

Washington State

Recreation and Conservation Plan

2023 SCORP

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WASHINGTON STATE
Recreation and
Conservation Office



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2023 RECREATION AND CONSERVATION PLAN

WASHINGTON STATE
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE
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FINAL PLAN - MARCH 2023



What is a SCORP?

State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

Partnership Between:



WASHINGTON STATE
Recreation and
Conservation Office



The Washington State Recreation and Conservation Plan outlines the strategic direction for state investments in the conservation of public lands and development of outdoor recreation opportunities.

CAPE ALAVA
OLYMPIC NAT. PARK

COLONIAL CREEK FALLS
NORTH CASCADES NAT. PARK

MOUNT RAINIER
MT. RAINIER NAT. PARK

PALOUSE FALLS
STATE PARK
WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON STATE

POPULATION: 7,864,400

NICKNAME: THE EVERGREEN STATE

STATE CAPITAL: OLYMPIA

1 MOUNT RAINIER

HIGHEST POINT IN WASHINGTON STATE: 14,410 FT

LOCATION: 46.8523° N, 121.7603° W

2 CAPE ALAVA, CLALLAM COUNTY

WESTERN MOST POINT OF THE CONTINENTAL US

LOCATION: 48.1662° N, 124.7308° W

3 COLONIAL CREEK FALLS, NORTH CASCADES NATIONAL PARK

TALLEST WATERFALL IN CONTINENTAL US: 2,568 FEET / 13 DROPS

LOCATION: 0.0° N, 0.0° W

4 PALOUSE FALLS STATE PARK, WASHINGTON

NAMED WASHINGTON'S STATE WATERFALL IN 2014 / 198 FEET

LOCATION: 0.0° N, 0.0° W

About RCO

Agency Mission

Work with others to protect and improve the best of Washington's natural and outdoor recreational resources

Agency Vision

Washington State has abundant outdoor recreation spaces, healthy habitats, and working farms and forests that support people, fish, and wildlife.





Grant Programs

- Aquatics Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA)
- Boating Facilities Program (BFP)
- Firearms and Archery Range Recreation (FARR)
- ★ Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)
- No Child Left Inside (NCLI)
- Non-highway & Off Road Vehicle Activities (NOVA)
- Recreational Trails Program (RTP)
- Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP)
- Youth Athletic Facilities (YAF)

Resident Demand Survey

"The Hub" Public Engagement Portal

Mapped Inventory



Advisory Committees

Staff and Board Input

Public Review and Feedback



2022 Survey of Resident Demand

- Data collection: Dec. 2021 – April 2022
- 6,171 responses
- 14 minutes - average response time
- 10 regions; represents state population
- 10 activity categories / 88 activities
- Full report available online



Figure 2. 10 SCORP Regions for the Assessment of Recreation Demand

TOP 20 OUTDOOR RECREATION ACTIVITIES IN WASHINGTON STATE (by participation rate - % of population)

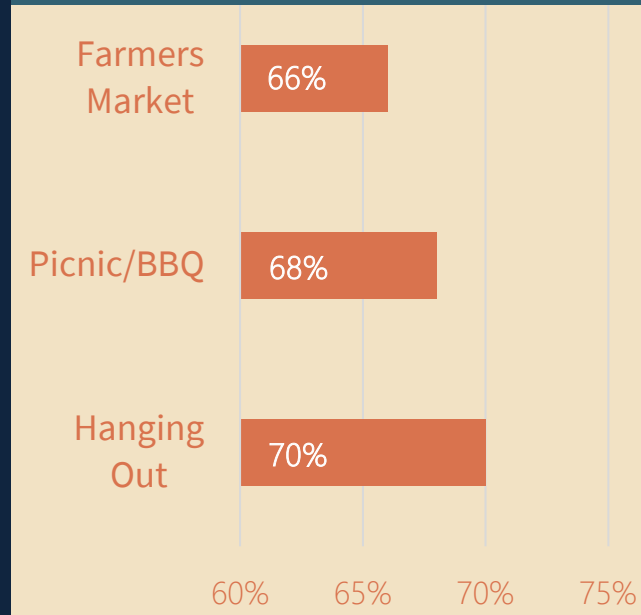
ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY CATEGORY	%	N
Walking or Using Mobility Device on Roads or Sidewalks	Trail- and Road-Based Activities	91%	5390
Walking or Day Hiking or Using Mobility Device on Trails	Trails and Road-Based Activities	90%	5331
Wildlife and Nature Viewing	Nature- and Culture-Based Activities	85%	4812
Scenic Driving (Sightseeing)	Nature- and Culture-Based Activities	85%	4767
Hanging Out	Leisure Activities in Parks	70%	3679
Picnic, Barbecue, or Cookout	Leisure Activities in Parks	68%	3639
Community Garden or Farmers' Market	Leisure Activities in Parks	66%	3556
Visiting Outdoor Cultural or Historical Facility, - Includes Attending Cultural Events	Nature and Culture-Based Activities	62%	3413
Swimming in Natural Settings	Water-Based Activities	61%	3374
Paddle Sports (Whitewater, Canoes, Kayaks, Stand-Up Paddle Boards, Rowing)	Water-Based Activities	52%	2910
Outdoor Concert or Special Event	Leisure Activities in Parks	49%	2602
Gathering or Collecting Anything in Nature	Nature- and Culture-Based Activities	49%	2635
Tent Camping (Developed Campground)	Camping Activities	44%	2510
Backpacking	Trail- and Road-Based Activities	42%	2349
Playground	Leisure Activities in Parks	41%	2148
Tent Camping (Undeveloped Area)	Camping Activities	41%	2247
Road Cycling	Trail- and Road-Based Activities	40%	2240
Yard Games (Beanbag Toss, Horseshoes, etc.)	Leisure Activities in Parks	38%	1966
Volunteering (Restoration Projects, Citizen Science, etc.)	Nature- and Culture-Based Activities	37%	1984
Jogging or Running on roads or sidewalks	Trail- and Road-Based Activities	35%	1944
Snowshoeing	Snow and Ice Activities	35%	1821

2022 Survey of Resident Demand

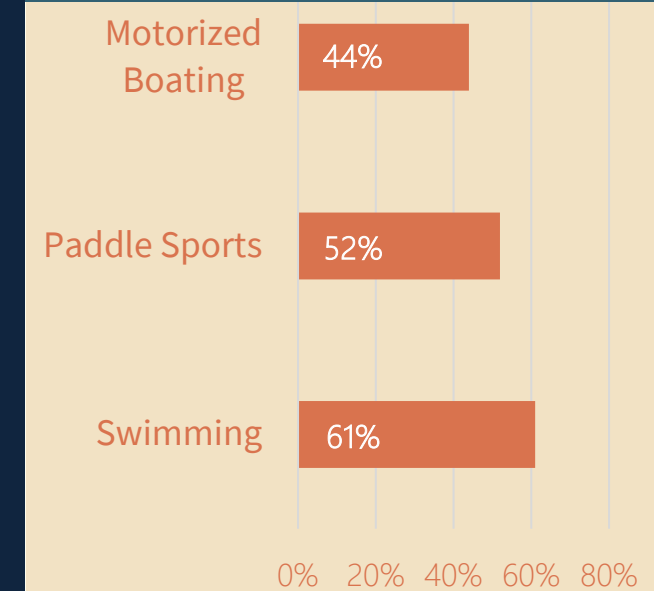
2022 Activity Categories

1. *Camping*
2. *Trail and Road Activities (non-motorized)*
3. *Trail and Road Activities (motorized)*
4. *Water Activities*
5. *Snow and Ice Activities*
6. *Nature and Culture Activities*
7. *Leisure Activities (in a park)*
8. *Athletics*
9. *Hunting, Fishing, and Shooting Sports*
10. *Outdoor Adventures*

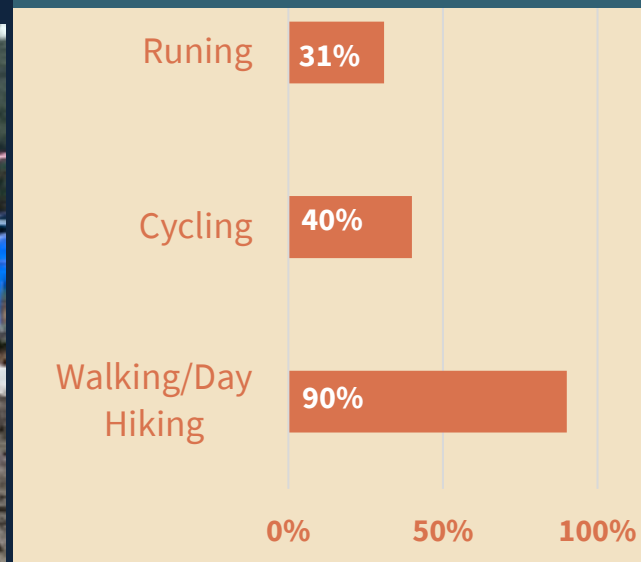
Top Leisure Activities (in a park)



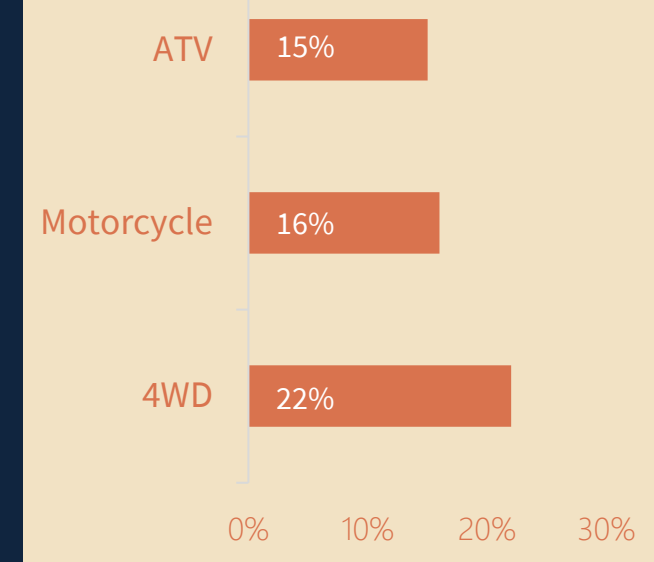
Top Water Activities



Top Non-motorized Trail Activities



Top Motorized Trail Activities

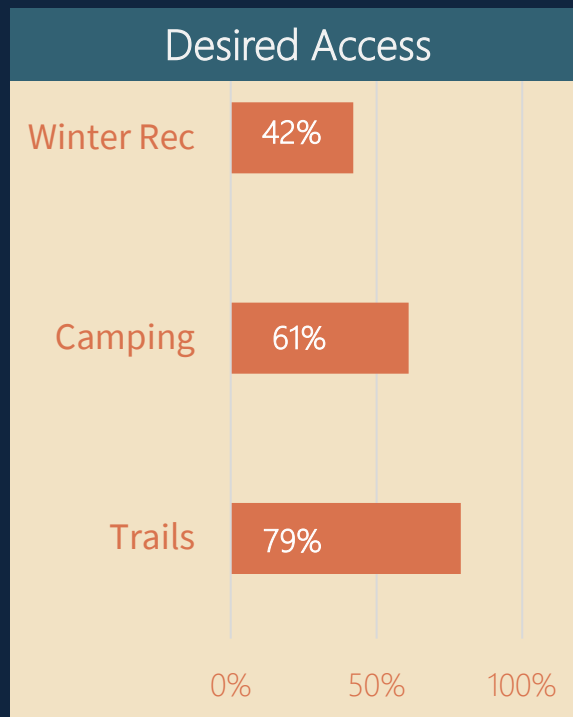


2022 Survey of Resident Demand

2017-2022 Participation Trends

- *Wildlife or nature viewing + 28 percent*
- *Paddle sports + 28 percent*
- *Visiting cultural or historical sites + 27 percent*
- *Tent camping (undeveloped area) + 26 percent*
- *Backpacking +25 percent*
- *Playing yard games (in a park) + 25 percent*
- *Snowshoeing + 23 percent*
- *Tent camping (developed area) + 19 percent*
- *Hanging out (in a park) + 19 percent*
- *Mountain biking + 18 percent*





Outdoor Recreation Experience Survey

Survey Focus:

To explore motivation, desired experiences, modes of access, barriers, and other factors that may influence participation.

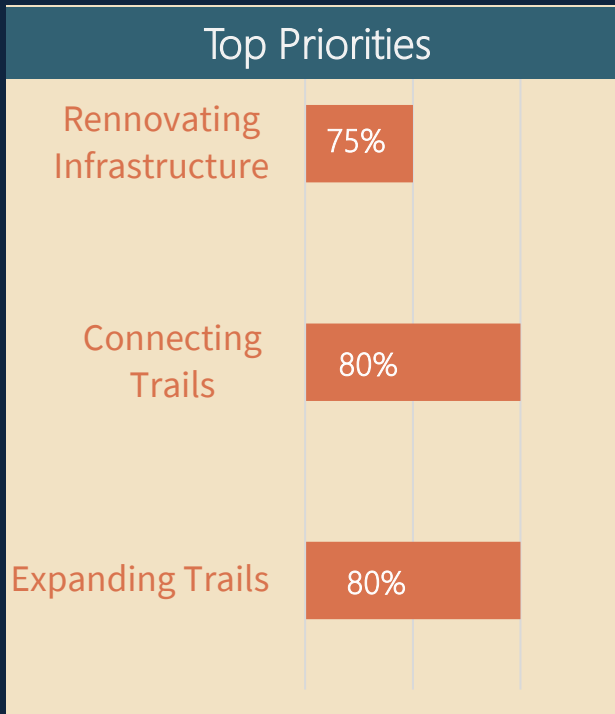
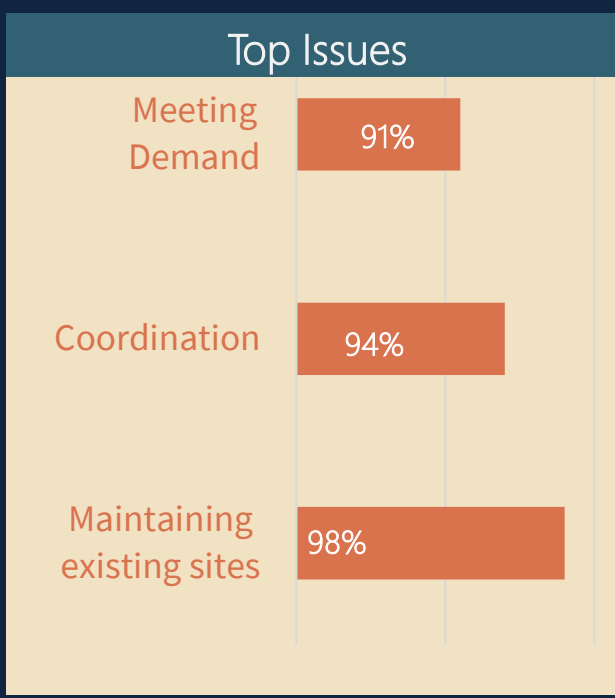
- Data Collected: October – November 2022
- 5,427 responses
- 37 of 39 counties represented
- Full report available online

Selected Results:

- 82% said overcrowding is a barrier
- 79% want more close-to-home opportunities
- 79% want more non-motorized trails
- 75% gave Washington 4 or 5 stars
- 62% recreate to exercise/improve physical health



4 Stars Average Rating



Survey of Recreation Providers

(Land Managers & Volunteer Orgs)

Survey Focus

- *Management issues and challenges*
- *Management priorities*
- *Funding and investment needs*
- *Mapping and data*
- *Additional thoughts*

Summary

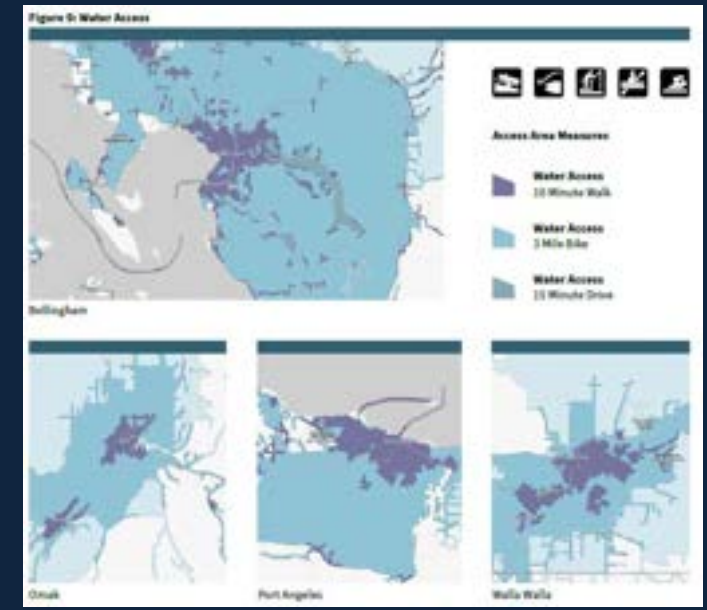
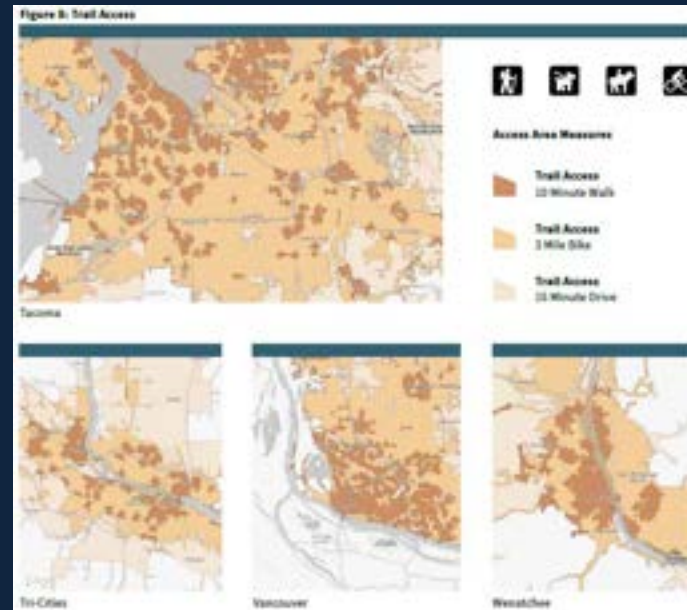
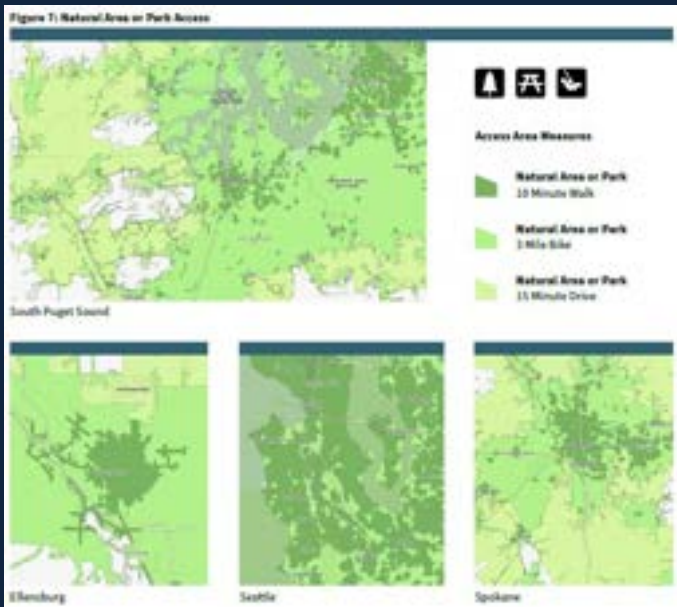
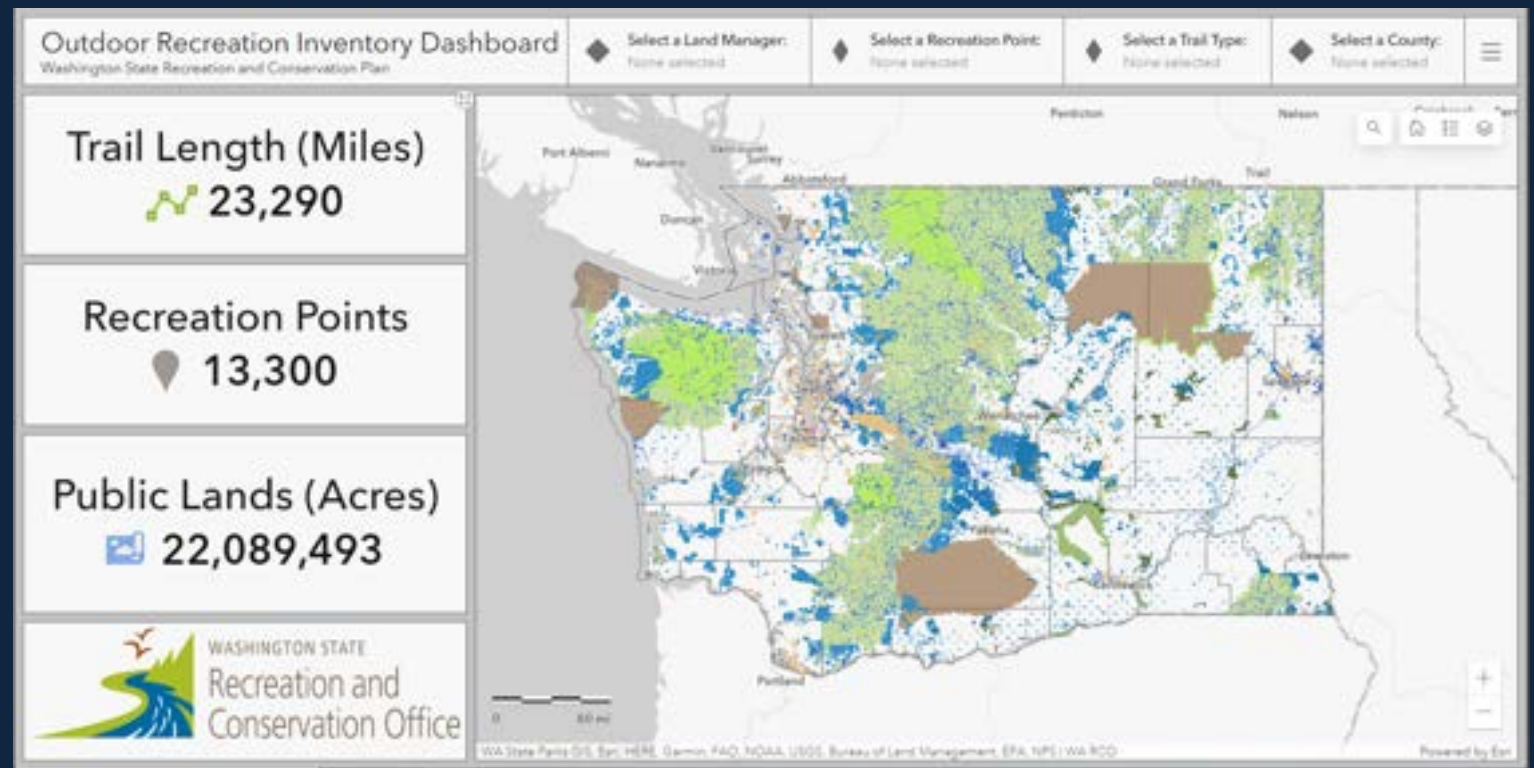
- Data Collected: December 2021 – January 2022
- 83 total responses – 20% increase from 2017
- 64% Land Managers (including Land Trusts)
- 36% NGOs

Recreation Access Inventory

Updated recreational inventory

Multimodal analysis for Parks, Trails, and Water based recreation

- 10 minute walk
- 15 minute bike ride
- 15 minute drive/transit ride



Resident Demand Survey



"The Hub" Public Engagement Portal



Mapped Inventory



Advisory Committees



Staff and Board Input



Public Review and Feedback



Four Priorities

Priority 1

Provide meaningful access to outdoor recreation for all

Priority 2

Protect natural and cultural resources while managing increasing demand

Priority 3

Demonstrate the essential nature of parks, natural areas, and recreation infrastructure

Priority 4

Support healthy, adaptable, and connected communities

Seven Strategies

Strategy 1

Update grant evaluation criteria

Strategy 2

Revise policies to address emerging needs

Strategy 3

Adaptively manage state's public lands and outdoor recreation portfolio

Strategy 4

Maintain and improve data and support tools

Strategy 5

Improve and expand community engagement

Strategy 6

Research and communicate intersecting benefits, challenges and opportunities

Strategy 7

Support emerging programs



What's Next?

- Grant criteria updates
- Policy development
- Maintaining and updating data
- Support emerging programs




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More information available online

<https://wa-rco-scorp-2023-wa-rco.hub.arcgis.com>



A young boy in a red shirt is sliding down a playground slide, smiling broadly. Other children are visible on the slide and in the background, playing on the equipment. The scene is set outdoors on a sunny day with trees and a clear blue sky.

Thank you! Questions?

Contact Ben.Donatelle@rco.wa.gov