

Poulsbo Event and Recreation Center Community Survey #1 SURVEY SUMMARY & RESULTS

1 About the Feedback

The City of Poulsbo received a grant from the Kitsap Public Facilities District to prepare a feasibility study on a new community facility – the Poulsbo Event and Recreation Center. A cornerstone of the PERC feasibility is gathering and reviewing community preferences and support. The PERC’s feasibility study includes multiple community outreach efforts, including online preference surveys.

The City of Poulsbo hosted the first PERC online community preference survey on October 26 - November 16, 2020 and was intended to solicit feedback on indoor recreation, outdoor recreation, events, and City recreation programs. The preference survey invitation was directly mailed to over 5,000 city resident addresses and emailed to over 10,000 households in the North Kitsap School District. The survey invitation was also posted to multiple city-run social media sites that generated 12,000 touches.

Questions focused on priority preferences on indoor recreation, outdoor recreation, recreation programming, events, funding, participation, and demographics.

The City received almost 1,300 survey responses with 900 of those from the Poulsbo zip code. The communities of Kingston and Suquamish provided another 100 responses. Over 450 respondents shared their contact information and requested to be placed on an email list for future notifications on the PERC progress and other survey/input opportunity.

The survey results are summarized in this document and are posted on the City’s PERC website (www.cityofpoulsbo.com/perc/). The results are a critical foundation the feasibility work is built upon, and are shared with the Poulsbo City Council, the PERC Community Steering Committee, the PERC market analysis consultant, and will inform additional surveys and community input opportunities.

If you took the time to participate in the first PERC community preference survey, the City of Poulsbo thanks you. Your input makes a difference!

2 Key Findings

The amount of information and feedback from the community is impressive and includes input on a wide range of recreational, event, educational, and project development concerns and opportunities. Some of the key inputs from the community include:

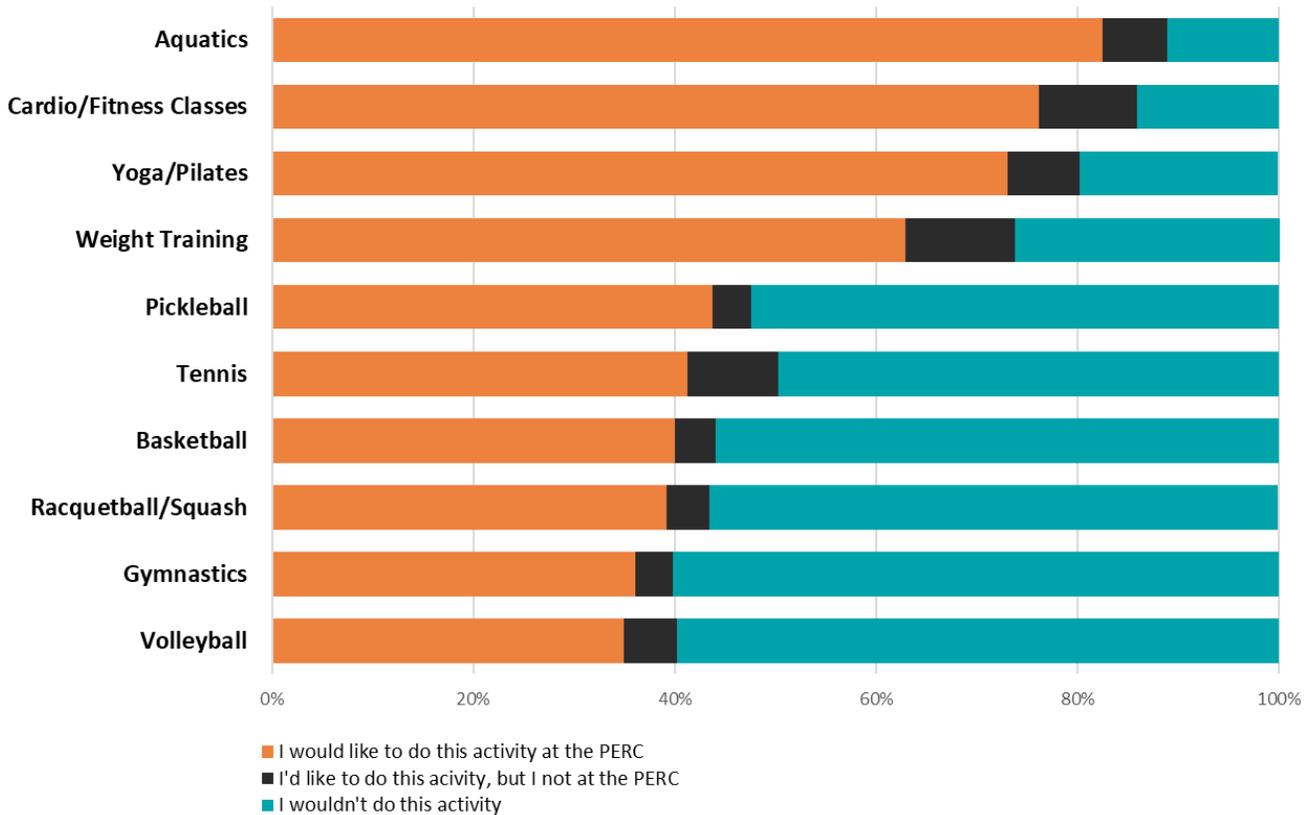
- ❖ The survey results and comments overwhelmingly support a community facility that offers indoor and outdoor recreational opportunities, classes and activities for all ages, multipurpose event spaces and partnerships to make it happen.
- ❖ The top indoor activity preference is aquatics; the top outdoor activity is walking/running trails; the top recreational programming preference is adult classes; and the top event center preference is performing arts.
- ❖ There is a strong desire for seek opportunities with our local education providers for the PERC to offer activities for high school and college students.
- ❖ PERC funding through a combination of private, public and voted bonds was supported by a majority of respondents.
- ❖ Robust public comment was provided within the survey, offering support, suggestions, questions, concerns and specific preferences.

3 Community Survey Preferences

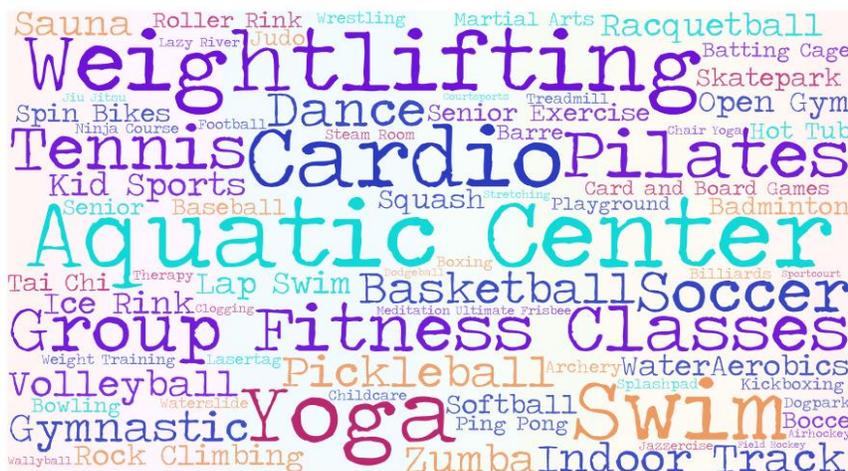
The top three preferences for **indoor recreation** at the PERC:

- 1 **Aquatics** was selected by over 80% of respondents.
- 2 **Cardio/Fitness Classes**
- 3 **Yoga/Pilates**

Aquatics was selected by over 80% of respondents as their top indoor recreation preference, with cardio/fitness classes at 76% and Yoga/Pilates at 73%.



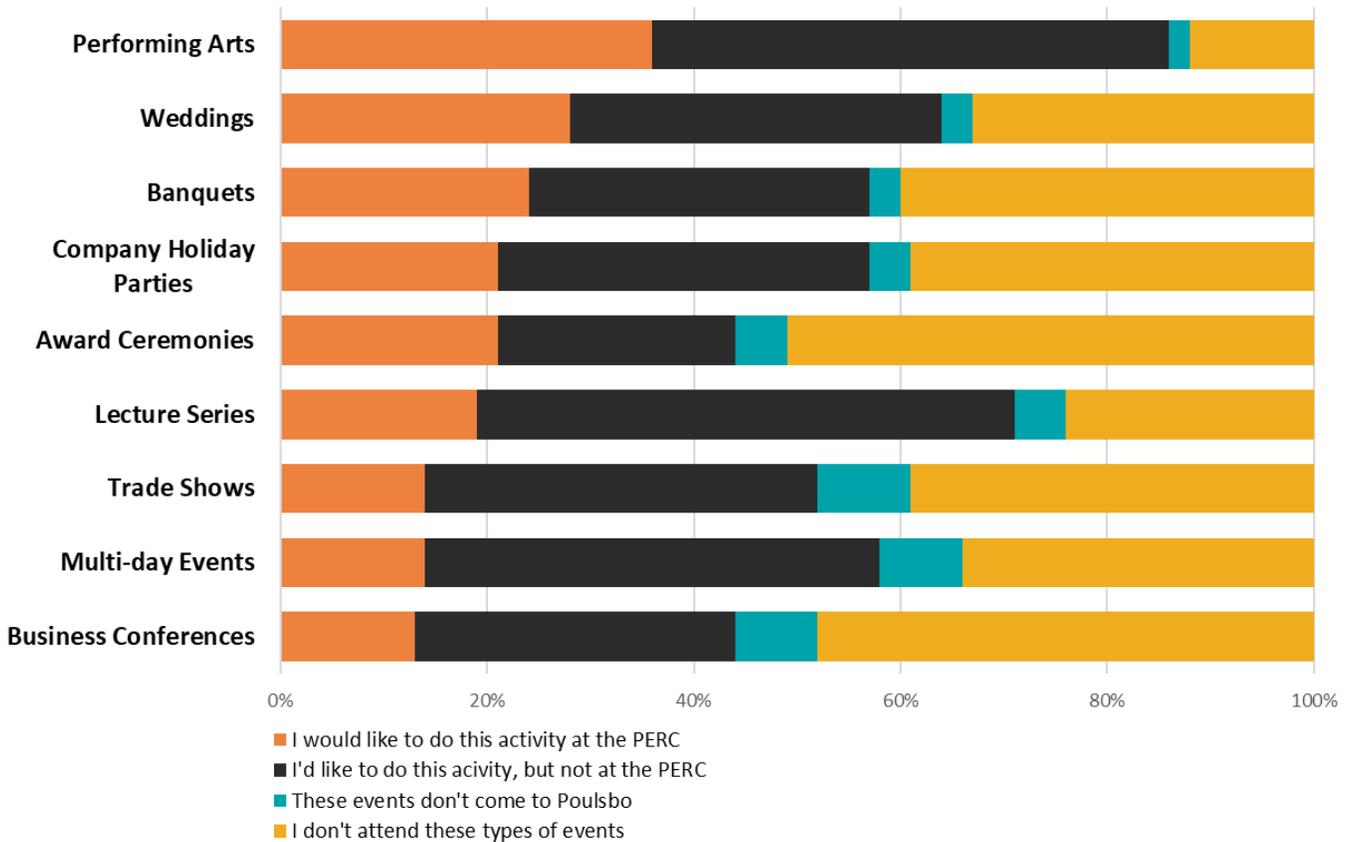
Wordcloud created from comments on indoor recreation



The top three preferences for events at the PERC:

- 1 Performing Arts**
- 2 Lectures**
- 3 Multi-day events/weddings**

The community’s feedback on the events element showed a preference for **performing arts** and **local community events** (weddings, holiday parties, banquets). An important piece of feedback is that across all event choices listed in the survey, between 30% and 50% of respondents identified that they like to attend events but not at the PERC.



Wordcloud created from comments on events



Additional Responses:

- Over 80% of the responses were supportive or likely to be supportive of PERC features that provide for college and high school activities as well.
- Over 70% of the responses were supportive of developing partnerships or agreements with non-profit agencies for PERC development and operations
- Over 75% of respondents indicated they would or would be very likely to support a ballot measure to fund part of PERC development
- Almost 70% of respondents have not previously participated in City of Poulsbo surveys
- Over 40% of respondents have lived at their current address for 5 years or less. Less than 20% have been in their residence for over 20 years.

Additional Comments:

In addition to the selected and identified preferences, the community provided a wide range of written comments on the preference survey. Their comments consistently reinforce the top preferences reported above. Reviewing comments reveals some of the themes from the community's comments These are listed below in no particular order:

- Lighted multi-use fields to host tournaments.
- Walking/jogging path with exercise stations, accessible to seniors and mobility impaired.
- Community needs more sports fields vs. Community has enough sports fields.
- Skatepark.
- Outdoor pool / splash pad.
- Obstacle course / Ninja course.
- A place for activities during cold or rainy weather, such as indoor soccer, walking/running, baseball, and racquet sports.
- Activities for seniors and mobility impaired.
- Multi-use facilities.
- Don't duplicate what is already offered in the community.
- Places and activities for kids of all ages
- Before school and after school programs.
- Cooking classes and community kitchen.
- Offer childcare for PERC users.

- Community needs space for groups to gather for meetings, trainings, social events, classes, and lectures.
- A place for all ages
- This is not a good time for investing public money
- This is exciting and much needed
- Make it affordable to everyone; avoid membership fees

4 Next Steps

The PERC project team will share the survey results with the community and analyze the inputs through the Market Analysis and input from the Steering Committee. An important part of that sharing will be to communicate to the community how the PERC replaces or supplements existing City facilities and how it will integrate with education institutions and area sports leagues. This information will come from the Market Analysis and other inputs from the community, the City, and outreach to our institutional and industry partners.

To stay informed on the PERC Feasibility Study progress, email perc@cityofpoulsbo.com and ask to be placed on the PERC enotice list.