

2020 Survey Results

Community Input on Closing the Old Swimming Hole to the General Public

274
RESPONSES

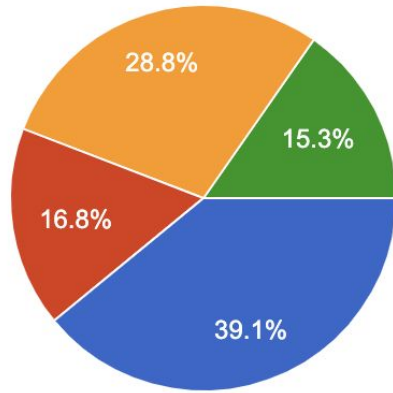
This survey is for our community to respond to a proposal to:

Close Lowell Johnson Park to the general public by creating a pass system for access, issuing free passes to Anderson Island residents and property owners, and allowing access for pass-holders' bone fide guests.

Past Experiences

Has your household had a negative experience at this park?

274 responses

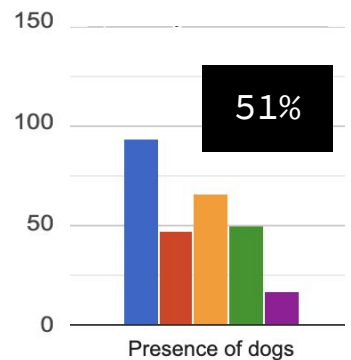
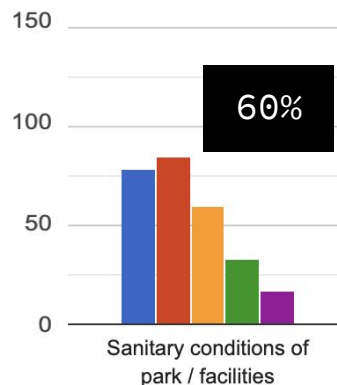
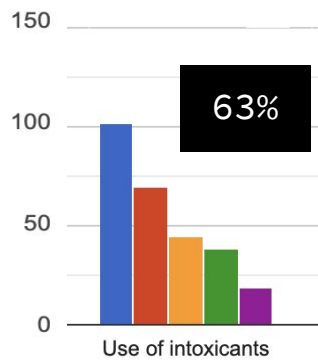
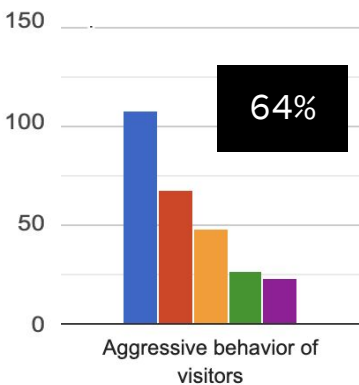
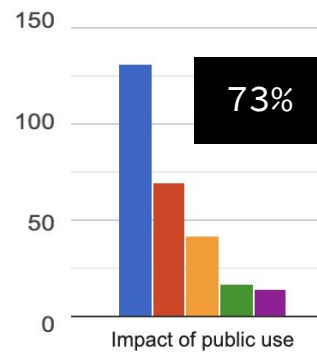
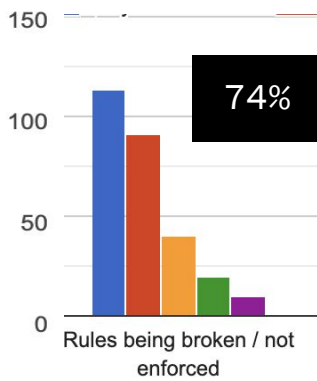
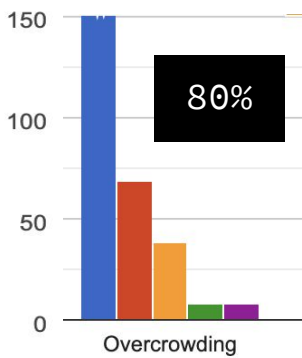


- Yes, and we have limited our use because of it
- Yes, but we still visit regularly
- No, my experiences have been fine
- Don't visit this park enough to offer input

When using this park, how concerned have you been about:

■ Very Concerned
 ■ Somewhat Concerned
 ■ Minimally Concerned
 ■ Not concerned
 ■ No opinion

% of Very + Somewhat Responses



2020 SWIMMING HOLE USE SURVEY RESULTS

Park Use

What are your priorities for this park? (Check all that apply)

274 responses



Write-in Responses:

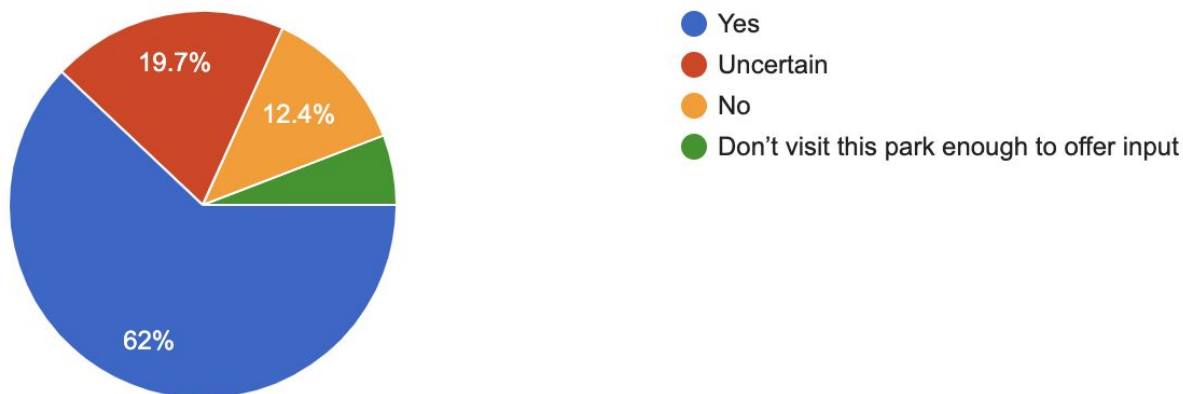
What are your priorities for this park? (Check all that apply)
ensuring health rules are followed to reduce spread of COVID
Having it open for our family and other families who live on the island
Safety
Keeping park clean
Having a clean, safe place for my family to play in the lake.
I wish to keep enjoying this park and not have to worry about overcrowding.
Make it enjoyable for all by enforcing the rules.
No dogs or alcohol
Private. Only for residents of AI
Maintaining safety measures
We're on VIP...see people breaking rules all the time
Park is great as is
keeping it clean
That it remain open
Stopping island residents and guests from Bringing dogs to park
to Island residents and guests
Pay small entrance fee fir maintenance and garbage pick up per carload

Closing park when daily COVID-19 cases reach a certain level in Pierce County until pandemic is over. I suggest <3/100,000 as a cutoff.
Since our son is grown, we haven't been in years. But I've heard the concerns in the previous question from many people. Rule enforcement is almost impossible, but it applies to the whole Island.
Islanders having first priority to park. We left due to too many people this summer
That it is open to everyone! There are already enough private access docks for Riv owners, there needs to be a public access park for visitors and non Riv members
Being able to use it. Clean bathroom-which has never been a problem. No litter- which is a sometimes problem.
Being able to enjoy the park as a family and not worrying about overcrowding, trash, drunk or intoxicated people, and or stepping in dog poop.

Park Use

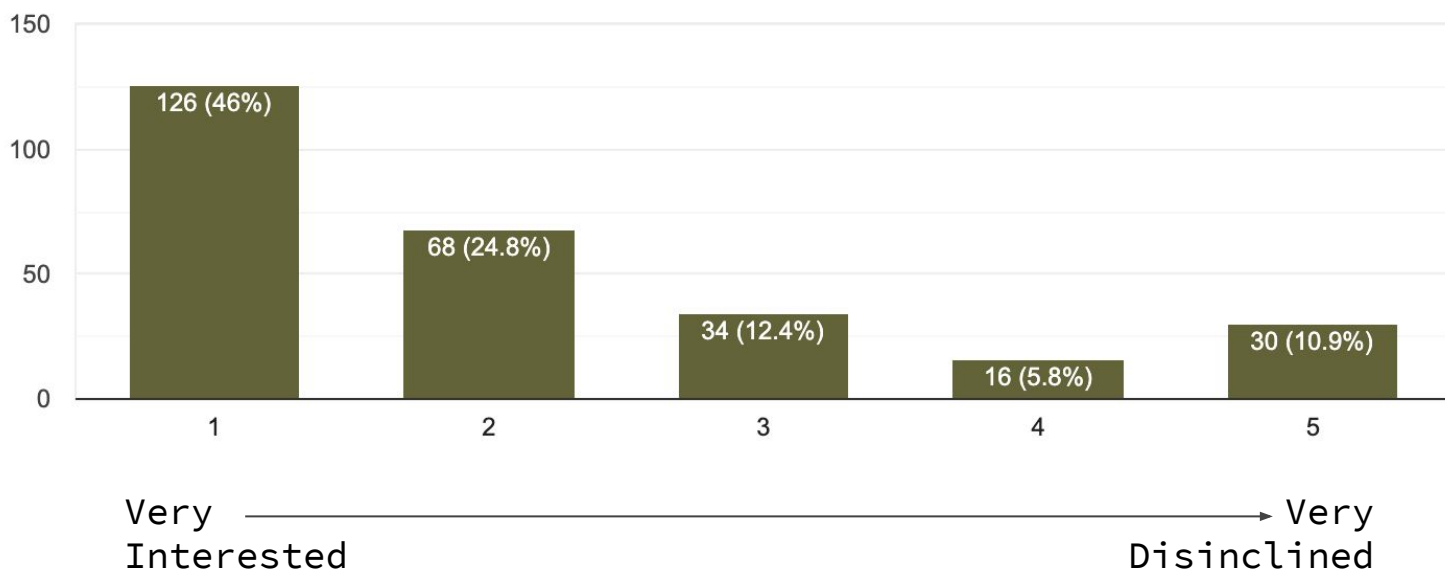
Do you think that limiting access to AI property owners and residents will improve your experience at this park?

274 responses



As a concept, how interested are you in seeing this park have restricted access?

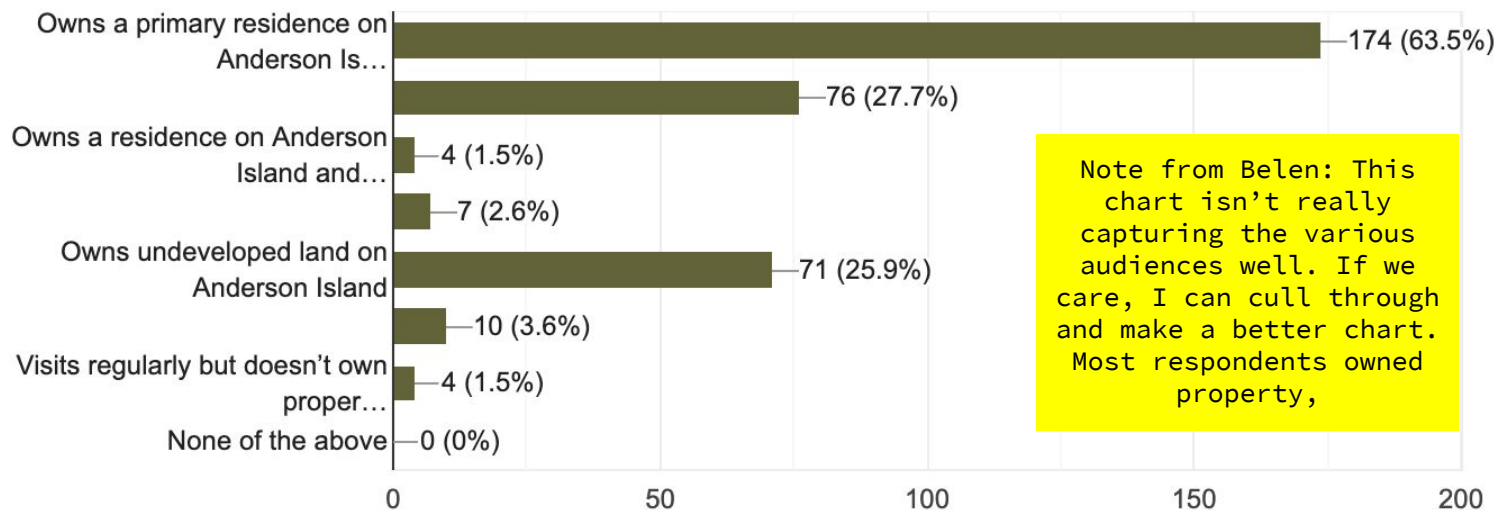
274 responses



Your Household

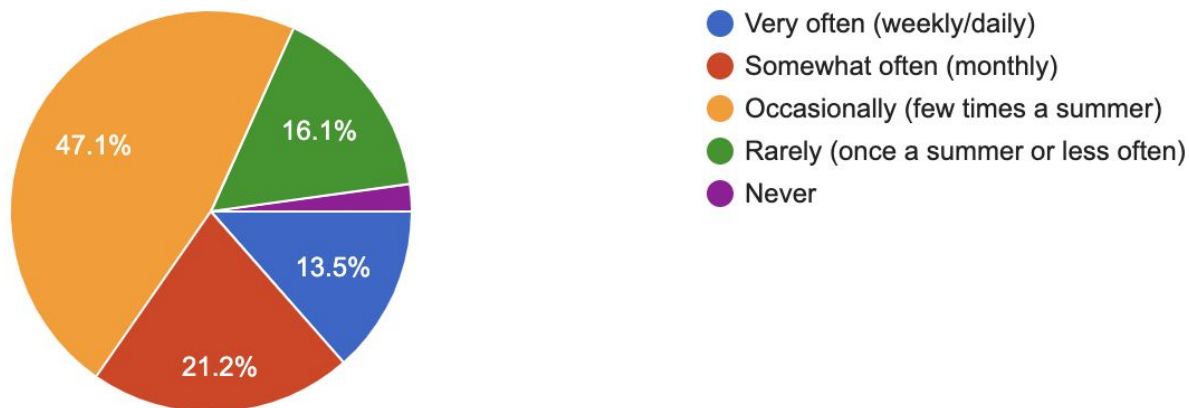
My household: (Check all that apply)

274 responses



How often does your household or visitors use Lowell Johnson Park?

274 responses



Your Household

Is there anything else about this park, challenges or options that you'd like to share?

So crowded with one day visitors (non residents) from mainland on every weekend, holidays in summer, can't even find a place to sit

Finding parking is difficult. We've seen cars parked along the access road, blocking driveways, etc. This is a sure sign of too many users.

The trash cans overflow on weekends, so users just leave their garbage anywhere, raccoons get onto it and spread it, too. Used diapers lying around are nasty. This is another indication of too many nonresidents who do not care about keeping our parks clean.

A swing set/playground and more picnic tables would be awesome.

Several years ago it was a great family place, but the bad behavior of visitors has kept us and kids away. Smoking, swearing, drinking, and overall rudeness reigns there. Sad.

I would use it more often but it is crowded during nice weather

Make it accessible just like we do the campground.

Park is so crowded during summer , I'm lucky I have my own waterfront to enjoy. Park should be for AI residents, that don't have their own waterfront.

Keeping people from town coming over daily and crowding our park would be wonderful

Restricting access completely seems a bit elitist, although it would solve many problems related to both the park and the ferry. Maybe short of completely restricting access, there could be some sort of regulation so that a few off island people could come over per day. Really I think regulating airbnb's would be preferable to trying to keep day trippers off altogether. But yes, it would be lovely to have fewer people there. Above all, Islanders should not be shut out of their own park because of visitors. I am strongly in favor of some kind of restrictions, if that means no access at all to day trippers, so be it.

None--have only been by the park once in 15 years when we moved out here.

When you shut it down last summer you forced everyone over to the Riv parks. This will continue forever if you create a pass system. I know the Riv parks are not your problem, but this DOES impact the AI community. You would hire seasonal full-time monitors/gatekeepers? We live near Interlachen and it is a ZOO! in summer months with non AI folks already. I would not recommend your pass system unless it is coordinated with the Riv limiting access to their members.

Concerned about bee infestations...

2020 SWIMMING HOLE USE SURVEY RESULTS

Your Household

Comments - continued

Just that use be confined to AI property owners and their guests. We don't try to use it any more, because there have been far too many people, until the Park Bd very smartly closed it a couple of months ago.

Used to visit with visitors. Now it is horrible to put up with misbehaving people there.

I do not use it because on the days I would like to it is packed!

I don't there very often BECAUSE of the overcrowding. If it was just limited to islanders I think I would go more. I'm in favor of closing to the public!!!

There needs to be a place for public access, this is not a privately owned Island.

This is a wonderful park that I feel like I can not visit safely with my family.

Our kids go during summer a ton

We received county funds for the bathroom, so we have some obligation to the general public. Could we reach out to the County for help monitoring the park if we don't close general access.

We did not visit this last summer due to covid but I answered these questions from experiences in past years.

We are not certain if the issue with the park is public access, or the entitled attitude of islanders and/or those with ties to the island. If access is limited, it seems like a household key card to scan and open the gate will be needed unless there will be security on duty during park hours to check passes.

No, overcrowded conditions and the use of alcohol/drugs are my biggest concerns. Rude visitors are a secondary problem.

Keeping non property owners from using this park may be difficult, but we would enjoy our amenities more.

It worries me if you limit to residents, mainlanders come to the Riviera finger parks. As a Riv resident, that's a big problem for me.

Please make sure steps on high dock and slides are checked frequently for needed repairs and slippery areas are fixed.

Your Household

Comments - continued

I prefer to use less crowded water access within the Riviera. It's unclear to me whether these other points suffered from more crowding this year because the Swimming Hole was closed or if outreach to potential off-island visitors meant these parks, while still busier than in past years, were less crowded because fewer people came out to the island.

If I had children or grandchildren, I would have a much stronger (positive) opinion about limiting access to island residents/property owners/their guests, at least during COVID.

Covid-19 has made it difficult to enjoy but I am interested in limiting access.

We are new and retired here for the parks. Only went to swimming hole once and was too crowded so I didn't know how to answer frequency question. I'd go very often if it was safe and clean.

We appreciate that people like to come to the island and hopefully are respectful and maybe even spend money at our local businesses. Even just taking the ride over helps islanders by adding money to the ferry system that helps keep the ticket prices down. We worry about sending an unwelcoming message to non-islanders, but also recognize that over crowding and poor behavior at the swimming hole can cause many issues too. Enforcement seems like a challenge no matter what options are decided upon at the park.

Adults and young drinking and vaping. Dogs peeing and pooping everywhere.. overcrowding because of all the visitors so that Islanders can't even enjoy leisure time. Garbage thrown around-it's just been trashy the last 4 years!

Control it and the people using it similar to what is already being done at the campground.

money would need to be raised to higher security guards or else you cant enforce these rules. Is there room in the budget to hire enforcement?

Crowds are not cool, a clean & quiet environment is very important to us.

I have only been to this park once since moving to AI 5 years ago. It was a very sunny, hot day around the 4th of July. It was crowded. I never went back because we have access to other nice parks on the lakes.

The docks get destroyed by the excessive amount of people using it with disregard, because they don't live here.

Also at summer time because outside visitors come to use the lake our ferries are more over loaded. Visitors come with their grills, and take over the area at the lake and some are intoxicated and smoke. It is not fun anymore to go swim there.

Your Household

Comments - continued

Add a swing of some kind off the high dive please!!

Very concerned that limiting access to this park will increase unauthorized use of Interlaken park and other Riviera parks.

I appreciate that most people believe that the parks on the island are public parks under Pierce County. It is difficult to enforce rules as people tend to ignore them even when a park commissioner addresses issues- ie the presence of dogs and being told they are comfort animals. Islanders tend to respect the rules . Sadly, we do need passes or some measure to restrict day trippers.
Thank you for all your work on behalf of the Island community that so appreciate our wonderful parks!

1. What was once an amenity for Islanders is now a huge liability.
2. The question is: Can AIPRD and supporting taxpayers AFFORD to operate Lowell Johnson Farm in a world where rule-breakers can only be controlled by having armed Pierce County Sheriffs on duty at the park at all times when it is open.
3. The administrative costs and doubtless effectiveness of a "pass system" is pure folly and wishful thinking. The rule-breakers will find a way in.
4. It would seem the most simple approach: Reduce the days of the week and hours the park is open while hiring the Pierce County Sheriff's Office to have officer(s) present when open. Erect a very secure fencing and security camera system to keep park secure during closed hours.

It provides a really nice environment when our grand kids are on the island.

Parking on the road is a problem and access for emergency vehicles

Create a new road to access the park and create more parking. The current road brings people to private residences and is often used as a turn around because of the confusion or is used as overflow parking also concerned about the health of the trees in the area from the road to the park

Bee extermination

I'm concerned about the wear & tear at the park along with pollution & amount of garbage left. There is no financial benefit to keeping open to public.

My concern is that there isn't enough available personnel to monitor behavior at the park and to enforce all the rules all the time. If you don't enforce rules there is no point in having them.

Charge fees for non-island visitors and use to pay for someone to enforce rules.

Its been so busy with outsiders during Covid that it is unsafe and islanders cant even use it

Your Household

Comments - continued

People staking out picnic table early in day is problem

I've always been very grateful to enjoy this park for decades

I feel it was a mistake to close the Swimming Hole in response to coronavirus. Closing off park, just crowded more at other parks, and people need an outlet. Also, feels very nimby to close off Swimming Hole to non-island folks. Never been when it was so packed that it was no longer enjoyable. More kids is better for my kids! Maybe someday it will be too packed, but my family has never experienced this

I think making it a "club" where it is exclusive will be a logistical and expensive nightmare to regulate and opens our park up for prejudices, who's a "real" islander vs guest vs rental guest. Whoever would be enforcing the rules would have to be so even handed to make sure they weren't accused (sued) of discrimination. The Riviera is doing a horrible job enforcing their rules, why is there the thought parks can do better with less funding?

We used to frequent the park quite often but won't go on busy days in the last 2-3 yrs as it seems to unsafe for taking our grandchildren. Now we feel it is way too crowded, always see alcohol paired with fowl language that is not family friendly and seems to be garbage left everywhere. It is distressing to see that is what the swimming hole has become in recent years.

Consider allowing off islanders to purchase one day passes to the park for fee - like \$20 per person (\$15 for kids.) These could be sold at the store (or maybe the ferry ticket office?) or offered digitally through the Anderson Island App. Funds from the pass sales could be used for park upkeep & wages for people who check passes at the park entrance.

Just tired of rule breakers that ruin it for others... dogs, dog poop, alcohol and drugs. When we brought our young ones years ago, we noticed that kids and families disappeared as soon as the folks with alcohol showed up. We love the park until it is too full or unruly.

Why is this a public park? it should be for residents only.

Seems like the park's day visitors would mostly be families, typically there to swim and not cause problems.

Interested in how increase of short-term rentals impacts usage and how that would be handled in the future (for example if it's locals only distinguish if passes are transferable or not transferable to AirBnB guests)

Explore impact of swimming hole popularity on ferry ridership in the summer.

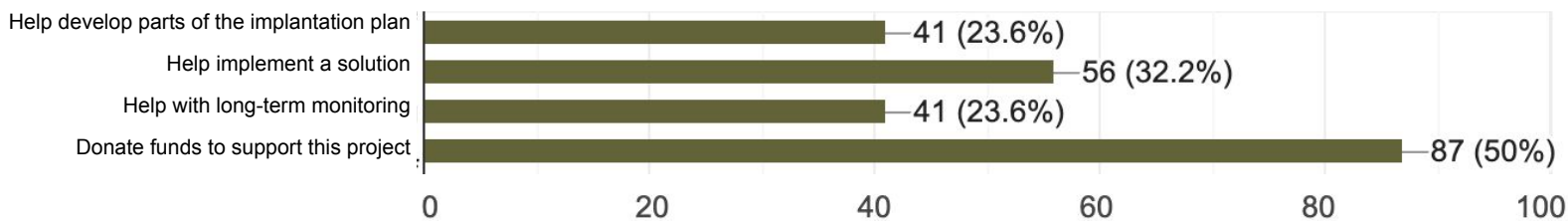
It really hurt resident teens to have it closed.

2020 SWIMMING HOLE USE SURVEY RESULTS

Volunteering

If this proposal moves forward, one or more members of my household would be interest in volunteering to (check all that apply):

174 responses



Write-in Responses:

provide my observations of experiences there.

nothing unless someone gets paid

The people or group who brought this proposal should do the volunteering of the above.

opposed to a volunteers

Pay taxes

I have doubts about the ability to police the residence only policy

I'm not in favor of limiting a public park.

I would re-consider ever donating money or land to the p&r district. I'm very disappointed you are even considering this.