

Ridges to Rivers Open Space Survey

The Ridges to Rivers Open Space Network Steering Committee is a partnership of organizations and governmental agencies promoting a coordinated regional open space network that will complement residential and commercial development in the Mid-Columbia Region (which includes Benton and Franklin Counties and their incorporated cities). The partnership believes that a viable open space network would enhance our ability to attract and retain people and businesses that sustain our economy, provide access and connections for recreation, education, and health, and preserve our natural and aesthetic values. Open Space includes those areas of land or water (improved or unimproved, public or privately owned) generally free of manmade structures that offer people a higher level of solitude than is found in developed areas. Open space areas are typically devoted to (1) preservation of natural resources, (2) the managed production of resources, (3) outdoor recreation, or (4) public health and safety.

The long-term community health of the Mid-Columbia will be influenced by how well its communities integrate preservation of their natural resources with economic and population growth demands. As the area continues to grow, conservation of open spaces will depend more heavily on coordination and cooperation among public land management agencies and private landowners. We would like to know more about your ideas for open space priorities within the Mid-Columbia region. Your response is important to us. Please complete and return this survey to Ridges to Rivers Open Space Survey, c/o Tapteal Greenway Association, PO Box 3007, Richland, WA. 99354 ASAP. Thank you.

1. How many years have you lived in the Mid-Columbia Region? _____ years

2. What community do you live in or closest to? _____

3. What do you like most about living in the Mid-Columbia? _____

4. What kinds of open space areas do you enjoy and/or use (check all that apply)?

	Use	Enjoy view from	Enjoy looking at
a) Natural Areas (e.g., Chamna Preserve, Badger Mountain)	_____	_____	_____
b) Developed Parks and Playgrounds	_____	_____	_____
c) Rivers and Shorelines	_____	_____	_____
d) Ridges	_____	_____	_____
e) Agricultural Areas (e.g., vineyards, pastures)	_____	_____	_____
f) Others (please specify) _____	_____	_____	_____

5. What are your primary forms of recreation or interest in open space areas (please weight each on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being very important and/or used often and 5 being not important and/or not used)?

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| ___ a. Walking/ Hiking | ___ g. Wildlife viewing/Bird watching |
| ___ b. Dog walking | ___ h. Native plants/Ecology |
| ___ c. Running/Jogging | ___ i. Geology/Rock hounding |
| ___ d. Bicycling | ___ j. Hunting/Fishing |
| ___ e. Picnicking | ___ k. Kayaking/Canoeing/Rowing/Rafting |
| ___ f. Horseback riding | ___ l. Swimming |

- m. Motor Boating/Water skiing
- n. Hangliding/Paragliding
- o. Kite flying
- p. Model airplanes/Gliders/Rocketry
- q. Organized outdoor sports (golf, softball, etc.)
- r. Playgrounds
- s. Touring/sampling vineyards, orchards, farmer's markets, etc.
- t. Other (please specify) _____

6. In what ways do you view open space as an economic resource?

- a. Attract individuals to live in our communities
- b. Help businesses attract employees to our communities
- c. Enhance tourism (eco-tourism, outdoor recreation), create jobs
- d. Enhance property values of nearby property
- e. Farm production
- f. Ecological value, e.g., groundwater replenishment) (i.e., through soils rather than runoff from developed areas)
- g. Low cost of maintenance of natural open space relative to cost of municipal services for developments
- h. Hunting and fishing licenses
- i. Purchase of equipment for open space uses (e.g., binoculars, cameras, bikes, skis)
- j. No economic value
- k. Other (please specify) _____

7. How important is it for our community to set aside land for conservation and open space?

Very important ___ Somewhat important ___ Neutral ___ Less important ___ Not important ___

8. Please indicate your level of support for each of the following actions the local governments and private entities could take by checking only one column for each statement.

	Agree	Somewhat Agree	Disagree	Don't Know
Take an active role in preserving scenic vistas.				
Take an active role in preserving wildlife habitat and wildlife corridors				
Strive to connect existing large natural open-space parcels				
Take an active role in preserving the natural appearance of the shorelines				
Strive to preserve smaller lots and community green spaces in designated areas				
Take an active role in preserving wetlands, streams and ponds				
Identify existing trails and protect them for future use				
Strive to protect the existing large undeveloped ridges, natural vegetation and habitat				
Promote conservation easements, transfer of development rights, that can help willing private landowners conserve open space				
There is enough conserved open space in the Mid-Columbia				

9. Please compare and rate the following open space actions for the Mid-Columbia region by allocating 10 points among them. Place your points in as few categories as you wish, or spread them around, but please be sure the points add up to 10 total.
- ___ a. Expand trails for walking, biking, and linking to recreation/open space
 - ___ b. Preserve important wildlife habitats, native plants (sagebrush, bunch grasses), and wetlands
 - ___ c. Preserve scenic views and scenic areas
 - ___ d. Develop neighborhood parks and playgrounds
 - ___ e. Develop additional sports/athletic fields
 - ___ f. Develop or improve trail and water access (for hikers, boaters, etc.)
 - ___ g. Do nothing

10. Which of the following Open Space areas do you use (and how often), or are you aware of and enjoy having?

	Use (times/year)	Aware of (A)/Enjoy (E)
a. Amon Basin	_____	_____
b. Badger Mountain Preserve	_____	_____
c. Chiawana Park	_____	_____
d. Columbia Plateau Trail State Park	_____	_____
e. Columbia Point South (south of the I-182 bridge)	_____	_____
f. Golf Courses	_____	_____
g. Hanford Reach National Monument	_____	_____
h. Juniper Dunes	_____	_____
i. Lawless Park	_____	_____
j. Leslie Groves North Natural Area (north of Snyder)	_____	_____
k. McMurray Park	_____	_____
l. Sacagawea Heritage Trail	_____	_____
m. Sacajawea State Park	_____	_____
n. Taptal Greenway (Bateman Island, Chamna, WE Johnson, Taptal Bend, Horn Rapids Park)	_____	_____
o. Washington State Fish & Wildlife Areas	_____	_____
p. Zintel Canyon	_____	_____
q. Other developed City Parks and Playgrounds	_____	_____
r. Others (please specify) _____	_____	_____

11. Which of these undeveloped areas would you use (and how often) or are you aware of and would enjoy if they were preserved/managed as Open Space? (Note that many of these may include private lands that would require a willing seller or a willing donor of property).

	Use (times/year)	Aware of/Enjoy
a. Candy Mountain	_____	_____
b. Horse Heaven Hills	_____	_____
c. Hover Peak (Finley Hills)	_____	_____
d. JackRabbit Ridge ___	_____	_____
e. Little Badger Mountain	_____	_____
f. McBee grade/Chandler Butte	_____	_____
g. Red Mountain	_____	_____
h. Yakima Bluffs	_____	_____

12. What additional open space areas would you be most interested in seeing preserved, promoted, and enjoyed (please be specific)? These areas could be publicly or privately owned if the private landowner were interested in selling, or they might be areas you would like to see stay just the way they are--like vineyards and ranchlands, or scenic views.

13. Shall efforts be made to interconnect isolated parcels of open space through a trail network?
Yes ___ No ___ Don't know ___

14. What actions by our communities do you favor to conserve open space in the Mid-Columbia area? (check all that apply)

- a. Promote donation of conservation easements by private landowners
- b. Zone for open space conservation (for public lands or with agreement of private landowner)
- c. Reduce property tax on conserved lands to encourage conservation
- d. Promote transfer of development rights (property owners leave their land as open space in exchange for being able to build at higher density in other areas)
- e. Institute conservation futures (up to \$6.25/\$100,000 County property tax)
- f. Increase city or county property taxes or sales tax to purchase private land from a willing seller
- g. Bonds (voter-approved funding)
- h. Fees paid by people who use open space
- i. Other _____

15. Would you like to be put on our contact list for further information? If so, please specify your email address. _____

16. Please feel free to write any comments on open space issues not covered in the survey.
