RECREATION NEEDS SURVEY

On Monday, September 19, 1994, six thousand Benton County residents who subscribe to the Tri-City Herald received a postage paid Recreation Needs Survey form to help determine what the County should be doing to meet the leisure time needs and demands of Benton County residents. The manner of distribution by the Tri-City Herald insured that residents in all sections and geographic locations had an opportunity to participate. Of the 6,000 forms distributed, 497 were filled out and returned.

1. **WHICH POPULATION AREA BEST DESCRIBES YOUR LOCATION WITHIN THE COUNTY?** Richland, 39; Kennewick, 190; Prosser, 81; Benton City, 75; West Richland, 30; Finley, 68; Patterson/Plymouth, 0.

2. **WHICH COUNTY PARKS DO YOU USE?** Horn Rapids Park, 78; Horse Heaven Vista, 21; Pioneer Vista, 5; Vista Park, 9; Two Rivers Park, 160; Rattlesnake Mt. Shooting Facility, 30; Wallula Gap Overlook, 9; Hover Park, 45; None, 247.

3. **HOW FAR DO YOU USUALLY TRAVEL TO PARTICIPATE IN YOUR DAILY RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES? (ONE WAY):** Stay at home, 13; Up to 1 1/2 miles, 38; Up to 5 miles, 69; Up to 10 miles, 10; Up to 25 miles, 103. **HOW FAR DO YOU USUALLY TRAVEL TO PARTICIPATE IN RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES?** Stay at home, 43; Up to 10 miles, 86; Up to 100 miles, 66; Up to 200 miles, 105; Over 200 miles, 85.

4. **DO YOU BELIEVE THAT THE COUNTY PROVIDES ADEQUATE PARK FACILITIES IN YOUR AREA?** Yes, 223; No, 240. **If no, what types of facilities would you like to see developed?** (NUMBER IN ORDER OF IMPORTANCE TO YOU) (Answers to this question were tabulated on a basis of 10 for first priority, 9 for second priority, 8 for third, etc.) Athletic play fields, 1074; Waterfront parks, 1509; Bicycle & Equestrian trails, 1740; Overnight camping, 1072; Passive Parks, 890; Others, 440.

5. **SHOULD THE COUNTY PROVIDE RECREATION PROGRAMS?** Yes, 156; No, 264.

6. **DO YOU BELIEVE THE COUNTY SHOULD REQUIRE PORTIONS OF LAND IN NEW RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS TO BE RESERVED FOR FUTURE PARKS AND RECREATIONAL USE?** Yes, 352; No, 70; Undecided, 71.

7. **WOULD YOU RATHER SEE THE COUNTY CONCENTRATE ITS EFFORTS ON:** Developing and maintaining its existing parks, 154; Acquiring and/or developing new park lands, 29; both, 259.

8. **WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING ARE YOU WILLING TO SUPPORT TO PROVIDE IMPROVED PARK FACILITIES?** Bond issue, 153; Recreation fees, 282; Increased property tax, 5.

9. **DO YOU BELIEVE THAT THE COUNTY’S OVERALL SERVICE IN PROVIDING PARK FACILITIES, MAINTENANCE, AND OPERATIONS AT EXISTING FACILITIES IS:** Excellent, 30; Good, 209; Fair, 174; Poor, 42.

10. **EACH OF THE ACTIVITIES LISTED BELOW PLEASE ESTIMATE THE NUMBER OF TIMES DURING AN “IN SEASON” MONTH THAT YOU WOULD USUALLY PARTICIPATE IN THAT ACTIVITY.** (This question did not appear to be concise enough, as many just checked an activity and some answers appeared to be on a yearly basis. On activities where only a check mark appeared, it was computed as one time.) Softball, 585; Baseball, 495; Hiking, 1039; Football, 265; Soccer, 787; Badminton, 141; Scuba Diving, 35; Fishing, 1664; Roller skate, 401; Bird Watching, 470; Camping, 813; Horseback, 672; Archery, 244; Boating, 814; Water Skiing, 395; Swimming, 2068; Volleyball, 390; Canoe/Kayak, 206; Bicycling, 1657; Jogging, 1153, Cross Country Skiing, 331; Other, 716.

11. **MALE, 225; FEMALE, 266.

12. **YEARMELY INCOME:** Under $10,000, 26; $10,001 to $30,000, 123; $30,001 and over, 310.

13. **HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED IN BENTON COUNTY?** Less than one year, 14; One to five years, 61; Over five years, 408. **DO YOU: Rent your home, 35; Own your home, 440.**