

Punchbowl Falls County Park Community Visioning Project Survey

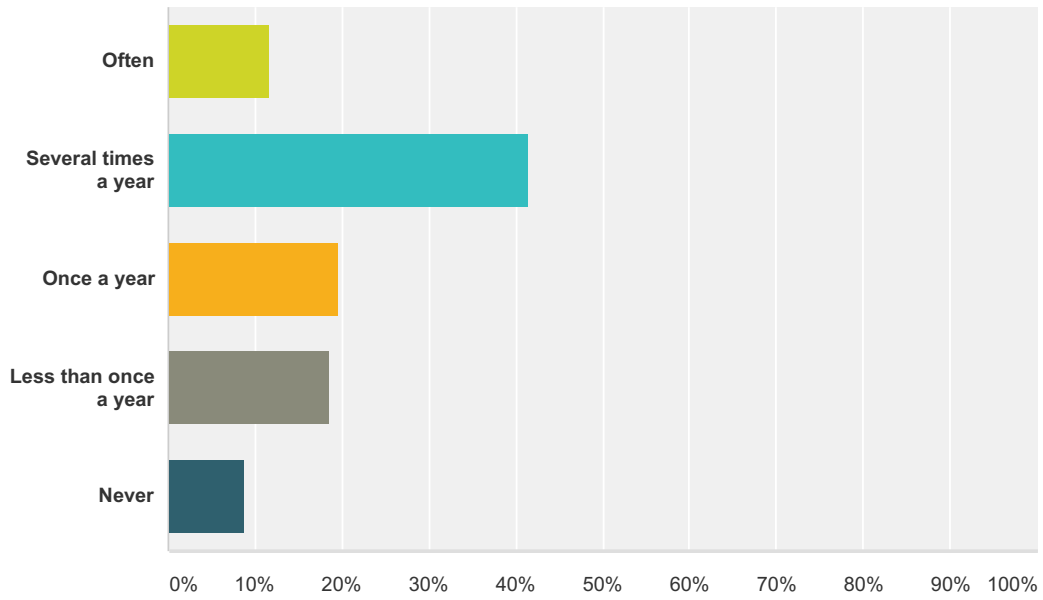
As part of our community input effort, we posted a 16-question survey online from January 5 to February 15, 2015. 562 individuals responded to the survey. 85% of respondents answered all of the questions. Most of the questions were multiple choice but several required a narrative answer where respondents needed to provide a sentence or two.

In summary, survey respondents value the unique natural and ecological features of the property and its spectacular beauty. They value the rare and precious river access it provides for swimmers, tribal and sport anglers, kayakers and rafters. They overwhelmingly support converting the property to a County Park and placing it in public ownership in perpetuity. Because the public is so passionate about the property, they are very protective of it. They want to make sure that park development is done with a very light hand and respects the wild natural character of the site.

Here are the results of that survey.

Q1 How often do you visit the Punch Bowl Falls property?

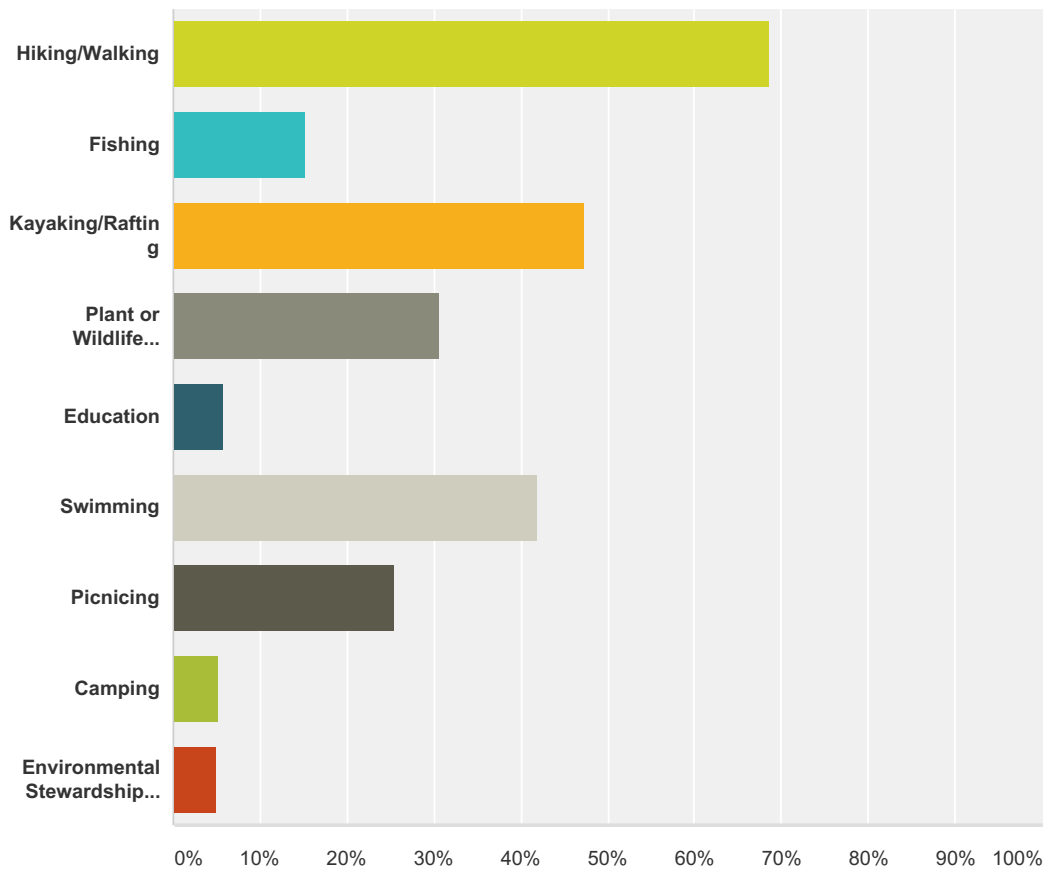
Answered: 562 Skipped: 5



Answer Choices	Responses
Often	11.74% 66
Several times a year	41.46% 233
Once a year	19.57% 110
Less than once a year	18.51% 104
Never	8.72% 49
Total	562

Q2 What activities do you do when visiting Punch Bowl Falls?

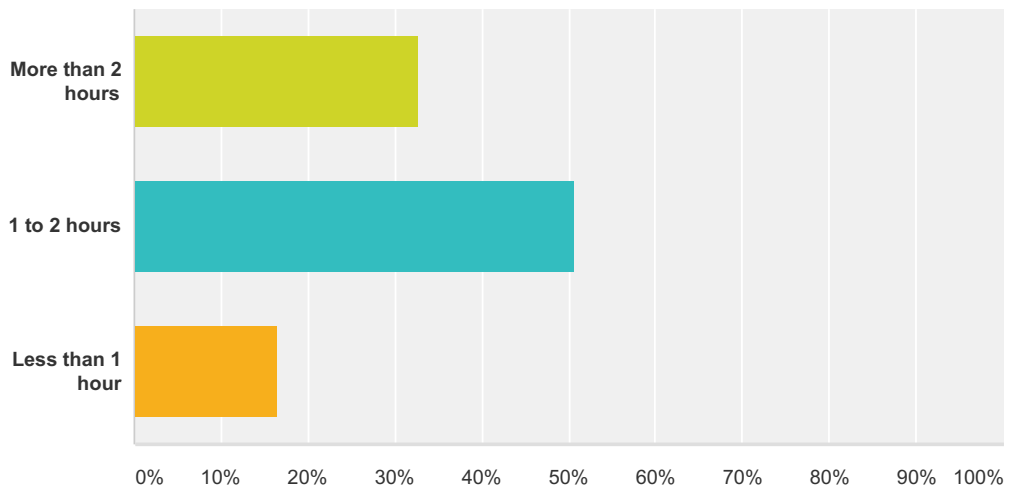
Answered: 505 Skipped: 62



Answer Choices	Responses
Hiking/Walking	68.71% 347
Fishing	15.25% 77
Kayaking/Rafting	47.33% 239
Plant or Wildlife Viewing	30.69% 155
Education	5.74% 29
Swimming	41.98% 212
Picnicing	25.54% 129
Camping	5.15% 26
Environmental Stewardship Activity	4.95% 25
Total Respondents: 505	

Q3 When you visit the Punch Bowl Falls property, how long do you stay?

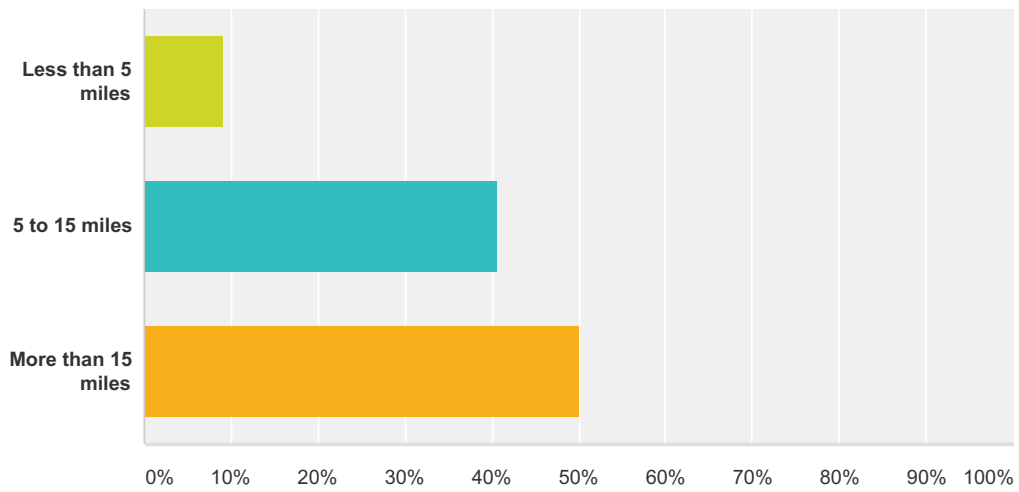
Answered: 505 Skipped: 62



Answer Choices	Responses
More than 2 hours	32.87% 166
1 to 2 hours	50.69% 256
Less than 1 hour	16.44% 83
Total	505

Q4 How far do you travel to get to Punch Bowl Falls?

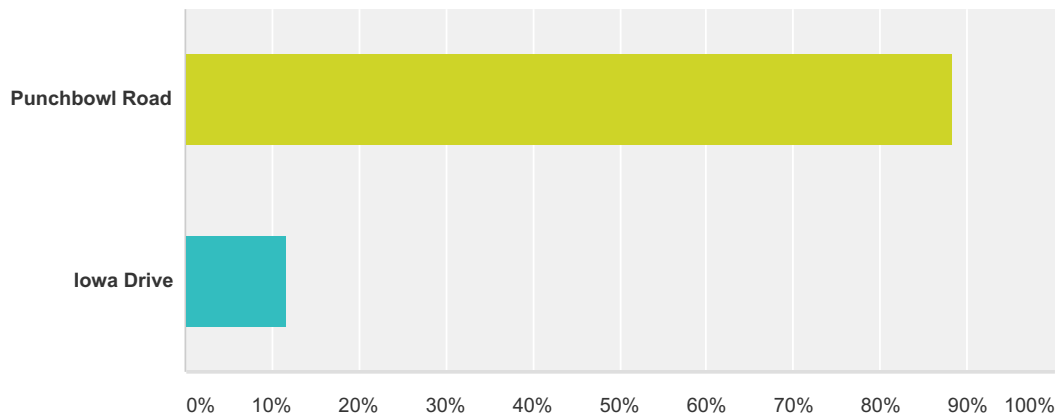
Answered: 503 Skipped: 64



Answer Choices	Responses
Less than 5 miles	9.15% 46
5 to 15 miles	40.76% 205
More than 15 miles	50.10% 252
Total	503

Q5 Which entrance do you use to access the property?

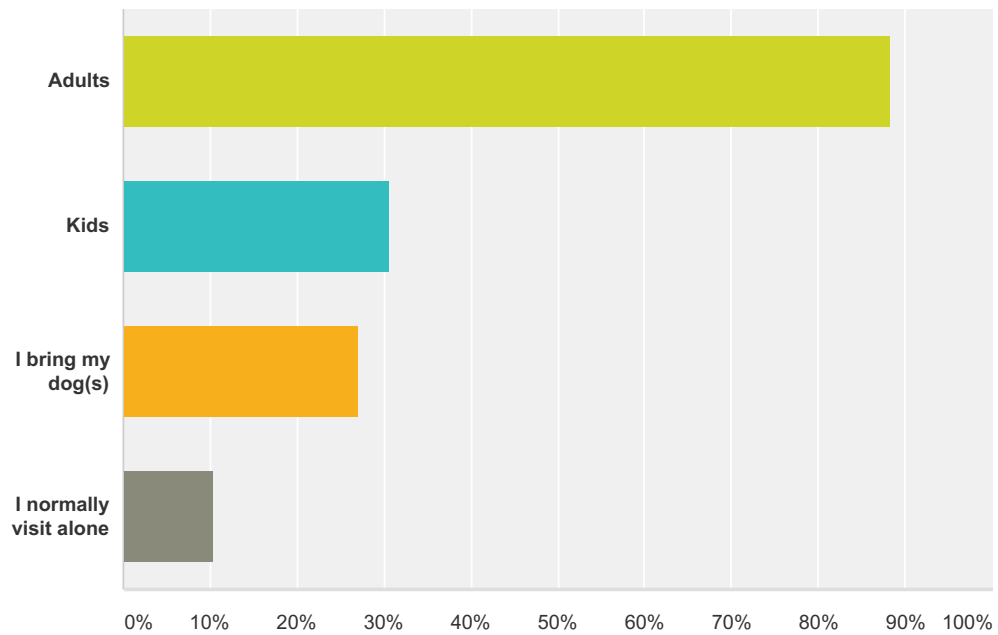
Answered: 460 Skipped: 107



Answer Choices	Responses
Punchbowl Road	88.26% 406
Iowa Drive	11.74% 54
Total	460

Q6 Do you normally visit Punch Bowl Falls with others? (check all that apply)

Answered: 503 Skipped: 64



Answer Choices	Responses	Count
Adults	88.27%	444
Kids	30.62%	154
I bring my dog(s)	27.04%	136
I normally visit alone	10.34%	52
Total Respondents: 503		

Q7 What are your favorite things about the Punch Bowl Falls site as it exists now?

Answered: 425 Skipped: 142

Virtually every respondent called out the rugged wild beauty of the site as their favorite feature. They often poetically described the unique and stunning combination of basalt columns, fast moving water, and rich flora and fauna. Many loved that you could have a feeling of isolation and solitude on a site that is fairly close to town. People liked that its not crowded and that there are very few manmade improvements. Many people valued the site for its rare and precious river access.

Here is a sampling of responses:

The rare beauty and terrain of the area gives my wife and kids and I a chance to see and feel a fantastic piece of Oregon together.

Natural beauty, close to home.

Just the undeveloped natural beauty; the roar of the falls; essentially free of trash, decay; feeling the strength of nature's spirit

Wild, powerful setting

The spring wildflowers; the relative isolation; the magnificent basalt columns above the river that has been my constant companion for over 25 years as a resident of Dee.

It's gorgeous and amazing. We love to look, walk, watch birds and look for fish, and sometimes take a lunch along. Watch people fishing.

Its relatively wild forest and watching it change over 30 years. The lack of crowds. The chance to see kayakers

Quiet, peaceful, remote feeling, no man-made intrusions.

Easy access and boating

Peaceful, beautiful, easy access, limited, but nice trails

Good access for fishing

Wildness, feeling of being far from civilization, natural beauty, few other people, roar of the waters, feeling of timelessness.

The history attached to the site, the rock formations, and the the astounding beauty are to be admired. The close proximity to Portland is also appealing for tourist visiting.

mix of rugged beauty, peaceful and wild river, fish jumping, views, trees, easy hike to fork in river, special feel

I love water and waterfalls. It's a beautiful place to visit and just enjoy.

Being along a river with fast running water, waterfalls and pools; the beauty of the canyon; a cool respite when it is very hot; communing with nature in a natural environment; experiencing it all enriches our lives, grounds us and gives us a sense of place.

Q8 What is special about the Punch Bowl Falls site? What would you want to protect about the site as it is now?

Answered: 426 Skipped: 141

The answers to this question seemed to flow naturally from the question before- people want to keep it natural, they want minimal development and public access to be preserved.

Here is a sampling of responses:

The rock in the punchbowl is very pretty and unique. Protect Access.

I think it's the combination of diverse terrain and spectacular sights. I would want to protect the tree stands, the river, falls and basins and the variety of life that you may not see immediately, but is out there

Solitude

Again, sheer beauty and one of the only accesses we have to the Hood River. I'd like to see it preserved much as it is w/ better access for all ages.

Lots of variety in the area with many things to share with people. Leave it as natural as possible.

Relatively easy public access for salmon and steelhead angling. Site is so special it deserves to be in public ownership with open unrestricted access to all users.

Maintain paddler access to the river. Ensure no more development along the water. Maintain water quality. Protect natural plants.

Keep development minimal. The terrain, the water, etc should be as free and wild as possible. I would prefer to see very few amenities and to let the natural beauty of the site speak for itself.

Natural beauty, great scenery and excellent whitewater kayaking

I'd like to protect the river habitat and surrounding area.

Fish habitat protection and human access

Everything, I would not want it turned into a camping area. too many people and too much trash.

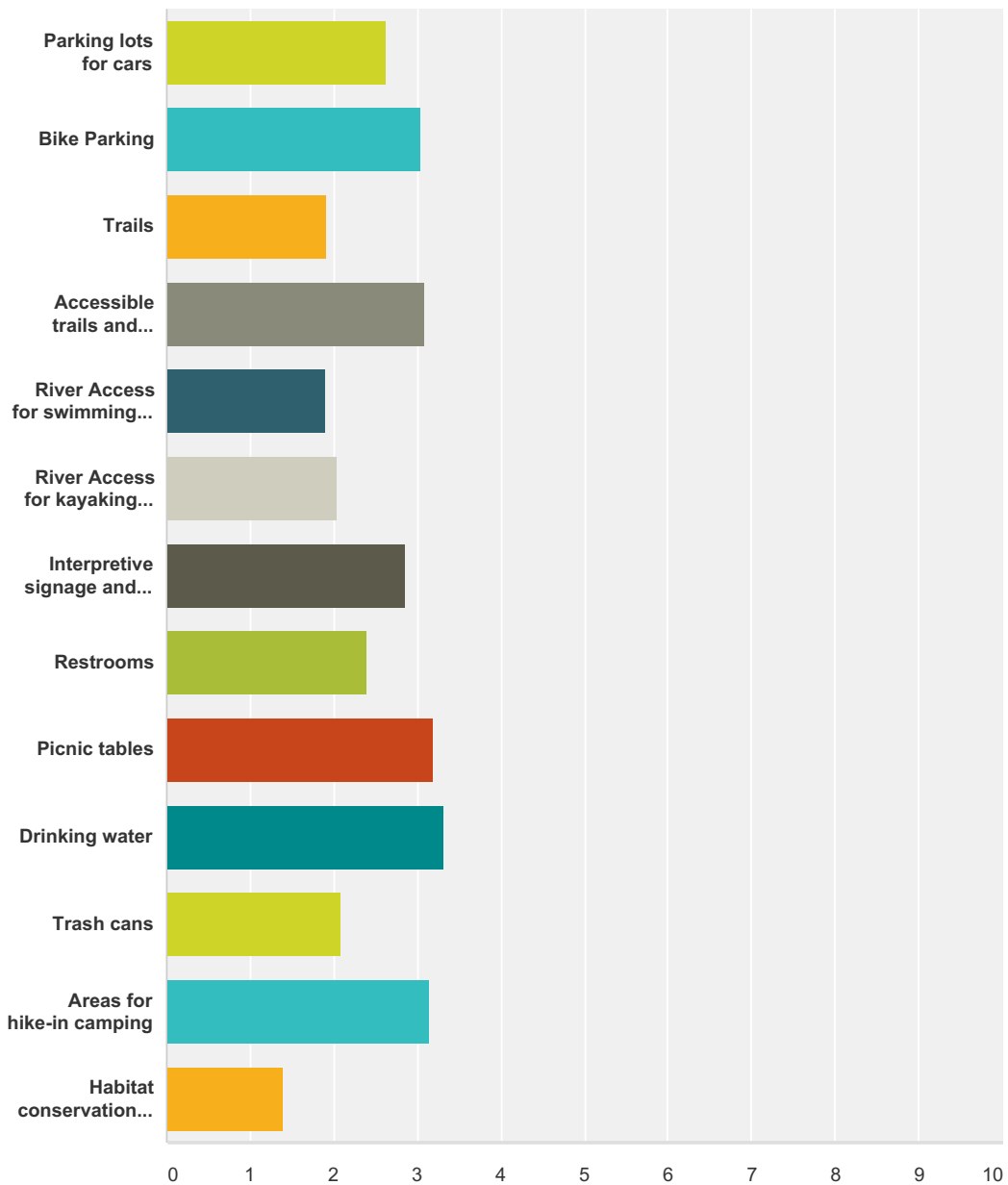
The geological features that create the falls. Protect solitude

Need to manage the potential impact of more people visiting, one of the problems I see now is garbage

It's unique as a geologic feature - there's really no other falls in Oregon on a major river with an amphitheater of this scale. I would want to keep it in a natural state, but with safer canyon rim trails and viewpoints. Long term, I'd like to see the concrete surface of the fish ladder covered in some way to make it less of an eyesore in an otherwise natural landscape

Q9 Punch Bowl Falls is a largely unimproved site. Current plans call for the park to retain its wild, natural character. The following is a list of features you normally see in natural area parks. Please rate how important they are to you to be included when developing Punchbowl Falls as a County Park.

Answered: 499 Skipped: 68



	Very important	Important	Slightly Important	Not important	No opinion	Total	Weighted Average
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Parking lots for cars	16.70% 82	28.72% 141	30.55% 150	23.22% 114	0.81% 4	491	2.63
Bike Parking	10.37% 50	19.29% 93	31.12% 150	33.82% 163	5.39% 26	482	3.05
Trails	37.04% 180	40.33% 196	15.02% 73	7.41% 36	0.21% 1	486	1.93
Accessible trails and facilities for the disabled, elderly and strollers	7.28% 35	21.00% 101	32.85% 158	33.06% 159	5.82% 28	481	3.09
River Access for swimming and fishing	44.74% 217	31.13% 151	15.05% 73	7.63% 37	1.44% 7	485	1.90
River Access for kayaking and rafting	47.01% 228	20.21% 98	15.67% 76	14.85% 72	2.27% 11	485	2.05
Interpretive signage and maps with information about the park	13.15% 63	23.38% 112	32.15% 154	28.39% 136	2.92% 14	479	2.85
Restrooms	21.63% 106	34.49% 169	25.71% 126	17.14% 84	1.02% 5	490	2.41
Picnic tables	6.69% 32	16.32% 78	30.54% 146	44.35% 212	2.09% 10	478	3.19
Drinking water	6.65% 32	12.06% 58	25.78% 124	53.43% 257	2.08% 10	481	3.32
Trash cans	35.46% 172	34.23% 166	17.94% 87	11.96% 58	0.41% 2	485	2.08
Areas for hike-in camping	8.40% 40	20.17% 96	22.48% 107	46.01% 219	2.94% 14	476	3.15
Habitat conservation and wild areas	72.56% 357	18.70% 92	5.28% 26	2.85% 14	0.61% 3	492	1.40

Q10 If you could only make one improvement at Punch Bowl Falls, what would it be?

Answered: 385 Skipped: 182

The largest number of responses were related to the trails—asking for a larger trail system like a loop trail or a pedestrian bridge over the east fork linking the west and east sides of the property, ADA accessible trails, a safe, formalized trail and overlook of the falls, and suggestions to decommission some of the improvised trails in favor of fewer better trails to cut down on environmental impacts like erosion.

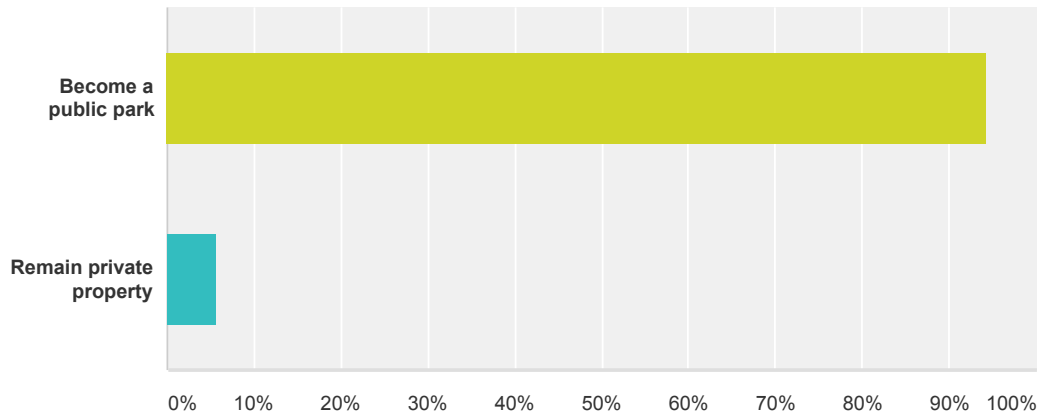
People also asked for improvements to the parking lot, the addition of trash cans and restrooms and improvements to river access for boaters.

Here are the most suggested improvements (number in parentheses refers to how many people named out that specific improvement):

- Trail improvements (90)
- Parking lot (40)
- Trash cans/litter pick up (39)
- Restrooms (31)
- Improved kayak/rafting access (31)
- Make access legal, public and permanent (27)
- Don't change a thing (23)
- Remove fish ladder and staircase (21)

Q11 While locals have a long history of treating the area as if it were a public park, it is, in fact private property. If Hood River County is unable to acquire the property, Western Rivers Conservancy may be forced to sell it on the private market. A private sale would come with a conservation easement to protect the habitat values of the Hood River corridor but it is likely that public access to the site would be eliminated by future owners. Do you think the Punch Bowl Falls property should become a public park or remain private property?

Answered: 484 Skipped: 83



Answer Choices	Responses
Become a public park	94.42% 457
Remain private property	5.58% 27
Total	484

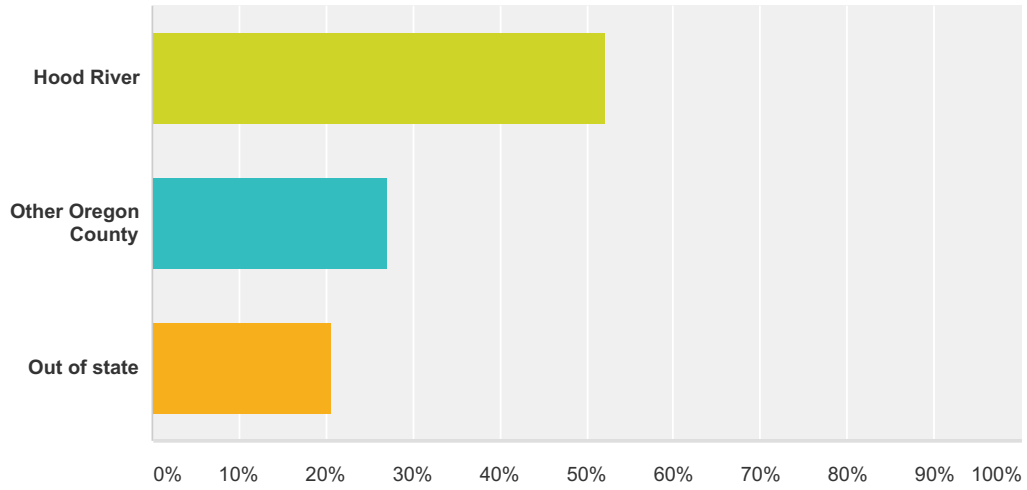
484 people answered this question--94.4% thought the property should become a County Park. 159 people choose to post a comment to explain their opinion.

The vast majority of comments were supportive of the park and along the lines of these: "This "hidden jewel" needs to remain accessible to the nature-loving public" "River access is so limited in the valley, it's crucial to gain Park status" "Preservation of Punch Bowl for the public to enjoy is critical!"

But some were concerned with the County’s ability to take care of the property or that it would become overused: "Hood river county already has parks that are not funded and maintained(Routson), do we really need the burden of another one ? especially one with so many natural hazards?" "DO NOT develop it into a zoo of people"

Q12 What county do you live in?

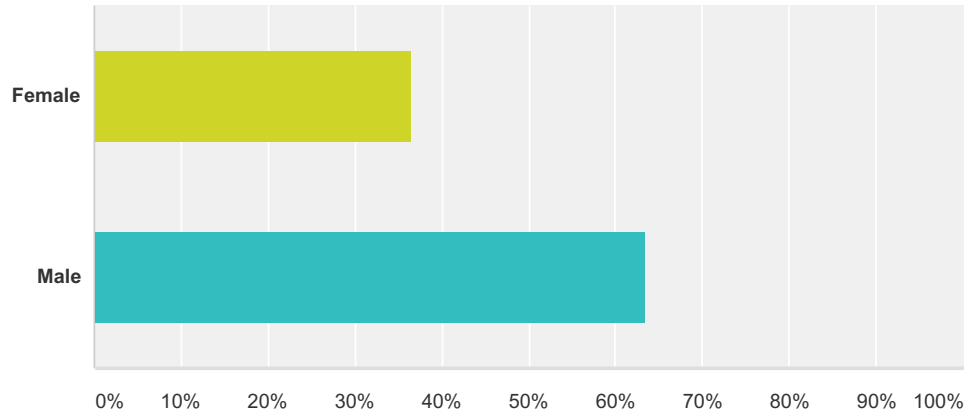
Answered: 498 Skipped: 69



Answer Choices	Responses
Hood River	52.21% 260
Other Oregon County	27.11% 135
Out of state	20.68% 103
Total	498

Q13 What is your gender?

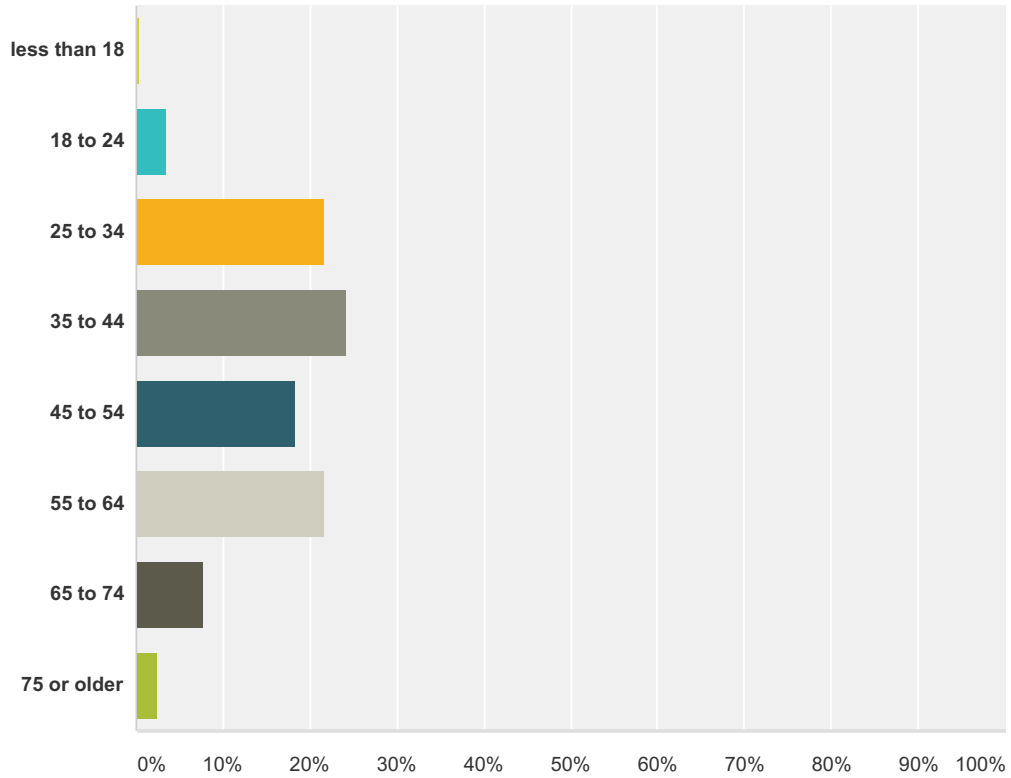
Answered: 488 Skipped: 79



Answer Choices	Responses
Female	36.48% 178
Male	63.52% 310
Total	488

Q14 What is your age?

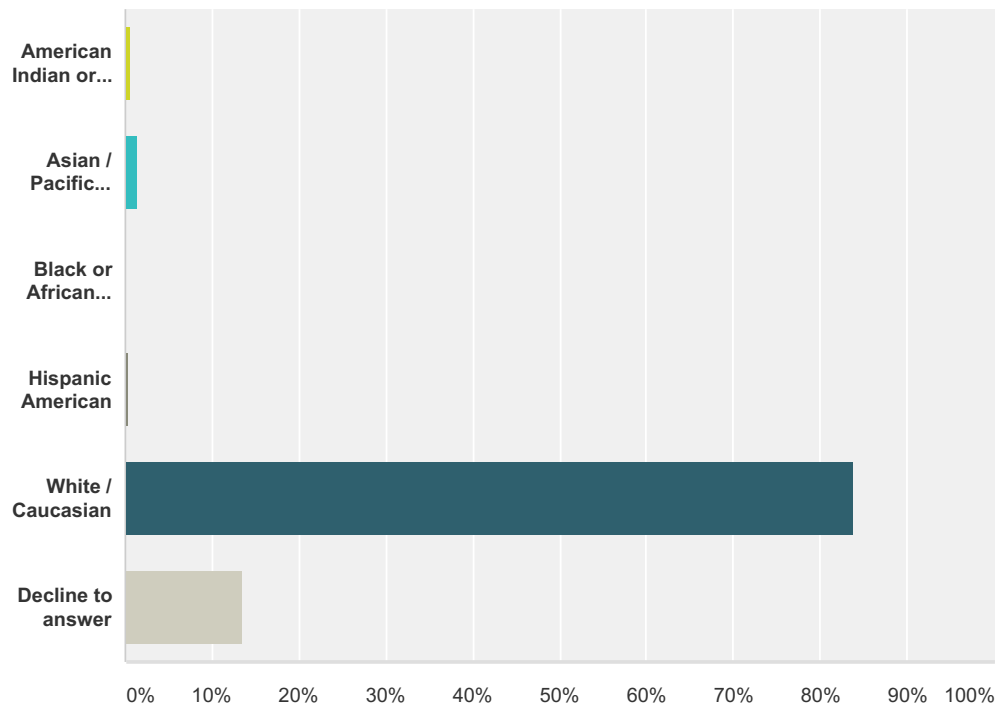
Answered: 492 Skipped: 75



Answer Choices	Responses
less than 18	0.41% 2
18 to 24	3.46% 17
25 to 34	21.75% 107
35 to 44	24.19% 119
45 to 54	18.29% 90
55 to 64	21.75% 107
65 to 74	7.72% 38
75 or older	2.44% 12
Total	492

Q15 Which race/ethnicity best describes you? (Please choose only one.)

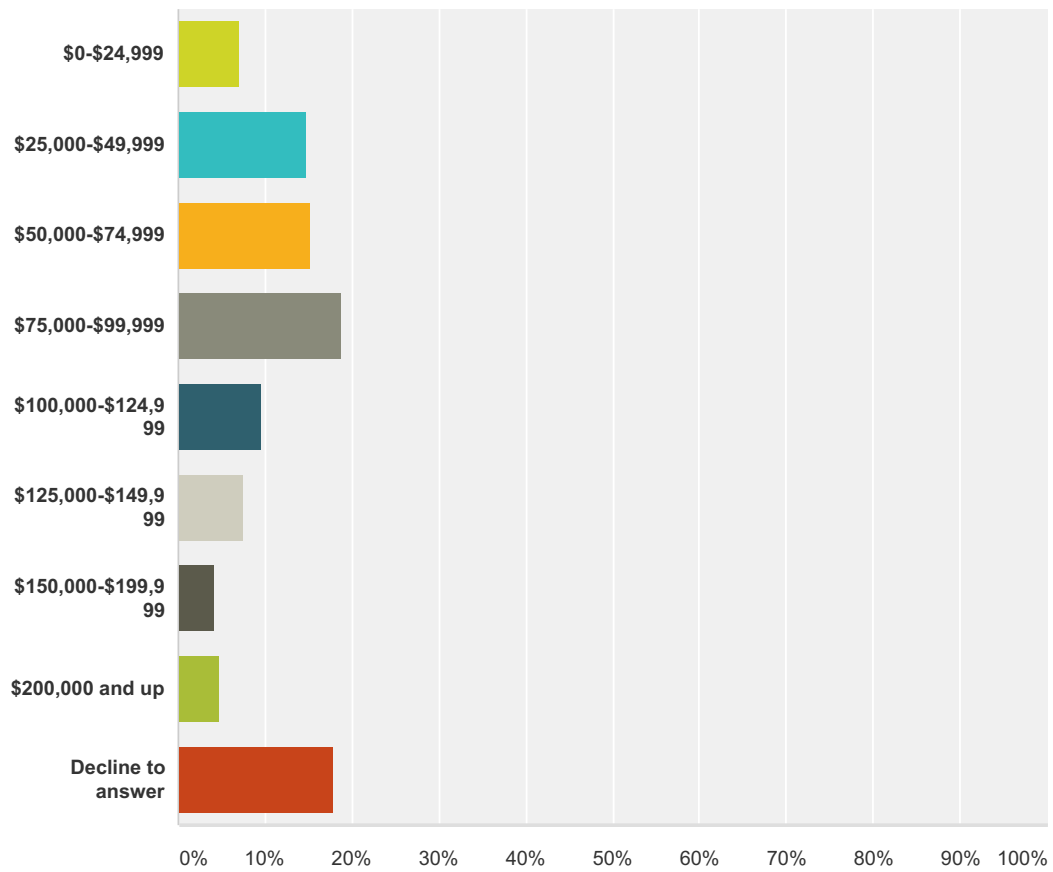
Answered: 484 Skipped: 83



Answer Choices	Responses
American Indian or Alaskan Native	0.62% 3
Asian / Pacific Islander	1.45% 7
Black or African American	0.00% 0
Hispanic American	0.41% 2
White / Caucasian	83.88% 406
Decline to answer	13.64% 66
Total	484

Q16 What is your approximate annual household income?

Answered: 488 Skipped: 79



Answer Choices	Responses	
\$0-\$24,999	7.17%	35
\$25,000-\$49,999	14.75%	72
\$50,000-\$74,999	15.16%	74
\$75,000-\$99,999	18.85%	92
\$100,000-\$124,999	9.63%	47
\$125,000-\$149,999	7.58%	37
\$150,000-\$199,999	4.10%	20
\$200,000 and up	4.71%	23
Decline to answer	18.03%	88
Total		488

Q17 If you would like to be sent updates on Punch Bowl, please enter your contact info below.

Answered: 213 Skipped: 354

Answer Choices	Responses	
Name	97.18%	207
Company	0.00%	0
Address	0.00%	0
Address 2	0.00%	0
City/Town	0.00%	0
State/Province	0.00%	0
ZIP/Postal Code	0.00%	0
Country	0.00%	0
Email Address	98.59%	210
Phone Number	0.00%	0