

Horan Natural Area 2019 Survey Results - Executive Summary



Introduction

In fall 2019, Chelan Public Utility District (PUD) held two public workshops to better understand how the Horan Natural Area (HNA) is currently utilized and discover what improvements or suggestions the public is interested in seeing in the area. This effort was undertaken because there are several upcoming projects that may affect the HNA, and local groups have expressed an interest in enhancing the area. The two avenues available to provide input were comment cards at the public workshops and an online survey.

A total of 198 responses, including the comment cards the public submitted during the workshops. The survey allowed the public to express what they value about the area, what would enhance their experience and how often they visit the area.

Survey Results

The survey highlighted that the public primarily values the HNA for the wildlife, natural beauty, tribal and local history, and quiet that the area provides, in addition to its proximity to town and ample recreation opportunities. The survey also revealed that approximately 24% of the responders use the area 2 – 5+ times weekly.

The feedback received on enhancement ideas generally fell into four categories: water resources, wildlife/habitat, recreation and education/cultural. The most frequent feedback fell into the recreation category with 40% of responses (Figure 1). The other responses were split relatively evenly between the other categories.

There were a significant number of responses indicating a desire to see water restored to the ponds and the creation of a management plan to see them maintained. Other ideas that were identified by a significant number of responders included creating a wildlife and habitat management plan, updated education signage in the area and installing more benches in the area. The survey also highlighted that there are conflicting ideas for the area. Some responses indicated that they appreciated the lack of bikes in the area, while others indicated that they would like to be able to bike in the area.

Conclusion

The workshops provided an insight into how the HNA is currently being utilized by the public and the primary drivers for why they visit the area. The responses to the survey highlighted that the public is highly invested in the area and are interested in efforts that will be undertaken to maintain and enhance the area in the future. Additionally, a significant number of responses indicated that they would like to stay updated on any results or communications resulting from the workshops. As future plans are made that will affect the HNA or enhancement ideas are considered by the PUD, the information from the survey may serve as a gauge of the interests of the public and their investment in the area.

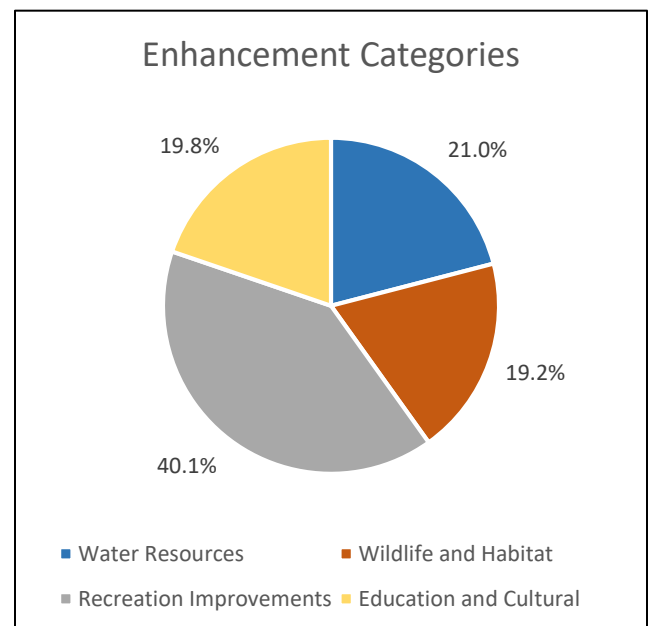


Figure 1. Public input on enhancements in the HNA generally fell into four categories, with recreation improvements being the most frequent.

Horan Natural Area 2019 Survey Results



Topic	Enhancement Ideas	Management Goals			Community Planning Documents				
		Promote Ecological Function of the Natural Area	Allow for educational and cultural interpretation	Provide Recreational Access	NCWAS	Our Valley, Our Future	Wenatchee Foothills	Wenatchee Watershed	Stemilt - Squilchuck
Water resources	1. Create a management plan to open surface water sources and maintain them.	✓			✓				
	2. Provide more open water habitat by excavating existing marsh pond.	✓			✓				
Wildlife and Habitat	3. Wildlife and habitat management plan.	✓							
	4. Manage noxious weeds and invasive species.	✓			✓				
	5. Vegetation management plan for weeds, culturally significant plants, and native plant restoration.	✓							
	6. Create a side channel off the Wenatchee River for fish habitat.	✓							
Recreation	7. Install more benches and manage vegetation for better views and enjoying the view.			✓					
	8. Prevent development of Confluence Parkway and other infrastructure near the HNA.								
	9. Enforce a stricter on-leash policy for dogs.			✓					
	10. Acquire adjacent properties to protect the area.			✓	✓				
	11. More regular upkeep of the facilities and addition of a drinking fountain.			✓					
	12. Reduced traffic noise in the area			✓	✓				
	13. Restrict motorboats up the Wenatchee River			✓					
	14. Include the Horan Natural Area in the collective trail system			✓		✓			
	15. Preserve foot traffic only hiking trails	✓		✓					
	16. Allow bikes in the HNA			✓					
	17. Maintain/harden trails into the South Confluence Area to allow easier ADA access			✓					
	18. Encourage recreation that promotes sustainable use of sensitive areas	✓		✓					

Key: Number of Survey Responses

>10	5 – 10	<5
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Educational Information	19. Update informational signage to increase knowledge about the water and other natural resources in the area.		✓						
	20. Tribal and historical information and education materials.		✓		✓	✓			
	21. Establish an environmental, tribal, and historical education center.		✓		✓				
	22. Bilingual interpretive signs.		✓			✓			
	23. Tribal knowledge preservation and sharing (storytelling, language, medicinal plants, way of life for tribes in the area).		✓						
	24. Environmental education on the intrinsic value of the nature area		✓		✓				

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