

THE HEART OF OUR VALLEY

A Summary of Public Feedback on the Ada County Open Space Task Force Report



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Background

In March 2007, the Ada County Commissioners created the Ada County Open Space Task Force (Task Force). This group of elected officials, non-profits, business representatives, and community leaders was charged with:

- Creating conservation priorities in northwest, northeast, southwest, and southeast Ada County;
- Identifying general priorities for public open space acquisition;
- Providing detailed recommendations for funding or incentives to create and maintain the public open space priorities; and
- Evaluating existing public lands and, if considered desirable and feasible, make recommendations for exchange or consolidation of these public lands.

The first policy recommendation of the Task Force was to conduct a public process. The Task Force recommended, "...the County should (and the cities are encouraged to) participate in the effort being put together by Idaho Smart Growth and Land Trust for the Treasure Valley to involve the public in gaining support for the strategies in this report."

To implement this recommendation, Idaho Smart Growth, The Land Trust of the Treasure Valley, and Idaho Conservation League began a collaborative public outreach effort entitled "The Heart of Our Valley".

The Task Force completed its report and presented it to the County Commissioners on April 22, 2008.

Summary of General Findings

This report provides the feedback received during a public outreach effort associated with the Ada County Open Space Task Force report and recommendations. During a series of public meetings, and through an online survey tool, Ada County residents responded to specific places and funding mechanisms that they prefer.

Examples include:

- Ada County residents consistently identified the **Boise River** and the **foothills** as areas of high importance that should be prioritized for open space preservation.
- The concept of a county-wide **open space advisory committee was strongly supported**, though people felt it should include representation from the cities, the conservation community and be very transparent in its efforts.
- Residents were generally supportive of a **temporary serial levy** to raise money for open space preservation in the County, though support seemed higher in Boise and Eagle than other communities.

- Residents were also supportive of the use of **impact fees** for open space preservation.
- People tend to be more supportive of open space initiatives if they **had more information about what the money would be used for.**
- People tended to be more **supportive of open space efforts close to their homes**, though most people rated the Boise River as important no matter where they live.
- There is **strong support for use of the “Payment In Lieu of Taxes” (PILT) payments** for open space throughout the county.
- There was nearly **unanimous support for consistent rules** that will adequately protect the Boise River and its natural values.

Through this outreach effort, we hope to provide the Ada County Commissioners and other local decision makers with a snapshot of public feedback regarding open space preservation and the promotion of an interconnected system of trails and open space in the County. We also hope this will be one of the many outreach efforts that will occur to promote such a vision in one of Idaho’s growing communities.

Important Note:

This report is a general reflection of attitudes from those choosing to take the online survey or attend one of the workshops. It is not intended to serve as a statistically valid survey or opinion poll.

Public Participation

The public outreach process included two parts. The Land Trust of the Treasure Valley, Idaho Conservation League, and Idaho Smart Growth held a series of community meetings with a questionnaire as the primary method of feedback. They also created an online survey and advertised it at the community meetings, through email lists, and through more than 3000 postcards throughout the county.

Online Survey:

The organizations offered a brief online survey as a way for individuals to get involved in the discussion. Survey questions were condensed versions of those that were discussed during the community meetings.

Over 240 people completed the online survey. (*Appendix A*)

Community Meetings:

This effort focused on engaging local communities in the countywide discussion and making sure the recommendations of the Task Force were both realistic and representative of the views of Ada County citizens. Five meetings were held between September 2008 and January 2009 in Eagle, Boise, Kuna, Garden City, and Meridian.

At each public meeting, facilitators briefly summarized the work of the Task Force and asked participants for feedback on the recommendations. Participants broke into small working groups to discuss the various mechanisms for open space protection, rate their favorites, and identify special locations within the county.

Over 100 people attended the community meetings and 60 completed an associated questionnaire. (*Appendix B*)

Written comments:

Comments were also received from and are included here, both from the online survey (*Appendix C*) and the community workshops (*Appendix D*).

Findings and Analysis

Participants of the online survey and public workshops were asked to provide feedback on the places and recreational opportunities they value, followed by more specific discussion of tools. For more detailed information, including specific levels of support for certain recommendations of the task force, please refer to Appendix A and B.

Priority Areas

The iconic landscapes of Ada County – the Boise River and the foothills- continue to be highly valued by the community. It is clear that citizens, regardless of where they live in Ada County, cherish these places. The Snake River Canyon area and the Birds of Prey National Conservation Area were also identified as being important, though many people rank these areas lower in priority. The citizens of Kuna placed a relatively higher priority on Snake River Canyon and Birds of Prey National Conservation Area, which embraces a key finding - people generally like open spaces that are close to where they live. The diverse system of waterways in the south county area was consistently ranked as a low priority area for most respondents. Many residents are unaware of the reservoirs, much less the waterways found in southern Ada County.

Places of Importance

A high percentage of participants value the Boise River, regardless of the city they live in. County-wide trails and working farms and ranches are also highly valued. In addition, motorized recreation areas did not get a lot of support from anyone within the county. Kuna residents were relatively less interested in open space values for wildlife than the other communities. Instead, they tended to be more interested in interconnected trails. Bodies of water like Hubbard and Blacks Creek Reservoirs had support, though support was slightly less in Boise.

Incorporation of Public Lands

There is generally strong support for public lands and the recommendations in the task force report. A relatively high number of citizens supported land exchanges, acquisition of public land through the Recreation and Public Purposes Act and cooperative management agreements as long as these actions are used to increase public conservation values.

Creating an Open Space Advisory Committee

This recommendation received overwhelming support in all jurisdictions. Respondents were clearly interested in a committee, which would evaluate open space opportunities within the County. However, participants had many questions about things including structure, what a committee would be tasked with, whether the work would be transparent and include the public.

Voluntary and Incentive Options

There was strong support and interest throughout the county for the use of real estate transfer fees as well as creating a funding source to purchase development rights.

Funding Options

- *Open Space Fund.* Respondents showed support for creating a fund to conserve natural areas. The specifics of this fund created much discussion. Folks consistently suggested drawing from the “payment in lieu of taxes” (PILT) funds which indicates support for the County’s decision to apply PILT funds to open space initiatives.
- *Temporary levy.* There was, generally, strong support for a temporary increase in property tax in most jurisdictions. In fact, the success of the foothills levy was discussed a number of times. Most respondents, if supportive, chose the highest amount, \$60/ year for two years.
- *Impact fees.* Impact fees administered for open space and trails was nearly unanimously supported. People often stated that they want growth to pay for itself.
- *Tipping fee.* The idea of creating a landfill tipping fee was marginally supported. All communities were concerned that a tipping fee could result in increased ad hoc dumping.

Policy / Regulatory Guidelines

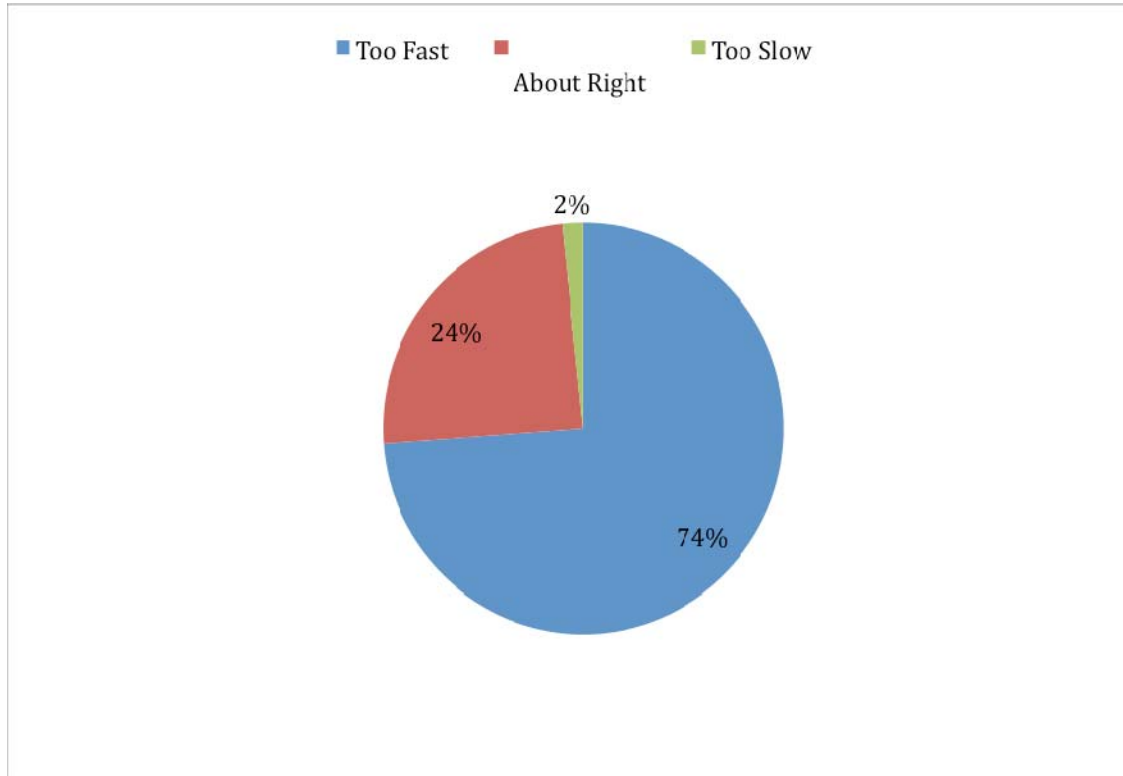
There is very strong support for consistent policies across jurisdiction for highly sensitive places such as the Boise River and the foothills.

Of all the policy tools suggested, one was nearly unanimous in support- citizens want rules in place that adequately protect the Boise River corridor, public access and natural areas. We were not able to clarify what folks mean by ‘adequate protection’ but it is clear that the community values the Boise River and wants policy and rules to assure its protection.

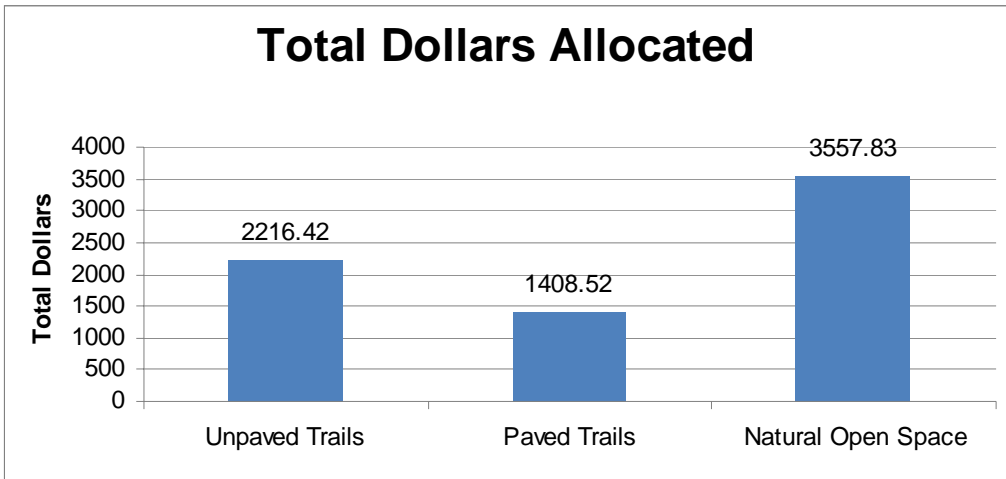
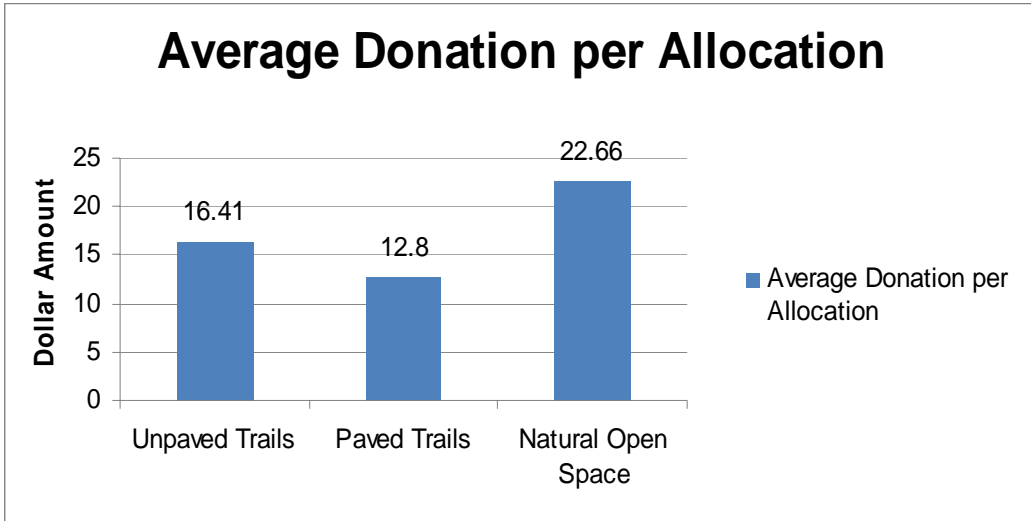
Appendix A

Data from the Online Survey

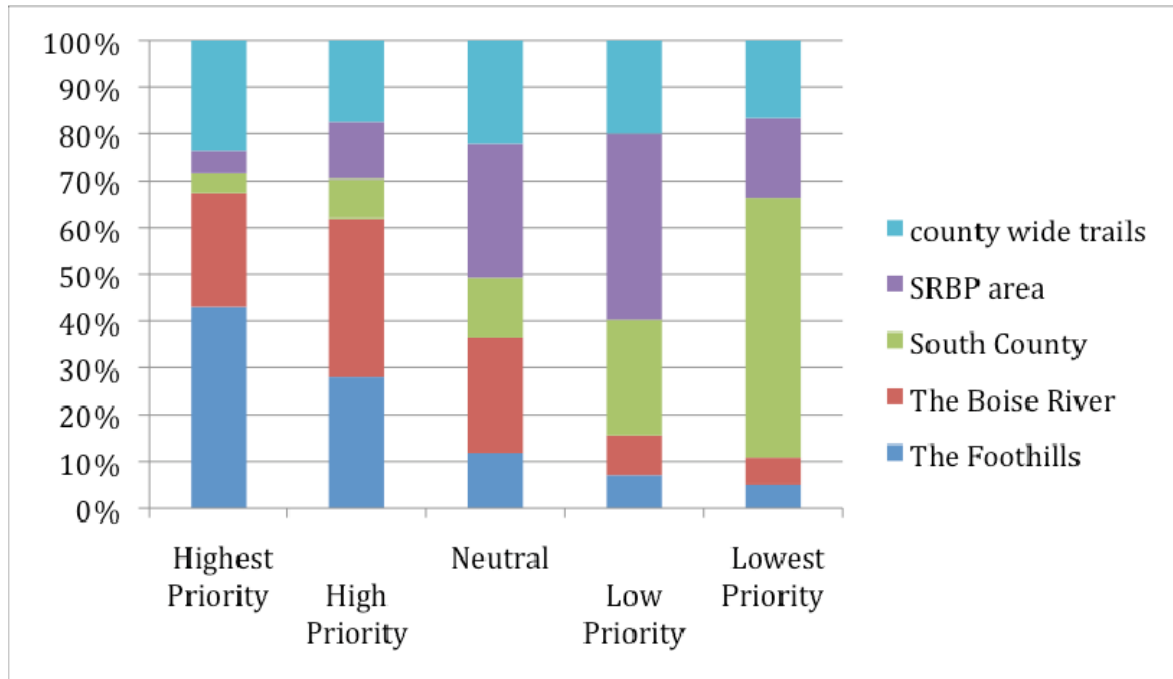
How do you feel about the rate of growth and development in Ada County?



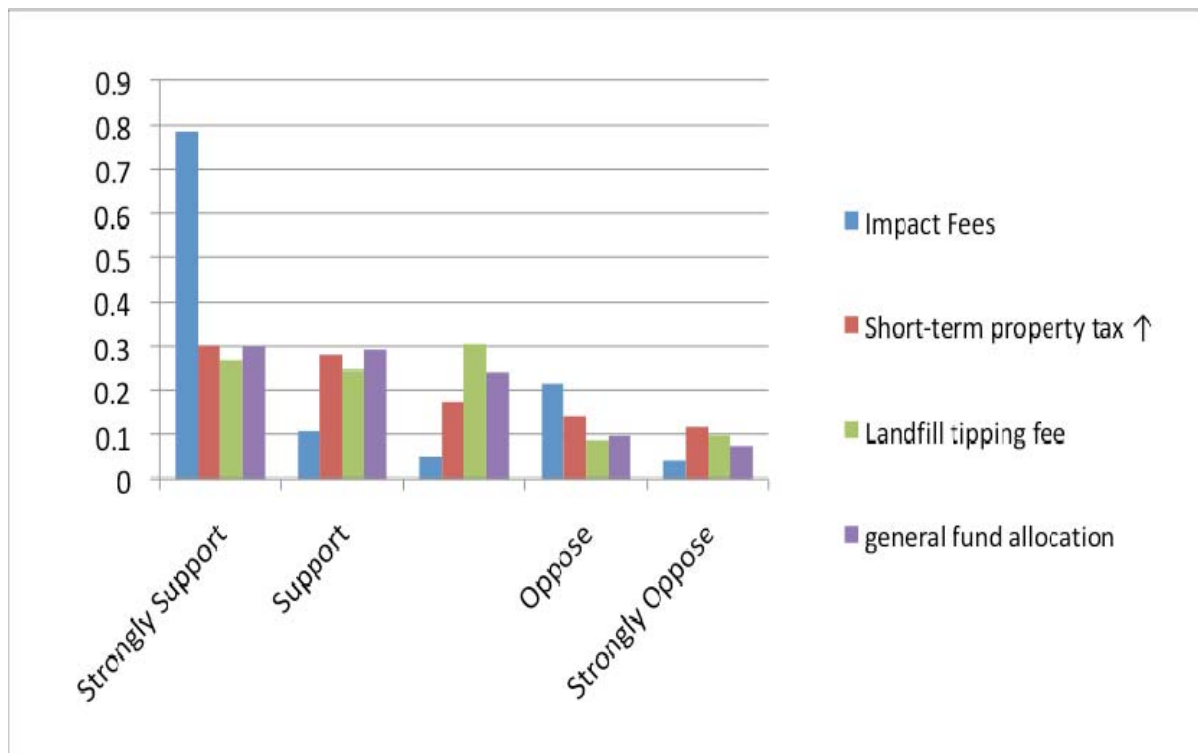
If given \$50 for open space, trails, and recreational paths, how would you allocate those funds?



Please rank the following areas in Ada County in order of priority for protection as open space to you:



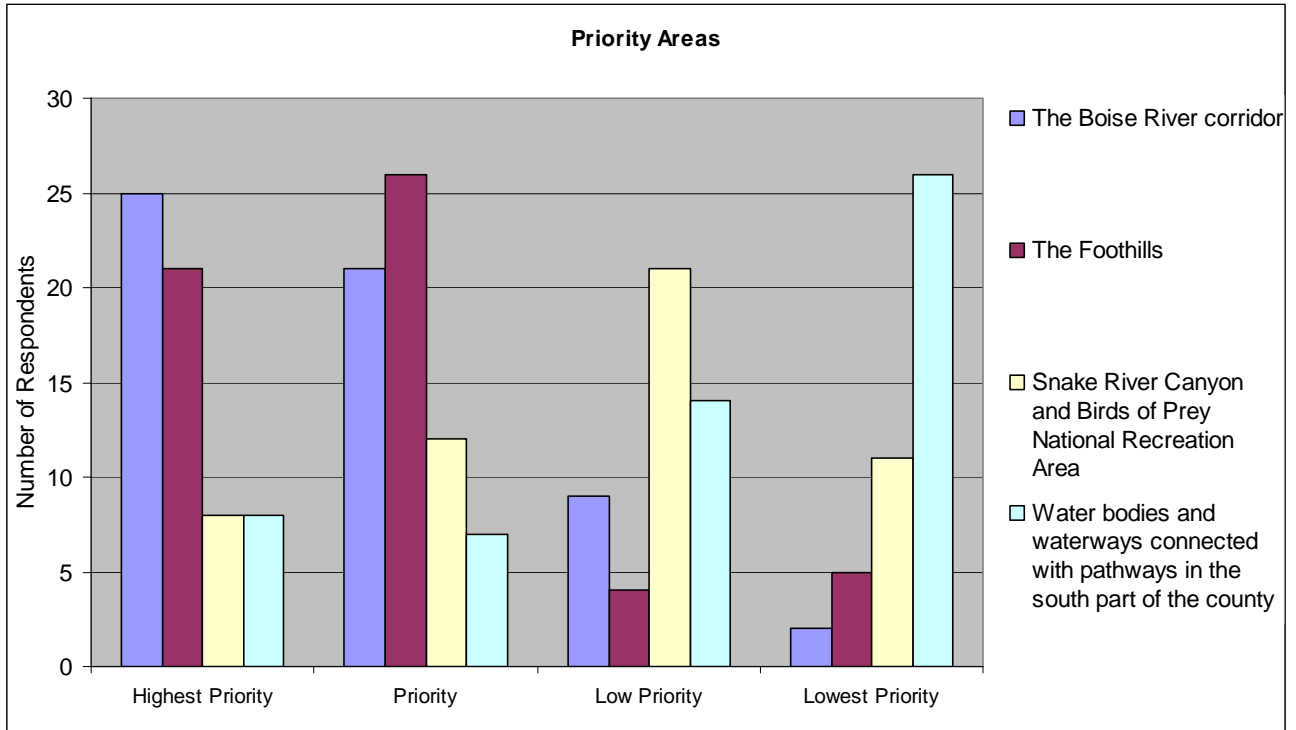
Provide your level of support for various funding sources.



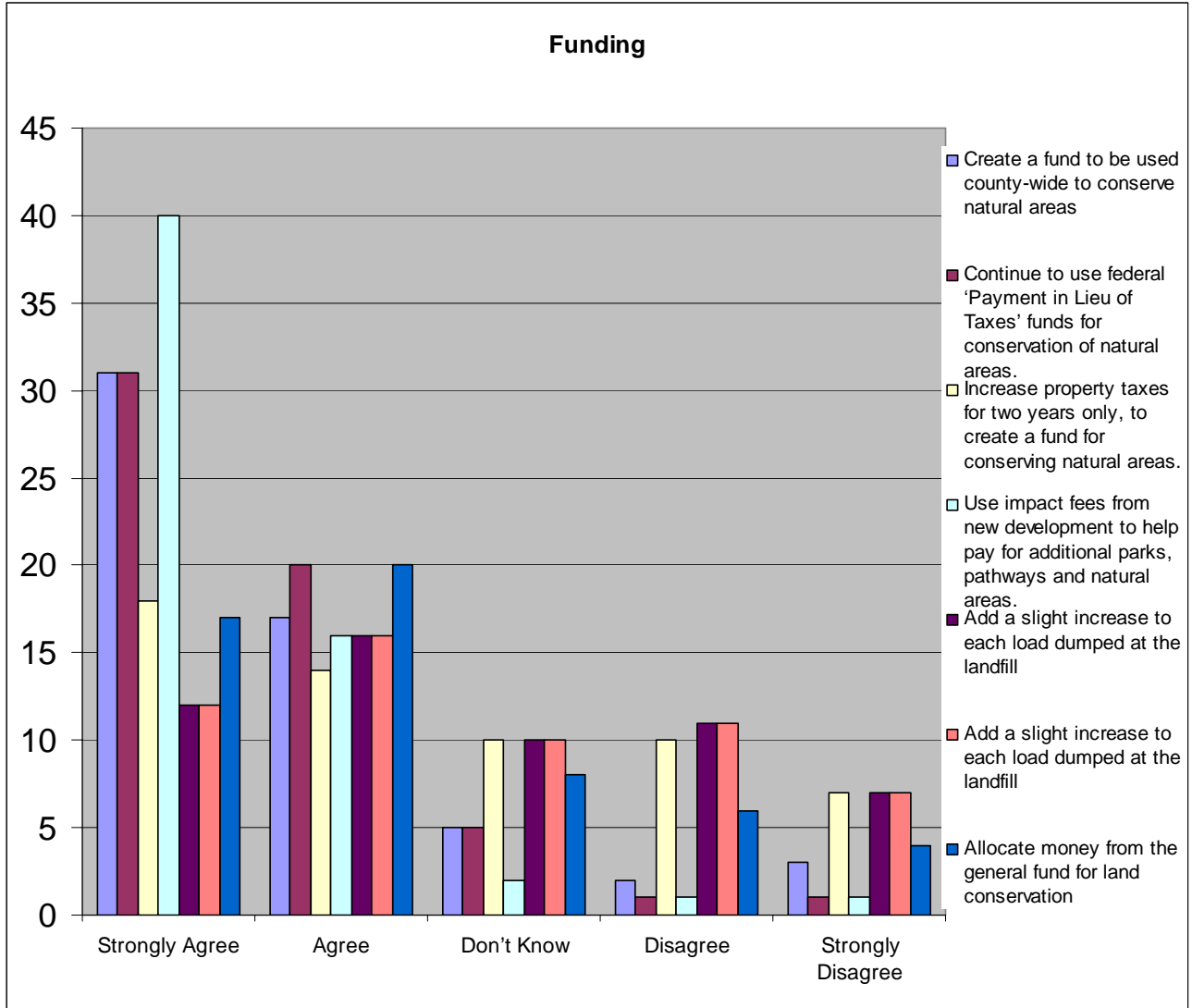
Appendix B

Data from the Workshop Questionnaires

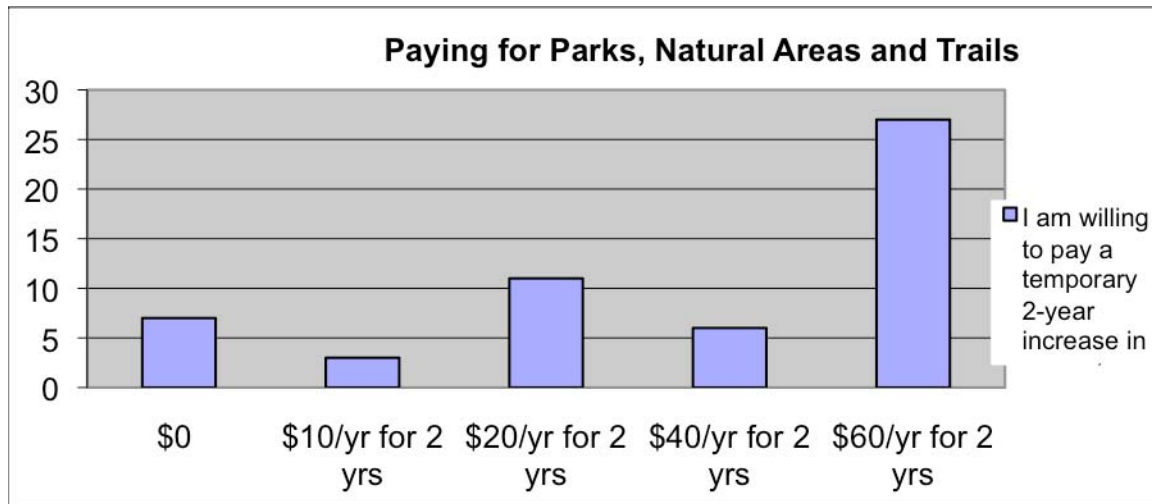
Tell us about the areas most important to you:



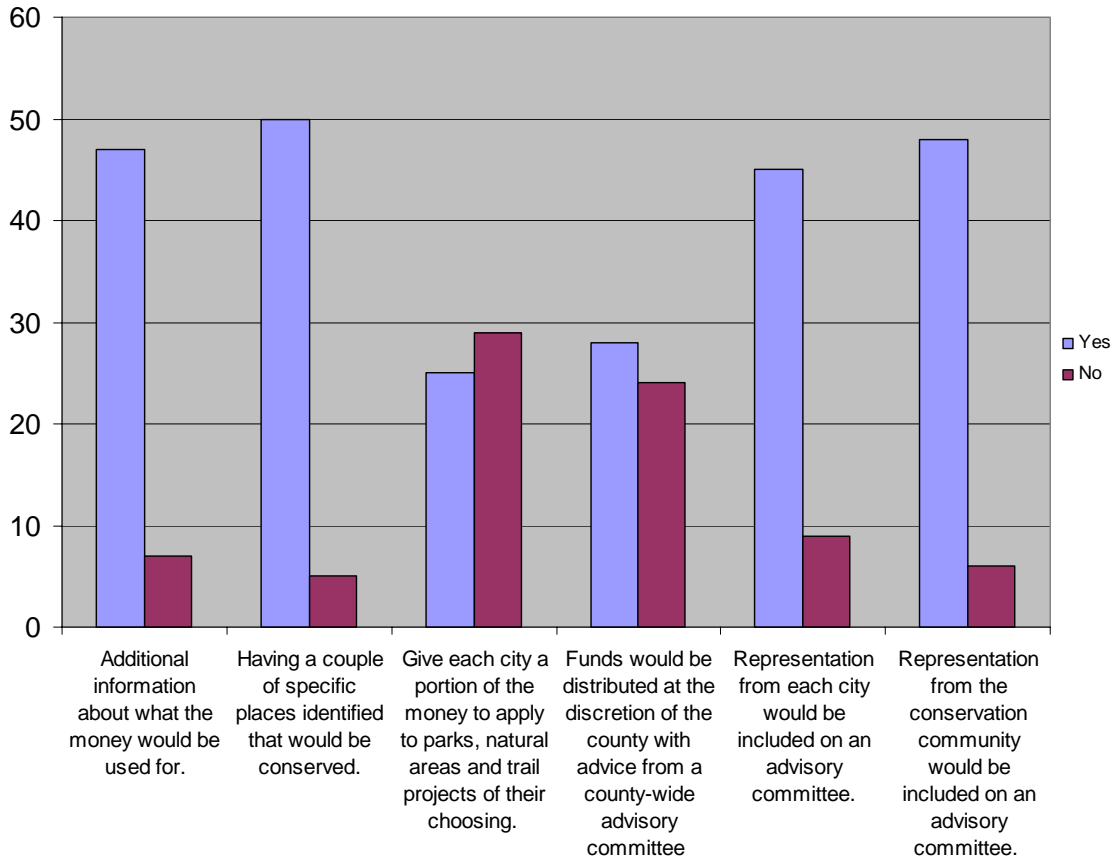
Provide your level of support for various funding ideas.



Do you support a temporary 2-year property tax increase for Parks, Natural Areas and Trails? If so, how much per year?



Would Any of the following statements increase your support for a temporary 2-year property tax increase:



Appendix C

Respondents Statements on Priority Areas from online survey

Where do you go to hike, bike, fish, picnic or play in Ada County?

- The Boise river, the foothills trails, anne morrison, canal systems.
- North and east Boise - Hyde Park area, foothills, Barber Park, Boise River, Julia Davis, Ann Morrison and Katherine Albertson parks, etc.
- Kuna
- City parks
- Tablerock or Bogus to hike, greenbelt to bike, parks to picnic, various ball fields for team sports
- I don't do any of those activities.
- The desert south of town of Pleasant Valley Road
- The Greenbelt and the Boise Foothills.
- Boise foothills, downtown parks
- Greenbelt, Barber to Ann Morrison and down around Eagle Island
- Lucky Peak
- greenbelt, Ann Morrison park, Julia Davis park, municipal park
- Boise foothills
- Boise Front, Boise Greenbelt
- Elm Grove & Camelback Parks, foothills paths, greenbelt, Bogus area
- Foothills, Greenbelt, parks, Boise River.
- Boise River, Military Reserve, Ann Morrison, Julia Davis, Greenbelt
- mostly in the foothills - hulls gulch and military reserve. It is closest to our home
- Horseback in North/Northwest foothills, Eagle Island, Celebration Park
- The Boise foothills from Bogus Basin Rd to Table Rock and Simplot Fields
- I like to hike at Military Reserve every day when possible.
- Roads throughout Eagle and Hill Road into Boise get heavy use. We use the greenbelt, and we hike and cross country ski in the foothills north of Boise and Eagle.
- The foothills, Swan Falls, Lucky Peak, the Owyhees
- Foothills above Reserve to hike with my dog Neighborhood parks Greenbelt
- Foothills
- All these activities usually in eastern part of Boise on Foothills trails, Greenbelt path, tennis courts, Boise River
- Foothills, city parks, Boise River, Greenbelt
- Greenbelt, Eagle Foothills, Boise Foothills, NW Soccer Center
- R2R trail system, Bogus Basin. Take my dogs with me.
- the foothills, the greenbelt
- Eagle and Boise foothills for horseback riding
- I don't participate in these activities but I do ride horses north of Eagle in the foothills.
- Ride horses in Little Gulch area in Eagle, Pierce Park hills, the Boise front, Kuna Butte, Swan Falls and along the Snake River.
- Eagle Foothills, Snake River Birds of Prey Area
- Eagle Foothills mostly, Eagle Island, Boise River
- Military Reserve, Boise Foothills
- Ride horses in the Foothills north of Eagle, at Eagle Island State park.
- Eagle foothills, Eagle Island State Park
- Camelback park, Greenbelt, Boise River, Bogus Basin, Foothills
- All of the Boise foot hills, Boise River, green belt, Back roads and Bogus Basin.
- Greenbelt out to the dam, Ann Morrison Park, Morris Hill dog park, Foothills, Biking along paved shoulders

- River, greenbelt, Ridges to River, parks
- The foothills between Boise and Bogus, the greenbelt
- I hike and bike in the central foothills.
- Northwest Boise/Eagle foothills
- Foothills, Greenbelt areas, developed parks
- Neighborhood parks, greenbelt, Simplot, Optimist, foothills
- Hiking at Hillside Park & Hillside Jr High, as well as the foothills around the North End, along the Green Belt and out towards Barber Park. Picnics and office parties at Catalpa Park, Bike Riding at the end of Collister on the new trail system. Also sometimes hike up Dry Creek off Bogus Basin Road.
- Green Belt, City Parks, Foothills, TableRock
- Mainly the foothill corridors between the neighborhoods off of 5th street
- foothills
- The Greenbelt, the foothills, Bogus Basin trails, city parks, the Boise River
- North Foothills area
- Ann Morrison, Julia Davis, Kathryn Albertson, Barber, municipal, Fort Boise parks; military reserve open space and foothills; military reserve dog park; greenbelt
- Love the ridge to rivers trail system - play at many of the parks -
- Bogus Basin Foothills up to Hulls Gulch Foothills in East Boise - Homestead, Lucky peak etc. All parks Greenbelt
- The Greenbelt, bike paths through the Broadway/downtown areas, parks (Veterans, Katherine Albertson, Julia Davis, Ann Morrison, hiking paths to TableRock
- mountain bike & hike through out the Foothills and trails around Bogus, team sports for 3 kids are played in various city parks, picnic in off the beaten path areas in the Foothills
- throughout the foothills and the greenbelt. Have to go to Catalpa or Veterans Park, whereas the park scheduled for our neighborhood at 36th, just off Eyre has not been completed for some time now??
- Hike and Bike in the Boise foothills. And bike to work.
- Foothills, Boise river, Hammer Flat,
- in the Boise Foothills
- north end, foothills
- Northwest foothills, Boise River, Hillside Park, Hillside Jr High, & Catalpa Park.
- Foothills Trails, Greenbelt, Parks
- Boise Front (foothills above the city). Particularly the area W of Bogus Basin Road.
- the entire foothills area from north of eagle to lucky peak reservoir
- Foothills in Boise, Boise River or other Idaho Rivers, We Picnic all over, and we avidly play team sports all over the valley.
- Fish the Boise River, hike foothills north of 36th/Hill Rd, bike greenbelt, play team sports at school field and Optimist field off of Hill Rd Parkway
- Boise Foothills and the Boise river greenbelt.
- Boise Foothills (especially the hills between Bogus Basin and 36th Street), Hillside Park & Jr High, Catalpa Park, Camels Back Park, Qwest Center, Idaho Ice World, Sunset Park
- All foothills, Boise River, Hillside Park, Catalpa Park
- Foothills for hiking (around Hillside Jr. High) Catalpa park for picnicking, Boise River, Collister, Hull's Gulch
- Mainly in the Boise foothills, especially those that are closest to town.
- I generally mountain bike, run and play in the foothills and surrounding mountain areas. I also enjoy the Boise River during the summer.
- foothills, river
- Foothills, greenbelt, riverside parks
- The foothills, Ann Morrison park, Camel's Back Park
- Military reserve, Hulls Gulch, Albertson Park, Boise river, Ann Morrison Park, Julia Davis Park
- Boise foothills, north of Hill Road, around 28th street.

- Greenbelt Boise River between Eagle and Star Public land behind Hillsdale Estates Boise Foothills
- Foothills, Ridge to Rivers trails, Lucky Peak Mt trails, Barber Park, Discovery Park/Sandy Beach Park, Fort Boise trails
- Foothill trails - greenbelt - river -
- green belt, foothills
- foothills (hiking & biking), greenbelt (rollerblading & dog for a swim), hill rd (biking), Cartwright rd (biking), tablerock (hiking), bogus basin rd (hiking and biking).
- the foothills, Greenbelt, Hillside Park and Jr High
- In the Central Foothills directly behind my house above Lancaster which is private land with the potential for development; Lucky Peak, Hull's Gulch, Table Rock, the Boise River, Ann Morrison Park, Sunset Park.
- Military Reserve, Hulls Gulch
- river pathways and the foothills trail system
- Foothills, Boise River, Bogus Basin, Green Belt
- foothills
- The foothills / parks / greenbelt
- Hiking - the Foothills Biking - the Greenbelt Fishing - Boise River Team sports & picnics - Ann Morrison & Julia Davis Parks
- All City Parks and foothills.
- any where there are no paved roads or airplanes or other motorized vehicles
- I ride in the Foothills when I can get there. Oftentimes the traffic and air quality saps my motivation and I go to the gym instead.
- Ride horseback north of Eagle Road in the foothills mostly. Bicycle on the Boise Greenbelt; picnic in City of Boise Parks.
- Foothills.
- Greenbelt, foothills, Camelback, Julia Davis, Ann Morrison, and Kathryn Albertson Parks.
- the foothills and the Boise river, and Boise city facilities for team sports
- foothills, Boise river, parks, complexes
- Foothills, greenbelt, Lucky Peak.
- Foothills, Boise city parks, Greenbelt, Idaho Ice World
- Boise Foothills, Bogus Basin Rd, Boise River, Ann Morrison, Julia Davis, Camel's Back, Greenbelt
- Boise Foothills, Boise River in Downtown Boise and Southeast Boise, Lucky Peak Reservoir, Neighborhood Parks on the Bench mainly, Ann Morrison and Julia Davis parks, Simplot Sports Complex for soccer.
- the greenbelt, Ann Morrison & Julia Davis parks, and the trails off bogus basin road
- Shafer Butte, Hull's Gulch, Camel's Back Park, Greenbelt, Lucky Peak - Discovery Park,
- the foothills area around 8th st.
- Foothills, Greenbelt
- Hulls Gulch, North foothills, Camelsback park, Tablerock and around (warm springs mesa), Boise River
- Boise foot hills, river green belt, north end parks
- Hulls Gulch, Military Reserve, Julia Davis and Greenbelt all sections.
- Lower Hulls Gulch, Hulls Gulch, Settlers & Camels back park
- hike and bike - ridge to rivers system including multi use foothills trails.
- The foothills are awesome for biking and hiking. The network of trails between Rocky Canyon Road and Bogus Basin Road is awesome. The trails from Harris Ranch up to Lucky Peak aren't too bad either and don't have the same problems with overuse. Barber Park and Ann Morrison are great city parks.
- Mostly the trails in the Boise Foothills.
- foothills, Boise River, Ann Morrison, Barber park, Simplot sports complex,
- The Boise River, the Eagle and Boise foothills, the Meridian parks

- Foothills, parks, YMCA, backyard.
- Foothills (Camelsback Park, Military Reserve, 36th and Hill); Ann Morrison Park
- foothills, river, parks
- table rock, the Boise front, bogus basin roadside, mountain view park, Julia Davis
- don't because it is too crowded
- Greenbelt
- I hike in the foothills. I used to hike where Columbia Village is now. I bike to work and downtown and try to find bike lanes. I farm and feel it is important to save land for and strong local food economy.
- foothills, green belt, JD and AM parks downtown
- Parks, Foothills, river, around town and on the greenbelt.
- Foothills
- Greenbelt, parks, foothills
- foothills-8th street- greenbelt
- I like to hike in the foothills, both behind Fort Boise, as well as off of Horseshoe Bend road. I would like to do more up near Garden Valley and the Owyhees.
- Boise Parks, Greenbelt, Lucky Peak/Dam,
- hike--foothills bike--greenbelt, streets
- Green Belt
- The Boise River and the foothills
- greenbelt, neighborhood parks (common areas) local school fields, optimist park, foothills
- Several parks in several cities, usually those with a good playground. Winstead, Catalpa, and two parks in Eagle are among our favorites. The mountain bike trail system all over the valley (Ridge to Rivers - Hidden Springs to Fort Boise area). We picnic all over at the parks, and I play softball (fall and summer) in the Boise City parks, usually games are at Willow, Ann Morrison, or Ivywild.
- The foothills north of Eagle and Boise to trail run with my dog, and to horseback ride.
- Greenbelt, Foothills, Park Center pond, Boise River
- Julia Davis, Anne Morrison, Green Belt
- Barber Park, Veteran's Park, Greenbelt
- EACH AND EVERY GREEN AND OPEN SPACE; hills, parks, rivers, green belt, front and back yards, neighborhood intersections.
- Hike and run in the foothills, Snake River Canyon, and along the river. Bike everywhere! Picnic in the parks, along the river, in the foothills.
- local parks (Municipal, Camel's Back, Ann Morrison, Julia Davis) , the foothills, the greenbelt
- bicycle on rural roads in Kuna, Hike in Kuna foothills, daughter plays team sports through community at area fields--mostly at schools.
- around just east of downtown
- Ridges to Rivers trail system in Boise Front for hiking and mountain bike riding. Local "City Park" (in Tuscany) for sports.
- Hull's gulch is a family favorite. The greenbelt is central to us and we use it on a daily basis. Our young family loves the parks around Boise. We frequent these: Catalpa, Veteran's, Camel's Back, Ann Morrison, Julia Davis, Municipal. all of them are unique and are used in all four seasons.
- city parks, bike greenbelt and other bike paths
- Foothills, Greenbelt, Table Rock, Boise River, Lucky Peak, Little Camas Reservoir, Parkcenter Pond, Ann Morrison Park, Julia Davis Park.
- 1. Tablerock 2. Simplot Fields
- Foothills. east of 36th to Lucky Peak. Most of the parks in the same area. Lots of time on the Boise River greenbelt.
- Hike, the foothills. Bike, All over, mostly the greenbelt except in garden city. Fish, throughout the river and the ponds near Veteran's memorial. I do activities at the park closest to wherever people are at the time.
- Camel's Back Park, Military Reserve, greenbelt

- I like the greenbelt a lot, and also Camel's Back and the trails behind it.
- hiking - foothills or bogus basin; bike - greenbelt, city streets, foothills or bogus basin fish - everywhere picnic - parks along the river We need more dog friendly parks. More off leash areas spread throughout town and more improvements done to what we have.
- Foothills-TableRock/Military Reserve Boise River/Greenbelt
- Hull Gulch, Boise River, Bogus Basin Trails, trails along Hwy 21
- multiple venues
- Foothills, Greenbelt, Boise River
- Greenbelt, Ridge to Rivers trails
- Boise River (fishing), BLM land in foothills (for horseback riding)
- North Eagle Foothills
- Greenbelt, foothills above Barber Valley, table rock
- Biking & Walking -- The Foothills north of Eagle off of Willow Creek Rd.
- north of camels back park, the entire green belt, lucky peak
- The Boise River through the valley. Especially the area from Barber Park through Star. I also recreate in the Boise foothills.
- neighborhood. Boise River.
- Harrison Hollow area, Hulls Gulch, Quail Hollow area, North 8th Street - Occasionally Rocky Canyon, North Eagle foothills
- Hike and Bike in the Foothills, also bike to work in good weather. Fish is Boise River near Barber Park and sometimes near Glenwood Bridge
- Greenbelt, foothills
- Equestrian - north Eagle foothills. Fishing on Boise River. No team sports except BSU Football.
- I horse back ride and walk, North of my home at the end of Hartley Rd. North of Beacon Light on BLM land.
- City parks (Anne Morrison, Winstead, etc) plus the foothills
- The Boise foothills, table rock, Boise River, Greenbelt, Eagle Island
- Boise Foothills
- seaman gulch
- foothills
- I like to ride horses in the foothills (Off Cartwright and Bogus Rd), and the Boise Front and mountains, also Eagle foothills.
- Simplot fields; Veterans Park; Boise Greenbelt; just walk anywhere in our lovely city
- Boise River and associated reservoirs, Boise foothills, nearby mountains
- Trails in Hidden Springs and surrounding area
- The Boise River for fishing and floating (all stretches), Julia Davis and other parks for team sports, the Foothills for hiking, biking, dog walking, and bird watching.
- Foothills, Boise River, Ann Morrison Park,
- Boise Foothills, particularly the open front north of Hill Rd between 36th (above Hillside Jr. High) and Harrison Hollow (Bogus Basin Rd & Hill Rd)
- Boise Foothills, Boise River
- foothills
- The foothills, the river, the parks.
- Boise River, Streets good for road cycling, Foothills,
- Boise River to fish. Picnic in the parks.
- foothills
- Biking in the foothills and greenbelt Floating/fishing the Boise River
- River to Ridges trails, Hillside to Hollow trails, Camels Back Park, South Fork of the Boise River
- foothills, greenbelt for MTB and road riding. If the greenbelt is a signature feature of Boise -- then why is it the crapiest piece of pavement in the county, especially from Municipal Park to the dam!
- Castle Rock and Table Rock area Simplot Fields Municipal Park

- No Ada County is a wreck for outdoor recreation. Outside of the county since it is too crowded with haphazard development
- Foothills
- Bike The Green Belt - Downtown to Lucky Peak Dam Barber Park, Bagley Park, Julia Davis Park, Ann Morrison Park, neighborhood park The Boise River - Barber Park to Glenwood
- Boise River, city parks & school fields
- The foothills, specifically the Dry Creek/Daniels Creek area.
- Camel's Back Park, Elm Grove Park, Highlands schoolyard, Foothills trails, especially Hulls Gulch area, Dry Creek, Bogus, Catalpa Park, Harrison Hollow, Bob's trail,
- foothills, greenbelt, parks
- Foothills, local parks
- Elm Grove Park, Camel's Back Park, Sunset Park, Boise Foothills, Boise River Banks, Boise Greenbelt, Veteran's Park, The Wetlands preserved area behind Garden City DMV
- Anne Morrison, Camel's Back, Julia Davis, The Dog Park, Fort Boise
- I use the foothills to recreate
- the foothills
- Hike and bike in the foothills (above Hill Road between 36 to 8th street mostly), fish in the Boise River (Barber to Eagle) and Bike the Greenbelt (but not in Garden City, those jerks! They really should follow state law...and be required to do so if they don't do it voluntarily. Sorry for the rant!) I also do things (frisbee golf, walk, photograph) in the city parks.
- Boise River
- Boise foothills, BLM South of Kuna, Greenbelt
- Foothills, camel back park
- ALL OF THE FOOTHILLS, INCLUDING HULLS GULTCH, BOGUS RD TRAILS, TABLE ROCK TRAILS
- Ivy wild park
- the greenbelt from downtown to Lucky Peak
- All along the Greenbelt and Boise River - Camel's Back Park - Hull's Gulch - Lucky Peak
- Boise Foothills, the Boise River
- Greenbelt, Boise River, quiet unpopulated parks.
- Mostly run/bike/hike in foothills also run/bike/walk the Greenbelt, and fish/float the Boise River.
- Mostly in the foothills, especially those closest to town.
- Up 8th street on the trails and Harrison Hollow to Shadow Valley Golf area.
- the foothills, the river, the parks, bike path, any close-in open space
- walk, bike, run the greenbelt, occasionally the foothills.
- 1) the foothills; 2) along the greenbelt and river.
- Central foothills area between N. 36th Street and Bogus Basin Road. Camel's Back and Hull's Gulch, Kathryn Albertson, and Ann Morrison Parks.
- Boise Foothills, Lucky Peak, Boise Greenbelt
- Greenbelt, Table Rock, Rocky Canyon, Ridge to river trails
- Julia Davis, Ann Morrison, Willow Creek, Foothills trail system, every area of the green belt, etc.
- Boise Foothills 8th st, Lucky Peak, Moores Mtn, Schaffer Butte, Murphy, Harris Creek, Robie Creek, Cartwright Rd, Boise Greenbelt, Ridge Road, Placerville, Idaho city,
- Foothills. Boise River.
- Foothills, river edge, park playgrounds (a bunch of different ones), Pierce Park Elementary soccer field
- my backyard. Hulls gulch.
- bike trails up 8th Street, Camelsback, Green Belt, Boise river
- Greenbelt, foothills, parks.
- I run and mountain back at Fort Boise foothills, 8th Street foothills and Table Rock
- Greenbelt, Ann Morrison, Foothills, Boise River, Barber Park, Julia Davis
- The foothills, particularly the area from Hillside Jr Hi to Bogus Basin Rd.
- All over.

- Primarily the green belt and river, park center pond, veterans ponds
- Lucky Peak to fish. None of the other activities in Ada County.
- greenbelt, foothills, the "big three" parks; Ann M, Julia D, K Albertson.
- Boise Foothills, Boise River, Boise National Forest, BLM lands,
- Boise River Foothills
- foothills, Boise River, Snake

Appendix D

Written Comments from Community Workshops Eagle, Meridian, Garden City and Boise

Comments from Boise Open Space Meeting

Paying for Parks, Natural Areas and Trails:

- *(make property tax increase) permanent or not at all*

Other comments:

- *Private held group shouldn't have rights over the public input and common views*
- *I am fine with a property tax increase as long as 100% in my taxation area goes to my area; as should the dissemination of other taxing subdivisions receive theirs.*
- *The efforts that are put into this effort are so significant to the preservation of open spaces; thanks to those involved!*

Tell us about the types of places that are most important to you:

- *Scenic views: historic areas not included; low impact trailways /designate where to go; camping/recreation; archeological impact*

Tell us about the areas most important to you:

- *Add as "highest priority": natural/open/undeveloped small areas*
- *Add as "priority": natural open spaces without spending money for developed parks.*

Policy as a tool:

- *We need a variety of options like bikes ok/no okay dogs off leash/on leash/no dogs.*
- *County-wide open space advisory committee: must be made up of a certain percent of farmers.*

Incentive/Voluntary options:

- *Real estate transfer fees impact disproportionately if on new and used homes*
- *Real estate transfer fees: everyone should help fun open space; this fee may be too limited.*
- *Water conservation fees*

Funding:

- *Strongly agree: create land and water conservation fund*
- *Increasing property taxes for two years must be well planned and inclusive and have everyone involved.*
- *Tax increment financing. Is that an option?*
- *Airport/car rental tax*
- *Fees for amount of garbage each household dumps each week especially when so much can be recycled.*
- *Tie into Bronco ticket sales for funds for open space (ESPN always pans open space areas and raves about them).*
- *Landfill cost increase spread across all users (Allied Waste, individuals, etc)*

Paying for Parks, Natural Areas and Trails:

- *I am willing to pay...more than \$60 for 2 years*

Would any of the following statements increase your support for a two-year property tax increase in Ada County?

- *A back end campaign about how/where/when the money gets used. Could have been better with this past levy.*
- *I would support it no matter what*

Public Lands:

- *Having local government acquire existing federal land...: sounds good but as cities continue growing, public lands will disappear/become privatized.*

Other comments:

- *Small natural facilities/features that may be identified with subdivision proposal (eg manmade wetlands after agricultural uses) to be preserved as an amenity or corridor in exchange for reasonable density bonus*
- *Legislate real estate transfer fees and impact fees for functional natural open space.*
- *Suggest adding conservation easements and other tools (tax mechanisms) to acquire open space*
- *Sales tax on luxury, "sin" items?*
- *The birds of prey are very hard on the pheasant population.*
- *Please add permanent sales tax to go toward open space*

Comments from Eagle Open Space Meeting

Tell us about the types of places that are most important to you:

- *Add "urban garden areas" as places of importance*
- *Add "rare geological features, plants and habitats" places of importance*
- *Motorized recreational areas marked as "very unimportant although I know we need them"*
- *Add as "very important": geological features, endangered plants, historic places/landmarks*
- *Urban Gardens and geological features are somewhat important; endangered plants are very important*

Tell us about the areas most important to you:

- *Add "Public Lands (BLM, Forest Service) as highest priority*
- *Add 1) frog ponds 2) Daniels Creek 3) Dry Creek 4) Greenbelt continuation*
- *Add 1) Public Lands*

Policy as a tool:

- *Use land use agencies as open-space advisory committee*

Regulatory/Design guidelines:

Incentive/Voluntary options:

- *Strongly agree: Encourage conservation easements*
- *Strongly agree: Land trusts/conservation easements*
- *Education land owners about conservation easement options*

Funding:

- *Can we get impact fees through from legislature?*
- *I agree with one group's comment on making this a temporary measure but not connecting to property tax*
- *Who would administer a fund to be used county-wide?*
- *Prefer separate levy for conserving natural areas*
- *Income tax credit of conservation easements would be great*
- *Concerned with increasing landfill charges. This would increase dumping on side roads.*
- *Trash will not end up in landfill; local government*
- *"PILT" 2009 1/2 million allocated*
- *Hard to create a fund for county-wide use; practical to handle as local issue*

Paying for Parks, Natural Areas and Trails:

- *Wouldn't mind paying into a fund but don't like using "property tax" as vehicle*
- *I am willing to pay a donation or tax*
- *I'd pay \$60/2years only if I know how it was going to be used.*
- *I'd pay \$60/2years if an ironclad agreement that limits the time in on uncertain terms.*
- *I'd pay \$60/2 years if done with a levy with a sunset date and not a property tax*

Would any of the following statements increase your support for a two-year property tax increase in Ada County?

- *Money needs to go to benefit the open area independent of city location*

Other comments:

- *Need a dog park – off leash, fenced*
- *Allow land for parking near trailheads*
- *What about providing portable toilets? They're easier to maintain than permanent restrooms; the later may be susceptible to vandalism*
- *Trash bins needed*
- *Provide area for dirt bikes and ATV's, currently people illegally use public/ private ground. Such an area would not only be a great amenity but might prevent ATV's from ripping up sensitive ground.*
- *Would like to see contiguity of public lands in foothills from SH16 across to SH55 to the east Boise Foothills*
- *When providing paths along Boise River be cognizant of wildlife needs for water sources*
- *In some areas open space is important & some would be links, etc so each is important and need representation*
- *My concern is that we continue to put pathways along the rivers, creeks and streams and the wildlife get pushed away from their water source. Give the critters some room.*
- *Ensure that when private land adjacent to public land is developed the developer is required to provide an access to the public land*
- *Access points to pathways in developments or private land must be identified with signage and visible paths so it's obvious to the public that they can access the paths at these points*
- *(Need) safe crossing of State Street/Hwy44 to access river/Merrill Park*
- *Cement plant property south of North channel of Boise River – great wildlife habitat, bird rookeries, would be nice to preserve as open space to public access – great recreation and environmental education opportunities*
- *Foothills – River connection might work through/adjacent to Eagle Hills Golf Course, through commercial developments to Merrill Park*
- *Connections to North up to Black Canyon Reservoir to Payette River? Is this a long-range possibility?*
- *Separate uses: setting density & regulating clustering & open space versus using bonuses preserves water ways*
- *What are our objectives for conserving and rehabilitating areas to provide a sustainable environment for generations to come – (native species, wildlife, recreation use – horseback, walking, special historic spots)? We need to get ahead of the curve on this.*
- *Definitely support conserving Dry Creek- Daniels Creek- frog ponds for hikers, horseback riders only. This would also protect the wildlife corridor in that area.*
- *Restore native plants versus noxious weeds*
- *Undeveloped parks or open space are my preference; not golf courses, etc.*
- *Make the landfill inexpensive so people will use the dump*
- *Make sure to look at Daniels Creek/Dry Creek area and Pierce Park/Cartwright Rd.*

Comments from Garden City Open Space Meeting

Tell us about the types of places that are most important to you:

- *Add “horseback riding and hiking” to statement about county wide network of trails linking natural areas and communities.*

Regulatory/Design guidelines:

- *Provide a density bonus for protecting important open space (not space that can't be developed anyway)*
- *Higher density: open space corridor connecting one area to Green Belt is wonderful; less landscape buffers next to roads: 1) no human use 2) waste of energy (water & maintenance)*

Incentive/Voluntary options:

- *Transfer fees great if like that in Hidden Springs but no government transfer fees*
- *Add state tax line item for open space*

Funding:

- *Ada County needs to more tightly restrict what transfer fees can be used for. This relates to some residents of Hidden Springs, with some encouragement from the developers wanting to use the funds for purchasing or providing collateral for a loan to purchase commercial real estate, the Merc.*

Paying for Parks, Natural Areas and Trails:

- *Will support paying \$60 for 2 years if Dry Creek is one of conservation projects*

Other comments:

- *Use irrigation canals as basis for additional pathway network; use outflow from irrigation canals for trout habitat*
- *Improve cross-town routes – north/south from Greenbelt to link to foothills and points generally north and south; preserve all existing, commonly used trails/rights of way by requiring developers to build around these areas or include these in new developments; use any and all tools to create open and clear routes – i.e. Boise River- along foothills and Dry Creek...*
- *Encourage orgs like Rivers to Ridges to be partners in preserving open space*
- *Fund Store; look at lottery – new game specifically for open space; deduction on tax form.*
- *How do we best preserve Dry Creek which is privately held?*
- *No trespassing signs on private land are discouraging*

Comments from Meridian Open Space Meeting

1. really feel the most important project before anything else is sidewalks and stop lights for school crossings
2. Why not have fundraisers and activities instead of new taxes?
3. DO fundraisers instead of taxes
4. short term property tax increase (possibly- rates a 5)
5. an added tipping fee will contribute to illegal dumping on private/public lands
6. impact fees- in this market, cannot support at this time
7. short term property tax increase- great idea from BC (take to voters)
8. tipping fee- I think its still a tax
9. allocate money from general fund- versus other city priorities?? Depends
10. short term tax is ok as long as projects related to connecting Meridian to Boise River is included
11. use of existing tipping fee is ok- no increase

Appendix E – Workshop Questionnaire

Natural Areas of Ada County - The Heart of Our Valley

Your voice matters!

Vote for your favorite places and give us your opinion about the tools you'd support to protect the most precious natural areas in the Treasure Valley.

Tell us about you

M F (circle one)	I reside in zip code:	Age:	Resident of Treasure Valley for ____yrs
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Tell us about the types of places that are most important to you

	Scenic views
	A County wide network of trails and pathways linking natural areas with communities.
	Waterway and floodplain corridors that include pathways such as the Boise River, Dry Creek, Indian Creek, Ten Mile Creek, Five mile Creek.
	Bodies of water like Hubbard, Blacks Creek and Indian Creek Reservoirs
	Wildlife habitat for song birds, mammals and reptiles.
	Snake River Canyon and Birds of Prey National Conservation Area
	Big game winter range and areas for resident herds of big game
	Native and rare plants and habitat for endangered animals
	Motorized recreation areas
	Sports fields, playgrounds, neighborhood parks
	Parks that combine wild areas with groomed park areas (Barber Park, Albertsons Park)
	Clean water and access to the Boise River for fishing and floating, including the concept of a Boise River Water Trail.

Tell us about the areas most important to you

	The Boise River corridor
	The Foothills

	Snake River Canyon and Birds of Prey National Recreation Area
	Water bodies and waterways connected with pathways in the south part of the county

Tell us what you think about various ways to conserve natural areas

Provide your level of support for each statement: 1= Strongly Agree; 2= Somewhat Agree; 3= Don't know; 4= Somewhat Disagree; 5= Strongly Disagree.

Policy as a tool	1	2	3	4	5
Establish a County-wide open space advisory committee					
Adopt policies that are consistent between jurisdictions for areas like the foothills, Boise River, pathways					

Regulatory / Design Guidelines	1	2	3	4	5
Provide a density bonus for protecting important open space					
Review and revise development ordinances to assure important open space is included in future development projects					
Assure development rules adequately protect the Boise River corridor, public access and natural areas.					

Incentive/ Voluntary options	1	2	3	4	5
Encourage the use of real estate transfer fees to care for open space within and adjacent to developments.					
Create a funding source to purchase development rights from willing sellers that will protect important natural areas					

Funding	1	2	3	4	5
Create a fund to be used county-wide to conserve natural areas					
Continue to use federal 'Payment in Lieu of Taxes' funds for conservation of natural areas.					

Increase property taxes for two years only, to create a fund for conserving natural areas.					
Use impact fees from new development to help pay for additional parks, pathways and natural areas.					
Add a slight increase to each load dumped at the landfill					
Allocate money from the general fund for land conservation					

Paying for Parks, Natural Areas and Trails	\$0	\$10/yr for 2 yrs	\$20/yr for 2 yrs	\$40/yr for 2 yrs	\$60/yr for 2 yrs
I am willing to pay a temporary 2 year increase in property tax per year in the amount of:					

Would any of the following statements <u>increase your support</u> for a temporary 2 year property tax increase in Ada County?	Y	N
Additional information about what the money would be used for.		
Having a couple of specific places identified that would be conserved.		
Give each city a portion of the money to apply to parks, natural areas and trail projects of their choosing.		
Funds would be distributed at the discretion of the county with advice from a county-wide advisory committee		
Representation from each city would be included on an advisory committee.		
Representation from the conservation community would be included on an advisory committee.		

Public Lands	1	2	3	4	5
Utilize small tracts of public land which may have low public value to acquire land that has high public value.					
Have local government acquire existing federal land <u>only</u> if the land is used to increase the public value of parks, natural areas and pathways on the public land.					

Enter cooperative management agreements with public agencies to provide parks, natural areas and pathways. This is a tool that is an alternative to acquiring public land and the sole responsibility for its care.					
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Comments: