to 10 (0=Poor, 10=Excellent), how well do the facilities at Bear Lake meet your needs?



9. Unless your answer to the previous question was a "10," what issues or challenges could be addressed to improve your rating of Bear Lake Regional Park?



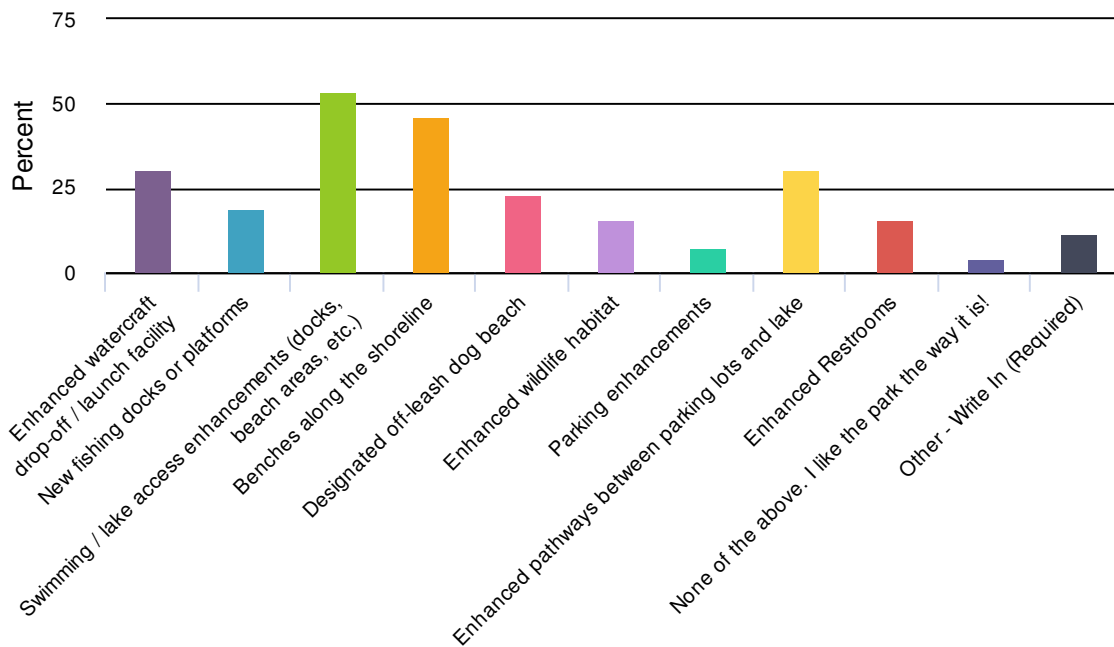
ResponseID	Response
4	I'd like to be able to drop my kayak closer to a launch point.
5	enhance the wildlife habitat areas
6	I have trouble getting in the water
8	need a bench
10	xx
21	need to improve the trail where the it is under water or ice for too many months of the year. roots lifting the trail making it difficult to walk on the uneven surface
22	Since my husband has difficulty walking my focus is on accessibility. Walking is essential to his continued mobility and Bear Lake offers an interesting, ever changing environment. The major obstacle of flooding is being addressed for which we are very grateful. The lesser obstacles, which we work around, are the tripping hazards on the pathway caused by root growth, lack of seating on the south end where I sometimes pick him up if he can't walk all the way, and during the off season not being able to drive down to the south end to pick him up.
28	Being able to walk around the lake would be nice. Areas flood during different times of the year.

## ResponseID Response

29	More benches, overlooks, or docks to observe wildlife
31	I feel there needs to be better access to the lake such as a "beachy" area or something of that nature. The drop off cliff like entrances are kind of dangerous for the smaller kiddos not to mention hard on the feet.
34	The path could be widened and maintained better- we don't swim here much because of the water quality, but it's nice place to walk. I think a better picnic area would encourage us to lengthen our walk to a walk and lunch! Also- safety- as there was a woman and her kids chased by two men last summer and since I've been afraid to visit. I think signage and possibly Some type of security would be of comfort!
37	It just feels dirty
38	Pathways and seating areas need repair and/or maintenance and improvement
40	Safety and more access to the water
41	The gabion basket retaining wall is dangerous and unattractive. Stairs into water need repair.
43	Water quality gets a bit questionable for human swimming
44	Better restroom facilities, dog beach, better paths to swim area, better grass maintenance, wider dock area for non motorized watercraft
45	Took my Grandson to kayak and swim this summer. Bear lake 10 minutes away, but beach Access to swimming was limited due to levels of shore banking and No ADA access & not pleasant area. While Swimming, picnic at Post Fall and CDA beaches was much better and parking easily accessible to beaches and amenities. Thank you for working to make our Bear Lake County park more beautiful. Lots of people use this lake.
46	Bigger gathering area
47	Better ADA access.
48	I took my grandson swimming and fishing; ADA access to trails, picnic tables and beach access from parking lot is limited; beach for swimming for flotation device access is limited and a bit unsafe with the barriers;
51	Maybe i shouldn't answer this because we've never visit. But, you've peaked my interest.
52	Would love to swim or kayak more. Worried about swimmers itch. Could there be showers there to wash off.



10. Would any of the following amenities enhance your experience at Bear Lake Regional Park? Please select up to three amenities.



Value	Percent	Responses
Enhanced watercraft drop-off / launch facility	30.8%	8
New fishing docks or platforms	19.2%	5
Swimming / lake access enhancements (docks, beach areas, etc.)	53.8%	14
Benches along the shoreline	46.2%	12
Designated off-leash dog beach	23.1%	6
Enhanced wildlife habitat	15.4%	4
Parking enhancements	7.7%	2
Enhanced pathways between parking lots and lake	30.8%	8
Enhanced Restrooms	15.4%	4
None of the above. I like the park the way it is!	3.8%	1
Other - Write In (Required)	11.5%	3



**Other - Write In (Required)****Count**

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Enhanced pathways around lake and south of lake

1

benches by the children's play area in order to keep a close watch on the younger ones.

1

picnic table where I can view beach

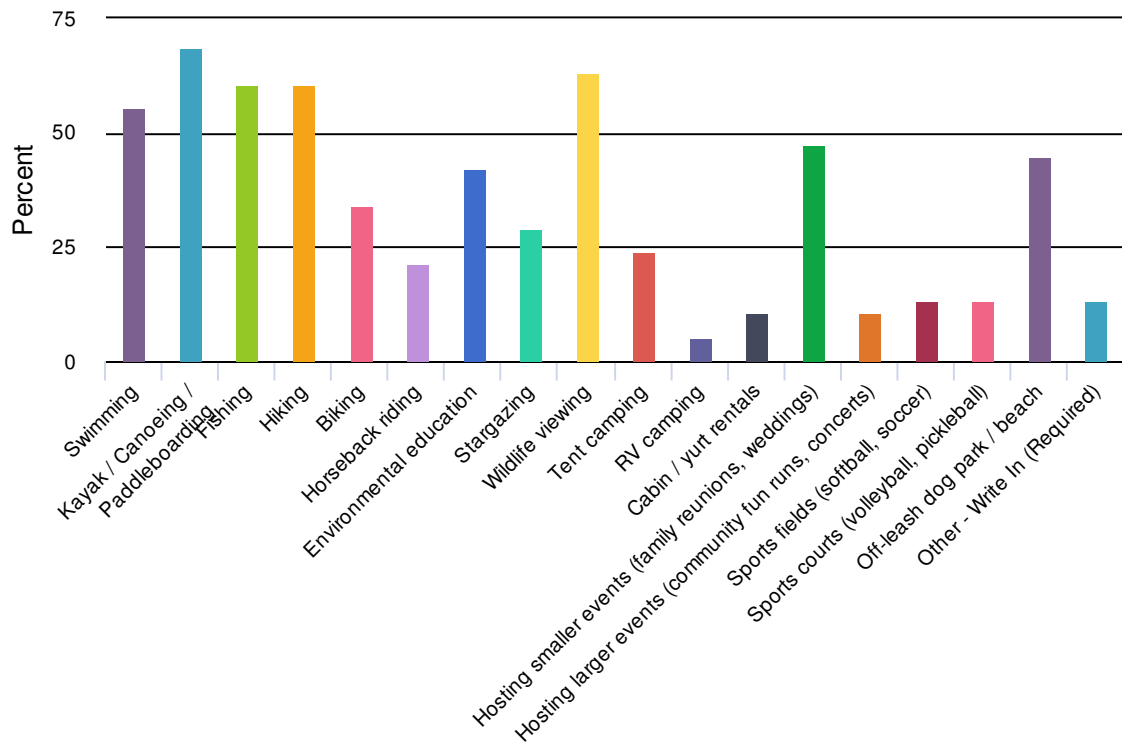
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












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Totals

3

11. Which of the following existing or potential future recreational uses do you feel are appropriate for Bear Lake Regional Park? Please check all that apply.



Value		Percent	Responses
Swimming		55.3%	21
Kayak / Canoeing / Paddleboarding		68.4%	26
Fishing		60.5%	23
Hiking		60.5%	23
Biking		34.2%	13
Horseback riding		21.1%	8
Environmental education		42.1%	16
Stargazing		28.9%	11
Wildlife viewing		63.2%	24
Tent camping		23.7%	9
RV camping		5.3%	2
Cabin / yurt rentals		10.5%	4
Hosting smaller events (family reunions, weddings)		47.4%	18
Hosting larger events (community fun runs, concerts)		10.5%	4
Sports fields (softball, soccer)		13.2%	5
Sports courts (volleyball, pickleball)		13.2%	5
Off-leash dog park / beach		44.7%	17
Other - Write In (Required)		13.2%	5

**Other - Write In (Required)****Count**

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Love the paved walking path around the lake. Flooding of the path is troublesome in the spring. 1

On-leash dog walking 1

Walking trails and dog walking trails very important 1

family picnics, children's play area 1

playground 1

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Totals 5

12. What do you like best about Bear Lake Regional Park? (Optional)



ResponseID	Response
4	the natural setting
9	x
10	x
14	The trails to let my dog explore.
18	Natural setting. Improvements and additional greenery (grass) should be limited to beach and swimming areas.
19	Accessibility
20	Easy access, great parking, volleyball court, gazebo with bbq, grassy swim area, trail around the lake and dirt trails.
21	Spokane county GEM. Needed to allow those of us that have special needs a place to safely enjoy a beautiful , quite, peaceful, place to come to and still be close to home. It is used by SO MANY people and should be a high priority on the parks list of places to maintain and improve. Both Doug and Chris , along with the commissioners are on the right tract to keep Bear Lake a wonderful asset to our community. Thanks for the bright future for our parks.
22	Accessibility and natural beauty
23	Large walking trail close to home to take the dogs for a walk or the grandkids to the playground. Grandkids learn to fish.

## ResponseID Response

24	Natural beauty and peacefulness. A wonderful place to walk your dog without traffic. Nice walking trails.
26	Ease of access, paved trails (for stroller), close to home, nature viewing. I don't do the following, but appreciate the access for fishing, canoe/kayak/paddle boarding, and swimming. I think they are very important to have quick access locally.
27	Close to home and beautiful location
28	It is the closest lake and playground near our home. It's nice place to have a picnic.
29	The lily pads and hiking trails
30	Location
31	I like the proximity and the long trails around the lake to walk or bike on
33	Close to town, easy access. Plentiful parking, clean facility, no motor boats on lake.
34	Location!
36	Quiet. Close by. Easy to walk.
38	Beautiful environment for my parents to get exercise walking
39	Off leash of dog
40	The walking path
41	It is close to town and free. It also warms up early season quicker than other area lakes.
44	Very close to my house. Walking distance.
46	No wake lake
48	Less than 10 minutes from my house; lots of people all ages use this park year round for swimming, fishing, walking; it is safe place to go
52	Peaceful Charming Surprise nestled in the woods and close to home.

13. If you'd like to share a favorite story or experience about Bear Lake, we'd love to hear it! Personal stories help us better understand what Bear Lake Regional Park means to you! (Optional)



## ResponseID Response

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9 x

10 x

20 Love the memories and experiences there with Riverside Cross Country including home meets and the overnight fundraiser!

21 On one of our weekly walks, we watched a young mother get her very young child, dog, and wheel chair out of her car in order to take a walk, only to find the trail impassable for her. She reloaded the car and had to drive around the lake, unload again by herself, in order to enjoy a walk with her child. What an effort and determination she had! This broke our hearts to see this happen. She deserved better from us all.

22 Our whole family walked around Bear Lake on Mother's Day . There were different things that captured the interest of the youngest, 11 years old, to the oldest, 77 years old that we could all share together. It was a memory to cherish.

26 I grew up swimming at Bear Lake in the 1980s and it was amazing, clean bathrooms, changing rooms, clean swimming area and clean lawn. It felt so safe and well taken care of. I would love to be able to feel safe bringing my kids there again and not having to use a port-a-potty.

35 I used to live near Bear Lake. It was a nice quiet place to take my dog for a walk. I enjoyed the path around the lake and the quiet.

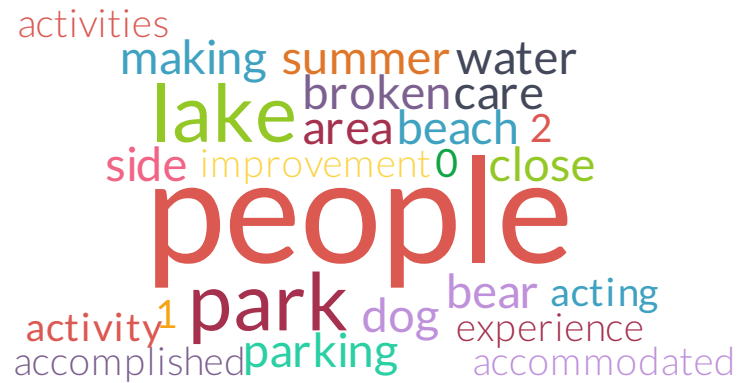
36 I remember doing the Bear lake Jonathon when I was a kid. I take kids there to walk or play sometimes. I have taken my dog there since she was a puppy. If I couldn't take my dog there I would have lost my mind when she was little.

40 It's where I learned to swim and spent my summers enjoying the water.

48 August hot this year & quick trip to take my 10 year old grand son swamming and used the float raft; lots of families were there enjoying picnic, swimming, paddle boats; the trail was cool, but too hot for turtles. 2 boys were whooping cause they kept catching bass off the bank at Noon! Very nice place if a few simple improvements. Thank you.



14. What did we miss? Is there anything else you would like us to consider as we work to design enhancements at Bear Lake Regional Park?



ResponseID	Response
8	xyz
9	x
10	x
14	The true need is for an off leash dog park on the north side of the county. This area touts to be an outdoor area but we still require our dogs to be leashed.
17	Trail improvement and expansion.
18	See #8 Also work on better beach areas and water quality.
20	Would love to see the bathrooms opened up for the summer and the sprinkler systems turned on so the beautiful landscaping and grass remains green all summer long.
21	Please take time to enjoy a walk around this gem. You will then, and only then, be able to appreciate just how important it is to all who are able to come here. Sit and watch the many different people enjoy their time here. From the youngest to the oldest ! It deserves our very best care from us.

## ResponseID Response

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22 We appreciate your consideration of our special needs. It would be exciting to think that other families who have members with special needs could be accommodated equally. Although not every need can be met, each improvement makes a difference. Thank you for working toward making Bear Lake an even more wonderful experience.

24 Bear lake is used by many dog walkers. Having several dog stands with dog waste bags and disposal much like Kendall Yards would encourage people to dispose of dog waste. Depending on the costs I suspect you could get individuals to sponsor a dog disposal stand in memory of a favorite pet or loved one. Until that is accomplished I think there should be more waste barrels around the park especially when the gates are closed. Once the gates are closed there are no garbage barrels beyond the gates. Also the east side gets the most use. Making the restrooms function would be beneficial even if it means redoing the septic system. Grading the entry way and the parking area near the entrance would be an improvement. Thanks for seeking public input and improving one of our counties hidden gems.

26 My main complaint is about safety. There are often people up to no good and cars are constantly getting broken into. I would happily pay a fee to feel more safe and secure. I miss the park that was so very well taken care of and had activities at it often (softball, fishing derbies, etc). This kind of activity also cuts down on riff-raff.

28 Enhanced playground would be great!

40 Nothing

44 Security of some sort. I have seen at least a dozen stories of people having their car broken in to and valuables stolen. I have also had someone very close to me go hiking around the lake and had a very sketchy experience with two hooded men acting suspicious.

48 I took my grandson to 4 beaches in August; CDA and Post Falls were 1 hour away, but the beaches and parking close and very nice. Lots of tables and people very happy to be by the water on such a hot summer. We rented a canoe in CDA beach and that was nice for us even in the windy day.