

Turnagain/Westside Neighborhood Survey

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

PURPOSE

This summer, Mayor Berkowitz invited community councils to provide suggestions for neighborhood improvements to potentially implement in the first months of his administration.

The TCC Executive Board decided to use the opportunity to gather broad input from West Anchorage residents over the summer, including the Turnagain, Spenard and North Star neighborhoods, as outreach to residents who do not normally attend community council meetings but may have ideas to share.

The results below are a summary of residents' comments and suggestions, which we found to have some common threads. TCC exercised its role as a community forum and conduit for information, but decided to share the results directly, and not to officially endorse any of these recommendations as those of the council. We are sharing this summary with the Mayor's office and other community councils whose residents participated in the survey as an informative snapshot of what Westside residents told us they care about.

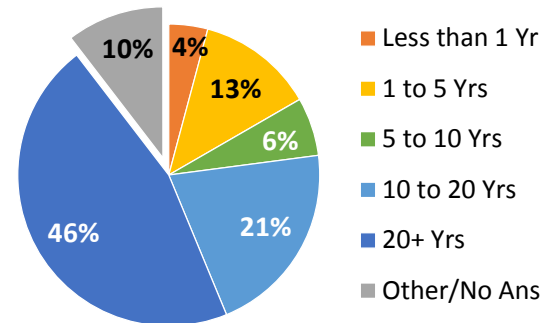
METHODOLOGY

Collectors Online survey (Google Form); additional comments solicited in TCC September 2015 meeting

Distribution Listservs: Turnagain, Spenard, North Star Community Councils; re-sent to TCC listserv
Facebook: Turnagain Community Forum group; shared personally by board member(s)
NextDoor: Turnagain (south and north), Spenard (multiple), North Star neighborhoods

Timeframe Open July 22 to August 16; re-opened August 21 to 31, 2015 (focused on TCC members)

Respondents 48 (as of August 31)
18 had not attended a council meeting, and 9 were not aware TCC exists
6 requested being added to the TCC listserv
34 identified being in Turnagain boundaries; others in Spenard, North Star
The chart (right) shows how long respondents have lived in their neighborhood.



COMMON THEMES

SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS

Bike/Ped Infrastructure Repair + Maintenance

Concerns about Crime and Public Safety

Loitering and Homeless Camps

Parks and Greenspace Maintenance

Traffic and Parking Concerns

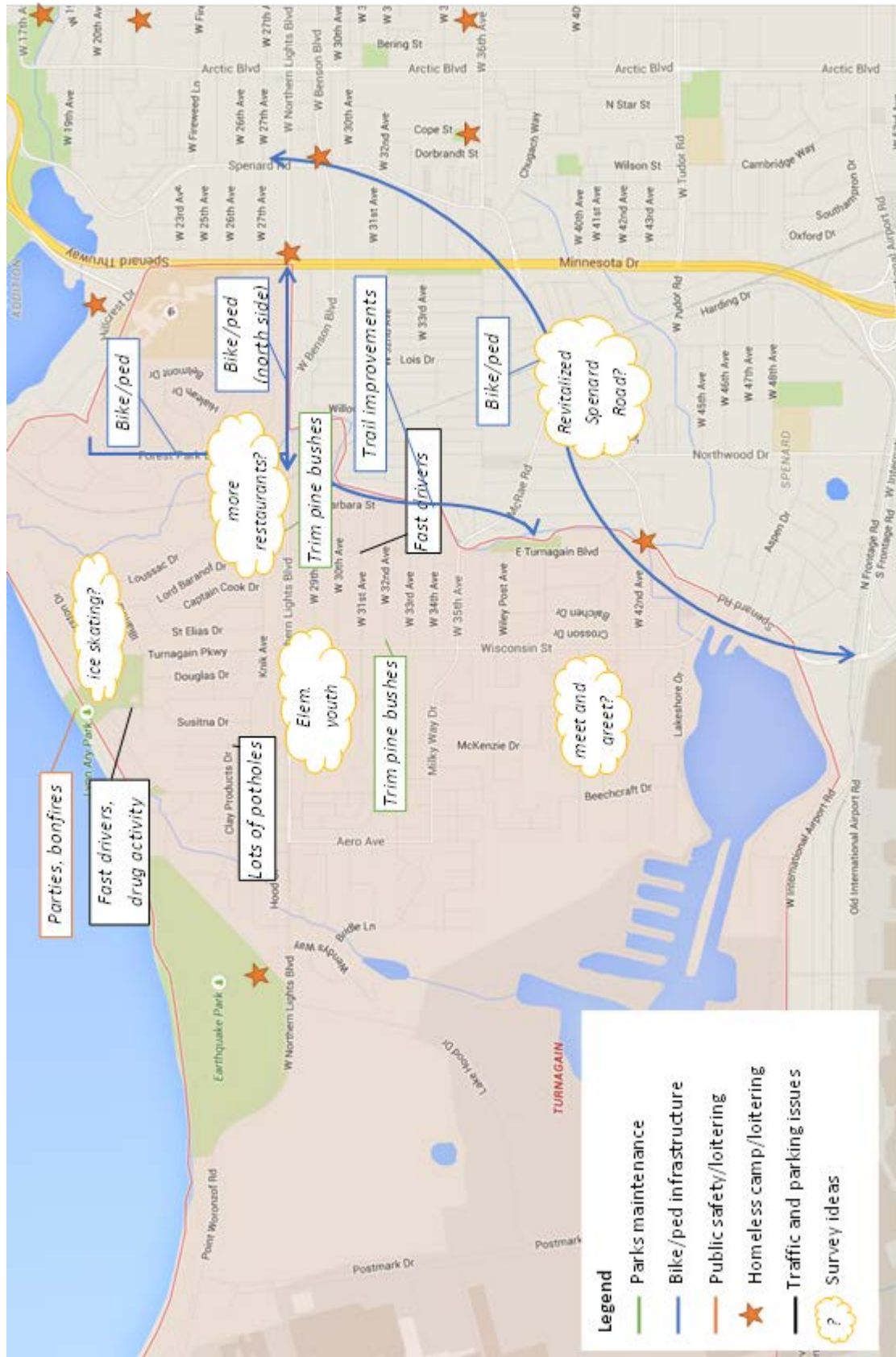
Trash Pickup and General Cleanup

- Better trail maintenance, repairs (e.g. Fish Creek)
- More bike/ped infrastructure, sidewalks, safe streets
- Better lighting and repair of stairs by North Star Elem.
- Address recent thefts and neighborhood crime
- Address teen parties along Coastal Trail and beaches
- Trim back pine bushes, remove invasive plants
- City yard waste pickup, municipal compost
- Pick up broken glass and trash in parks, along trails
- Reduce speeding, more traffic calming
- Better parking at Valley of the Moon
- Bring more neighborhood mixed/use, businesses
- "Pop up" park events in summer and winter
- Facilities: repaint Dempsey Anderson Ice Arena

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MAP WITH SOME LOCATION-SPECIFIC FEEDBACK HIGHLIGHTED



In the survey, many people identified problem areas that need attention or suggested location-specific improvements. This map shows some of these specific comments, or groups together a cluster of comments on the same thing. Some people also had ideas for events or improvements in a particular place.

The annotations on the map correspond to the survey themes identified on the previous page.