

# PARKS,

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Residents also wanted to see more support for sports and fitness activities and community events such as festivals and fairs in local parks.

“We’re hearing more natural spaces, but with a variety of activities, is important,” said Cindy Mendoza, a spokesperson for Portland-based MIG, the firm consulting on the project. “Right behind that was attending community events, which tested even more highly than playing field sports or watching sports in the city.”

Regarding playgrounds, Mendoza suggested the city look into equipment that would serve teenagers and young adults. There is currently a dearth of activities aimed at those groups in Keizer parks. A number of companies offer “fitness courts” that include both workout and play stations (think Ninja Warrior-type fun with less actual danger).

Keizer Little League Park, which will be included in the city’s master plan for the first time ever, arose as a point of conflict for survey respondents.

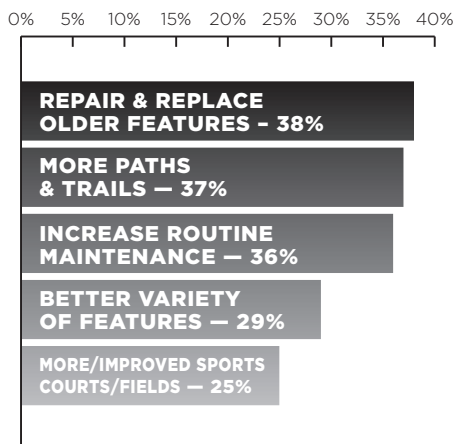
“When we asked about Keizer Little League Park specifically, the second most popular response was that no improvements are needed,” Mendoza said. “However, it has a number of issues that, if the city had to take over that site. It would be an enormous cost to the city. The park would not be up to city standards or ADA accessibility codes, or even the high maintenance standards that Robert Johnson (Keizer parks supervisor) has shown across the parks.”

Respondents, by and large, were complimentary of the state of Keizer parks. About 70% said they were either very satisfied or somewhat satisfied with the number of parks and their condition.

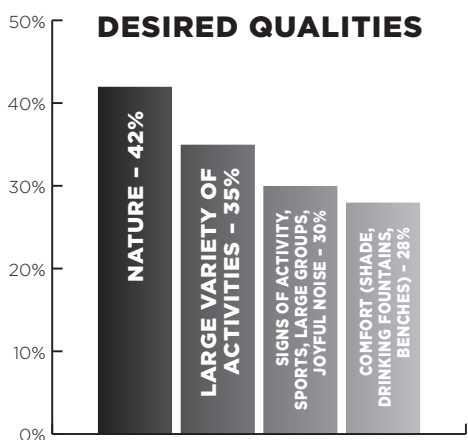
Despite the customer satisfaction level, the report also found that several areas of the

city were underserved or had no reasonable access to a park that served multiple interests. Several large gaps were found throughout the city. Some of the areas do have local parks, but access is either difficult, such as Northridge Park, or the local park can only serve one function, such as a Bair Park – primarily forested park that visitors would struggle to even play a

### TOP 5 PRIORITIES



### DESIRED QUALITIES



game of catch in.

The survey did not specifically ask about respondents’ satisfaction with park funding sources and a \$4 service fee attached to utility bills, but Mendoza and others seemed to extrapolate the response to such questions from a single meeting with a single neighborhood association. The answer that group gave was: no new taxes or fees.

“On one hand, we have a ‘no new funding’ message. On the other hand, they’re acknowledging that there are some deficiencies in parks that would need increased funding in order to address,” Mendoza said.

In light of that response, the MIG report suggests focusing renewed efforts in some of the large neighborhood parks, such

as Bob Newton Family Park, Meadows Park and Wallace House Park.

“These sites serve individuals, children, and families with features such as playgrounds, picnic areas, sports courts, and open grass areas for leisure and play,” the report states.

When it came to the question of what Keizer would like to see in recreation programming, Keizeites wanted to see sports, fitness and health programs, community gatherings and natural interpretation elements.

Mendoza was reticent to recommend that the city leap head-first into a full recreation program, the type required if the city decides to pursue a large indoor recreation facility in Keizer Rapids Park. A facility of that type was originally envisioned for Keizer’s only regional park.

“Those types of facilities often end up being subsidized by the city. Some smaller cities start with a very small move, such as a part-time recreation coordinator who is recruiting either contract providers or other partners or non-profits to provide activities, events and programs in your parks,” Mendoza said.

Residents ages 35-44 were the top responders to the survey, representing about a third of the total. Nearly 80% identified as white, about 98% spoke English at home. More than 40% of respondents had no children living in the household and more than 60% of respondents live west of River Road North.

## around Oregon

### Wheatland Ferry toll increasing

Beginning March 15, the toll to use the Wheatland Ferry for most vehicles will increase to \$3.

The current rate for vehicles less than 22 feet long is \$2. The toll for vehicles between 22 feet and 42 feet long will rise from \$4 to \$6 at the Wheatland ferry. Vehicles longer than 42 feet, will pay \$9, up from \$6.

Tolls for bicycles will remain \$1 and pedestrians will still ride for free.

According to a county press release, the toll increases won’t make the ferry program profitable but are instead intended to keep losses manageable and the cost for commuters low. It’s the first rate bump for the Wheatland Ferry in 12 years.

### Schrader votes against federal pandemic relief

Rep. Kurt Schrader, Keizer’s representative in the U.S. House of Representatives, was one of two Democrats to vote against a largely popular pandemic relief bill on Saturday, Feb. 27.

The bill, which was approved in a 219-212 vote, would pour new cash into the pockets of individuals, busi-

nesses, states and cities. Neither Schrader nor his office issued any public statement regarding his opposition.

Schrader had previously signaled opposition to more than \$300 per week in additional support for those on unemployment benefits as a result of the pandemic. He offered no public statement regarding the reasoning for his vote Saturday, Feb. 27.

In a December Zoom call with members of the Keizer Chamber of Commerce, Schrader said, “Six hundred dollars a week was way above what a lot of folks are actually earning. It was a disincentive to go back to work. If you’re in a tough situation like this, everyone has to cut back and manage things a little better. But they shouldn’t do it without a little bit of help from the state or the federal government.”

The new bill includes an additional \$400 per week and extends the assistance through August.

In late 2020, a Yale University study found that workers who received the unemployment subsidy, even if it resulted in a boosted take-home pay, returned to work at a similar rate to those who had smaller increases in take-home pay. The study concluded that the extra money kept the nation from falling further into economic ruin.

The Senate must approve the measure before any of the money flows out of Washington, D.C.

## COST,

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two local haulers and another \$7,100 in overtime pay to operate the site.

The council granted approval to close the site Sunday, March 7. The final hours will be Saturday, March 6, and Sunday, March 7, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. It costs between \$1,000 and \$1,500 per day to operate the collection service and Lawyer said there is more and more greenery being deposited that doesn’t appear to be a result of storm damage.

“One of the guys at the site talked with a young man who had brought in three loads of arbor vitae that his father was paying him to take out of the yard,” Lawyer said.

Councilor Dan Kohler countered that some such work is needed as a result of the storm and asked how city employees determined what counted as storm debris.

“It’s one example of people taking advantage of what is offered,” said Lawyer. “As a homeowner, I’m not saying I wouldn’t have done the same thing, but it’s still taking advantage.”

Another reason for closing the lot is that youth sports activities will begin ramping up in the coming weeks and the space will be needed for parking.

Additional expenses included: overtime for monitoring water systems during power outages (\$1,800) and replacement of fences after damage from trees (\$25,000).

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death notice

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**Janet Sharon Wentzel**

Janet Sharon Wentzel, born in Great Falls, Mont. Feb. 20, 1954, passed away on February 24, 2021 in Keizer, Ore., keizerchapel.com

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## crossword

### Milady’s Wardrobe

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CREATORS NEWS SERVICE By Charles Preston

**ACROSS**

1 “... she was not fond of \_\_\_”: George Eliot  
5 Jeer  
10 Apparel  
14 Russian river  
15 Dried coconut meat  
16 Seed covering  
17 Deep mud  
18 Concepts  
19 Exercise authority  
20 Kind of collar  
22 Sang with lips closed  
24 Henry \_\_\_: first Tudor king  
25 Refer to  
26 Hirohito, for one  
30 Virginia city  
34 Undesirable sound  
35 Boys’ school  
37 Following cyclo or magne  
38 Hail or farewell  
39 Talons  
40 Top  
41 Civvies  
43 “Darling, je vous \_\_\_ beaucoup”  
44 Kind of steak  
46 Afternoon, in England

48 Sagged  
50 French kings  
51 Make bigger: abbr.  
52 Lustrous fabrics  
55 Intimate apparel  
60 Journey  
61 Egg-shaped  
63 Talk bombastically  
64 Baxter  
65 \_\_\_ *Labour’s Lost*  
66 Monster  
67 Long feathery scarfs  
68 Make an effort  
69 Bishops’ jurisdictions

**DOWN**

1 Kind of shoe  
2 “... fifteen miles on the \_\_\_ Canal”  
3 Agreeably sharp  
4 Dolman and raglan  
5 \_\_\_ Africanus, Roman general  
6 Concluding part  
7 Used with shop or season  
8 Monk’s title  
9 Styles  
10 Article of clothing  
11 Sago-like starch  
12 Anger

13 Extorted money from  
21 To laugh, in Paris  
23 Miss Hagen  
25 Bragged exultantly  
26 Make into law  
27 Film  
28 Famous religious sculpture  
29 Depends  
31 Kind of deck  
32 Common language of ancient Greece  
33 Finished  
36 Beret  
39 Sleeveless undergarment  
42 Tiger markings  
44 Chinese gang  
45 Jackets or Spanish dances  
47 Subatomic particle  
49 Fit one within another again  
52 Pierce  
53 Italian river  
54 Turner  
55 Wash  
56 Roman highway  
57 Latest fashion  
58 Concerning  
59 Summers, in Paris  
62 \_\_\_ *populi*

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