



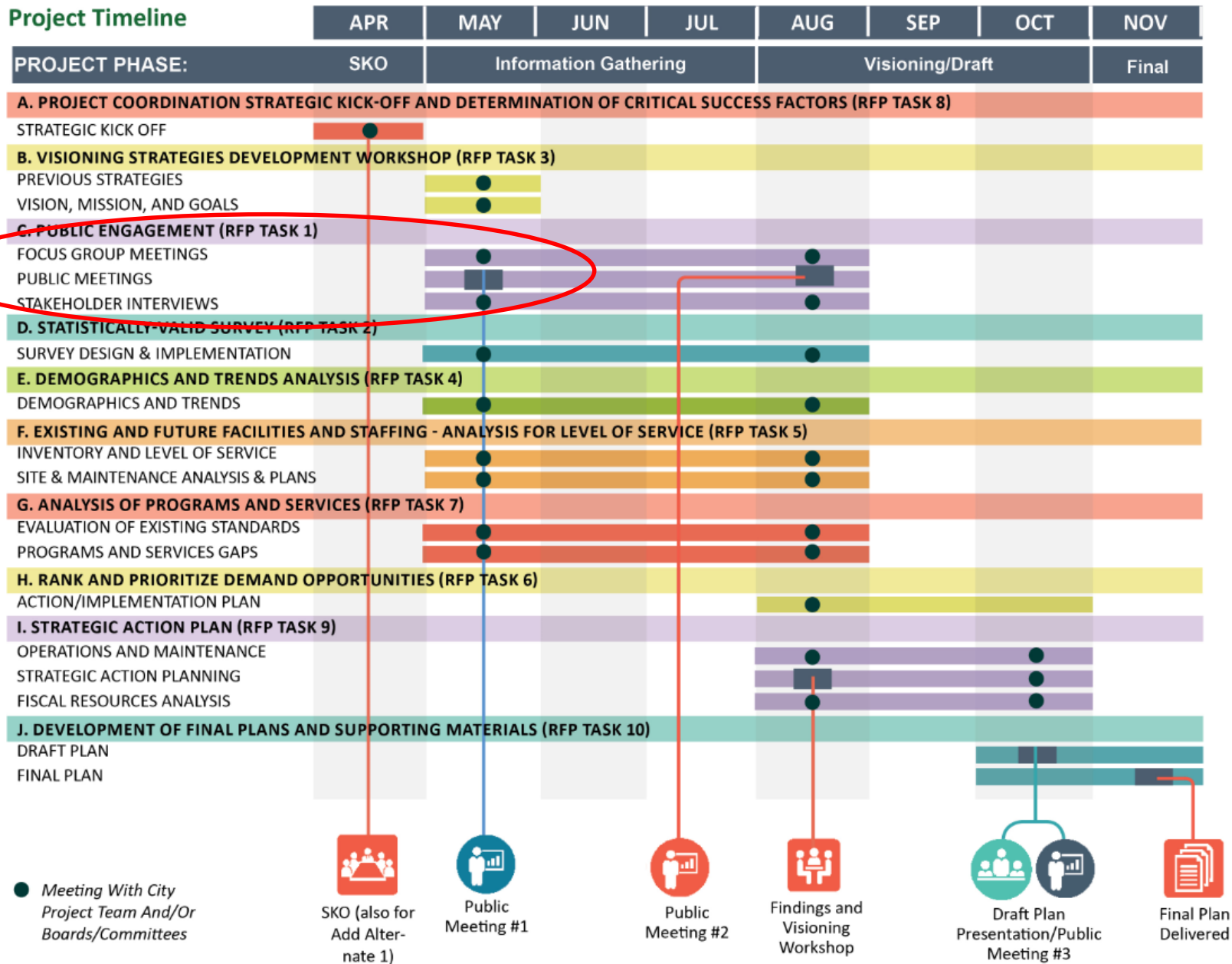
**Parks and Recreation Master Plan
City of Sandpoint, Idaho
Information Gathering Summary
May 2, 2019**



No Decisions Have Been Made

We Want Your Input

The Process



How long have you been a
resident of the City of
Sandpoint?



3 Focus Groups – 44 participants

13 Stakeholders

Advisory Committee

<5 years 14%

5-9 years 16%

10-15 years 14%

16-19 years 5%

20+ years 20%

Not a resident but use facilities 32%

and participate in programs

What are the **strengths** of
City of Sandpoint Parks and
Recreation?



Top Strengths (1 of 3)

- **City Beach***
- **# outdoor children's playgrounds that fit needs of all the age ranges***
- **Marina amenity***
- **Nice big parks with lots of fields and open space***
- **Good athletic fields***
- **Lots for younger youth***
- **Department does a good job providing things to do / access in summer**
- **Summer recreational offer diversity (beach, amenities, services)**
- **Staff is open and receptive to suggestions**
- **Quite a few programs for kids to do**
- **Parks are well-maintained**
- **Trails plowed in winter**
- **Parks aren't locked; available for drop-in; accessible / open when not reserved**

Top Strengths (2 of 3)

- **Easy to work with staff**
- **Outdoor shooting range**
- **Opportunities for kids**
- **Easy to collaborate with business**
- **General support from parks and recreation staff to facilities**
- **Variety of what can do at the parks; amenities vary at the parks**
- **Parks are well maintained**
- **Sand volleyball courts**
- **Political support strong for quality of life projects**
- **Abundance of parks and activities**
- **Costs are low or no**
- **Creates sense of community**
- **Dedicated, hardworking staff**
- **Community involvements with parks and recreation**
- **Coordination and partnership with other organizations**

Top Strengths (3 of 3)

- **Act as a clearinghouse for the community (don't need to sponsor everything, but share the information)**
- **City and department's desire to engage the public**
- **Excellent job with events and keeping departments involved**
- **Boat launch is free**
- **Diversity of programming**
- **Disc golf**

What are the **weaknesses** that need to be addressed through the Parks and Recreation Master Plan?



Top Weaknesses (1 of 5)

- **More trail connectivity***
- **More for teenagers especially for those not playing an organized sport***
- **More field times***
- **Better access to fields (with winter, later use access due to weather)***
- **Lack of indoor fields or synthetic outdoor fields***
- **Lack of winter amenities / activities in the parks***
- **Enhance things to do at City Beach property in winter***
- **Outdoor court surfaces need improvements (basketball, tennis) ***
- **Indoor facilities***
- **Expand number of volleyball courts***
- **Indoor or outdoor ice (Creston BC, pools, meeting rooms, gyms, etc.) ***

Top Weaknesses (2 of 5)

- **Bigger skate park or indoor skate park**
- **Playground for teenagers**
- **Water features for younger children (e.g. water parks)**
- **More gateway / beginner trails and connectivity**
- **Bike park**
- **Restroom facility at marina rather than port-a-john, running water**
- **Need for quantifiable data about use / participations**
- **Perception that parking is an issue at City Beach; need quantifiable data**
- **Parks not handicap accessible**
- **Not a lot of winter facilities and programs; parks are seasonal**
- **Parks not dog friendly**
- **Shortage of referees**
- **Need for formal outdoor ice-skating rink**
- **Maybe...is there enough facilities for a growing town, need more property?**

Top Weaknesses (3 of 5)

- **Lack of water for dust management at outdoor volleyball courts**
- **Access / routes to parks, connectivity**
- **Greater WIFI connectivity in parks??**
- **Need to have ability to play year-round (turf)**
- **We don't plan for the impact we may have on other departments (better but could improve...add a restroom, events, etc.)**
- **City Beach overused on weekends especially and could create a public safety issue; park is over capacity**
- **Park lighting (e.g., 3rd street pier lacks lighting leaving public perception that area is not light enough)**
- **Need to assess sense of safety (e.g., park lighting and look at sustainability, efficiency, right locations, and costs of lighting, hazards, etc.) and adequacy**
- **Lighting on fields and areas to extend time of use options (trails too)**

Top Weaknesses (4 of 5)

- **Very intentional in planning phase; as city has been in love with planning process but doesn't always have an implementation plan with cost related operations and maintenance plans (look at capital costs, but not O&M)**
- **Data to help drive programs (program needs assessment) with proactive development of programs versus reactive / opportunistic**
- **Generally opportunistic also related to capital projects**
- **Need for Capital Improvement Plan for entire city**
- **Data**
- **Parking of boat vehicles / parking at City Beach and parking at various parks which ties into traffic control; boat launch related to parking; non-event Saturday at City Beach it's busy**
- **Every activity being held at City Beach...what are our priorities and where (e.g., families at City Beach, people trying to launch boats, Chamber event on beach partnered with Trinity, plus the boat show); who takes precedence; competing types of activities**

Top Weaknesses (5 of 5)

- **More accessible locations on the water for boat launching, need another space(s) in town for another boat launch**
- **Need to quantify the economics around tourist use in town especially in downtown area**
- **Lines around recreation are too black / white**
- **Lack of year-round parks**
- **Restrictions on field use**
- **Lack of funding**
- **Sunsetting sales tax**

What additional activities
do you feel should be offered
by the City of Sandpoint
Parks and Recreation
Department that are currently
not available?



Additional Activities (1 of 2)

- **Skating***
- **More teen activities***
- **Indoor tennis programming**
- **Play year-round sports**
- **Programs for people with disabilities**
- **Hockey, curling, free skating**
- **Concerts (could use greater use for outdoor fields)**
- **Tournaments, etc. where people come here to play, spend dollars (baseball, soccer, etc.)**
- **Cross country skiing and snowshoeing**
- **More to do for activities in winter**
- **Healthy lifestyle activities**

Additional Activities (2 of 2)

- **Arts, drama, etc. programming**
- **Additional and / or improved programming for retired folks**
- **Water classes (e.g., kayaking, crew, etc.)**
- **More swimming lessons**
- **Outdoor play for families**
- **Sledding**
- **Snowball fights**
- **Informal sports**
- **Mountain biking**

What new recreational amenities would you like to see available?



New Amenities (1 of 4)

- **Indoor and outdoor basketball courts***
- **Indoor and outdoor ice rink***
- **Multi-use indoor facilities***
- **Carousel with an event space***
- **Skating rink***
- **Need a multi-sports complex for indoor activities; everyone vying for the same spaces in the winter (softball, baseball, basketball, pickleball, soccer, rugby, tennis, summer camps, etc.) ***
- **Outdoor splash park* (e.g., build in another park to move some of the impact from City Beach, especially for young children)**
- **Climbing wall**
- **Additional boat launches**
- **Extension of boardwalk to Cedar Street bridge**
- **More developed shoreline access (e.g., Coeur d'Alene has extensive)**
- **Shoreline water trail**

New Amenities (2 of 4)

- **Camping in town (e.g., for bicyclists who come through town) to accommodate organized bike rides and individual riders**
- **Recreational pool for kids (indoor) with water park**
- **Mooring buoys at the beach**
- **More parking for the Ponderay Bay trailhead**
- **RV parking (not camping)**
- **Fencing**
- **More covered pavilions area**
- **Affordable 18-hole public golf course**
- **Indoor tennis courts**
- **Better walking paths (safe smooth) that connect to parks**
- **Real dog park**
- **Indoor concert venue**
- **Ski and snowshoe area**
- **Include storage facilities for club gear at actual fields, etc.**
- **Municipal public golf courses**

New Amenities (3 of 4)

- **Carousel (e.g., Spokane Riverfront Park with carousel brings in people, handicap accessible, provides community space to meet) combined with an event center**
- **Mini golf**
- **Places for community groups to meet (e.g., ~ 50 + people)**
- **Fenced artificial turf field (paid 25 cents each time opened fenced) with playground**
- **Teenage appropriate “playground”**
- **Splash pad**
- **Bleachers, walls, benches**
- **In town biking areas**
- **Lighting for skatepark to extend use hours, same for grass fields**
- **Better parking at some facilities**

New Amenities (4 of 4)

- **Waterways trails, buoys to show safety areas for kayaks**
- **City Beach**
 - **Add splashpad, carousel, volleyball courts, more accessible benches (handicap accessible)**
 - **Amphitheater or band shell at**
- **Boardwalk down on other side of creek where's the city owns the property**
- **Indoor playground / play spaces**
- **“Shop” spaces for creative technical activities (exist already – Maker Point)**
- **Indoor walking space**
- **Youth and how do they define recreation and what they'd like to do; sports engages many youths; not much for kids not interested in sports and / or organized programming**
- **Mountain biking**

Are there any portions of the
City of Sandpoint that are
underserved?



Underserved (1 of 2)

- **Underserved in winter activities and shoulder seasons***
- **Connectivity of trails in certain areas of town***
- **Lack sidewalks on main street**
- **people with disabilities – access as well as city programs (e.g., city decided to charge special Olympics so resulted in not being able to host; limited availability of opportunities)**
- **Seniors**
- **Young adults (e.g., early 20s) drop-in basketball**
- **Lack of after school activities**
- **Dog owners: dog parks, places to train off lead (building a new dog park in Ponderay near animal shelter, going to be state-of-the-art facility, opening sometime this summer)**
- **North Sandpoint underserved**
- **Kayak access**

Underserved (2 of 2)

- **Children for fishing access**
- **Teens**
- **Seniors**
- **Youth not involved in sports and organized activities**
- **Dog owners**
- **Lower income**

How do you believe the new initiatives identified in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan should be financially supported?



Funding (1 of 2)

- **Create a Recreation District***
- **Bed tax (this is a local option tax, when reach 10,000 population cannot have this tax)***
- **Sales tax – extend the current one so doesn't sunset***
- **User fees (city residents pay for facilities used by those living in the surrounding areas – currently charge different rates for residents and non-residents) ***
- **Paid parking at City Beach for non-residents***
- **Grants***
- **Widen range of revenue – county kids use huge portions of facilities, but City paying so much of the costs, maybe use School District boundaries to create Recreation District**
- **Extension of sales tax that's currently used for the bleachers, need to “finish” project and improve playability (this is a local option tax, when reach 10,000 population cannot have this tax)**

Funding (2 of 2)

- **Donations e.g., lockboxes**
- **Look to tourists as possible source of funding and making facilities that they would also use**
- **City go out to community organizations that aren't currently supporting them and see if could help provide greater support**
- **How to generate revenue**
- **General Fund**

Who are the **key partners** and **stakeholders** in the community with regards to assisting with the Parks and Recreation Master Plan?



Key Partners and Stakeholders (1 of 2)

- **Bonner County***
- **Cities of Ponderay, Dover, and Kootenai***
- **YMCA***
- **School District***
- **University of Idaho***
- **Sports Associations***
- **Schweitzer Mountain Resort***
- **Kochava**
- **Lighthouse**
- **Idaho Forest Group**
- **Railroads**
- **Idaho Department of Transportation**
- **Land conservation groups**
- **Developers**
- **Ralph Sletager/Waterfront Property Management**

Key Partners and Stakeholders (2 of 2)

- **County Fairgrounds**
- **Carousel of Smiles**
- **Jacklin Seed**
- **Local businesses**
- **Library**
- **Kaniksu Health Services**
- **SPOT Transportation**
- **Sandpoint Nordic Club**
- **Pend Oreille Pedalers**
- **Eureka Institute**
- **Look at every possible collaboration opportunity which opens up funding opportunities**

What are the **key issues and values** that Sandpoint needs to consider?



Key Issues and Values (1 of 2)

- **Local factor***
- **Small town feel***
- **Accessibility / affordability***
- **Sustainable growth***
- **Affordability***
- **Inclusivity***
- **Lake, Mountain, geography**
- **Zero population growth**
- **Environmentally sustainable**
- **Balance of tourism and potential impact to real estate, etc.**
- **Balance of retirees**
- **Health**
- **Inclusion of all areas (e.g., socio-economic)**
- **Drawing home schoolers to this are because of homeschool laws**
- **Making programs available to working families**

Key Issues and Values (2 of 2)

- **Concern is “turning Sandpoint into a Tahoe” – balance small town feel, home town sense, not too crowded, etc.**
- **Neighborhood Impact Memorial Field**
- **Tourist impact on Memorial Field**
- **Need greater support from City for non-profits that run sports**
- **Limited field maintenance funding provided by School District**
- **Limited field maintenance funding provided by Festival**
- **Adults and youth spending less time in outdoors**
- **Changing demographics**
- **City needs consistent brand**
- **Who pays for improvements?**
- **Growth**

What are the **priorities** that the Sandpoint needs to consider?



Priorities (1 of 2)

- **Multi-purpose indoor facility for all ages of kids and adults***
- **Improve communication and connection between Sandpoint and Schweitzer***
- **Turf fields***
- **Indoor recreation options (fieldhouse for soccer, basketball, lacrosse, football, softball, rugby, baseball, etc.) ***
- **Retention of open space***
- **Ice skating arena***
- **Indoor tennis ***
- **Outdoor fields – greater playability***
- **Indoor pool+**
- **Infrastructure at City Beach***
- **Trail connectivity***

Priorities (2 of 2)

- **City Beach heavily used; maybe consider spreading out the uses to additional areas***
- **Strategic placement and planning of ice rink, sports, etc. helping grow local businesses (e.g., 12 months stronger business versus 7 months)**
- **Boating access – lake = biggest draw of Sandpoint**
- **In good shape now for walking and biking paths, but need to consider the future so ensure planning**
- **Figuring out priorities at City Beach and then activating to be a benefit year round**

Other comments,
suggestions, feedback?

Comments, Suggestions and Feedback (1 of 2)

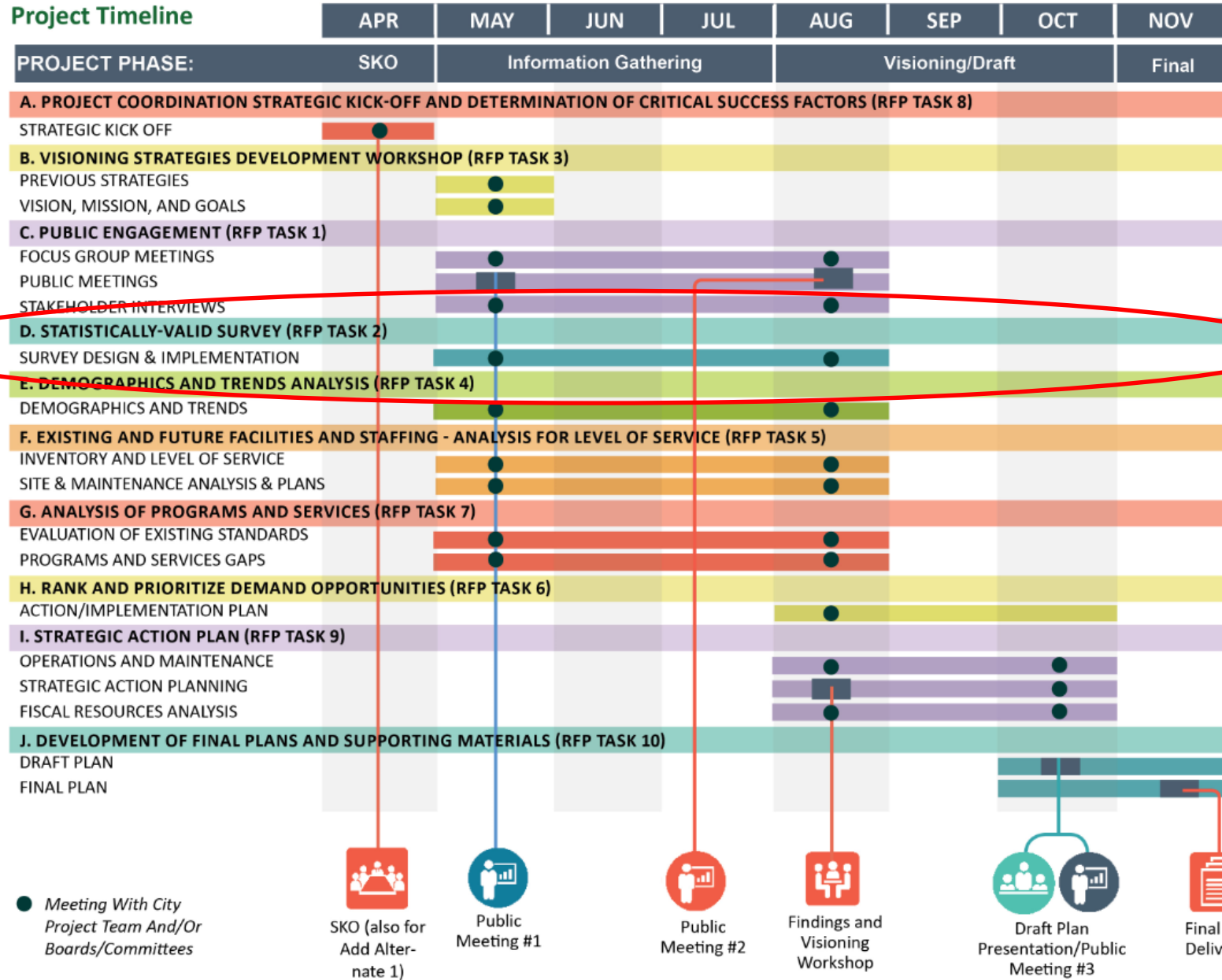
- **There's a lot of poverty in our area, need to address the need through sliding fee scale (e.g., user fees, etc.)***
- **Spreading the cost of improved / new facilities among the many County users through fees***
- **Lots of Bonner County uses City facilities***
- **Create a "city campus" for the various offices, etc. and include a recreation center in that facility**
- **Disappointed that City didn't move water treatment plant to allow for another water front access**
- **Individual has a City address but lives outside City limits; doesn't feel like has a say in what goes on in the City**
- **Do a real survey of City Beach with cameras, etc., to count what goes on at the park (e.g., parking, use of facilities, etc.) so have quantified data rather than perception; find out the reality**
-

Comments, Suggestions and Feedback (2 of 2)

- **Set up Master Plan as a prioritization and phasing realistic to available funding (short, medium and long term)**
- **Tap into students not engaged in current programming and sports**
- **What are the kids doing who drive out of town doing? E.g., go to Coeur d'Alene**
- **Need for Boys & Girls Club here**
- **Partner with other entities to achieve efficiencies for facilities and services**
- **Example of Festival where last year parked at HS and buses brought people to festival**

Additional comments,
suggestions, feedback?

Next Steps





Thank you for your time and consideration!

Tom Diehl, MS CPRP
Direct: 804.833.6994
tdiehl@greenplayllc.com

Jill Krantz
Direct: 720.788.3558
jillk@greenplayllc.com

