

PARKS ADVISORY BOARD

MEETING / JULY 15, 2026

MEETING AGENDA

Time	Event / Activity
6pm	1. Welcome & Introduction
	2. Adoption of May 20, 2026 meeting minutes
	3. Public Comment (3 minutes/person) <i>If you have questions or are seeking information from the Parks Department, please contact us at parks@kitsap.gov so that your inquiry may be directed to the appropriate staff for response.</i>
	4. Special Presentations a. New Board Member Introduction: Chris Breon b. 2027 Budget Cuts
	5. Parks Report a. Director's Report
	6. Sub-Committee Meetings (<i>since last PAB meeting</i>) a. Capital Projects & Parks
	7. District Representative Reports
	8. Public Comment (3 minutes/person)
	9. Adjournment



2026 Sub Committee Assignments

Sub Committee	Type	Focus Area	PAB Members	Parks Staff <i>(may vary by topic)</i>
Finance & Budget	Standing (per by-laws)	- Operating Budget - Funding Opportunities	Larry Walker Jessica Rice Linda Berry-Maraist	Parks Director
Capital Projects & Parks	Standing (per by-laws)	- Capital Projects Program - M&O Program	Linda Berry-Maraist Lisa Hurt Dawn Dockter Tom Coleman	Parks Planner M&O Supervisor
Community Outreach & Visitor Services	Ad Hoc	- Events and Rentals Program - Marketing - Volunteer Program - Youth Engagement	Jessica Rice Jen Skalbeck Tom Coleman	Admin & Events Supervisor Natural Resources Supervisor
Planning & Property	Ad Hoc	- Planning Program - Natural Resources Program - Land Acquisition & Divestiture - Park Code	Larry Walker Linda Berry-Maraist Lisa Hurt Jen Skalbeck	Parks Planner Natural Resources Supervisor

2026 Agenda Items and Sub-Committee Meetings (updated monthly as needed)

Month	Task or Agenda Item	Board or Sub-Committee Assignment
January	Board Chair and Vice Chair Elections	Board (completed in November 2025)
	Sub-Committee Assignments	Board
	2026 Department Goals	Board
February	Events: Year in Review	Board
March	Rolling Hills Golf Course RFP	Board
	PAB Annual Workplan	Board
April	CIP Evaluation Tool Review	Capital Projects & Parks
	Meeting Minutes	Board
May	CIP Plan Development	Capital Projects & Parks
	Draft CIP Development	Capital Projects & Parks
June	Cancelled for County Budget Public Meetings	
July	2027 Budget Cuts	Board
August	2027 Budget	
	Draft CIP 2027-2032	
September		



October	Nominating Sub-Committee (appointed by Chair)	Chair
November		
December	<i>No Meeting, written report only</i>	
	2026 Accomplishments	



KITSAP COUNTY PARKS ADVISORY BOARD

May 20, 2026

MEETING MINUTES

The Kitsap County Parks Advisory Board records their monthly meetings.

You can find the full recording of this meeting on YouTube:

[enter link here](#)

Previous meetings can also be viewed by visiting:

[enter link here](#)

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Parks Advisory Board Chair, Dawn Dockter. Meeting guidelines of the hybrid Parks Advisory Board were read.

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 15, 2026

- *Larry Walker moved to adopt the April meeting minutes*
 - o *Seconded by Linda Berry-Maraist*
 - o Discussion: None
 - o Vote to Approve April Minutes
 - o 5 votes received, motion passed unanimously

III. PUBLIC COMMENT – ([Comments from 00:04:30 – 00:36:25](#))

- Catherine Ander, Coulter Creel Heritage Park Steward; comment on noxious weeds (specifically holly)
- Sky Eurich, Silverdale resident; comment on Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park
- Bradley Barry, North Kitsap resident; comment on Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park
- Steve Ruggiero, Port Gamble resident; comment on Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park
- Don Willot, resident; comment on North Gateway Parking Lot
- Matt Blossom, EMBA; comment on Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park
- Bryan Wells, owner Infinity Cyclery; comment on Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park
- Carol Price; resident, comment on Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park
- Joe Lubischer; resident, comment on North Kitsap Heritage Park
- Letter from Cindy Ruggiero, resident; read by Alex Hardy
- Tim Kloecker, resident; comment on Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park

IV. SPECIAL REPORTS – ([*Reports from 00:36:25 – 01:35:07*](#))

- Carmen Smith, Parks Planner
 - o Community Engagement Summary
 - Kola Kole Park – Kingston, WA
 - Gordon Park – Bremerton, WA
- Bre Ganne, Parks M&O Supervisor
 - o Sustaining Parks Service Levels: Demand, Damage, and Capacity

V. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS – ([*Reports from 01:35:08 – 01:36:57*](#))

- Capital Projects and Parks
 - o Carmen Smith, Parks Planner
 - Kicking off Capital Improvement Plan development for the year
 - Review Project Evaluation Tool built with committee last year
 - o Dawn Dockter, Parks Advisory Board Chair
 - Very little needed to be changed from last year
 - The system has helped narrow and focus what we need to work on

VI. PARKS REPORT – ([*Report from 01:37:49 – 01:40:58*](#))

- Director's Report
 - o Volunteer Program
 - April Work Party @ Port Gamble; 27 participants, 21 of them first-time volunteers
 - If community groups are looking to volunteer reach out to Aaron Bartleson or Alex Hardy
 - o Natural Resources
 - Recruitment for Wild Life Ecologist – official offer has been accepted, start date will be July 13th
 - o Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park – Ribbon Cutting for Nort Gateway Trailhead parking lot

VII. DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS – ([*Reports from 01:41:00 – 01:50:46*](#))

- Tom Coleman (Central District)
 - o Comment – make use of stewardship and volunteers
- Linda Berry-Maraist (North District)
 - o Work event at Port Gamble with volunteers, lots more opportunities
 - o Work party on the shoreline block, public comment asking people to not rake the trails
 - o Port Gamble Shoreline Bluff was purchased using a shoreline access grant, 2012 WWRP water access grant

- Lisa Hurt (North District)
 - o Comment – re: what was said about the shoreline property – it does say use for water access yet it’s almost impossible to get down to the water at that park. Public comments asking why there aren’t steps.
 - o Comment – re: raking of trails – no reason to rake trails, I think trail work involves cutting trees off trails, removing branches, and giving walkers a place to walk
 - o Comment – frustrated with the organization
- Larry Walker (South District)
 - o Work parties out at Banner Forest, brushing trails and things of that nature
 - o South Kitsap Park, private stewardship group took out a lot of scotch broom
- Dawn Dockter (South District)
 - o Thank you to Catherine and Dan, impressed people from our South are coming up and talking about the parks
 - o Thank you to stewards and Parks Staff
- Jessica Rice (South District) – read by Alex Hardy
 - o Comment – event at Long Lake and it was beautiful, wanted to show appreciation to maintenance staff for maintaining the park and encourage people to visit as it’s beautiful in the Spring time.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT
None

IX. ADJOURNMENT

- *Larry Walker – moved to adjourn the meeting*
 - o *Seconded by Tom Coleman*
 - o Discussion: None
 - o 5 votes received, motion passed unanimously
 - o Motion carried and meeting was adjourned.

PARKS ADVISORY BOARD – IN PERSON MEETING ATTENDANCE

PAB MEMBERS	STAFF	PUBLIC
Lisa Hurt – North	Alex Hardy – Marketing and Events Supervisor	Paul Klahr
Linda Berry-Maraist – North	Carmen Smith – Parks Planner	James Pirtle
Larry Walker – South	Bre Ganne – M&O Supervisor	Bradley Barry
Dawn Dockter – South	Jaycee Brown - Office Support Specialist	Katherine Arden
Tom Coleman – Central		Daniel Arden
		Sky Eurich

Director's Report: July 15, 2026

ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM

Budget Challenges

Kitsap County's structural budget imbalance continues to pose challenges for the Parks department. The County hosted three public meetings in June and posted a public message regarding the 2027 budget year on July 14, 2026 (see *Attachment A*). To close the projected budget gap, all County departments and elected officials have been tasked with developing two different budgets, both include budget cuts from the current, 2026 operational budget. Parks staff will provide a brief presentation on the topic.

National Recreation and Park Association Month

In recognition of National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) Park and Recreation Month, Kitsap County Parks is conducting a month-long communications campaign celebrating the 2026 theme, "The Power Of..." The campaign highlights the critical role parks and recreation play in strengthening communities through connection, play, nature, belonging, and well-being.

Throughout July, the department has implemented a coordinated social media strategy featuring park amenities, recreation activities, community events, volunteer contributions, environmental stewardship efforts, and staff recognition. Weekly content focused on specific themes including the Power of Nature, Play, Community, Belonging, and Well-Being, while encouraging community members to engage with and share their experiences in Kitsap County parks.

A key component of the campaign includes participation in Park and Recreation Professionals Day on July 17, recognizing the dedicated staff, volunteers, and partners whose work supports more than 75 parks and over 12,000 acres of parks, trails, and open spaces throughout Kitsap County.

The campaign is serving the purpose to increase awareness of the essential services provided by the Parks Department, reinforce the value of public parks and recreation, and strengthen community connection to Kitsap County's parks, facilities, programs, and natural resources.

- *Supports PROS: Goal PR-4, Objective 4.1 (Action 4.1.3)*

Communications

In 2025, Parks communications staff developed a "fun" calendar to promote events in Kitsap County Parks via social media in celebration of National Park and Recreation Month. Due to the overwhelmingly positive response, the team has decided to continue



producing and sharing these calendars monthly. The June calendar is attached; *please see Attachment B.*

- *Supports PROS: Goal PR-4, Objective 4.1 (Action 4.1.3)*

Monthly Volunteer Program Update

The Parks Department has launched a monthly Volunteer Program Update (June 1) to improve communication and engagement with volunteers and community partners. The email features an upcoming volunteer calendar, project ideas and opportunities, and before-and-after photos highlighting the impact of volunteer efforts across the park system.

The monthly update will be sent out at the start of each month and provides volunteers with greater visibility into upcoming projects, celebrates accomplishments, and helps connect community members with meaningful stewardship opportunities that support County parks, trails, and natural resources.

- *Supports PROS: Goal PR-2, Objectives, 2.2 (Action 2.2.2), Goal PR-4, Objective 4.2 (Actions 4.2.1, 4.2.2), Objective 4.4 (Actions 4.4.1, 4.4.2, 4.4.3, 4.4.5, 4.4.6, 4.4.7), Goal 6.3, Objective 6.3 (Action 6.3.2)*

June 2026 Park Maintenance & Volunteer Activity Log

Date	Access	Location	Group/Partner	Activity Description
6/1/2026	Private	Buck Lake Native Plant Garden	Buck Lake Native Plant Gardeners	Maintenance and upkeep of the garden, including plant care and site clean-up
6/3/2026	Private	Banner Forest Heritage Park	Stewards	Trail brushing and vegetation clearing
6/3/2026	Public	Newberry Hill Heritage Park	Stewards	Invasive species removal
6/3/2026	Private	Anna Smith Park	Master Gardeners	Maintenance and upkeep of the garden, including plant care and site clean-up
6/4/2026	Private	Newberry Hill Heritage Park	Stewards	Invasive species removal
6/5/2026	Private	Anna Smith Park	Master Gardeners	Maintenance and upkeep of the garden, including plant care and site clean-up
6/10/2026	Public	Newberry Hill Heritage Park	Stewards	Trail brushing and vegetation clearing
6/10/2026	Private	Anna Smith Park	Master Gardeners	Maintenance and upkeep of the garden,



				including plant care and site clean-up.
6/11/2026	Private	Newberry Hill Heritage Park	Stewards	Invasive species removal
6/11/2026	Public	Coulter Creek Heritage Park	Stewards	Invasive species removal
6/12/2026	Public	Guillemot Cove Park	Stewards	Trail brushing and vegetation clearing
6/12/2026	Private	Anna Smith Park	Master Gardeners	Maintenance and upkeep of the garden, including plant care and site clean-up
6/13/2026	Public	Banner Forest Heritage Park	Stewards	Trail brushing and vegetation clearing
6/13/2026	Private	Eglon Forest Park	Stewards	Trail brushing and vegetation clearing
6/15/2026	Private	Buck Lake Native Plant Garden	Buck Lake Native Plant Gardeners	Maintenance and upkeep of the garden, including plant care and site clean-up
6/17/2026	Public	Newberry Hill Heritage Park	Stewards	Invasive species removal
6/17/2026	Private	Anna Smith Park	Master Gardeners	Maintenance and upkeep of the garden, including plant care and site clean-up
6/18/2026	Private	Newberry Hill Heritage Park	Stewards	Invasive species removal
6/18/2026	Public	Coulter Creek Heritage Park	Stewards	Invasive species removal
6/19/2026	Private	Anna Smith Park	Master Gardeners	Maintenance and upkeep of the garden, including plant care and site clean-up
6/20/2026	Public	Howe Farm Dog Park	Stewards	Park clean up
6/20/2026	Public	Newberry Hill Heritage Park	Stewards	Invasive species removal
6/24/2026	Public	Newberry Hill Heritage Park	Stewards	Invasive species removal
6/24/2026	Private	Anna Smith Park	Master Gardeners	Maintenance and upkeep of the garden, including plant care and site clean-up.



6/25/2026	Private	Newberry Hill Heritage Park	Stewards	Invasive species removal
6/25/2026	Public	Coulter Creek Heritage Park	Stewards	Invasive species removal
6/26/2026	Private	Anna Smith Park	Master Gardeners	Maintenance and upkeep of the garden, including plant care and site clean-up.
6/27/2026	Public	Illahee Preserve Heritage Park	Education	Discover Kitsap Park

Upcoming Public Events

See Attachment C.

Date	Access	Location	Event	Activity Description
7/25/2026	Public	Hansville Greenway Park	Discover Kitsap Parks	Lasting Legacy
8/22/2026	Public	Newberry Hill Heritage Park	Public Volunteer Work Party	Park Clean-Up, Invasives
8/29/2026	Public	Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park - Bayview	Discover Kitsap Parks	Ecosystems

- Supports PROS: Goal PR-2, Objectives, 2.2 (Action 2.2.2), Goal PR-4, Objective 4.2 (Actions 4.2.1, 4.2.2), Objective 4.4 (Actions 4.4.1, 4.4.2, 4.4.3, 4.4.5, 4.4.6, 4.4.7), Goal 6.3, Objective 6.3 (Action 6.3.2)

EVENTS PROGRAM

Events: By the Numbers and Events Calendar

Photos from the May events are attached; *please see Attachment D.*

Data on the number of events at each Parks Facility is attached; *please see Attachment E.*

- Outward-facing events calendar: Kitsap County Parks Event Calendar (kitsapgov.com)
- Online reservations and payment portal: Kitsap County Parks > Home (recdesk.com)

August Public Events

Event	Date	Location
Kitsap Rock & Blues Music Festival	July 31 – August 2	Thunderbird Arena @the Kitsap County Fairgrounds and Event Center
Kitsap Regional Library: Summer Learning Finale Splash Time Foam Party	August 1	South Kitsap Regional Park
Kitsap Annual Dahlia Show	August 1 -2	Pavilion @ Kitsap County Fairgrounds and Event Center



Kitsap Live Steamers – Public Run Day	August 8	South Kitsap Regional Park
Junk in the Trunk	August 15	Buck Lake County Park
Kitsap Live Steamers – Public Run Day	August 22	South Kitsap Regional Park
Kitsap Fair and Stampede	August 26-30	Kitsap County Fairgrounds and Event Center

MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS PROGRAM

Park and Facility Maintenance

In June, staff was spending the majority of their time performing routine cleanup, custodial in restrooms, servicing highly used picnic shelters and trash cans as well as general groundskeeping across the system, according to their adjusted April 1 – Oct 1 service levels. Other M&O highlights include:

- **Cartegraph** Enterprise Asset Management system onboarding: Staff training for the new asset and work management system begins July 13–14. Following the initial training, staff will receive 90 days of launch support from OpenGov to help with implementation and adoption. Once fully in use, nearly all maintenance work will be tracked in this system, giving Parks much better data on work volume, response times, recurring issues, asset conditions, and the level of service that can realistically be sustained with our current staffing capacity.
- **Staff development:** All three parks Maintenance Leads (Specialists) completed the county’s training program for Emerging Supervisors.
- **Point No Point Signage:** Staff installed updated signage at Point No Point, including directional signs, rule signs, and permanent “Lighthouse Parking Only” signage. Additional signage is in progress, along with painted directional markings to support one-way traffic flow. Plans to install fencing between the road and roadside trail are currently paused while staff work through the challenge of locating the delicate waterline that runs parallel to the road and trail area.
- **Point No Point Septic:** The septic design is being evaluated by Kitsap Public Health, we hope to begin construction by the end of July.
- **Wildcat Lake Septic:** The system inlets were clogged with diapers and other garbage flushed down the toilets causing the system to flood and required emergency pumping by our septic contractor. The system is being evaluated electrically, as intermittent problems with the auto pumping are being troubleshoot.
- **Port Gamble Heritage Park:** A solar light flood light was installed over the restroom area in the North Gateway Parking lot.
- **Island Lake Community Center Septic:** This system is still impacted by significant repair needs. The pumps are being rebuilt at the mechanic shop, and we expect the digging and final repairs to occur between July 20-24.
- **Seasonal mowing:** A number of large fields are mowed annually prior to the 4th of July to manage the potential for grass fires at Erlands Point, Howe Farm, Sinclair Inlet, part of South Kitsap Regional Park.



- **Eagle's Nest door repair:** The crash bar on the door from the interior to the exterior deck was replaced.
- **Pavilion Roof:** Multiple leaks in the roof and gutter system of the Pavilion were repaired.
- **Fairgrounds barns:** In collaboration with KFSA, staff have made substantial progress on barn maintenance needs over the past two years. Work has included repairing and replacing electrical outlets, upgrading bulbs and broken fixtures to LED lighting, and completing a number of wall, gutter, and roof repairs. Together, these efforts have addressed nearly every item identified on the barn walk-through list.
- *Supports PROS: Goal PR-6, Objective 6.1 (Action 6.1.2, 6.1.3), Objective 6.5 (Action 6.5.2)*

Ballfield Maintenance

- **Cross training:** Events and Parks M&O staff have been cross-training on ballfield preparation to maintain service for field users after two M&O ballfield team employees recently vacated their positions. This training includes dragging and raking infields, lining fields, building batter's boxes, and painting field markings.
- **Irrigation repairs:** Broken waterlines and sprinklers were repaired at Lobe fields, Gordon field, and behind the Pavilion.
- *Supports PROS: Goal PR-6, Objective 6.1 (Action 6.1.2, 6.1.3), Objective 6.5 (Action 6.5.2)*

Trail Maintenance

- **Trail Brushing:** Egdon trail was brushed and mowed by staff.
- **Trail Project:** Staff is supporting a volunteer led-project to replace the aged wooden puncheons at the Newberry Hill Children's trail with turnpikes constructed of recycled concrete and topped with wheel friendly ¼" minus basalt.
- **Tree Clearing:** Fallen trees were addressed at Bandix, South Kitsap Regional Park, Port Gamble Heritage Park, and Point No Point.
- *Supports PROS: Goal PR-6, Objectives 6.3 (Action 6.3.1, 6.3.2), Objective 6.4 (Action 6.4.1)*

Unplanned Maintenance: Vandalism and HEART Response

Throughout June staff responded to multiple incidents of vandalism, illegal dumping, and encampment cleanup across the park system:

- **Homeless Encampment Cleanups:** Staff completed cleanups at Illahee Forest Preserve Park, and Veterans Memorial Park, and Old Mill.
- **Illegal dumps:** Staff cleaned up Illegal dumps at the Fairgrounds, Illahee Forest Preserve Park, Wicks Lake, Banner Forest
- **Vandalism:** ARCS airfield and gate damage, South Kitsap fires, videos, multiple Old Mill pipe chase breakins, sherriif and incident reports filed repeatedly.



- **Abandoned vehicles:** Multiple abandoned vehicles were found on parks property and towed, including at Old Mill, Silverdale Waterfront Park, the Fairgrounds and Illahee Forest Heritage Park.

NATURAL RESOURCES PROGRAM

Brush Harvest Program

Since approximately 2013, Parks has maintained a brush harvest program that allows for the harvest of salal and evergreen huckleberry for floral industry in select parks that has generated approximately \$20,000 per year (2025) of revenue with no clear ecological harm or benefit. Brush harvest is considered a special forest product and is a common revenue generating practice in forest managed for commercial use, however, it is not common to allow this use in areas primarily designated for conservation or in local park lands.

As Parks move towards being more transparent about managing our large acreage parks for long-term conservation and ecological benefit, the department is considering if this practice should continue within Kitsap County Parks. *See Attachment F for further analysis and staff recommendation.*

- *Supports PROS plan goals PR-2, Objective, 2.1, Actions 2.1.3, 2.1.4.*

Natural Resource Departmental Support

The Natural Resources (NR) program supports Parks operations in a number of ways beyond the day-to-day management of open space lands.

- Parks Communications program is supported by NR staff responding to community questions or concerns about natural resources and by providing outreach and education talks at community events.
 - NR staff frequently meet with volunteers to discuss resource related concerns or project proposals.
 - Events in nature parks are reviewed by NR staff for environmental impacts. Environmental assessments and analysis are performed by NR staff in advance of M&O construction projects to assess, avoid, minimize, or mitigate fine scale environmental impacts. NR staff also assist with permitting these projects, if needed.
 - The earliest stages of park planning are informed by environmental assessments performed or coordinated by NR staff. These data provide a baseline of natural resource elements and sensitive areas that inform planning efforts and help avoid high level environmental impacts when visioning park development.
- *Supports PROS plan goals PR-1, PR-2, Objectives, 1.1, 2.1, 3.2 Actions 1.1.3, 2.1.1, 2.1.2, 2.1.3, 2.1.4, 3.1.4.*

Additional Environmental Assessments

Forest inventory information is being collected in two Parks properties, Egdon Forest Park and parcels on Rude Road, to help better inform restoration needs and natural resource



management planning. Plots are established across the site to collect data on tree heights, diameters, crown ratios, and other metrics. These plots will also be used for long-term monitoring of forest conditions.

- *Supports PROS plan goals PR-1, PR-2, PR-3, Objectives, 1.1, 2.1, 3.2 Actions 1.1.3, 2.1.1, 2.1.2, 2.1.3, 2.1.4, 3.1.4.*

PLANNING PROGRAM

Planning

Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park Framework (Master Plan)

Parks staff is working through contracting to update and finalize the Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park Framework (Master Plan). This project is focused on updating the current draft Framework by adding new information (and editing the plan accordingly) on three primary topics: (1) wildlife study, (2) user conflicts on trails, and (3) incorporating park capacity information. The project is anticipated to begin later this summer and extend into mid-2027.

- *Supports PROS: Goal PR-1, Objective 1.3 (Action 1.3.2), Objective 3.2 (Action 3.2.1)*

Gordon Park Master Plan

Parks staff and the consultant team concluded a successful initial phase of engagement for the Gordon Park Master Plan. The consultant team is now working on developing three draft design concepts, which will be shared for community review and feedback later this summer.

- *Supports PROS: Goal PR-1, Objective 1.3 (Action 1.3.2), Objective 3.2 (Action 3.2.1)*

Park Impact Fee Study

Kitsap County Parks has completed the contract with Bowman Consulting Group to conduct a park impact fee study. Project kickoff occurred in June; Parks staff is compiling necessary data for the consultant team.

- *Supports PROS: Goal PR-1, Objective 1.3 (Action 1.3.2), Objective 1.6 (Action 1.6.1)*

Kola Kola Park Community Engagement

Following the community engagement conducted this spring, Parks staff is evaluating a park improvement project, including parking, restrooms, playground sport court, and athletic field improvements, as part of the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) development process.

- *Supports PROS Plan Goal PR-1, PR-4, Objective 4.1*

Rolling Hills Golf Course

Kitsap County Parks intends to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) for operations of Rolling Hills Golf Course. Parks staff contracted with National Golf Foundation (NGF) for assistance with the development of the RFP. Per BoCC direction, the RFP will allow



vendors to submit for an operating lease or a management agreement. Parks staff and NGF are currently working on a draft RFP, which is anticipated to be released in July.

- *Supports PROS Plan Goal PR-4, PR-6, Objective 4-1, Objective 6.5 (Action 6.5.1)*

Dan Thompson Grant

Parks is working with the Kitsap Public Health District on a parks and trails accessibility project funded by the Dan Thompson Grant. The overarching project includes improving the accessibility information for parks and trails, conducting an information campaign to publicize accessible parks and trails, developing a process to integrate accessibility into planning process, and carrying out accessibility improvement projects at parks within Kitsap County. The grant includes funding for these improvement projects, and Parks staff is assisting in evaluating and scoring applications received for this grant opportunity.

- *Supports PROS Plan Goal PR-1, Objectives 1.3, Objective 1.4 (Actions 1.4.1 & 1.4.2)*

Capital Projects

Capital Improvement Plan

Parks staff is in the process of developing the draft Parks 2027-2032 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and intends to bring a draft to the BoCC for review in July. Priorities were shared with the BoCC in mid-July.

- *Supports PROS: Goal PR-1, Objective 1.3 (Action 1.3.2), Goal PR-2, Objective 2.1, Goal PR-3, Objective 3.2 (Action 3.2.1), Goal PR-5, Goal PR-6, Objective 6.5 (Action 6.5.1)*

Eagle's Nest Deck Replacement

The final inspection occurred in June, and the project is now completed.

- *Supports PROS: Goal PR-5, Objective 5.3 (Action 5.3.2), Goal PR-6, Objective 6.5 (Action 6.5.1)*

Gordon 1 Field Synthetic Turf Replacement

Construction is underway and is anticipated to be completed by June 31st.

- *Supports PROS: Goal PR-5, Objective 5.3, Goal PR-6, Objective 6.5 (Action 6.5.1)*

Roof Replacement Projects

- Village Greens Golf Course Clubhouse: Construction is anticipated to occur in August.
- Point No Point Lighthouse: Construction is anticipated to occur in September.
- *Supports PROS: Goal PR-6, Objective 6.5 (Action 6.5.1)*



From: [Kitsap1](#)
To: [Kitsap1](#)
Subject: A message from the Board on the 2027 Budget Direction
Date: Tuesday, July 14, 2026 9:09:00 AM
Attachments: [image004.png](#)



July 14, 2026

Dear Kitsap County Colleagues,

We recognize and see the work you do as public servants – thank you for the dedication, professionalism, and heart you bring to your work every day.

As we begin development of the 2027 budget, we want to provide an update on the County's budget outlook, the work that has been done to explore potential solutions, and the process we will take in adopting next year's budget. We recognize that conversations about budgets can create uncertainty and believe it is important to be transparent about the challenges we face and the decisions that lie ahead.

The County continues to face significant structural budget challenges. For several years, we have addressed the growing gap between the cost of providing County services and the revenues available to support them including significant reductions in 2026. Looking ahead to 2027, we are projecting a \$9.4 million gap between ongoing revenues and expenditures, with similar challenges expected in future years.

The Board has been working diligently this year to understand our options and explore potential solutions. Throughout this process, our focus remains on both the residents we serve, and the people who make County government work.

We have had extensive conversations with other County elected officials and department heads. We have engaged in ongoing discussions with the Sheriff's Office and Prosecutor regarding public safety funding and potential revenue support. In June, we hosted three community budget meetings to share information with residents about the County's financial outlook and listen to input on priorities and possible revenue options.

A key part of our discussions has centered on House Bill 2015 (HB 2015) – a public safety sales and use tax, which was adopted by the Washington State Legislature in 2025. HB 2015 allows local governments to implement a dedicated 0.1% sales and use tax to support public safety services, provided specific training and policy requirements are met by the Sheriff's Office. For unincorporated Kitsap County, this would raise the sales tax from 9.2% to 9.3%, which would generate approximately \$7.5 million in revenue for public safety services.

While this would help relieve immediate budget pressures for 2027, it is not a long-term solution to the County's structural funding challenges. Implementing HB 2015 would give us time to plan next steps for future budget projections and work with our state and federal partners, including on unfunded and underfunded mandates.

Earlier this week, the Department of Administrative Services provided budget development directions to employing officials in preparing their 2027 budgets. Departments and offices are being asked to develop budget scenarios that reflect the financial realities we face while continuing to provide the essential services our community depends on.

- For the 2027 budget, the Board is requesting employing officials submit two budgets for all programs in the General Fund: one that assumes implementation of HB 2015 and one that assumes it is not implemented. This approach allows us to responsibly evaluate all options while continuing strategic discussions about the County's long-term financial sustainability. Each scenario asks departments or offices to meet a different level of “targets” to show the community the County continues to tighten its belt. Targets can be met through cuts or new revenue.
- For five internal service funds, the Board is asking them to meet set targets and document management actions and commitments to reduce costs in the future. These cuts should be sustainable so they can be held for more than one year, as new funds are not anticipated in the near future.
- For the Road Fund, the Board is asking for a balanced budget in which expenditures meet anticipated revenues without use of one-time reserves or unbalanced cut strategies. These cuts should maximize services and value provided for the funds available.

As we move through the 2027 budget process, we are committed to approaching these decisions with transparency, care for our employees, and thoughtful consideration of the impacts on both our workforce and the residents we serve.

The road ahead will require both creativity and difficult discussions. We remain confident in the strength of the County and the people who make it successful. Your dedication, resilience, and commitment to public service are among Kitsap County's greatest assets.

Thank you for your continued dedication to Kitsap County and the people we serve.

Sincerely,

The Kitsap County Board of County Commissioners
Oran Root, Chair
Christine Rolfes
Katie Walters



2026

AUGUST

FIND YOUR PARK: WWW.KITSAP.GOV/PARKS



KitsapCounty Parks

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
PUBLIC EVENTS HOLIDAYS & ACTIVITY IDEAS	SAVE THE DATE & JOIN US FOR A GUIDED NATURE WALK ON AUGUST 29! 10am - 12pm Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park	PLAN TO BECOME AN EXHIBITOR AT THE KITSAP FAIR, AND SHOWCASE YOUR SKILLS			31 <u>KITSAP ROCK & BLUES FESTIVAL</u> 6pm - 11pm Kitsap County Fairgrounds	1 <u>KITSAP ROCK & BLUES FESTIVAL</u> 10am - 11pm Kitsap County Fairgrounds
2 <u>KITSAP ROCK & BLUES FESTIVAL</u> 10am - 11pm Kitsap County Fairgrounds	3 AUGUST IS NATIONAL GOLF MONTH Celebrate by teeing up at Village Greens Golf Course	4 HORSEING AROUND Use the Stottlemeyer trailhead parking lot at Port Gamble for horse trailer parking and take a ride	5	6	7 NATIONAL LIGHTHOUSE DAY Visit the historic Point No Point Lighthouse	8 KITSAP LIVE STEAMERS PUBLIC RUN DAY 10am - 4pm South Kitsap Regional Park
9 SUMMER SUNSET Watch the summer sun set over the Hood Canal at Salsbury Point Park	10 NATIONAL S'MORES DAY Roast some marshmallows and enjoy this treat at your favorite park	11	12 FAMILY FIELD TRIP Go explore a new park that you've never been to before	13	14 PHOTO FRIDAY Take a picture at your favorite park, and share with us on social media	15 <u>JUNK IN THE TRUNK SALE</u> 10am - 2pm Buck Lake Park
16 <u>FAIR CRAFTS, ART, HOME ARTS, & PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITOR ENTRY</u> Submit your entries today!	17	18 HAPPY TAILS & TRAILS Take your dog out for a long hike or a leisurely walk, and enjoy the day together	19	20 GARDEN APPRECIATION See the Master Gardeners Demonstration Garden at J.A & Anna Smith Park	21	22 KITSAP LIVE STEAMERS PUBLIC RUN DAY 10am - 4pm South Kitsap Regional Park
23 <u>FAIR FOOD DEPARTMENT EXHIBITOR ENTRY</u> Submit your Baking and Food Preservation entries today!	24 <u>FAIR FLORAL EXHIBITOR ENTRY</u> Submit your Horticulture or Floral Design entries today!	25	26 <u>KITSAP FAIR & STAMPEDE</u> 10am-11pm Kitsap County Fairgrounds	27 <u>KITSAP FAIR & STAMPEDE</u> 10am-11pm Kitsap County Fairgrounds	28 <u>KITSAP FAIR & STAMPEDE</u> 10am-11pm Kitsap County Fairgrounds	29 <u>KITSAP FAIR & STAMPEDE</u> 10am-11pm Kitsap County Fairgrounds
30 <u>KITSAP FAIR & STAMPEDE</u> 10am-6:30pm	31					

DISCOVER

Kitsap Parks

JOIN US FOR UPCOMING GUIDED NATURE WALKS!



Forest Ecology

Illehee Preserve Heritage Park

Address: 5474 Almira Dr NE, Bremerton, WA

Date & Time: Saturday, June 27th, 10am-12pm



Lasting Legacy

Hansville Greenway

Address: 6959 NW Buck Lake Rd, Hansville, WA

Date & Time: Saturday, July 25th, 10am-12pm



Ecosystems

Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park

Address: Bayview Parking Lot, Port Gamble, WA

Date & Time: Saturday, August 29th, 10am-12pm

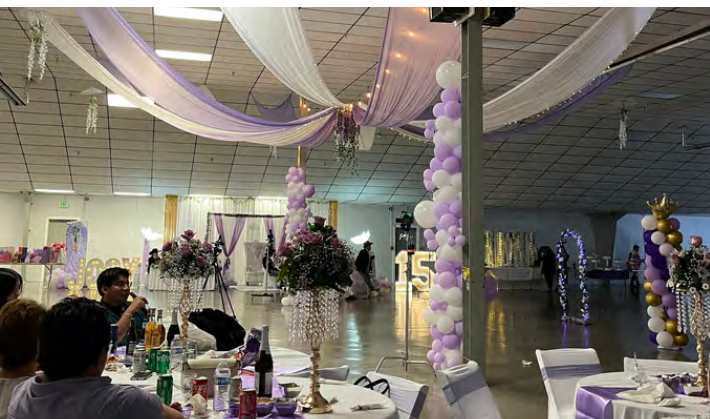


KitsapCounty
Parks

(360) 337-5350 | kitsap.gov/parks
parkvolunteers@kitsap.gov



JUNE
2026



Kitsap County Parks

June Photos

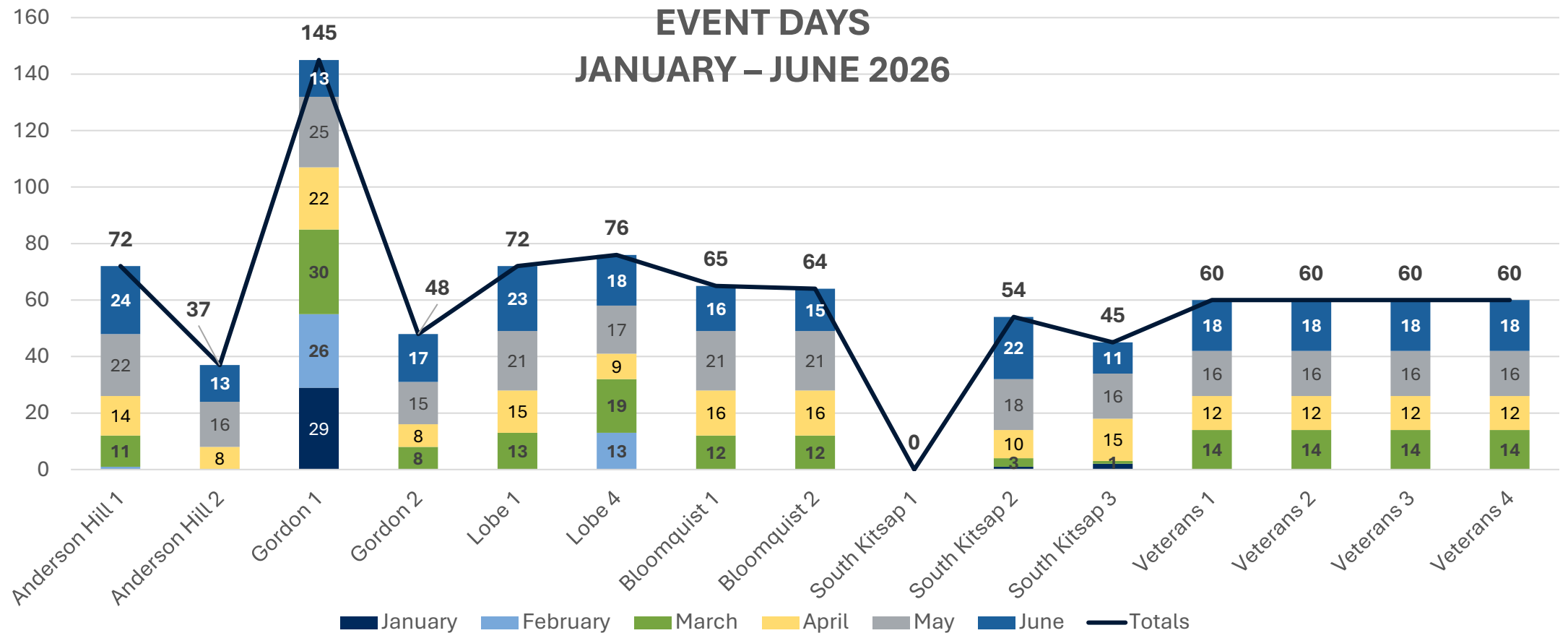




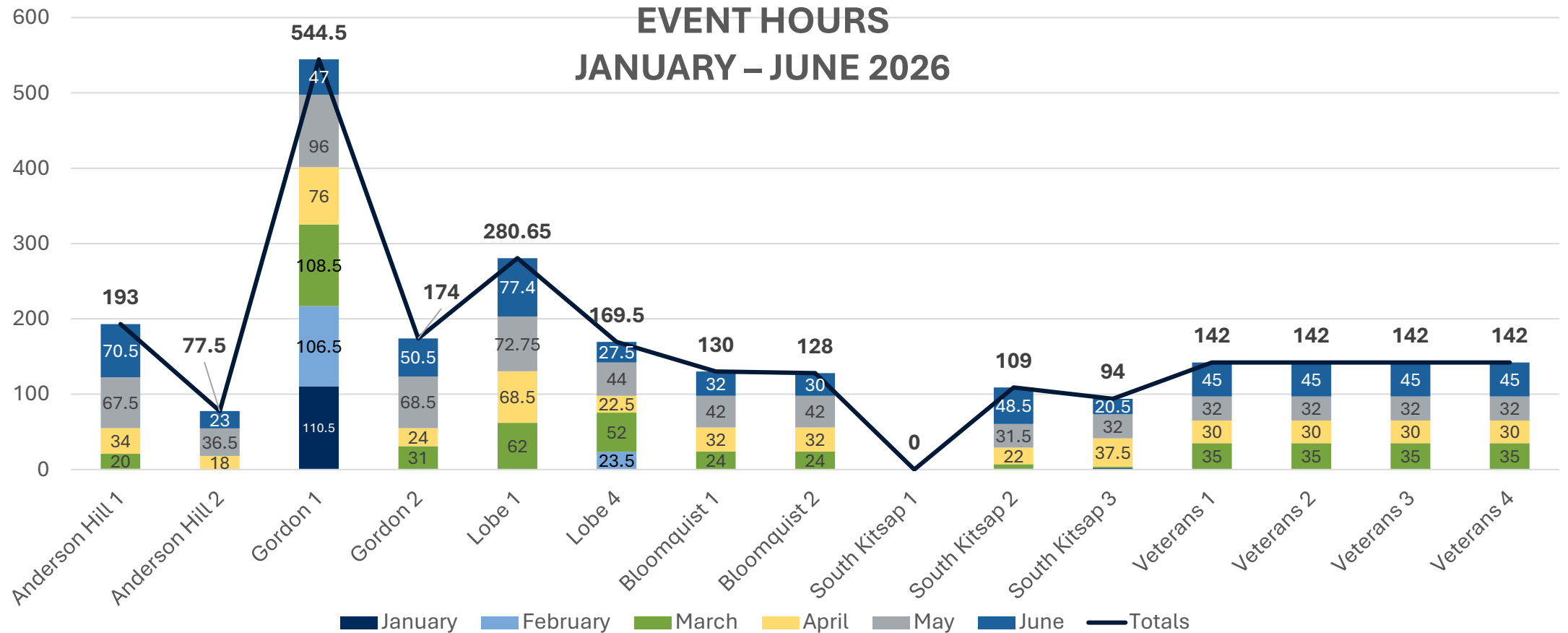
Coulter Creek Heritage Park

- Gate vandalism and abandoned stolen vehicle

Athletic Fields

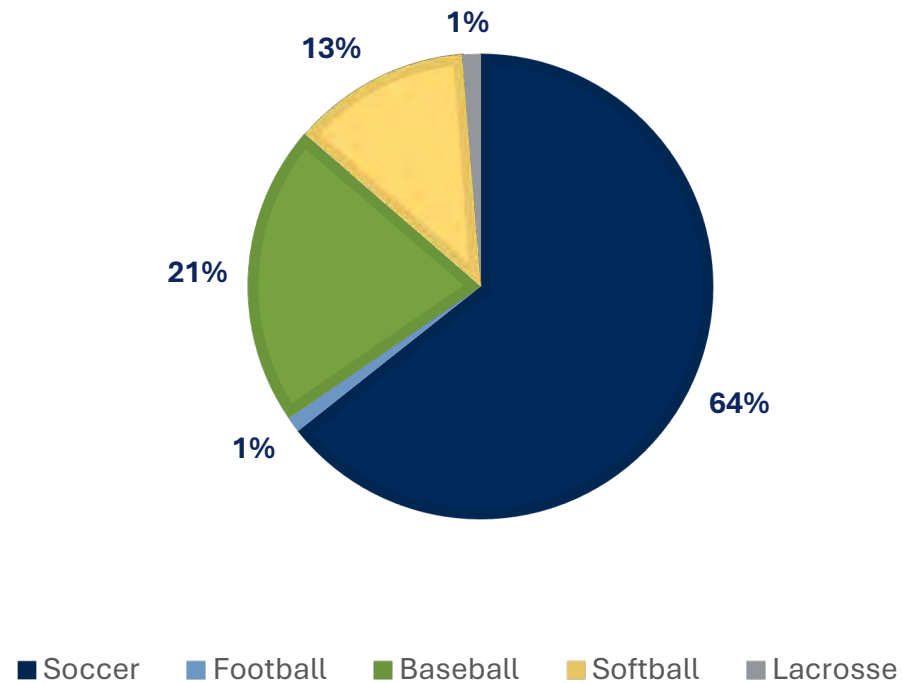


Athletic Fields



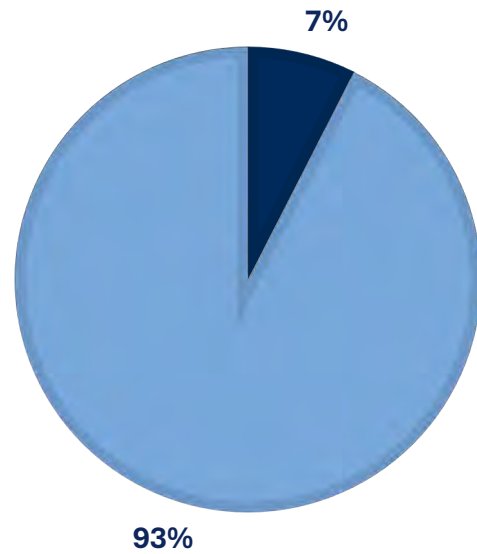
Athletic Fields

**HOURS BY SPORT
JANUARY – JUNE 2026**



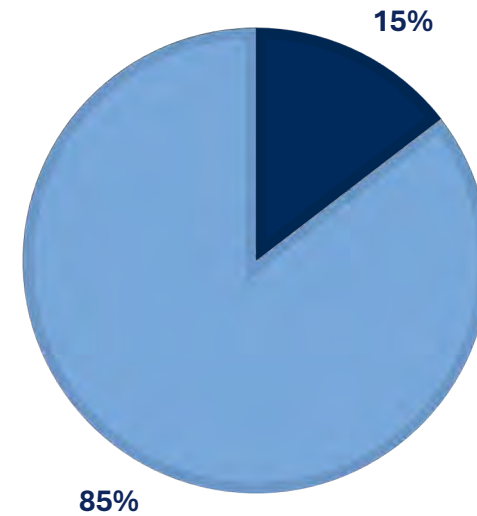
Athletic Fields

**RAIN OUT DAYS
JANUARY – JUNE 2026**



■ Rain Out Days ■ Open Days

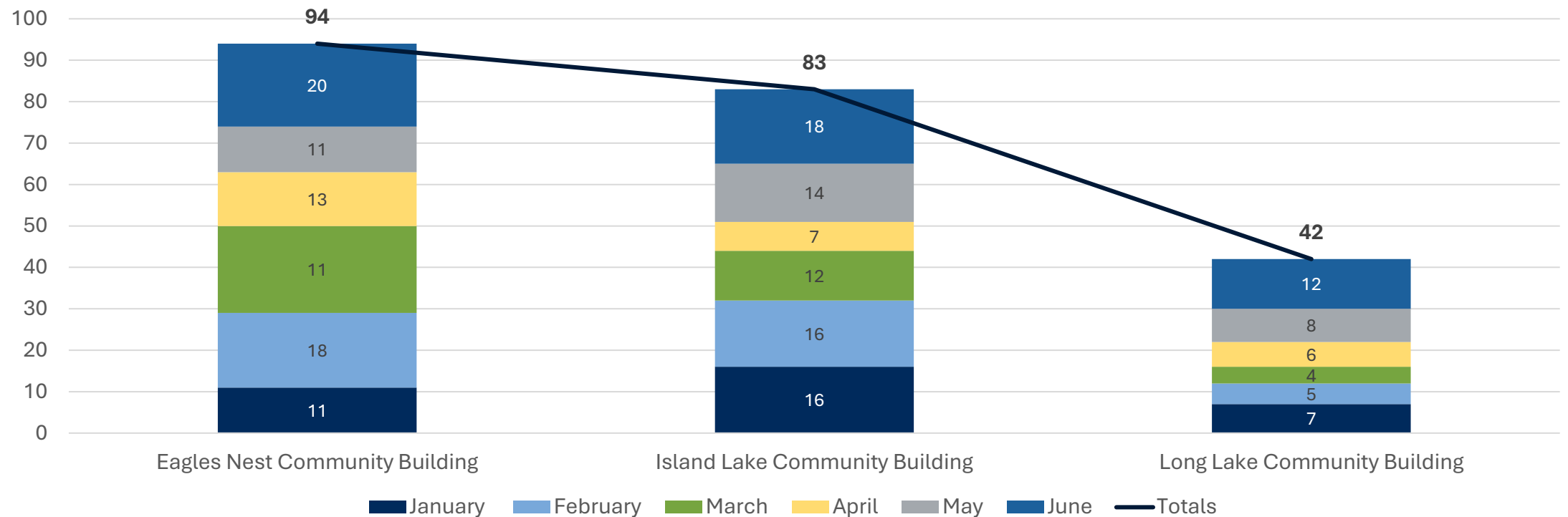
**RAIN OUT HOURS
JANUARY – JUNE 2026**



■ Rain Out Hours ■ Open Hours

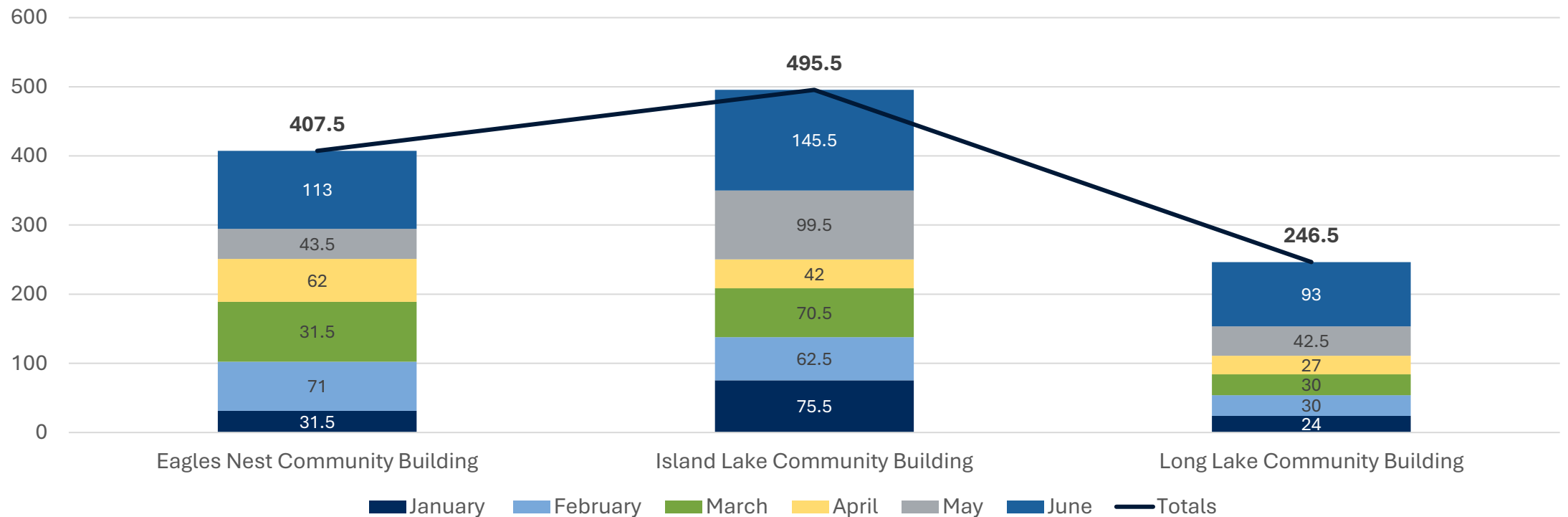
Community Buildings

EVENT DAYS JANUARY – JUNE 2026



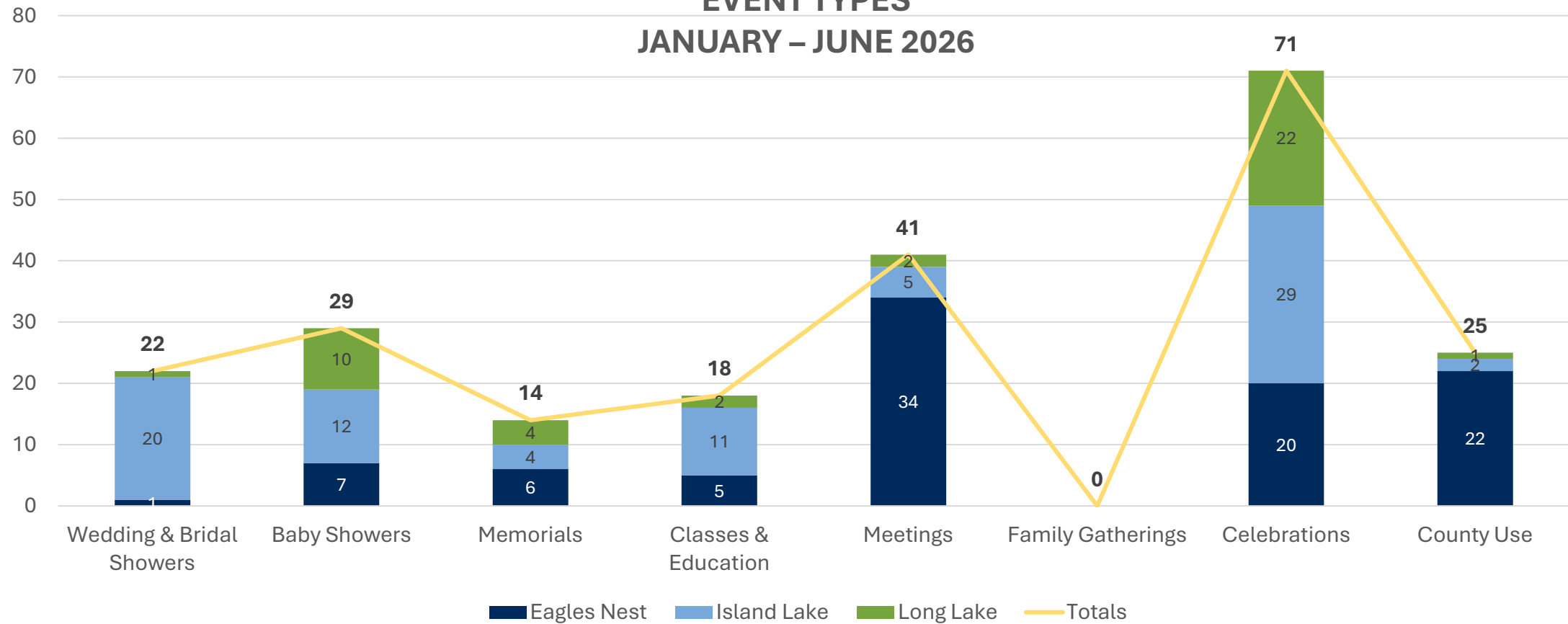
Community Buildings

EVENT HOURS JANUARY – JUNE 2026



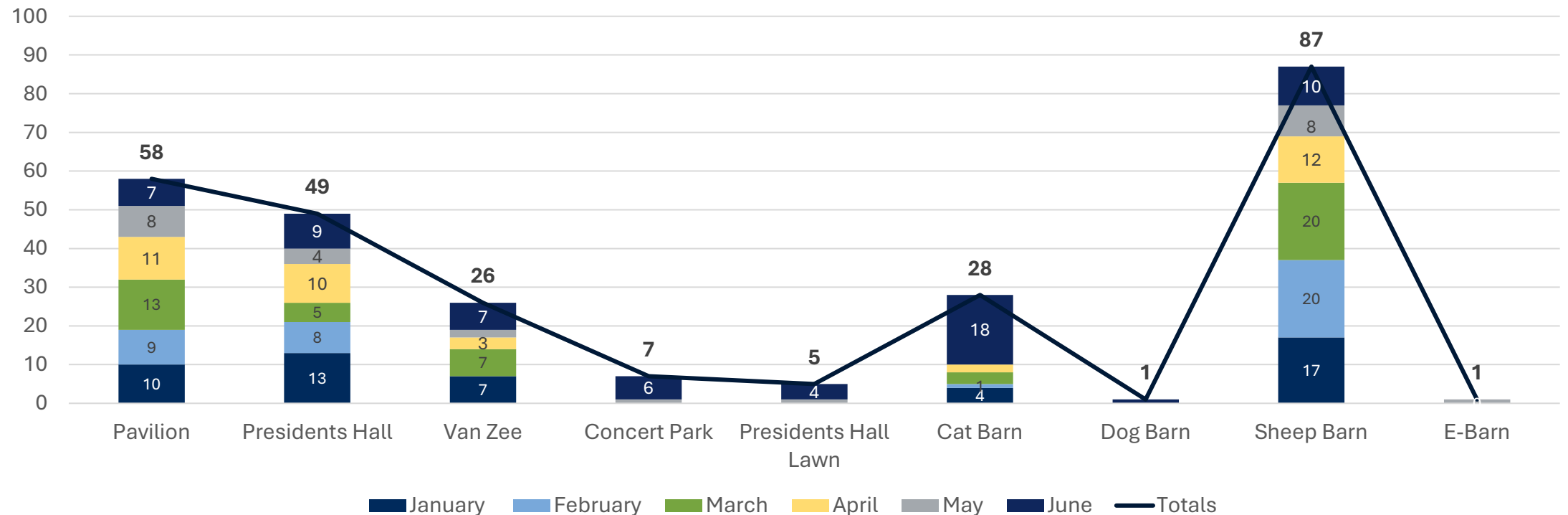
Community Buildings

EVENT TYPES
JANUARY – JUNE 2026



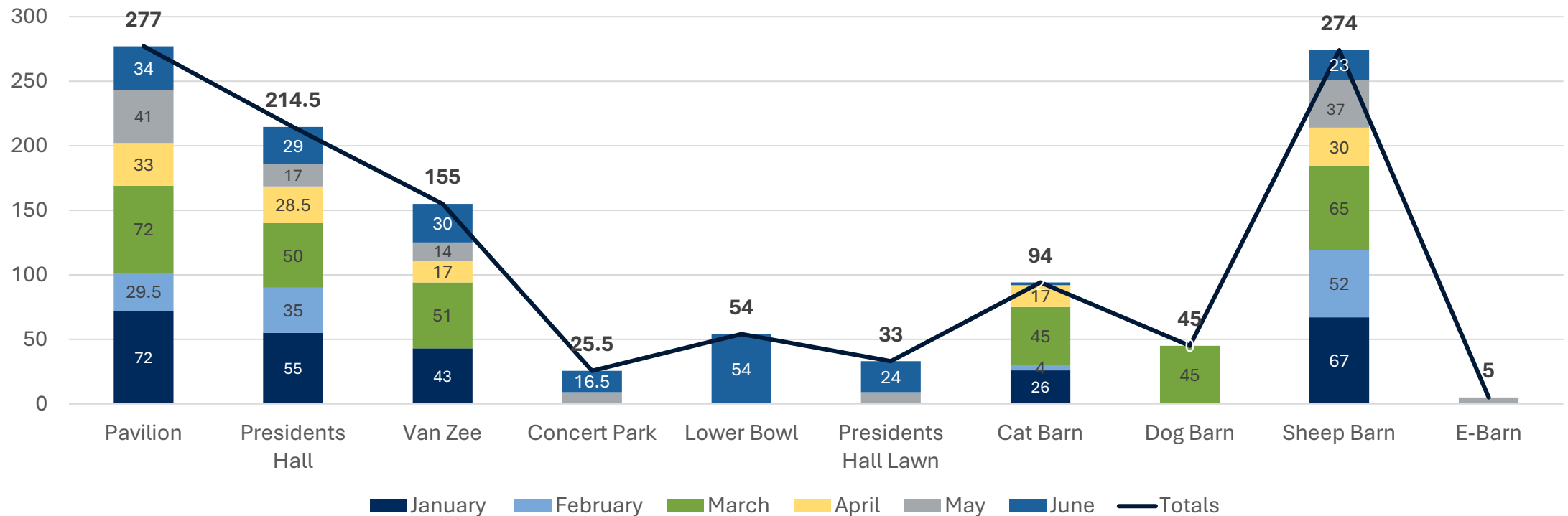
Fairgrounds and Event Center Usage

EVENT DAYS
JANUARY – JUNE 2026



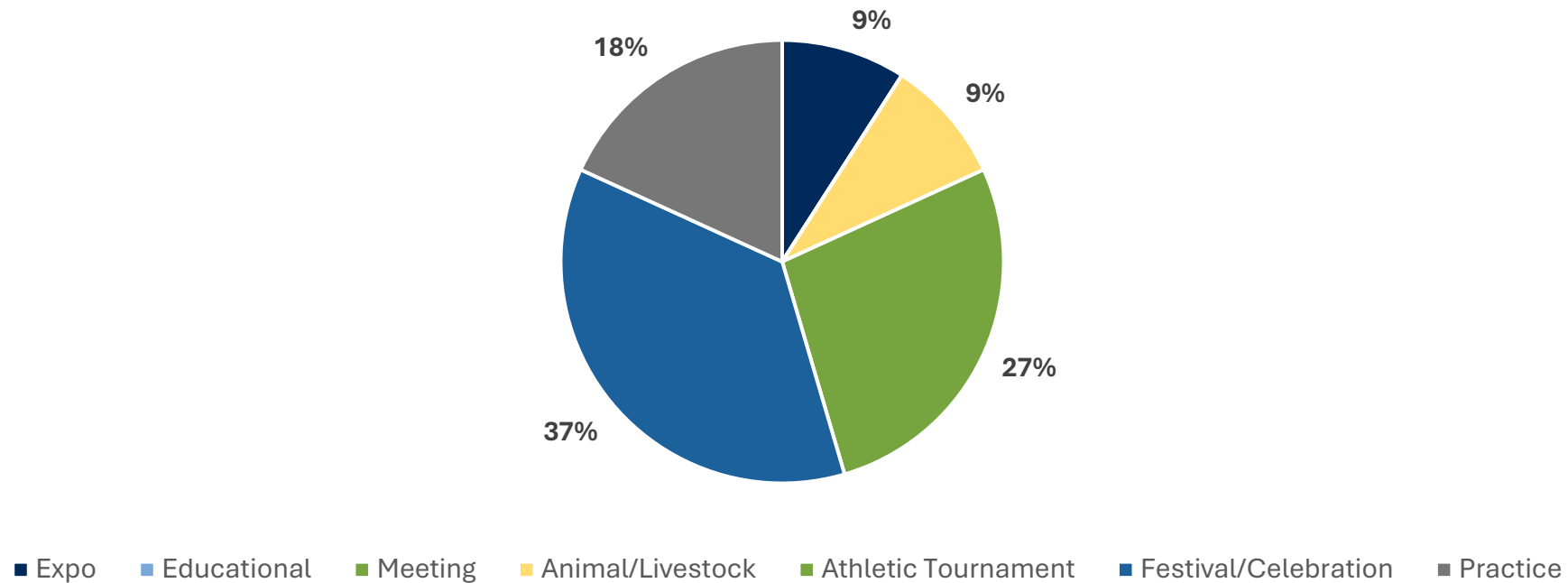
Fairgrounds and Event Center Usage

EVENT HOURS
JANUARY – JUNE 2026

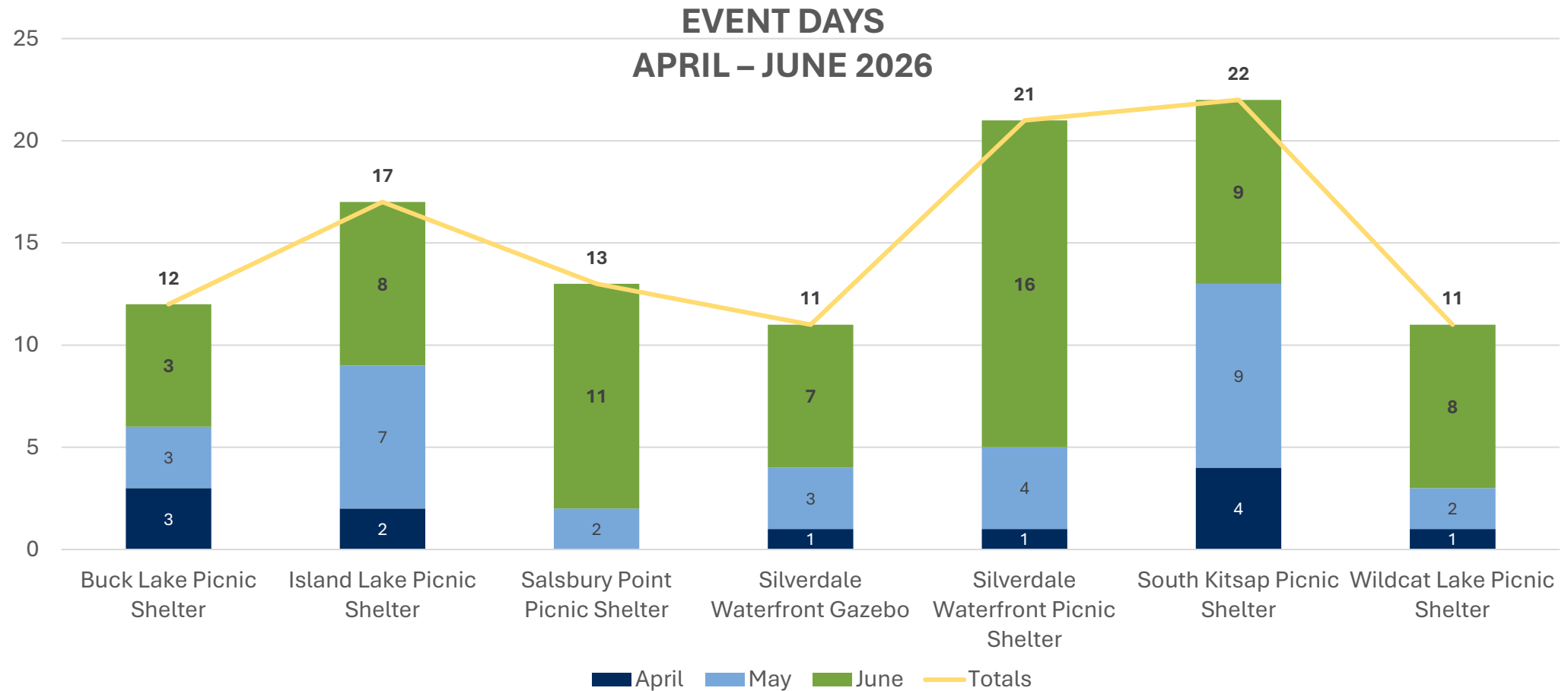


Fairgrounds and Event Center Usage

EVENT TYPES JANUARY – JUNE 2026

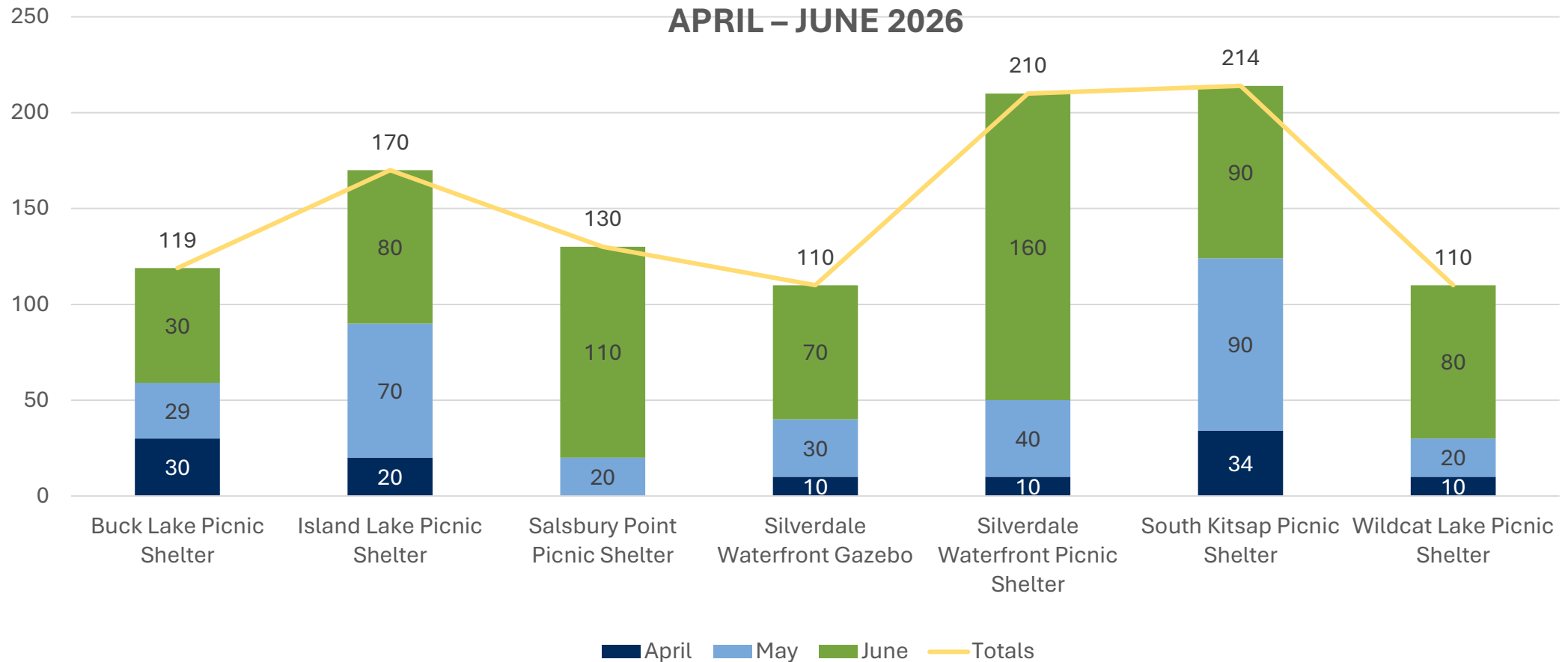


Picnic Shelters



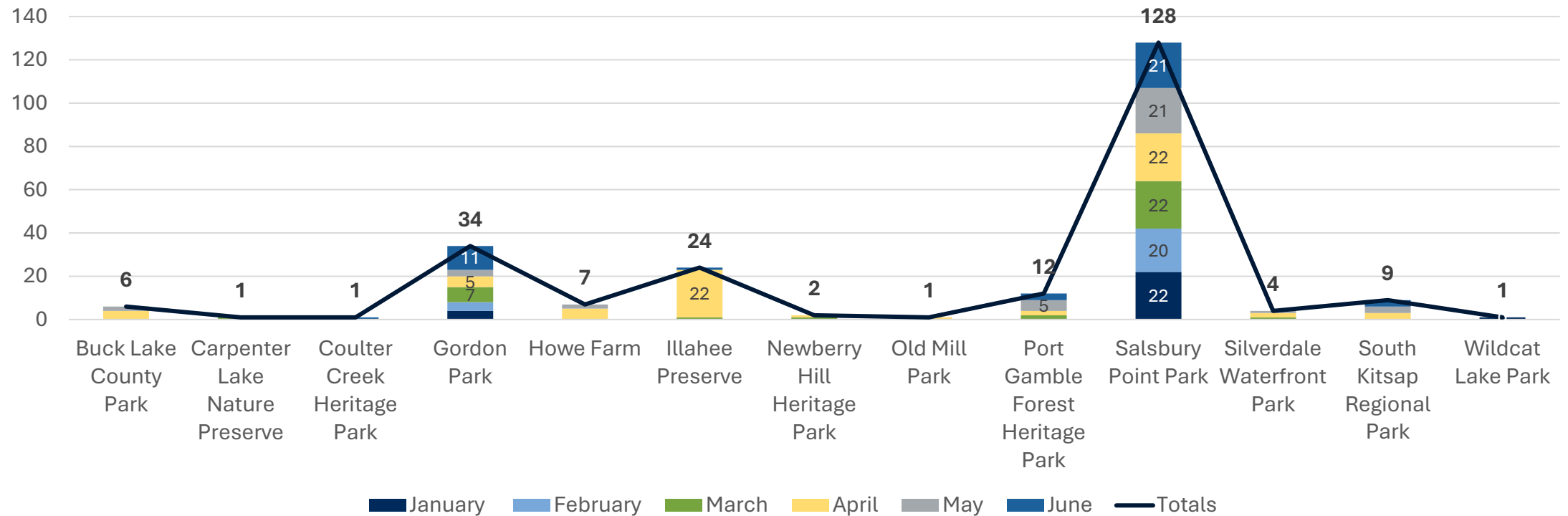
Picnic Shelters

EVENT HOURS APRIL – JUNE 2026



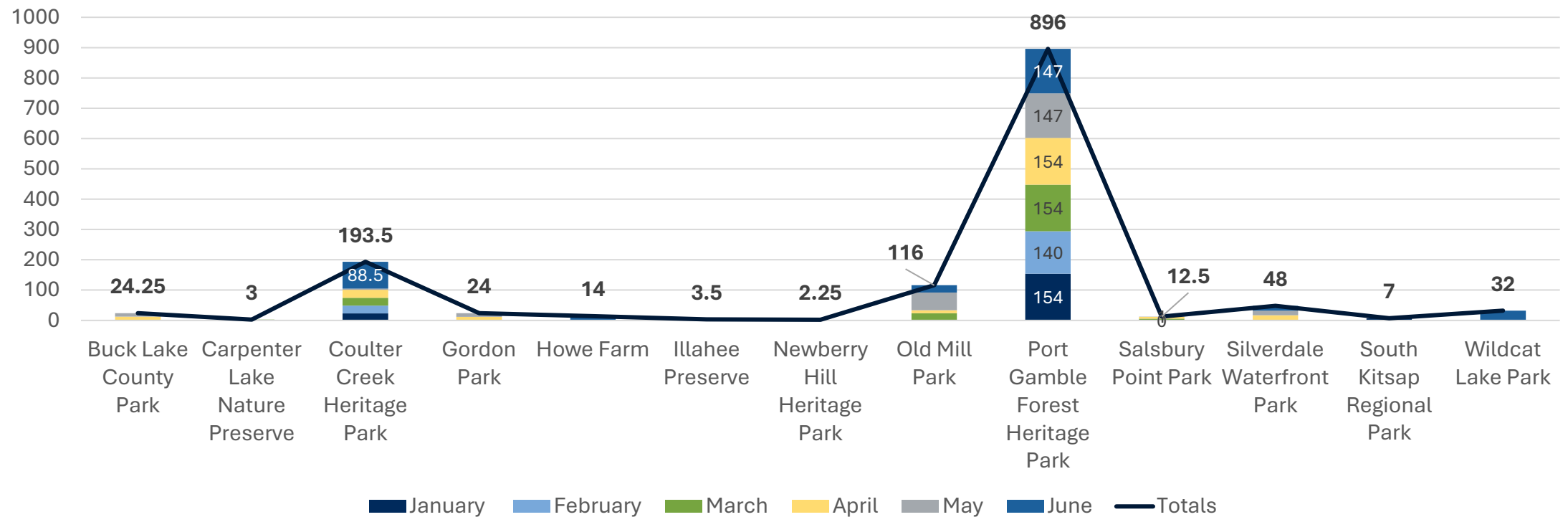
Special Park Events

EVENT DAYS
JANUARY – JUNE 2026



Special Park Events

EVENT HOURS JANUARY – JUNE 2026





Executive Summary

Issue Title: Brush Harvest Program Future

Date: 07/07/2026

Prepared By: Irene Weber

Background:

Since approximately 2013, Parks has maintained a brush harvest program that allows for the harvest of salal and evergreen huckleberry for floral industry in select parks that has generated approximately \$20,000 per year (2025) of revenue with no clear ecological harm or benefit.

Brush harvest is considered a special forest product and is a common revenue generating practice in forest managed for commercial use, however, it is not common to allow this use in areas primarily designated for conservation. For example, in DNR managed land, brush harvest is only allowable in active timberlands and is not permitted in Natural Resource Conservation Areas (NRCAs) which are the DNR land designation most analogous with Kitsap County Parks. Neighboring counties with similar park structures (Pierce, King) also do not allow brush harvest on lands primarily managed for conservation, i.e. park lands.

As we move towards being clearer about managing our large acreage parks for long-term conservation and ecological benefit, we are considering if this practice, with no clear conservation benefit or harm, should continue within Kitsap County Parks.

Current Conditions:

Currently, a brush harvest license has been issued to two companies, for harvest of floral materials over approximately 6,896 acres in the following Parks:

- Bandix Dog Park
- Banner Forest Heritage Park
- Coulter Creek (including Calvinwood and Square Lake)
- Horseshoe Lake
- Newberry Hill Heritage Park
- Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park
- Wicks Lake

The current license expires in April 2026. The sale of these licenses generates approximately \$20,000 in income for Parks annually. These monies are earmarked for restoration purposes and have been used in the past to fund WCC crews and volunteer projects.

The harvest of brush within the parks is sporadic and generally doesn't leave any visible impact to the understory vegetation, however, it doesn't provide a direct ecological benefit to the ecosystem. Additionally, the coordination of this program takes up staff time and there have been complaints from park visitors and volunteers about the activity and litter left behind.

The two companies who harvest brush in Kitsap County Parks lease a total of 300,000 acres and 2 million acres across their businesses. Parks lands account for less than 1% of the total acreage for these companies, but both cite the locations of the parks as convenient and good for local labor forces.

Pros	Cons
Income is used to fund restoration projects	Neutral environmental impact
Supports local businesses	Confusing/disruptive to park visitors
Neutral environmental impact	Additional vehicles in park
	Impact on staff to coordinate access and address issues as they arise

Staff Recommendation:

As this activity has no distinct ecological benefit, limited monetary or local economic benefit, and can have a negative impact on park visitors, Parks Staff recommend that we cease the sale of brush harvest licenses within Kitsap County Parks. We do not allow the removal of any other material from parks for commercial use and want to be consistent and fair when managing these lands for long-term conservation.