

Turnagain/Westside Neighborhood Survey

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

PURPOSE OF THIS SURVEY: RESIDENTS' INPUT

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, and share a summary of these results on behalf of area residents. The Council does not officially endorse, support or oppose any of these recommendations. 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 writing at TCC September 2015 meeting

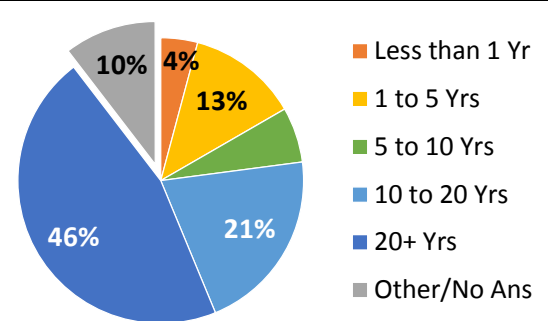
Distribution Listservs: Turnagain, Spenard, North Star Community Councils; re-sent to TCC listserv
Facebook: Turnagain Community Forum group; shared personally by board member(s)
NextDoor: Turnagain (south and north), Spenard (multiple), North Star neighborhoods

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

Respondents 55 total: 48 online, 7 in Sep 3 meeting

- Characteristics of online respondents*
- 18 had not attended a council meeting, and 9 were not aware TCC exists
 - 6 requested to be added to the TCC listserv
 - 34 identified being in Turnagain boundaries; others in Spenard, North Star

The chart (right) shows how long online respondents have lived in their neighborhood.



COMMON THEMES

alphabetical

SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS

grouped by theme

Bike/Ped Infrastructure Repair + Maintenance

- Better trail maintenance, repairs (e.g. Fish Creek)
- More bike/ped infrastructure, sidewalks, safe streets

Concerns about Crime and Public Safety

- Better lighting and repair of stairs by North Star Elem.
- Community patrols, Safe Neighborhood programs
- Address recent thefts and neighborhood crime

Loitering and Homeless Camps

- Address teen parties along Coastal Trail and beaches
- Trim back pine bushes, remove invasive plants

Parks and Greenspace Maintenance

- City yard waste pickup, municipal compost
- Pick up broken glass and trash in parks, along trails

Traffic and Parking Concerns

- Reduce speeding, more traffic calming
- Bring more neighborhood mixed/use, businesses

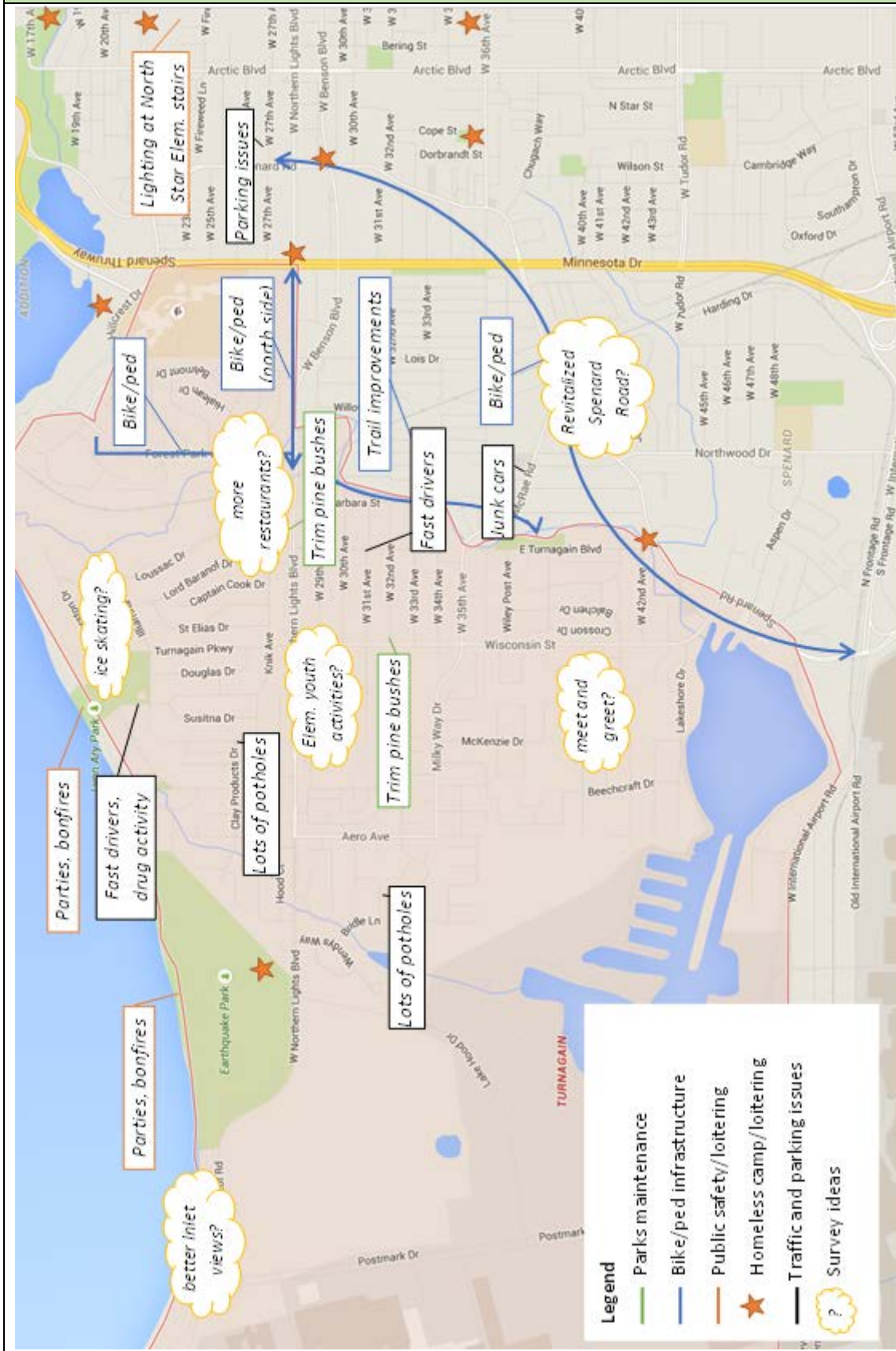
Trash Pickup and General Cleanup

- "Pop up" park events in summer and winter
- Facility maintenance, e.g. 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.



Turnagain Neighborhood Survey

This summer, Mayor Ethan Berkowitz reached out to Anchorage's community councils, the volunteer civic groups that represent our city's neighborhoods, to ask them for specific recommendations about what he could do right away: in the first three months of his administration.

Turnagain Community Council is reaching out to everyone in the Turnagain neighborhood to hear YOUR ideas about how to make our community better. What would you like to see on your street, your school, or in a local park? What's on your mind? Do you live in Spenard, North Star, Sand Lake, or Midtown? No worries! We'd love to hear ideas from you too.

We will be collecting ideas through Monday, August 31. If you're interested in learning more, please join us at our September council meeting! Thursday, September 3, 7 PM at Turnagain Elementary School on Northern Lights Blvd.

Thanks,
Turnagain Community Council Executive Board
Danielle Bailey, President
Jonathan Tarrant, Vice President
Anna Brawley, Secretary/Acting Treasurer
Chris Habicht, Member at Large

Is there something in our neighborhood that needs to be fixed?

What do you wish our neighborhood had, right away?

What's the first thing you would do in Turnagain (or Spenard, or your area), if you were the new mayor?

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