



City of Federal Way

Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan

Final Plan
January 2013

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Chapter One

Introduction



Chapter 1: Introduction

1. Plan Purpose

This Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan expresses the community's values and vision for the City's parks, recreation and open space system for the near and long term. This Plan is a part of the City's Comprehensive Plan and Capital Improvement Plan and will guide decisions made for future park and open space investments. It has been over five years since the 2006 Comprehensive Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan was adopted. It is important for the City of Federal Way to periodically assess implementation progress, determine how community needs are being met, how well the current system works, identify areas that can be improved or enhanced, and respond to emerging needs as the community grows and changes. This ensures that the City is being responsive to the current needs of the community and pro-active in planning for the needs of future generations.

Since 2006, there have been a number of changes in the community—residential, retail and employment growth, increased transit levels, an increasingly diverse population, land acquisitions, and recreation program additions and changes. Parks and open space become increasingly important as the City builds out, recreation trends evolve, and the community becomes more dense in response to growth management planning. Having an up-to-date plan positions the City to implement the vision through phases and to respond to opportunities as they arise.

2. Plan Objectives

The objectives of the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan are:

- To provide community defined direction for the future of the City's parks and open spaces as well as recreation programming
- To maintain funding eligibility
- To ensure consistency with state and local requirements;
- To respond to opportunities as they arise
- To provide guidance for effective management of the City's parks, recreation, and open spaces

Community Defined Direction

As part of the 2006 Parks Update, one of the primary objectives was to gather community input and direction to establish priorities for the future of the City's parks and open space system. Community input given at various points throughout that update process established a refined long-term vision for the City's parks, recreation, and open space resources, and gave near-term direction to how the city will allocate its parks and recreation funding. This ensures that the City's park system is responsive in meeting the needs of the community.

Maintain Funding Eligibility

The City relies on grant funding for many of its parks facilities and programs. Most funding sources require periodic updates to parks and recreation plans in order to remain eligible for their funding programs. For example, most funding sources require that funded projects be identified within a jurisdiction's park plan, and that the goals and policies contained within support the proposed project. It is critical that the City continue to successfully compete for outside funding to ensure the development and maintenance of a high quality park system now and into the future.

Consistency with State and Local Requirements

The Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA) requires state and local governments to manage Washington's growth by identifying and protecting critical areas and natural resource lands, designating urban growth areas, preparing comprehensive plans and implementing them through capital investments and development regulations. One of the GMA's 14 goals is to "retain open space, enhance recreational opportunities, conserve fish and wildlife habitat, increase access to natural resource lands and water, and develop parks and recreational facilities" (RCW 36.70A.020(9)). As such, cities and counties are encouraged to develop a parks and recreation element to their Comprehensive Plan. A new requirement of the State Growth Management Act is for cities and counties to plan for the promotion of physical activity in their communities.

In addition, recommendations, goals, policies, and implementation actions within this plan are a part of the City's Comprehensive Plan and Capital Facilities Plan and therefore must support and be consistent with the policy direction in the City's Comprehensive Plan and capital facilities planning.

Responsiveness

This Plan sets the framework for future improvements to the City's parks and open space system. The Plan will provide guidance to decision makers and will set the stage to make informed decisions about the future of the City's parks and recreation facilities and programs. As the City continues to grow, new development will occur, and new jobs will be created in Federal Way, creating additional recreation demands. This plan will help prepare the City to be poised to act should future opportunities arise, and thus allows the City to pro-actively address the recreation needs of a diverse and growing community.

Guidance

This Plan provides guidance to the City's Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department for the next six years and beyond. The plan is a tool for the City to manage its existing park and open space resources. The Plan includes an inventory of existing facilities, and assesses the current and future needs and demands of Federal Way residents. This Plan establishes goal and policy direction, level of service standards and a phased implementation strategy. This Plan update will also provide the basis for parks and open space funding in the City's six-year Capital Improvement Program (CIP).

3. Accomplishments Since 2006 Plan

This section summarizes the City's accomplishments achieved since the implementation of the 2006 Comprehensive Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan.

Land Acquisition

- Laurelwood Neighborhood Park (18.28)
- Brighton Park Open Space (7.64 Acres)
- West Hylebos Property Acquisitions (38.33 Acres) (Part of the West Hylebos)

Facility Improvements

- Implemented a Sign Program
- Prepared a Park and Trail Map
- Cleaned up Laurelwood Park and improved the drainage with the City's Surface Water Management's assistance
- Repaired damaged light poles at Sacajawea Park
- Installed the first of the new park monument signs at West

Hylebos Wetlands Park

- Constructed a maintenance building at Celebration Park
- Replaced playground structures at; Wildwood, Saghalie, Alderdale, Steel Lake Annex and Sacajawea Parks

Park Planning

- Began updates to the marketing/business plan for Dumas Bay Centre

Projects Planned for 2012

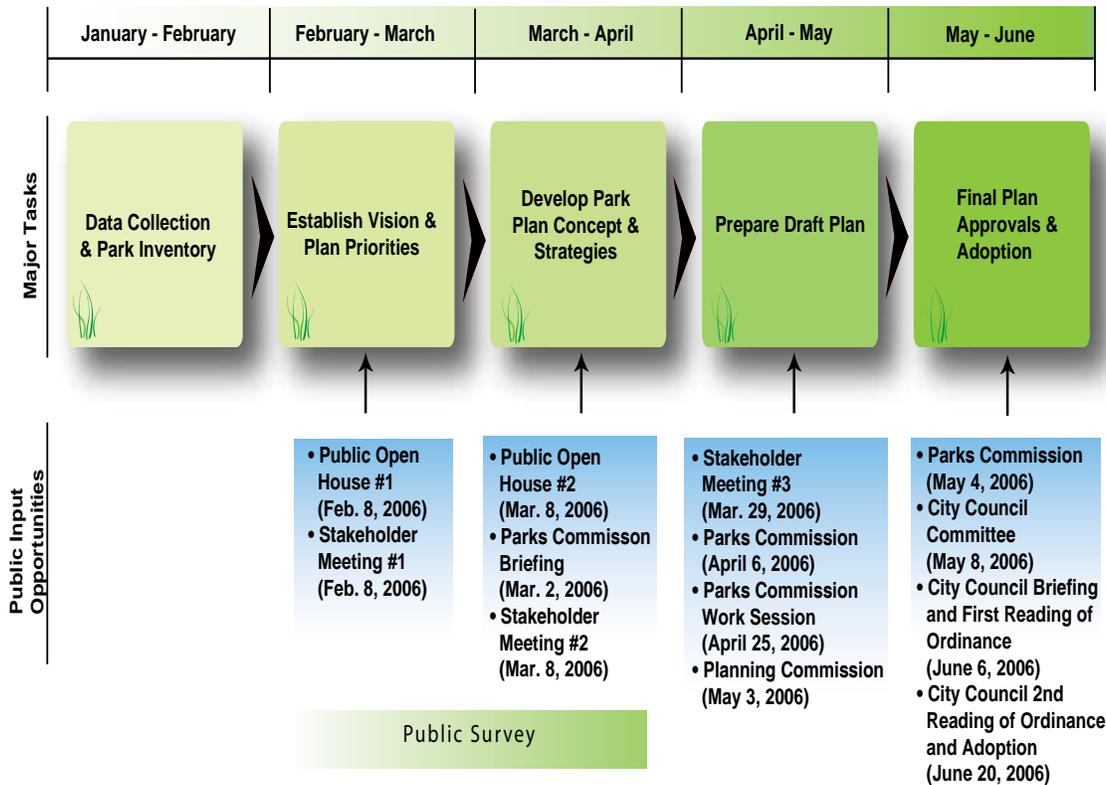
- Replace artificial turf and improve drainage on the soccer field at Sacajawea Park
- Repair the Steel Lake dock
- Improve drainage, baseball fields, and restroom at Lakota Park
- Research and make recommendations to renovate/update Funland at Steel Lake Park
- Prepare a Master Plan for Panther Lake
- Identify and make repairs to asphalt paths throughout the park system
- Begin replacing wood Park Entry signs with new concrete monument signs.

4. Plan Process

This is an update of the 2006 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan. Figure 1.1 shows the general planning process utilized for the 2006 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan.

- **Inventory Existing Conditions** - Collected and analyzed existing facility and program information, demographics, and future population growth assumptions.
- **Vision, Values, & Plan Priorities** - Determined community values and vision for the future of the parks, recreation, and open space system. Identified what is important to the community and developed priorities for future improvements based on those values and future vision looking at both the near-term (0-6 years) and long-term (20 years).
- **Needs Assessment** - Analyzed the current and future needs for the City's existing parks and open space facilities and recreation programs.

FIGURE 1.1: PLAN PROCESS DIAGRAM - 2006



- **Developed Strategies & Recommended Actions** - Developed recommendations for the City’s community parks, neighborhood parks, open spaces, trails, and recreation programs.
- **Prepared Plan** - Developed goals and policies, level of service standards, and implementation strategy including identifying potential funding sources.
- **Finalized Plan** - City Council approval and adoption process.

In addition, throughout the planning process there were multiple opportunities for public input, feedback, and comment as described below.

5. Public Involvement

As part of the Plan effort, the City initiated a public outreach process to engage community members in a dialogue about the future of the City’s parks, open spaces, and recreation programs. The public outreach process included numerous opportunities for public input such as three meetings with stakeholders (representing various park

user groups and decision-makers), a citizen survey made available at city facilities as well as on the City’s website, and several public open houses where ideas were presented and public feedback encouraged.

Community Survey

During February-March 2006, the City gathered input from residents through a parks and recreation survey. This survey was posted on the City’s website, handed out to various community groups and made available at public facilities such as City Hall. This survey asked questions about the park facilities respondents use, why they use them, the types of recreational activities they do at parks, and priorities for future improvements.

Community Open Houses

Two open houses were held to listen to residents and gather insights into community parks and recreation needs. Information from these events helped shape the vision for the future of parks and recreation facilities and programs offered in Federal Way. The meetings are summarized below:

Open House #1: February 8, 2006. The primary goal of this first open house was to explain the Plan update process, highlight opportunities for input and feedback, and determine what was important to the community. The open house was set up as a self-guided “tour” through various displays, each with exercises set up to elicit responses both about the general importance of park related issues and to generate ideas specific to each park.

Open House #2: March 8, 2006. The goal of this open house was to present the key themes that were distilled from responses received during open house #1, the stakeholder group, and the citizen survey. Strategies based upon these key themes or concepts were also presented. Attendees were asked to provide feedback, including what they liked and didn’t like about the concepts presented.

Stakeholder Group

A stakeholder group was also formed to provide guidance for the Plan. Each member of the stakeholder group represented organizations that had an interest in the future of the City’s park system, enabling the City to more effectively reach a broader population by working with these local organizations, sports associations, and service clubs. In addition, these groups had an intimate knowledge of the City’s parks and open space facilities and recreation programs and could provide insights and detail to the planning process.

Three stakeholder meetings were held during the planning process:

Stakeholder Meeting #1: February 8, 2006. Overview of the plan update process, stakeholder roles, and plan vision.

Stakeholder Meeting #2: March 8, 2006. Continue discussion regarding Plan vision, summary of public input to date, presentation of draft strategies for active recreation parks, neighborhood parks, open spaces, and recreation programs.

Stakeholder Meeting #3: March 29, 2006. Plan priorities and draft plan recommendations.

In addition to stakeholder meetings, individual interviews were conducted with stakeholder group members during the week of March 13-17, 2006 to gather additional input and confirmation on core values.

Public Hearings/Adoption and Approval Process

In addition to the stakeholder meetings and public open houses, several briefings, working sessions, and public hearings with the Parks and Recreation Commission, Planning Commission, and City Council were conducted as part of the Plan adoption and approval process.

6. Core Values

An integral part of the Parks, Recreation, & Open Space Plan is to understand what is most important to the community. The core values which shape the Federal Way Parks and Open Space Plan recommendations build upon the extensive public input described above and the following sources:

- Public Open Space Visioning for the Federal Way City Center
- Community Center Public Process (survey, meetings, etc)
- Comprehensive Plan Goals and Policies
- City Council Goals
- State and National Trends

City Council Vision and Goals

In 2006, the City Council adopted a Vision statement and supporting mission and goals. Those related to parks and recreation are listed on the following page:



Residents give feedback on specific park issues at Open House #1.



Residents examine displays and write down comments at Public Open House #2.



Stakeholders discuss their vision for parks and recreation at the first stakeholder meeting.

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION



Children play at Funland in Steel Lake Park.



Steel Lake Park picnic shelters are very popular with residents.



The BPA Trail cuts through the middle of Federal Way, tying together several parks, open spaces, and other destinations.

Vision

- Federal Way is a safe, attractive community known for its cultural diversity, vibrant parks and strong neighborhoods and business centers.

Mission

- The City of Federal Way is responsive, innovative and fiscally responsible in delivering quality services, promoting economic development, improving infrastructure and managing growth.

Goals

- Create a multi-use urban City center that is pedestrian-friendly, linked to neighborhoods and parks, and serves as the social and economic hub of the City.
- Update the capital facilities plan and provide financing options for transportation and surface water improvements, parks, recreation, cultural arts and public facilities.

Based on this input, the following 5 core values emerged:

Core Value #1: Improve Existing Facilities and Provide Multiple Functions in Parks

The City has a wide range of properties and assets in its parks and recreation system, which are distributed throughout the city, including:

- Open space and natural areas that provide wildlife habitat, protection of environmentally sensitive areas, and passive recreation opportunities
- Trails
- Neighborhood parks located in residential neighborhoods
- Community recreation facilities
- A wide variety of recreation programs and facilities

Public input indicated that there is a strong community desire and emphasis focused on improving the resources the City currently owns and maintains. This approach promotes better use and more efficient management of available resources. The Plan also addresses the multi-use function of each park and open space. Parks that have a variety of uses and facilities at each site appeal to a wider range of user groups, serve different ages within families, and are an efficient means of providing parks and recreation services. As future improvements are made to each park or open space, the City should strive to design and operate each facility with the multiple functions in mind. The city has made significant progress in the past decades to enhance the active recreation facilities in the community parks and to

develop new neighborhood parks in underserved areas. In addition, the City has acquired a number of undeveloped parcels as open space or potential future park locations. Many of these facilities are not widely known or used by the community.

Core Value #2: Develop a Walking and Biking Community Through an Integrated Trail and Sidewalk Network

A network of trails and non-motorized facilities is a priority for Federal Way’s future. According to the survey results, walking, hiking, and dog-walking are some of the most common activities residents participate in at local park facilities. In fact, walking is one of the easiest means for people to get daily physical activity. For example, the BPA Trail is one of the most highly used facilities in the City. However, an often heard comment is that the BPA Trail does not connect to many other locations or places. A system of loop trails or an interconnected network of sidewalks and trails will provide a series of routes and options for the Federal Way community. These trails should also connect to the trail system located within existing parks and open spaces. In February 2012, the City prepared a Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan. As part of the public participation process, we conducted an on-line survey in early 2011. There were a number of questions pertaining to where people walk and ride their bikes, and many people said that they utilize the BPA Trail. The City also launched a Social Media site, EngageFederalWay.com and several people mentioned an interest in having the BPA Trail continue into Fife or connect to SR 509 making it possible to pedal through Fife into Tacoma.



This sign is building awareness about Federal Way’s natural assets.



Residents gather for Summer Sounds at Steel Lake Park.

Core Value #3: Retain and Improve Our Open Spaces

Open spaces and natural areas in the City provide an array of benefits to people and wildlife and can contribute to enhancing water quality in the community. These spaces provide pockets of natural areas within the City, wildlife habitat, native plants and trees, and protect environmentally sensitive areas from development. The City’s open spaces include wooded areas, ravines, wetlands, and shoreline environments. These open spaces help to define Federal Way’s community character. Many of these open spaces contain trails and other opportunities to experience nature close to home.

Protecting Federal Way’s natural systems is critical to preserving the quality of life in the community. The City should continue to protect and maintain its open spaces and natural resources. These open

spaces provide a valuable amenity and resource in the community allowing residents to both experience and enjoy natural areas. A balance between protecting these areas and providing opportunities for the community to enjoy and use the facilities is essential. The City has an obligation to not only be environmental stewards of these lands, but to also educate and promote community awareness of the benefits of these open spaces. An open space management program that balances environmental protection, education, invasive species management, and low impact public access opportunities will provide the greatest benefit to the community now and into the future.

Core Value #4: Create Community Gathering Places and Destinations

One of the consistent messages heard from the public is that the City lacks adequate community gathering places or destinations. There are very few places for the community to gather, meet with friends and neighbors, and socialize. Community parks, such as Celebration Park and Steel Lake Park, currently serve as community gathering places, especially during the summer months. Retail areas also serve this role in the City, though most of the retail areas are strip commercial located along major arterials, not necessarily destination locations like those found in a downtown or a neighborhood commercial district.

Creating community gathering places is especially important as the City Center develops. People need comfortable places to linger and congregate for community events. The City's parks can continue to fulfill the role as community gathering places, especially if they include amenities, multiple functions, and are safe and comfortable for the public's use. Ensuring that trail and non-motorized improvements connect popular destinations in the City will also encourage increased use of these facilities.

Core Value #5: Provide a Balance of Services For a Diverse Population

Understanding the population being served and providing programs and opportunities that reflect residents' needs and interests is a major goal of the Plan. Federal Way's park system should provide a variety of options for active and passive recreation opportunities. The City should offer a diversity of facilities and services to accommodate a variety of age groups, interests, income levels, and abilities. The survey revealed a community desire to give special consideration to youth, seniors, and persons with special needs. Additionally, Federal

Way is becoming increasingly diverse with residents from different backgrounds and cultures. The City should continue to strive to be pro-active in assessing recreational trends and should provide services to reflect changing demands in a timely fashion.

7. Parks & Open Space Vision

A vision expresses the community values, goals and priorities for the future of the parks and recreation system. It conveys the park, open space, and recreation qualities desired in the community now and into the future.

Federal Way's unique landscape of hills, lakes, views, and Puget Sound shoreline is enjoyed by the community through its linked network of parks, open space, and gathering spots. Quiet green places, vibrant gatherings, and diverse recreation and culture all celebrate Federal Way's character and identity.

Our vision is one in which parks are clean, safe, and offer a variety of opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to recreate and be healthy. Vibrant public spaces in the City Center host a variety of public and cultural events. Open spaces protect functioning ecosystems in tandem with supporting public use, enjoyment, and environmental education about the community's natural systems. Active, healthy living is supported by an extensive walking network which links people to parks close to home and community activities and events - community centers, schools, public spaces, the City Center, and other destinations.

8. Plan Organization

This plan is organized as follows:

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: Community Profile

Chapter 3: Existing Park and Open Space System

Chapter 4: Recreation and Cultural Arts Programs

Chapter 5: Needs Assessment and Recommended Actions

Chapter 6: Goals & Policies

Chapter 7: Implementation



Chapter Two Community Profile

Chapter 2: Community Profile

1. Regional Location

Federal Way is located in the South Central Puget Sound Region, between Seattle and Tacoma. Federal Way is approximately 25 miles south of Seattle and 8 miles north of Tacoma's City Center. Federal Way is served by Interstate 5, State Route 18 and State Route 167. The major arterials are Pacific Highway South (HWY 99), South 320th Street, South 336th Street, South 348th Street (Campus Drive), 21st Avenue Southwest, State Route 161 (Enchanted Parkway), Military Road, and State Route 509 (Dash Point Road). King County Metro is the primary transit service provided within the City. Figure 2.1 is a vicinity map showing the City in its regional context.

Planning Area

As of December 2011, Federal Way is composed of 14,387 acres of land (22.48 square miles), stretching from South 272nd to the north and the Tacoma/Pierce County border to the south, Military Road to the east and Puget Sound to the west. The planning area includes current City limits as well as the Potential Annexation Area (PAA), which is the unincorporated King County area east of I-5. The PAA is included in the planning area because it is assumed that eventually it will be annexed to the City, and thus, the City must plan for the population's future parks and recreation needs. This plan identifies existing park facilities in the PAA and will provide policy direction on these areas. The City currently owns and maintains one property within the PAA-Camelot Open Space. Any reference made to other parks and open spaces within the PAA is solely for planning purposes- it does not imply city ownership or current responsibility for management.



Celebration Park.



BPA Trail at Panther Lake



Happy summer campers pause their play to pose for the camera.

FIGURE 2.1: CITY OF FEDERAL WAY VICINITY MAP



2. Population Characteristics

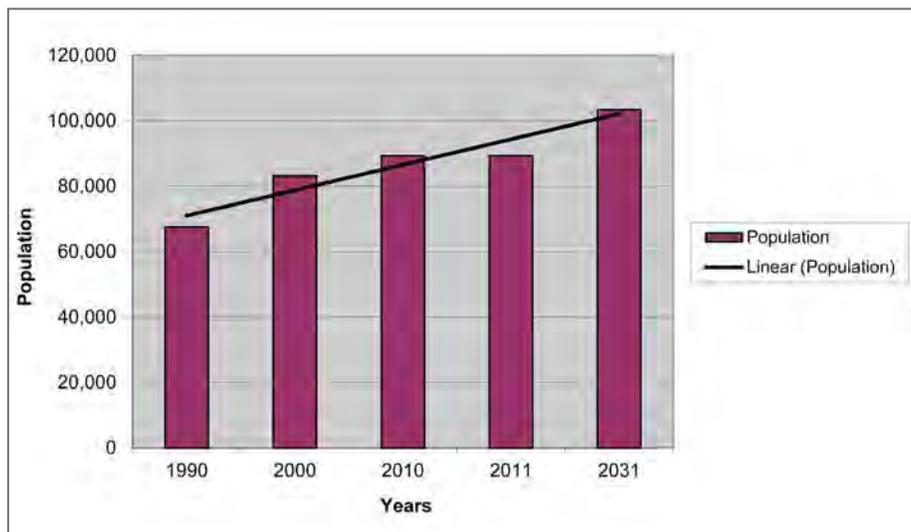
Federal Way is changing and growing. The age, income, ethnicity and household composition of Federal Way residents are major determinants of recreational interests and demand.

Current Population

The City of Federal Way is a growing community, experiencing many changes in both its population characteristics and its built form. According to the Washington Office of Finance and Management (OFM), the city's 2011 population was estimated at 89,370 persons (OFM, 2011) living in 35,464 households (OFM, 2011).

Since incorporation (1990) the city has experienced a 32% increase in population, which is approximately 3% higher than the population growth that has occurred in King County as a whole during the same period. In addition, since 2000, the City of Federal Way has added a little over 6,000 residents (see Figure 2.2).

FIGURE 2.2: FEDERAL WAY POPULATION GROWTH



Source: 1990 - 2010 Census; OFM 2011
Indicates straightline projection from 2010 to 2031.

Federal Way Key Facts

Average household size:
Federal Way: 2.67
King County: 2.4

Median household income:
Federal Way: \$67,120
King County: \$85,778

Percentage of single-family residences: 53.6%

Percentage of multi-family residences: 42.9%

Percentage of foreign born residents:
Federal Way: 22%
King County: 19%

Percentage of residents 19 years and under: approximately 28%

"Baby Boomer" Population: 26%

Median Age: 34.9

Source: 2010 U.S. Census, 2005-2009 American Community Survey



Residents of all ages are entertained at the Red, White, and Blues Festival.

Projected Population and Urban Form

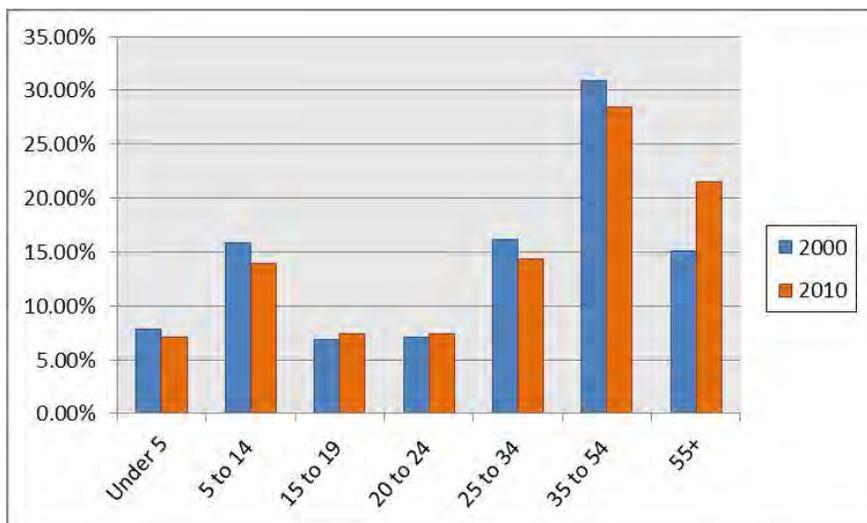
Population and employment growth targets identify the City’s fair share of regional growth for the next twenty years. As part of a regional planning process and consistent with the Puget Sound Regional Council’s (PSRC) Vision 2040, Federal Way will need to accommodate between 7,700 and 8,500 new residential units and between 11,700 and 12,900 new jobs between 2006 and 2031. Based on the 2010 Census at an average household size of 2.67, this equates to having to accommodate a total population of approximately 208,156 residents by 2031, or a 21% increase within current City boundaries between 2011 and 2031. The City is also an employment center, with the majority of employers located in the City Center, along Highway 99, East Campus and the West Campus area.



Senior residents participate in a community dance class.

Since most of the City is built out and there is limited vacant land remaining in the City, much of this population growth will occur in denser infill development, particularly in the City Center and along Highway 99. This is an important factor to consider when locating future park and recreation facilities, and creating a continuous sidewalk and trail network. Planning for population growth and anticipated development type and location means the City is pro-actively addressing the community recreation needs now and into the future.

FIGURE 2.3: AGE DISTRIBUTION



Source: 2000 and 2010 Census

Potential Annexation Area (PAA) Population

In 2006, the PAA has had a population of approximately 21,000 residents. If growth projections for the PAA are included in the projected population figures for the City and assuming that the PAA grows at the same rate as the City, it is anticipated that the future combined population will be 116,124 in 2017 and 128,619 in 2031¹.

Age Distribution

It is also important to understand the age distribution in the community as each age group tends to have different demands for parks and recreation facilities and programming. For example, youth tend to be more active than other groups. They participate in competitive sports and activities such as baseball, soccer, basketball, football, swimming, etc. Young adults (ages 18-35) are also an active age group and form the core of adult competitive sports. Seniors (age 55+) are increasingly participating in active recreation programs and activities.

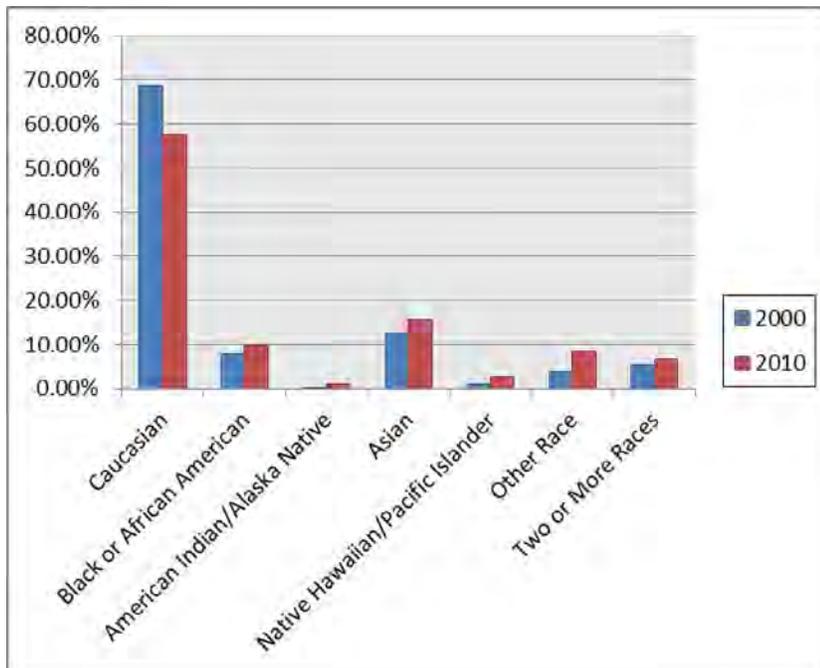


Federal Way teens enjoy a day at the park.



Kids run on the track at Sacajawea Park.

FIGURE 2.4: RACIAL DISTRIBUTION



Source: 2000 and 2010 Census

¹ Based on applying the City of Federal Way’s calculated growth rate to the current PAA population of 21,000.



Shoreline at Dumas Bay Park



West Hylebos Wetlands Park



Fishers Pond Open Space

This will continue to be the trend as the baby boomers enter this age bracket. According to 2010 Census data, approximately 28% of the Federal Way population is 19 years and under. Roughly 26% of the population is part of the “baby boomer” generation, or between the ages of 46 and 64 and approximately 10% of the population is 65 and older (see Figure 2.3). These numbers imply that parks and recreation planning needs to respond to an aging population while also providing the facilities and programming that are attractive to families.

Population Diversity

The ethnic and cultural composition of a community is another major factor to consider in determining what kinds of recreational and leisure activities may be in demand. Parks and open spaces as well as cultural and recreational programming should address the different values and interests of the various ethnic groups living in the community. The 2010 U.S. Census data indicate the majority of the population in Federal Way is Caucasian (57.5%), a decline of 8.6% since 2000. However, the percentage of racial minorities in the City has increased over the past decade. Persons of Asian descent make up 14.2% of the population while 9.7% are African American, 2.7% are Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, 0.9% are American Indian and Alaska Native, 8.3% are some other race, and 6.6% are two or more races. In addition, 16.2% are Hispanic or Latino of any race (see Figure 2.4). Based on the 2005-2009 American Community Survey, approximately 22% of residents were born in another country. These numbers clearly indicate that the City of Federal Way is becoming more diverse and will likely continue to diversify. The City will continue to monitor trends regarding population diversity in the community to ensure it is pro-actively addressing future population needs that reflect the diversity of the community.

3. Natural and Physical Features

The richness of Federal Way's natural features and variety in its physical form provide an ideal setting for parks and recreational opportunities. The quality of the City's hydrologic features, forested areas, and scenic vistas is one of the primary reasons that many individuals and families live in Federal Way. The City's natural environment is composed of a wide variety of landforms, soils, watercourses, and vegetation. Its terrain ranges from steep hills and ridge lines to plateaus and lakes.

The City of Federal Way is located within the Hylebos Creek, Lower Puget Sound, and Mill Creek drainage basins. These basins contain an integrated system of lakes and streams that provide a natural drainage system for over 36 square miles of southwest King County and northeast Pierce County.

Critical areas such as wetlands, steep slopes, streams, and shorelines provide valuable natural functions such as water purification and wildlife habitat as well as opportunities for passive recreation such as walking and bird watching. Federal Way contains several types of wetlands, including marshes, bogs, ponds, forested and scrub-shrub wetlands. Each wetland type plays a valuable role in the hydrological system and offers unique wildlife habitat and human open space values.

Federal Way has eight miles of shoreline and stunning views of Puget Sound, the Olympic Mountains, and Mt. Rainier.



Chapter Three

Existing Park and Open Space System

CHAPTER 3: EXISTING PARK AND OPEN SPACE SYSTEM

FIGURE 3.1: EXISTING FEDERAL WAY PARK SYSTEM



Chapter 3: Existing Park and Open Space System

Currently, the City has a range of community parks, neighborhood parks, open spaces and trails. This chapter describes the existing parks and open space system in Federal Way today, including park facility conditions and needs. It also describes facilities owned by other entities, which are located within the City (see Tables 3.2 - 3.6).

1. Overview and Inventory of Federal Way Park and Open Space System

The existing parks and recreational areas are divided into five categories. Each category represents a distinct type of recreational activity or opportunity. Figure 3.1 shows the parks and open spaces in the City. Table 3.1 provides a summary of the existing park acreage by category. Detailed park inventory sheets for each park and open space facility, including the specific needs assessment are located in Appendix A of this chapter.

TABLE 3.1: FEDERAL WAY PARK ACREAGE BY CATEGORY

Park Category	Acres
Community Parks	309.19
Neighborhood Parks	152.67
Linear Parks/Trails	118.00
Total Developed Acreage	579.86
Open Space Acreage	539.43
Total Park Acres	1,119.29

Community Parks

Community parks are the primary active recreation facilities in the City, providing active and structured recreation opportunities for the community. Three of these community parks are located adjacent to middle schools. Community parks have a large service area, ranging from a 2-mile radius out to the entire city if there is a unique attraction. These parks range in size from 10 to 50+ acres. Many of the existing, community park facilities are designed for organized activities and sports, although individual and family activities are also encouraged. Table 3.2 lists Federal Way’s community parks’ acreage and key features. Figure 3.2 shows where these facilities are located and more detailed park inventories are available in Appendix A.

CHAPTER 3: EXISTING PARK AND OPEN SPACE SYSTEM

FIGURE 3.2: FEDERAL WAY COMMUNITY PARKS AND FACILITIES



CHAPTER 3: EXISTING PARK AND OPEN SPACE SYSTEM

Since incorporation (1990), the City has made significant efforts to develop new and upgrade existing active recreation facilities at Community Parks. Community parks are:

- Community-wide destinations
- Often the most popular and frequently visited parks in the system
- Locations with multiple active recreation opportunities
- The most effective and efficient to maintain and manage especially for programming sports leagues and team events

TABLE 3.2: FEDERAL WAY COMMUNITY PARKS

Park Name	Acres	Features
Celebration Park	83.5	<i>Soccer fields, Baseball/Softball fields, Play area, Wetland nature area, Hiking/Walking Trails in Park, Adjacent to Phase I paved BPA Trail (Walk/Bike), Picnic area, 2 Restroom/Concession Buildings</i>
Dumas Bay Centre Park	12.0	<i>Paths, Bench, Picnic Table, Gazebo, Views, Landscape Gardens and Sculpture Art, Wetland Nature Area, Walking/Biking Trail, Shoreline Access</i>
Dumas Bay Sanctuary	19.3	<i>Wetland nature area, Walking/Biking Trail, Shoreline Access</i>
French Lake Park	10.00*	<i>Off-Leash Area, Horseshoe pit, Ponds, Off-site parking, Picnic Tables</i>
Hylebos Blueberry Farm	3.34	<i>U-Pick Blueberries, Fruit & Nut Trees, Picnic tables, Kiosk</i>
Lakota Park	27.88	<i>Soccer fields, Baseball/Softball fields, Track, Wetland, Restrooms</i>
Sacajawea Park	18.3	<i>Soccer field, Baseball/Softball fields, Track, Tennis court, Play area, Hiking/Walking trail, Restrooms</i>
Saghalie Park	16.4	<i>Softball/baseball fields, All-weather soccer field, Soccer/Football field, Track, Basketball court, Tennis courts, Volleyball court, Walking/Biking trail, Play area, Restrooms</i>
Steel Lake Park	52.0	<i>Soccer field, Baseball/Softball fields, Basketball court, Volleyball court, Horseshoe pit, Skateboard park, Walking trail, Swimming beach, Play area, Restrooms</i>
West Hylebos Wetlands Park	66.47	<i>Parking lot, Trails, Boardwalk, Benches, Picnic tables, Kiosk, Interpretive signs, Historic Cabins</i>
TOTAL	309.19	

**Note: Only five acres of French Lake Park are owned by the City, Lakehaven Utilities owns the other five acres.*

CHAPTER 3: EXISTING PARK AND OPEN SPACE SYSTEM

FIGURE 3.3: FEDERAL WAY NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS



Neighborhood Parks

The system currently includes 19 neighborhood parks located in the City, primarily in single family residential areas. Neighborhood parks are designed primarily for non-supervised, non-organized recreation activities. They generally range in size from 1.5-35 acres and are intended to serve an area of approximately one-half mile radius. Some of these parks are neighborhood level community gathering places; others are little used. Neighborhood parks provide a diversity of features and facilities close to where people live, including play equipment, picnic areas, trails, open grass areas for passive use, informal spaces, natural areas, and some limited active recreation facilities such as outdoor basketball or tennis courts. Neighborhood parks are described in Table 3.3 as well as in the park inventory in Appendix A. Figure 3.3 shows where these facilities are located.

TABLE 3.3: FEDERAL WAY NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Park Name	Acres	Features
Adelaide	7.0	Play area, Swing set, Wood play structure, Spring toys, Tennis court, Horse arena, Hiking/Walking trail, Picnic tables
Alderbrook	35.0	Play area, Hiking/Walking trail, Wetland nature area, Picnic table
Alderdale	2.0	Play area, Basketball court, Tennis court, Hiking/Walking trail, Picnic table
Cedar Grove	2.6	Play area, Trail, Picnic Tables, 1/2 court Basketball court
Coronado	1.5	Play area, Basketball court
Dash Point Highlands	5.0	Play area, Trail connecting to Dash Point State Park trail system, Picnic table
English Gardens	3.43	Hiking/Walking trail, Play area, Picnic table
Heritage Woods	4.01	Walking trail, Play area
Lake Grove	5.0	Play area, Basketball court, Hiking/Walking trail, Picnic tables
Lake Killarney	11.0	Wetland nature area, Walking/Biking trail, Picnic table, Lakefront
Laurelwood	18.28	Natural Area, Picnic Area
Madrona	19.8	Play area, Wetland nature area, BPA Trail Phase IV Benches
Mirror Lake	3.43	Play structure, Hiking/Walking trail, Picnic table
Olympic View	21.0	2 play areas, Informal trail, Picnic tables
Palisades	4.5	Play area, Basketball court, Walking/Hiking trail
SW 312th Sports Courts	2.0	Basketball Court, Tennis Court, Pickleball Court
Wedgewood	3.09	Play area, Hiking/Walking trail, Picnic tables
Wildwood	2.43	Play area, Hiking/Walking trail, Picnic tables
Winco Park	1.6	Plaza, Benches, Landscaping, Lighting
TOTAL	152.67	

CHAPTER 3: EXISTING PARK AND OPEN SPACE SYSTEM

Open Spaces

Federal Way's natural systems of forests, wetlands, and riparian corridors help define the City's character and make it unique. Open space areas are defined as public lands that are in a near natural condition, or designated for future park or open space use. City-owned undeveloped lands/open space total approximately 539 acres. These areas provide aesthetic relief and physical buffers, protect sensitive areas from development, and help to define the character of Federal Way's parks and open space resources (see Table 3.4).

TABLE 3.4: FEDERAL WAY OPEN SPACES

Open Space Name	Acres	Features
Alma Bennett	7.7	<i>wooded, wetlands</i>
Brighton Park	7.64	<i>wooded</i>
Camelot	12.6	<i>in PAA, wooded</i>
Dumas Bay	2.4	<i>wooded</i>
Fisher's Pond	13.43	<i>pond, wetlands, wooded, Federal Way Historic Society</i>
Heritage Woods Pond	6.54	<i>stormwater pond</i>
West Hylebos	183.83	<i>Conservation open space, meadows, wetlands, wooded</i>
Kenwood	6.34	<i>wooded</i>
Lakota Wetlands	16.85	<i>wetlands, wooded</i>
Lochaven	14.4	<i>wooded, ravine</i>
Madrona Meadows	6.18	<i>meadows, wooded</i>
Marlbrook	2.1	<i>wooded</i>
Panther Lake	78.72	<i>wetlands, wooded, gravel trails</i>
Poverty Bay	59.5	<i>wooded, ravine, shoreline</i>
Twin Lakes Vista	3.9	<i>wooded</i>
West Campus	57.0	<i>wooded, wetlands</i>
Buena Addition	0.2	<i>tidelands, beach</i>
Crown Point	12.2	<i>wooded</i>
Woodbridge	10.8	<i>wooded greenbelt</i>
Misc. Open Spaces	37.1	<i>small, undeveloped open spaces</i>
TOTAL	539.43	

FIGURE 3.4: FEDERAL WAY OPEN SPACES AND TRAILS



Many of the City’s publicly owned, undeveloped lands are constrained for development due to the presence of environmentally sensitive areas such as wetlands, streams, lakes, steep slopes, and wildlife habitat. These areas offer both the ability to protect and preserve natural areas, and provide low-impact public access to nature in an urban setting. The open spaces locations may be found in Figure 3.4.

Trails

Trails, often called linear parks, are routes for non-motorized traffic (walking and biking) that generally follow a utility or stream corridor, ravine or some other elongated feature, such as public rights-of-way. Examples of existing trails within the city are the BPA and West Campus trails, and trails within parks. Table 3.5 lists the trails within Federal Way. Their locations may be found in Figure 3.4.

TABLE 3.5: DEDICATED FEDERAL WAY TRAILS

Trail Name	Acres	Length
BPA	90	3.64 mi
West Campus	28	1.04 mi
Total Measured Trails within Parks	n/a	4.55 mi
These include:		
Celebration Park		1.88 mi
Sacajawea Park		0.80 mi
Saghalie Park		0.86 mi
West Hylebos		1.01 mi
Wetlands Park		
TOTAL	118	9.23 mi

Other Community Facilities

There are other city-owned community park facilities such as miscellaneous public recreation facilities or park land owned by the city, such as community centers, public plazas, landscaped medians or sign areas, and the City’s maintenance yard totalling 12.85 acres. Table 3.6 identifies the major community recreational facilities.

TABLE 3.6: CITY-OWNED COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Facility	Location	Acres	Features
Dumas Bay Centre/ Knutzen Family Theatre	3200 SW Dash Point Road	*	Retreat and conference facility including conference and banquet rooms for business meetings, reunions, and weddings with full service catering, overnight accommodations, 250-seat Knutzen Family Theatre, landscaped grounds, views of Puget Sound, and the Olympics Mountains. The Centre now has wireless internet access available within the meeting rooms. The City’s Dance, Creative Movement, Visual Arts, and Theatre programs are based out of this facility.
Steel Lake Maintenance Facility	31130 28th Ave. S	6.50	Parks and Public Works Maintenance and Operations Facility.
Federal Way Community Center	Celebration Park	*	Includes a 3 bay gymnasium, a fitness equipment room, multi-purpose rooms, lap and leisure pools, hot tub, sauna, game room, climbing wall, senior room, childcare room, preschool classrooms, locker rooms, catering kitchen, snack bar, classroom outdoor amphitheater, and administrative spaces.
Federal Way Sign	2800 S 320th St	0.2	Location of City entrance sign and landscaped area.
Dash Point Landscape Street Island	31200 SW Dash Point Rd	0.3	Location of City flagpole and landscaped area.
City Hall	33325 8th Ave S	5.85	Location of General City offices, Police Department and Municipal Court
TOTAL		12.85	

*Note: Acreage for Dumas Bay Centre is listed under Dumas Bay Centre Park in Table 3.2, Federal Way Community Parks.

**Note: Acreage for the Federal Way Community Center is included in the acreage for Celebration Park in Table 3.2, Federal Way Community Parks.



2. Parks and Facilities Not Owned by Federal Way

Potential Annexation Area Park Inventory

In addition to the parks located within City limits, there are several County parks located within the City’s Potential Annexation Area (PAA). Although the City does not own or maintain these parks, these facilities serve the current population in the PAA as well as Federal Way citizens who live east of I-5. The City will assume ownership of these facilities when these areas are annexed. Table 3.7 provides a listing of the park facilities in the Potential Annexation Area. Their locations can be found in Figure 3.5.

**TABLE 3.7: KING COUNTY
PARKS AND FACILITIES IN FEDERAL WAY AND POTENTIAL ANNEXATION AREA**

Recreation Sites	Acres	Facilities
Neighborhood Parks		
Bingaman Pond Park	16.7	Hiking trail, natural areas
Camelot Park	18.0	Wetland, ravine
Community Parks		
Five Mile Lake Park	31.9	Tennis courts, basketball court, swimming beach, gazebo, picnic area, fishing pier, restrooms, concession building, kitchen/picnic shelter, open play area, walking, track
Lake Geneva Park	18.6	Fishing pier, picnic shelter, open lawn area, soccer fields, restrooms, lake access, boat launch and trails
South King County Ball fields	24.6	Ball fields
Regional Facility		
Weyerhaeuser King County Aquatic Center*	11.1	Indoor Pool, meeting/banquet room and parking area
TOTAL	120.9	

*Note: Located within city limits

FIGURE 3.5: PARK FACILITIES OWNED BY OTHER JURISDICTIONS



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Bingaman Pond offers natural areas to the residents in the PAA (Source: Visit Federal Way).

State Park Inventory

There are several Washington State facilities located within Federal Way or the Potential Annexation Area. Dash Point State Park is a significant asset for Federal Way residents with its vast natural setting, and shoreline amenities. Table 3.8 lists these State facilities and Figure 3.5 illustrates their locations.

TABLE 3.8: WASHINGTON STATE PARKS IN FEDERAL WAY PLANNING AREA

Recreation Areas	Acres	Facilities
Dash Point State Park**	398	Camping, swimming, beach, picnic area, trails, small boat launch, amphitheater
Lake Dolloff Fishing Access*	1.3	Lake fishing access
North Lake Fishing Access*	5.5	Boat launch, fishing pier
TOTAL	404.8	

*Note: Located in PAA

**Note: Only 230 acres are located within City Limits



Dash Point State Park offers access to the Sound

Other Facilities

In addition to parks and recreation facilities and programs offered by the City of Federal Way, there are numerous private businesses and organizations, both within and in close proximity to the city, that provide a range of facilities. Private and public recreation facilities can benefit one another by minimizing redundancies in services offered as well as developing joint use agreements where appropriate. Tables 3.9 and 3.10 list facilities provided by private businesses or organizations:

CHAPTER 3: EXISTING PARK AND OPEN SPACE SYSTEM

TABLE 3.9: PRIVATE OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL FACILITIES IN THE FEDERAL WAY AREA

Parks/Areas/Miscellaneous Facilities	Acres	Activity
Enchanted Village/Wild Waves	n/a	Amusement rides, wading pond, picnic areas, miniature golf, water slides, wave pool
Marine Hills Rec. Assoc.	3.0	Tennis courts, pool
Twin Lakes Golf Course	120.0	Golf course, pool, tennis courts, clubhouse
Pacific Rim Bonsai Collection	0.5	Bonsai garden, trail
Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden	24.0	Garden, trail
Powells Wood Gardens	n/a	Private gardens, open to the public several times per year
St. Vincent's School	n/a	Playfields

TABLE 3.10: PRIVATE INDOOR RECREATIONAL FACILITIES IN FEDERAL WAY AREA

Facility	Activity
Curves (Two locations)	Fitness training
EX3 Teen Center (Boys and Girls Clubs of King Co.)	Gym, climbing wall, open classroom, tech lab, learning lounge
Brooklake Community Center	Lodge, meeting hall, dance floor, picnics
24 Hour Fitness	Fitness Training, weight room, Silver Sneakers Senior Program
LA Fitness (Two Locations)	Aerobics, personal training, fitness room, cardio center and weight room, spa, 25m swimming pool, sauna, basketball and racquetball courts.
Federal Way Senior Center*	Meeting Hall and lunch room
Gymnastics Unlimited	Gymnastics training
Pattison's West Skating Center	Indoor roller skating rink
Laser Quest	Laser Tag
Secoma Bowling Lanes	Bowling lanes
Paranoid Paintball*	Outdoor paintball
Spring Valley Montessori School	Gym, multipurpose building

*Note: Located outside City limits

CHAPTER 3: EXISTING PARK AND OPEN SPACE SYSTEM

Sports Facilities

TABLE 3.11: INVENTORY OF EXISTING SPORTS FACILITIES IN AND AROUND FEDERAL WAY

Facilities	Location	Notes
Public Baseball Fields		
	City	
1	Todd Beamer High School	
1	Decatur High School	
1	Federal Way High School	
1	Illahee Middle School	
3	Lakota Park	1 lighted, shared with softball; 2 unlit, shared with Little League
1	Sacajawea Park	1 lighted
1	Saghalie Park	1 lighted
9	Subtotal	
Potential Annexation Area		
1	Kilo Middle School	
1	Thomas Jefferson High School	
1	Sequoia Middle School	artificial turf
1	South King County Ball Fields	
4	Subtotal	
13	Total Baseball Fields (3 lighted, 3 owned/maintained by Federal Way)	
Public Softball Fields		
	City	
1	Decatur High School	
1	Federal Way High School	
1	Todd Beamer High School	
1	Illahee Middle School	
4	Celebration Park	4 lighted
1	Lakota Park	1 lighted, shared with baseball
1	Sacajawea Park	2 lighted
1	Saghalie Park	2 lighted
3	Steel Lake Park	2 lighted
14	Subtotal	

*Note: Located outside City limits

CHAPTER 3: EXISTING PARK AND OPEN SPACE SYSTEM

Table 3.11 cont.

Facilities	Location	Notes
	Potential Annexation Area	
1	Thomas Jefferson High School	
1	Kilo Middle School	
1	Sequoia Middle School	artificial turf
3	Subtotal	
17	Total Softball Fields (11 lighted, 11 owned/maintained by Federal Way)	
Little League/Youth Softball		
Public Little League/Youth Softball		
	City	
3	Adelaide Elementary	
4	Brigadoon Elementary	
2	Lakota Park	Shared with City
2	Lake Grove Elementary	1 Lower and 2 Upper
2	Mark Twain Elementary	
2	Mirror Lake Elementary	
3	Nautilus Elementary	1 Upper and 2 Lower
3	Olympic View Elementary	
1	Panther Lake Elementary	
2	Sherwood Forest Elementary	
2	Twin Lakes Elementary	
3	Wildwood Elementary	
29	Subtotal	
	Potential Annexation Area	
2	Camelot Elementary	
1	Five Mile Lake Park	
3	Lake Dolloff Elementary	
2	Rainier View Elementary	
3	South King County Ball Fields	
11	Subtotal	
40	Total	
Private Little League/Youth Softball		
2	Federal Way American Little League Complex	Behind Sacajawea Middle School
4	Federal Way National Little League Complex	Near Winco Park
6	Subtotal	
46	Total Little League/Youth Softball Fields	

CHAPTER 3: EXISTING PARK AND OPEN SPACE SYSTEM

Table 3.11 cont.

Facilities	Location	Notes
Soccer Fields		
Public Soccer Fields		
	City	
1	Adelaide Elementary	
1	Brigadoon Elementary	
4	Celebration Park	4 lighted
1	Enterprise Elementary	No goals
1	Green Gables Elementary	
1	Lake Dolloff Elementary*	Cinder
1	Lake Grove Elementary	
2	Lakota Park	1 lighted all-weather field (not used); 1 natural turf.
1	Mark Twain Elementary	
1	Mirror Lake Elementary	No goals
1	Nautilus Elementary	
1	Olympic View Elementary	
1	Panther Lake Elementary	No goals
1	Sacajawea Park	1 lighted with artificial turf
2	Saghalie Park	2 lighted, 1 artificial turf and 1 natural
1	Sherwood Forest Elementary	
1	Silver Lake Elementary	No goals
1	Steel Lake Park	1 lighted with artificial turf
1	Wildwood Elementary	
24	Subtotal	
Potential Annexation Area		
1	Camelot Elementary	
2	Lake Geneva Park	
1	Lakeland	No goals
1	Rainier View Elementary	
1	Valhalla Elementary	No goals
6	Subtotal	
30	Total Fields (8 lighted, 1 all-weather, 3 artificial turf, 8 owned by Federal Way)	

*Note: Located outside City limits

CHAPTER 3: EXISTING PARK AND OPEN SPACE SYSTEM

Table 3.11 cont.

Facilities	Location	Notes
Football Fields		
Public Football Fields		
	City	
1	Decatur High School	
1	Federal Way Memorial Field	1 Stadium with artificial turf
1	Federal Way High School	
1	Todd Beamer High School	artificial turf
1	Illahee Middle School	
1	Sacajawea Park	1 lighted, field turf
1	Saghalie Park	1 lighted
7	Subtotal	
Potential Annexation Area		
1	Kilo Middle School	
1	Thomas Jefferson High School	artificial turf
1	Sequoia Middle School	artificial turf
3	Subtotal	
10	Total Football Fields (2 owned by Federal Way)	
Tennis Courts		
Public Tennis Courts		
	City	
1	Alderdale Park	
1	Adelaide Park	
4	Decatur High School	
3	Federal Way High School	
1	Illahee Middle School	
2	Lakota Wastewater Treatment Plant	
2	Sacajawea Park	2 Lighted
4	Saghalie Park	4 Lighted
6	Thomas Jefferson High School*	
1	SW 312th Sports Court Park	Plus one pickleball court
25	Subtotal	
Potential Annexation Area		
2	Five Mile Lake Park	
27	Subtotal	
Private Tennis Courts		
1	Twin Lakes Golf Course	(Membership Required)
28	Total Courts (6 lighted, 11 owned by Federal Way)	

*Note: Located outside City limits

CHAPTER 3: EXISTING PARK AND OPEN SPACE SYSTEM

Table 3.11 cont.

Facilities	Location	Notes
Racquetball Courts		
Private Racquetball Courts		
	City	
9	LA Fitness (Two locations)	(Membership Required)
9	Total Courts	
Swimming Pools		
Public Swimming Pools		
	City	
3	Weyerhaeuser King County Aquatic Center	50 Meter Pool, 25 Meter Pool, Diving Tank
2	Federal Way Community Center	Lap and Leisure Pool
5	Subtotal	
Private Swimming Pools		
	City	
1	Marine Hills Recreation Association	25 Yard Outdoor Pool
1	Twin Lakes Golf Club	25 Meter Outdoor (Membership Required)
1	Mar Cheri Association	Pool
2	LA Fitness	Lap Pool (Membership Required)
5	Subtotal	
10	Total Pools (2 owned by Federal Way)	
Tracks		
Public Tracks		
	City	
1	Todd Beamer High School	1 artificial
1	Decatur High School	1 artificial
1	Federal Way Memorial Field	1 artificial
1	Saghalie Middle School	1 artificial
1	Federal Way High School	1 cinder
1	Illahee Middle School	1 cinder
1	Lakota Park	1 cinder
1	Sacajawea Park	1 cinder
1	Federal Way Community Center	
9	Subtotal	

*Note: Located outside City limits

CHAPTER 3: EXISTING PARK AND OPEN SPACE SYSTEM

Table 3.11 cont.

Facilities	Location	Notes
	Potential Annexation Area	
1	Five Mile Lake Park	1 jogging trail
1	Sequoia Middle School	1 artificial
1	Kilo Middle School	1 cinder
1	Thomas Jefferson High School	1 artificial
4	Subtotal	
13	Total Tracks (5 owned/maintained by Federal Way)	
Basketball Courts		
Public Basketball Courts		
1	Alderdale Park	
1	Coronado Park	
1	Lake Grove Park	half court
1	Palisades Park	
1	Saghalie Park	
1	Steel Lake Park	half court
1	SW 312th St Courts	
1	Federal Way Community Center	
8	Subtotal	
Private Basketball Courts		
	City	
2	LA Fitness	(membership required)
10	Total Basketball Courts (8 owned by Federal Way)	
Sand Volleyball Courts		
Public Sand Volleyball Courts		
	City	
1	Saghalie Park	
2	Steel Lake Park	
3	Total Sand Volleyball Courts	

*Note: Located outside City limits



Chapter Four

Recreation

And Cultural

Arts Programs

Chapter 4: Recreation and Cultural Arts Programs

1. Overview

The Federal Way Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department provides programs, services and special events designed to foster community spirit, build individual self-confidence, and enhance quality of life for Federal Way residents. The Department also manages several recreation destination facilities such as the Dumas Bay Centre and the beach at Steel Lake Park. The Community Center, which opened in 2007, provides new spaces to significantly broaden the range of cultural and recreation programming opportunities available to the community. It features three gyms, two pools, fitness area, climbing wall, senior lounge, sauna / steam rooms, classroom space and community rooms for rental use. The facility also serves as a location for many general recreation classes and some community events.

The City's cultural and recreation programs served approximately 15,450 individuals (combined enrollment in programs and active membership passes) in 2012. Programs with the highest unmet demand were education, music, crafts and visual arts, and adult athletics, however this varied depending on the time of year.

As of 2012, the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department consists of 34.05 full time equivalents (FTE's) with 19.75 FTEs in the Recreation and Cultural Services Operations Division.

2. City Recreation Programs

The City offers recreation programs in the following general categories:

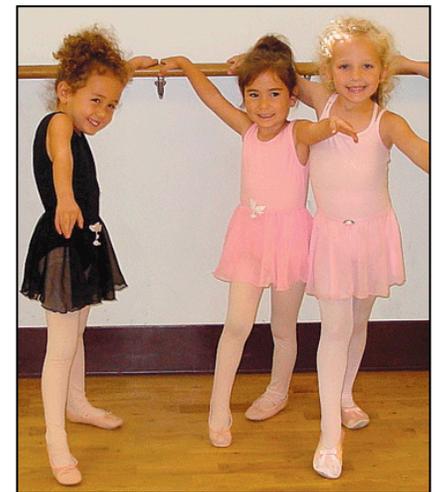
- Youth and Adult Athletics
- Fitness
- Dance, Creative Movement, Visual Arts
- Preschool Education
- Seasonal, Specialty and Summer Camps
- Aquatics
- Inclusive Recreation



Many Federal Way children participate in and enjoy Kid's Day.



Residents enjoy the Red, White and Blues Festival at Celebration Park.



Young ballerinas practice their steps.

- Senior Services
- Community Events
- Rentals and Retreat Facilities

Three times yearly, the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department produces the Recreational Programs catalog with a complete listing of classes, programs, events and rental facilities. The City also offers fee reductions and scholarships to assist individuals who meet certain income guidelines for many programs and services.

The results from the public survey in 2006 that was conducted to inform this Plan revealed that approximately 30% of respondents participate in City programs of some kind. The majority of respondents (70%) learn about City programs through the Recreation catalog, which confirms the effectiveness of this method for providing information.

Youth and Adult Athletics

The City provides a full program of seasonal and year-round sports and leagues such as volleyball, softball, soccer and tennis lessons. These sports are played on some of the best fields / facilities in the northwest, including Celebration Park and the Federal Way Community Center. The most popular adult athletics programs sponsored by the City are softball, soccer, and volleyball. The City also offers adult health and fitness classes such as yoga, pilates, and “step & flex.” Most youth athletic programs in Federal Way are run by alternative service providers. The City provides support to alternative service providers with access to city facilities such as fields and gyms. Primary service providers for youth athletics include youth soccer, football and baseball associations, YMCA and Boys and Girls Clubs. The City’s approach to youth athletics is to provide programs and fill needs within the community not currently provided by alternative service providers. Examples of youth athletic programs provided by the City include:

- Youth Golf Lessons
- Kids Love Soccer
- Basketball Life
- Gymnastics
- Rock Climbing

Although the national trend for tennis participation is down, youth tennis lessons in Federal Way continue to be popular due to the instructors and quality of instruction.

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The City does not currently have plans to develop additional youth athletic programs since other providers are doing an effective job meeting the youth athletic program needs of the community. Table 4.1 summarizes the youth sports associations in Federal Way.

TABLE 4.1: YOUTH SPORTS ASSOCIATIONS

Sports Association	Age Group
Baseball	
District 10 Little League: Federal Way National League	Ages 5-18
Steel Lake Little League	Ages 5-16
Boys and Girls Club	1st to 6th grade
Basketball	
Boys and Girls Club	1st to 10th grade
Football	
Federal Way Junior Football (Hawks)	Ages 7-14
Soccer	
Federal Way Soccer Association	Ages 5-18
Boys and Girls Club	1st to 6th grade
Washington State Soccer Association	Adults
Washington State Women's Soccer Association	Adults
Softball	
Federal Way Girls' Fast Pitch Association	Youth, Teen
Steel Lake Little League (Boys and Girls)	Fast pitch ages 7-14
Swimming	
Valley Aquatics Swim Team	Youth, Teen
Pacific Waves Synchronized Swimming	Youth, Teen

CHAPTER 4: RECREATION AND CULTURAL ARTS PROGRAMS

Table 4.1 cont.

Sports Association	Age Group
KING Aquatics	Youth, Teen
South Sound Titans	Youth, Teen
Pacific Northwest Diving	Youth, Teen
Marine Hills Summer Swim Team	Youth, Teen
Twin Lakes Summer Swim Team	Youth, Teen
Track	
Federal Way Track Club	
Federal Way School District Intramural Program	Ages 5-18

Source: City of Federal Way.

The City currently offers limited teen focused programs and services such as teen camps, teen athletics, teen dancing and teen fitness. The Boys & Girls Club also currently serves the teenage group, offering a broad range of programs in the community including the Teen Center at the EX3 facility. The EX3 facility includes a technology and computer lab, climbing wall, gymnasium, and teen lounge area. A variety of programs are offered at EX3 including men's basketball league, volleyball league, tutoring and educational programs, art, and Tae Kwon Do.

According to the 2006 parks survey, teen programs were listed as a priority for the community. However, as most of the survey respondents were 45+ years of age, it is unclear whether it is the teens themselves who want more programs. Today, teens tend to look for opportunities for unstructured social interaction or specialized classes/training such as computers, media, etc. Thus, whether the City should be offering additional teen programming above and beyond what is currently provided by the City and others and may be an area for further review. The Community Center has amenities that draw teens such as swimming pools, game room, gymnasium, fitness classes, camps, indoor track, climbing wall, and leisure/drop in spaces.

Fitness

The Federal Way Community Center offers full-service fitness and wellness programs to membership and drop-in participants. Programs include; group exercise classes, Silver Sneakers, spinner room, water exercise, fitness and weight room, indoor track, gymnasium, lap pool and play pool, climbing, and spa services. Other recreation-based fitness programs include; yoga, pilates, and martial arts. Interest in health and fitness related classes has risen with the opening of the Community Center in 2007.

Dance, Creative Movement, Visual Arts

The City offers some craft and visual arts classes such as photography for beginners, and scrapbooking. The crafts and visual arts programs are less popular than some of the other programs offered by the City. The craft/visual arts programs that tend to be most popular are those in which people learn a skill—such as photography or ceramics. However, the City does not currently have the facilities for those types of arts and media programs (i.e. facilities currently lack a dark room, kiln, etc). The City does not currently have a facility in which to offer additional visual media programs. Dance classes range from toddler dance classes, ice skating lessons, hip hop dance, and cheerleading. Music classes include private and group instruction for guitar and piano, as well as toddler music programs.

Dance classes and gymnastics are held at the Community Center as well as local schools, and at Dumas Bay Centre where there is a creative movement room, and a visual arts room. Music classes, such as guitar and piano, are held at Dumas Bay Centre. Dance classes tend to be large and popular, especially the pre-school age and special interest classes.

- Toddlers/young age dance classes, such as toddler tap, youth tap and ballet, are well-attended.
- Adult Ballroom Dance is popular, however, class sizes tend to fluctuate.
- The most popular music classes tend to be the private and group lessons such as piano and guitar.
- Gymnastics is also quite popular, likely because children are able to participate without parental supervision.

Pre-school Education

The preschool education programs, located at the Community Center, are designed to promote children's social, physical and cognitive growth in a secure, creative and stimulating environment, and to help



A resident joyfully crosses the finish line at the triathlon.



Kids enjoy the arts and crafts program.

prepare children for kindergarten. The City offers parent participation programs for those under three, and a variety of classes ranging from two to eight hours per week for those ages three through five.

Preschool education programs fluctuate in popularity with the highest attendance currently being in the classes based on trendy themes. Preschool class numbers rose with the opening of the Community Center due to increased visibility, new classrooms and equipment, and the option for parents to enroll their child while they use the pool or fitness room to exercise (the “one stop shop” idea).

Seasonal, Specialty and Summer Camps

The City currently offers a variety of camp programs throughout the year, offered to children and teens, ages two to fifteen. The youth summer day camp, for those ages six through twelve, is a popular City program, and currently operates at capacity of 160 kids. Camp is currently held at the Community Center for 10 to 11 weeks of the summer.

The City also offers Mid-Winter, Spring, and Winter holiday camps, which are very popular. Field trips are currently the most popular activity, and boost registration when they are scheduled as a large part of camp. During the summer, the City also contracts out for specialty camps such as martial arts, Lego workshops, and horseback riding.

Aquatics

Aquatics programs are located at the Community Center and include public swim instruction, water exercise, and pool parties. The King County Aquatic Center has a variety of swimming programs available to the community. The County provides a wider range of programs and services for the pre-school and youth age groups. City programs such as water exercise are quite popular, as are private swim lessons (mommy & me to adult age). In addition, other service providers offer classes, lessons, and swim team at the Community Center. The Community Center has both lap and leisure pools.

Inclusive Recreation

The Recreation Inclusion programs are open to people with and without disabilities. The programs give the opportunity to gain important life and social skills while celebrating the differences we all

have. Some of the activities include life skills classes, social clubs trips and tours, special olympic sports, special events and theatre.

Senior Services

The senior programs at the Federal Way Community Center offer a wide variety of programs and activities for adults ages 50 and older. Some activities include health and wellness programs, trips and excursions, instructional classes and drop-in activities. Generally, the more 'active' programs are growing in popularity (tai chi, senior softball, etc). The less active programs are in decline and less popular (i.e. crafts, bingo, etc). Often, the popularity of programs are instructor-based. When people make a connection with the instructor they are likely to continue. Some of the programs/services currently being provided include:

- Art classes
- AARP driver safety program
- Bridge
- Open Pickle ball
- Excursions
- Tai Chi
- Bingo
- Live music
- Hot lunch programs 4 days a week
- Meals on Wheels (serving 300-350 individuals/year)
- Silver Sneakers
- Senior softball
- Other services e.g., tax help, financial advice, etc

Community Events

Community events are sponsored by the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department every month with the exception of: January, March, April, May, and November. Community Events are typically free or low-cost and to assist with the cost of providing events, the City seeks other government and corporate sponsorship. Community Events tend to be very popular as they provide opportunities for participation to all ages, bring the community together, and are financially accessible. Some of the large community events include:



The Federal Way Community Center satisfies much of the City's demand for recreation programs and indoor athletic activities.



Residents enjoying the music at Summer Sounds on the Beach.

- Red, White and Blues Festival (Held on the 4th of July at Celebration Park)
- Summer Sounds Outdoor Concert Series (Steel Lake Park)
- Freaky 5K
- Fall Carnival (Community Center)
- Youth Fishing Derby (Steel Lake Park)
- K-9 Carnival
- Kids Day

Rentals and Retreat Facilities

The Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department manages several rental facilities that require a fee and often a special use permit. These facilities include the Community Center, picnic sites and a shelter at Steel Lake Park, and conference rooms and retreat facilities at the Dumas Bay Centre.

3. Non-City Service Providers

In addition to the City of Federal Way's Recreation and Cultural Arts programming there are other public, private, or non-profit organizations and associations within the city, and in close proximity, that offer complementary classes, facilities, and productions in dance, art, and theater. These other recreation programming service providers are summarized in Table 4.2.

Since incorporation, the City has closely coordinated with these providers to ensure that the City is not duplicating services already being provided by others. In this way, the Department can concentrate on "filling in the gaps" and provide programs that others do not currently provide.

CHAPTER 4: RECREATION AND CULTURAL ARTS PROGRAMS

TABLE 4.2: NON-CITY SERVICE PROVIDERS

Alternative Service Provider	Location	Programs/Services
King County Aquatic Center	650 SW Campus Drive, Federal Way	Swim instruction, exercise programs, pool parties, competitions and events, drop-in swimming and lap swimming, banquet facilities.
The Center at Norpoint, MetroParks	4818 Nassau Ave NE, Tacoma	Youth basketball league, swimming/pool classes, personalized fitness programs, ballet, fitness classes, yoga, child care, etc.
EX3 Ron Sandwith Teen Center	31453 28 th Ave S, Federal Way	Men's basketball league, volleyball league, Tech Lab & Learning Lounge, Youth Force, Tae Kwon Do, art classes, tutoring and education programs.
Federal Way Boys and Girls Club	308 8 th Ave S, Federal Way	PM Pals (after school program), Day Camp at Mirror Lake Elementary, Summer Teen Camp, summer sports camps.
Auburn Valley YMCA	1005 12 th Street SE, Auburn	Fitness programs and consultation, strength training, senior fitness, martial arts, summer day camp, swim lessons, swim team, teen programs, Silver Sneakers, and pool parties.
Korum Family Branch YMCA	302 43 rd Ave SE, Puyallup	Exercise classes, fitness classes for older adults, fitness orientations and consultations, personal fitness program, indoor and outdoor adult sports including basketball, volleyball, roller hockey, softball, ultimate Frisbee, golf and soccer.
Federal Way Senior Center	4016 S 352 nd St, Auburn	Arts and crafts, bingo, music, seated exercise, lunch program, computer classes, Walk for Your Life weekly hikes/walks.

CHAPTER 4: RECREATION AND CULTURAL ARTS PROGRAMS

Table 4.2 cont.

Alternative Service Provider	Location	Programs/Services
Auburn Senior Center	808 9 th Street SE, Auburn	Variety of social, recreational, health, and wellness, educational, and nutritional services and programs.
Twin Lakes Country Club	3583 SW 320th St, Federal Way	Swim lessons, lap swims, tennis lessons
Marine Hills Recreation Association	3583 SW 320th St, Federal Way	Swim lessons, lap swim, swim team, water polo, tennis lessons.
Curves for Women	2408 S. 288th St, Federal Way 2333 SW 336th St, Federal Way	Circuit training workout equipment.
24 Hour Fitness	2130 S 314 th St, Federal Way	Aerobics and cycling programs, personal training, Kid's Club, Silver Sneaker's Program, sauna, tanning, weight room.
LA Fitness	27417 Pacific Hwy South Federal Way 35009 Enchanted Parkway S Federal Way	Aerobics, personal training, a fitness room, cardio center and weight room. Other facilities include a spa, 25m swimming pool, sauna, basketball and racquetball courts.

Source: Federal Way Community Center Business Plan, Appendix G.

4. Recreation Demand

As a part of the planning effort for the Community Center, an analysis of recreation trends was conducted to help understand local recreation demand. The following general statements describe how various age groups in the City tend to use parks and recreation facilities.¹

The percentages shown below indicate the percentage of the Federal Way population in each age group:

- **Under 5 years (7.8%)** – This group represents users of preschool and tot recreation programs and facilities. These individuals make up the future users of youth recreation programs.
- **5 to 14 years (16.1%)** – This group represents current youth program participants. The percentage indicates that both youth and teen programs will continue to be in demand.
- **15 to 24 years (14.2 %)** – This group represents teen/young adult program participants moving out of the youth recreation programs and into adult programs. This number is likely to increase as the youth age group gets older, indicating continued growth in the active recreation activities such as organized sports.
- **25 years to 34 years (15.9%)** – This group represents involvement in adult recreation programming. Trends show that organized sports such as softball, volleyball, and soccer will continue in their popularity with this age group. At the same time this group has the characteristic of beginning long-term relationships and establishing families, which competes with being actively engaged in organized sports.
- **35 to 54 years (30.7%)** – This group represents users of a wide range of adult programming and park facilities. Their characteristics extend from having children using preschool and youth programs to becoming empty nesters. This group typically has less time to devote to recreational activities. They tend to use parks on weekends and the occasional evenings both for active and passive activities.
- **55 years plus (15.3%)** – This group represents users of older adult programming exhibiting the characteristics of approaching retirement or already retired and typically

¹ Source: City of Federal Way Business Plan, 2005; Age group percentages based on Census 2000 figures.

enjoying grandchildren. This group generally also ranges from very healthy, active seniors to more physically inactive seniors.

State and National Trends

National and state trends in recreational programming, recreation activities, and participation levels can provide insights into local recreation demands. According to the National Sporting Goods Association Survey (2004), the top five recreational sports in 2004 were exercise walking, camping, swimming, exercising with fitness equipment, and bowling. Walking is consistently the number one exercise in which Americans participate. Historically, participation in sports such as basketball, football, softball, swimming, tennis, and volleyball has declined while sports such as soccer and baseball have remained relatively steady. 'Extreme sports' activities such as skateboarding have continued to grow in popularity. National recreation trends also reflect a healthier and fitter senior population. Increasingly, seniors are seeking activities that are more active, while more sedentary activities are on the decline.

National trends are reflected at the state level as well. According to the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Planning (SCORP) report², the most popular recreation activities are those that are close to home and low cost, such as walking/hiking, walking a dog and bicycling. Outdoor team and individual sports are the second most popular recreation activity for Washington residents, followed by nature related activities.

Community Feedback on Recreation Programs

According to the 2006 Parks survey, special events are the most popular recreation program offered by the City, followed by organized sports and athletics programs.

When respondents were asked how to prioritize future investments on recreation programs, respondents indicated that future emphasis should be placed on children and teen programs as well as senior programs. In addition, the public outreach process identified a need to ensure that recreation programming is serving the needs of the increasingly diverse Federal Way community.

² An Assessment of Outdoor Recreation in Washington State, October 2002.



Chapter Five

Needs Assessment and Recommendations



Chapter 5: Needs Assessment and Recommendations

1. Introduction

The needs assessment and recommendations chapter focuses on the research, analysis, and observations of the current and future parks and recreation needs for the Federal Way community. The needs assessment is based on analysis of:

- Public feedback,
- Community vision and values,
- Identified local trends in participation and use of facilities, and
- State/national recreation trends.

The recommendations coming out of the needs assessment inform the development of goals and policies.

2. Needs Assessment

The needs assessment includes a system-wide evaluation of park, recreation, and open space needs in the City of Federal Way. A key aspect of the needs assessment is to identify and analyze current service levels in the City's parks and open spaces. The level of service analysis is based on the park's classification and existing standards for each park type, size, and geographic location. This analysis helps to identify existing and future projected needs based on projected population growth.

A. Level of Service Standards

Level of service standards are measures of the amount and quality of park and recreation sites and facilities that must be provided to meet a community's basic needs and expectations.¹ The benefit of developing level of service standards is to set goals and provide the community an opportunity to measure progress toward meeting community objectives. Level of service standards provide a benchmark for evaluating deficiencies in the existing system, and can

¹ Planning for Parks, Recreation, and Open Space in Your Community, Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation and the Washington State Department of Community, Trade, and Economic Development, February 2005.

CHAPTER 5: NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATIONS



Upgrading play equipment is an important aspect of improving existing parks.



Steel Lake is a popular destination during summer months.

provide the justification for the need to develop additional park facilities and improvements. Historically, the accepted practice for park level of service standards has been to apply uniform national standards (developed by the National Recreation & Parks Association) of amount of park land per 1000 population or based on geographic distance of residents from parks. However, no two communities are alike and the concept of applying national standards to local conditions does not allow for customization based on community preferences and values.

Current trends are moving away from uniform national standards for parks. Most people recognize that nationally-based standards may not yield what individual communities really want or need, nor is it always feasible to build more parks to address numeric-based demand. The trend is moving toward developing standards based on local goals and priorities. This approach is particularly relevant in built out communities, like Federal Way, where there is a limited land base for new park development. Many communities are using qualitative measures to help determine whether community needs and demands are being met. While this Plan includes a quantitative analysis of parks and open spaces, it also attempts to look at the system more qualitatively to ensure that the system is being utilized at its fullest potential to address the needs of Federal Way residents.

One of the key topics explored in this plan focuses on how best to use the existing park and open space land base to accommodate the activities of both residents and employees. Many of the recommendations and the qualitative measures included within this chapter focus on efforts that will help to add recreation facilities and also activate and enliven the City's parks and open spaces. Efforts focus on cultivating "community ownership", understanding how parks and open spaces are being used, enhancing use and activity levels, developing a City-wide walking system, and the role of parks and open spaces in shaping the image and identity of Federal Way as a place with a high quality of life.

The level of service standards analyzed in this plan are the same standards that were identified in both the 2000 and 2006 Comprehensive Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan. These standards are shown in Table 5.1. These standards are recommended because they serve as a baseline for comparing service levels between 2006 and the present conditions, and help identify potential future deficiencies in service. In addition to these

calculations, this Plan also recommends that the current quantitative standards be layered with additional, more qualitative approaches to help meet future parks and recreation needs (as opposed to just building more parks or acquiring more land to meet the number-based standard).

TABLE 5.1: LEVEL OF SERVICE STANDARDS

Facility	Standard
Regional Parks	2.6 ac/1000 pop
Community Parks	2.8 ac/1000 pop
Neighborhood Parks	1.7 ac/1000 pop
Trails	2.2 ac/1000 or 0.2 miles/1000 pop
Open Space	6.0 ac/1000 pop
Total Park Land	10.9 ac/1000 pop



The play area at Celebration Park has many users.



A trail entrance to English Gardens Park.

3. Park Classifications and Level of Service

The level of service calculations are based on six park categories: regional parks, community parks, neighborhood parks, trails, open space, and system wide. Table 5.2 depicts the LOS calculations for the City and PAA population for both current (2011) and 2017 population projections (City-only current population is 89,370 based on April 1, 2011 OFM population estimates; City+PAA current population is 111,078; City-only 2017 population is 93,369; City+PAA 2017 population is 116,124).

A. Regional Parks

Regional parks serve the City and surrounding area. They are often large park facilities with unique features, offering both passive and active recreation uses. As a result of these characteristics, regional parks have larger service areas (at least two or more). Dash Point State Park is the only regional park in the City. A significant amount of Dash Point State Park also lies within the City of Tacoma. It maintains a large camping area, which draws people from throughout the state. There are several smaller State parks within two miles of the City’s boundaries, including Dolloff Lake fishing access, North Lake Fishing Access, and Saltwater State Park. Whereas these may

Community Park Level of Service

Standard: 2.8 ac/1,000

Current Inventory:

City = 309.19 ac
City+PAA = 384.29 ac

Current Service Levels:

City = 3.46 ac/1,000
City + PAA = 3.46 ac/1,000

Current Need:

City = none, +58.86 ac
City + PAA = none, +73.27 ac

Future Need (2017):

City = none, +47.76 ac
City + PAA = none, +59.14 ac

not be considered regional parks, they are state-funded and draw residents not only from Federal Way, but also from other surrounding communities.

Analysis

According to the level of service calculations, at 2.7 acres/1000 population, the City is currently meeting its level of service standard of 2.6 acres/1000 population for regional parks. However, in the year 2017, it is anticipated that an additional 1.66 acres of park land is necessary to maintain the level of service standard for regional parks. These calculations do not reflect the other regional park facilities within 2 miles of Federal Way, including Saltwater State Park, parts of Dash Point State Park that lie outside Federal Way City limits, North Lake and Dolloff Lake. The identified future need, based on the level of service standard for regional parks, is met when the state park facilities within two miles of City limits are included. These are not facilities over which the City has jurisdiction. The City cannot control the addition of future regional parks in the area due to its built-out condition.

B. Community Parks

Community parks are the primary active recreation facilities in the City, providing active and structured recreation opportunities for the community, as well as passive recreation uses. Community parks have a larger service area, typically a 2 mile radius. Most of the City is served by a community park facility per this definition. Community parks include Celebration Park, Dumas Bay Centre Park, Dumas Bay Sanctuary, French Lake Park, Hylebos Blueberry Farm, Lakota Park, Sacajawea Park, Saghalie Park, Steel Lake Park, and West Hylebos Wetland Park, totaling 309.19 acres. Community parks offer a diversity of facilities and tend to be the more popular and recognizable parks in the system because of the park size, range of amenities, sports fields, and passive recreation areas. These parks are also locations where members of the whole family can recreate, participating in a variety of activities concurrently.

Analysis

According to the level of service calculations, the City is exceeding its level of service standard of 2.8 acres/1000 population for the current population. The current service level is 3.46 acres/1000 population. At 3.31 acres/1000 population, the City will also be exceeding its level of service standard in 2017.

When the population and parks located within the PAA are included in the analysis, the current level of service for community parks remains the same at 3.46 acres/1000 people and will be 3.31 acres/1000 population in 2017, thus exceeding its level of service both now and in the future.

The community parks in the system are well loved and used by the community. Many are destinations in the community and the location of large community events. Most of the facilities are in fair to good shape, but could benefit from some strategic improvements. Master plans for Sacajawea and Lakota parks were adopted in 2006, and these identify substantial redevelopment for both parks.

The primary issue raised by the community is the condition of the outdoor athletic fields including soccer fields and softball/baseball fields. Fields with poor drainage, unlit, or are not regulation sized limit the ability to program these spaces for year round games and events. Most of these fields are programmed for leagues and organized sports. Upgrading these athletic fields will substantially improve the usability of the parks by increasing the number of games that can be programmed annually in those facilities.

Additional input through the public process indicates that there is a lack of unprogrammed fields in the City for informal groups that are not associated with leagues or sports groups. Informal users of the soccer, basketball, and baseball/softball fields compete with organized sports associations and league play for the use of these facilities. These informal users get 'bumped' from the fields when league play need to use them. School grounds in the community often provide an opportunity for unorganized use of the fields, although these fields are also programmed for use by the schools and some of the local recreation providers.

C. Neighborhood Parks

There are a total of 19 neighborhood parks within the City, located primarily in single family residential areas. The City has made significant progress in recent years in constructing new neighborhood parks in underserved areas, as well as conducting phased improvements at some of the older neighborhood parks. Most areas in the City have a neighborhood park within a quarter to half mile of all residents, with the exception of limited areas in the southeast and north part of the city.



Adults play softball at Steel Lake Park.



Sacajawea Park contains a soccer field and track, in addition to other features.



Residents picnic at Steel Lake Park.

CHAPTER 5: NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Neighborhood Park Level of Service

Standard: 1.7 ac/1,000

Current Inventory:

City = 152.67 ac

City+PAA = 187.25 ac

Current Service Levels:

City = 1.71 ac/1,000

City + PAA = 1.69 ac/1,000

Current Need: None, -1.58 ac

Future Need (2017):

City = 6.18 ac

City + PAA = 10.61 ac

Neighborhood parks serve a local purpose to the surrounding residential neighborhood and range in character and use. Some of the neighborhood parks are neighborhood level community gathering places, while others are tucked away and not visible or regularly used.

Analysis

The City currently exceeds its level of service standard for neighborhood parks (1.7ac/1,000), with an existing ratio of 1.71 ac/1000 population. Future needs to 2017 indicate that the system will need approximately 6.06 acres of additional neighborhood park land at that time.

When the population and parks located within the PAA are included in the analysis, the current level of service for neighborhood parks is 1.69 acres/1000 population. There are two neighborhood parks in the PAA-- Bingaman Pond Park (16.7 acres) and Camelot Park (18 acres). Future neighborhood park needs (2017) for the City and PAA combined is 10.04 acres.

Amenity-Based Standards for Neighborhood Parks

It became evident through the outreach process for this Plan that many of the neighborhood parks are not well-known or well-used. Some of the neighborhood parks have issues with poor visibility, vandalism, or aging equipment. As the City has done an effective job of providing a diversity of neighborhood parks in the system, the most important need for neighborhood parks is to focus on ways to enliven them and make them more usable places. Most of the future need for neighborhood parks is amenity-based, to ensure that each neighborhood park has a minimum or baseline of improvements.

Recommendations later in this chapter focus on the specific improvements that will help to activate the neighborhood parks, engage the local neighborhood in the design and stewardship of the parks, and capitalize on the unique potential of each.

Based on this analysis, the City should layer the current level of service standard with an amenity-based standard for neighborhood parks to ensure that the parks will be safer and more comfortable and usable to park users. This would include:



Play areas such as this one in Madrona Park are popular with residents.



French Lake Park is currently functioning as an off-leash dog park.

CHAPTER 5: NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

TABLE 5.2: LEVEL OF SERVICE ANALYSIS FOR THE CITY AND PAA

Facility Type	Regional Parks (acres)	Community Parks (acres)	Neighborhood Parks (acres)	Trails (acres)	Trails (miles)	Open Space (acres)	Total Park Land* (acres)
Current City Park Inventory (City-owned Properties Only)	0	309.19	152.67	118	9.23	539.43	1,119.29
Park Inventory (all parks within City limits)	241.1	309.19	152.67	118	9.23	539.43	1,360.39
Current City + PAA Park Inventory (all parks located within City & PAA)	415.9	384.29	187.37	118	9.23	539.43	1,644.99
Level of Service Standard (per 1,000 residents)	2.6	2.8	1.7	2.2	0.2	6.0	10.9
Current Service Level-City only (2011)	2.7	3.46	1.71	1.32	0.1	6.04	15.22**
Current Need	+8.74	+58.86	+0.74	-78.61	-8.64	+3.21	+386.26
Current Service Levels City+PAA (2011)	3.74	3.46	1.69	1.06	0.08	4.86	14.81
Current Need	+127.10	+73.27	-1.46	-126.37	-12.99	-127.04	+434.24
Projected LOS (based on projected City 2017 population)	2.58	3.31	1.64	1.26	0.09	5.78	14.57
Need (in acres) to meet LOS standard (City)	-1.66	+47.76	-6.06	-87.41	-9.44	-20.78	+342.67
Projected LOS (based on projected City + PAA 2017 population)	3.58	3.31	1.61	1.02	0.08	4.65	14.17
Need (in acres) to meet LOS standard (City + PAA)	+113.98	+59.14	-10.04	-137.47	-13.99	-157.31	+379.24

** Current service levels, not including regional parks (Dash Point State Park) = 12.52 acres/1000 population

***Comparison to Standard measures whether the service levels is above or below the LOS standard. Positive number indicate the inventory exceeds LOS standards; negative numbers depict deficiencies.

Open Space Level of Service

Standard: 6.0 ac/1,000

Current Inventory:

City = 539.43 ac
City+PAA = 539.43 ac

Current Service Levels:

City = 6.04 ac/1,000
City + PAA = 4.86
ac/1,000

Current Need:

City: None, +3.21 ac
City + PAA =
127.04 ac

Future Need (2017):

City = 20.78 ac
City + PAA = 157.31 ac

- Visible park entries with signage and other identifying features such as landscaping, bollards, low fence, or other identifiable civic treatments.
- Clear sight lines into and around the park to increase the perception of safety.
- A play structure.
- Durable site furnishings such as benches, picnic tables and trash cans.
- Seating and informal lawn areas for leisure and to encourage use.

D. Open Spaces

Federal Way has an extensive system of open space lands, many of which are unimproved or undeveloped. These open spaces offer urban residents access to natural areas, and provide value to people, animals and the environment. The City manages a broad range of open spaces, each with varying constraints and potential. Some open spaces have environmental constraints such as wetlands or steep slopes, and function more as “breathing room” open spaces. Some of the City’s open spaces are small parcels that have limited open space or habitat value. Others are larger and provide trails within a well-intact natural setting. Finally, there are several open spaces that provide, or have the potential to provide, shoreline access. Many of the City’s open spaces also have the potential for educational and interpretive opportunities. Several open spaces in the system may be appropriate for park development to meet the recreation needs of the community in the future.

Analysis

Within the City there are a total of 539.43 acres of open space lands or roughly 6.04 acres/1000 population, which exceeds the City’s level of service standard of 6.0 ac/1000 population. Future needs for open space, based on a 2017 population is an additional 20.78 acres of open space.

When the PAA is included in the analysis, the current level of service for open spaces is 4.86 ac/1000 population, which is below the City’s level of service standard because there are not many publicly owned open space areas in the PAA. Future open space needs for the City and the PAA will require an additional 157.31 acres of open space to



Poverty Bay Park is currently undeveloped, but has the potential to be an open space with shoreline access and nature trails.

meet the City’s level of service standard, which could be difficult to attain given that there are limited undeveloped areas within the City that are not already publicly owned. One option for meeting the City’s level of service standard for open space may be to add partial open space credit for open spaces owned by other public or private entities such as Weyerhaeuser, surface water utility districts, Lakehaven sewer district, etc. The PAA has a substantial amount of undeveloped land. If the City decides to try and meet its acreage-based standard for open space after annexation of the PAA occurs, there would be more opportunities for open space land acquisition in that area.

E. Trails

There are two major trails in the City that aren’t within parks or opens spaces: the BPA Trail and West Campus Trail. These trails, particularly the BPA trail, are popular and widely used. However, during the public outreach process, residents complained about the inadequate maintenance of the BPA trail corridor, extensive invasive species, and the fact that there is a lack of loop routes to follow for recreational walking. Many of the City’s parks and open spaces contain trails, and some of these are loop trails. Two examples are West Hylebos Wetlands Park and Panther Lake Open Space, which contain trails. Dash Point State Park also has an extensive system of trails, and is well used by the community. There are also a number of shorter trails within the City’s Park system.

Analysis

The City’s current level of service standard is based on both the acreage dedicated to the trail, and the actual length of the trail. The City has 118 acres dedicated to trails (the bulk of which is within the BPA Trail right-of-way) or 1.32 acres/1000 population. Based on that standard, the City would need to dedicate an additional 78.61 acres to trail use to meet the City’s level of service standard today, and an additional 8.8 acres above and beyond that to meet future needs in 2017.

Many communities use the acreage calculation for trails because it is the most straightforward approach given available data, and it is consistent with calculations for other park categories. The area level of service calculation for trails does not address the function or distance of the trail. Also, trail corridor widths vary, thus creating vastly

Trails Level of Service

Standard: 0.2 miles/1000 population

Current Inventory:

City = 9.23 mi

City+PAA = 9.23 mi

Current Service Levels:

City = 0.10 mi

City + PAA = 0.08 mi

Current Need:

City = 8.64 mi

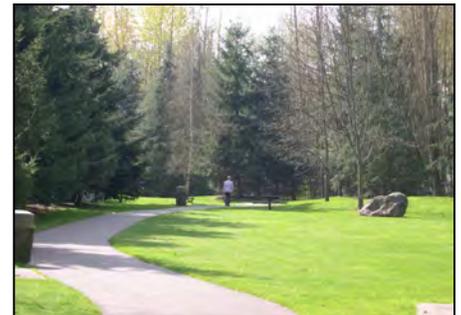
City + PAA =

12.99 mi

Future Need (2017):

City = 9.44 mi

City + PAA = 13.99 mi



English Gardens Park offers a walking trail that connects the West Campus Open Space and Alderbrook Park.



Alderbrook Park

different acreage calculations. The City's trail standard for trail length is 0.2 miles of trail/1000 population. Based on that standard, the City has a deficiency of trails in the community. There are a total of 9.23 miles of trail measured in the City and PAA, or 0.1 miles (528 ft) per 1000 population (including BPA Trail, West Campus Trail and West Hylebos Wetlands Park and Panther Lake Open Space).

To meet future demand using the current standard, the City would need to construct an additional 9.44 miles to serve the City's projected 2017 population and 13.99 miles to serve the future City and PAA demands.

As mentioned above, to meet the needs of the community, the level of service standards should be layered with more qualitative measures that address the condition of the trails to ensure that they are safe for pedestrian and bicycle use, and that they are effectively connecting destinations and adequately signed. For urban trails (paved surfaces) it is important that the trails are ADA accessible and clear of obstructions. Nature trail areas must also be periodically assessed to ensure that the trail surface is in good condition, free of obstructions, and that they are ADA accessible wherever possible.

F. System-wide Level of Service

In 2011, there are a total of 1,119.29 acres of City-owned park and open space land within the City of Federal Way including roughly 579.86 acres in developed parks and 539.43 acres in undeveloped open space. If Dash Point State Park is included in the calculation for total acreage, then there are 1360.39 acres of park and open space within the City. If the available parks within the Potential Annexation Area (PAA) are included in those calculations, a total of 1,644.99 acres of park and open space are located within the City and PAA. This includes City, State, and County park facilities.

The City's level of service standard for total park land is 10.9 acres/1000 population. The current service level for the City is 15.22 acres/1000 population, and for the County and PAA together, the current service level is 14.81 acres/1000 population. What this means is that system-wide, the City has an adequate amount of park land to serve both the current and future projected population for both the City and PAA. However, much of this acreage is raw land in unprogrammed/undeveloped open space. The primary deficiency, both now and projected, is in improved trails.

Park Specific Analysis

Appendix A includes individual analyses for each of the major parks and open spaces in the system. The park inventory sheets summarize the park's character and context, specific issues to be addressed, park potential, and near term and long term needs. Evaluation matrices for each facility type (Community Parks, Neighborhood Parks, Open Spaces) can be found in Appendix C). These tables include the evaluation criteria developed to help assess the constraints and opportunities of each park.

4. Plan Recommendations

The following recommendations have been developed based on the findings of the needs assessment and the consistent themes that emerged from the public outreach process. The recommended actions inform policy direction and project prioritization and are organized according to the five 'core values' that came out of the planning process. These 'core values' are fully explained in Chapter One.

A. System-Wide Recommended Actions

The most important and cost effective actions the City can undertake to address the health and longevity of the system is to:

- Focus on strategic improvements within existing parks and open spaces that enhance the quality of the park experience;
- Identify methods that activate and enliven the spaces to make them more inviting usable, and safe.
- Provide for a range of recreational opportunities at each park to satisfy community demands for all age groups and backgrounds.

B. Improve existing facilities & provide multiple functions in parks (Core value 1)

Improving existing facilities and providing multiple functions in parks so that parks address different interests and can provide 'one stop' recreating is the highest priority for the community, based on public feedback. This core value is supported by the following points:

- According to the City's 2006 parks survey, when asked how the City should prioritize future projects, respondents indicated that making improvements to existing facilities was the number one priority.

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The SW 312th Sports Courts include these basketball courts, as well as a tennis court and pickleball court.

- National recreation trend points to the fact that people desire quality over quantity with service, programs, and facilities. This trend is also reflected at the local level based on input from residents during the public outreach process.
- The City's parks and open space network is extensive and includes a variety of spaces and activities. This system is a key asset to the Federal Way community because it not only provides low cost access to recreational opportunities, but the parks and open spaces in the system help to define the community's image, culture, and community character. Parks and open spaces also provide opportunities for social interaction, and enhance community quality of life.
- Since incorporation, the City has done an effective job at improving its community parks and neighborhood parks. The City has also made great strides in developing new facilities, such as the Community Center and new neighborhood parks like Madrona and Alderdale Parks. Thus, acquisition of more park land is not the current priority.
- For the community parks, some of the athletic fields are not operating at maximum efficiency due to poor drainage, inadequate lighting, and/or irregularly sized fields. Continue to master plan and improve facilities and balance both the active and passive recreation uses at these parks to provide multi-generational use and enjoyment.
- From an area calculation perspective, the level of service analysis indicates that the City will meet future projected demand for parks and recreation. Deficiencies have been identified in the system, for trails. However, those service level calculations do not focus on the quality of the park experience or the full range of activities taking place within parks and open space areas.

Below are specific recommended actions that address improvement to existing facilities and providing multiple functions in parks. The actions are organized by park type.

Community Parks

Each of the community parks were evaluated to determine the potential of each. Table C.1 in Appendix C summarizes the constraints and potential of each community park.

To meet active recreation demand, the first priority should be to bring the athletic fields up to standards to meet demand. This would include addressing drainage, regulation sized fields, installation of artificial turf to extend the playing season, and lighting to allow for play during

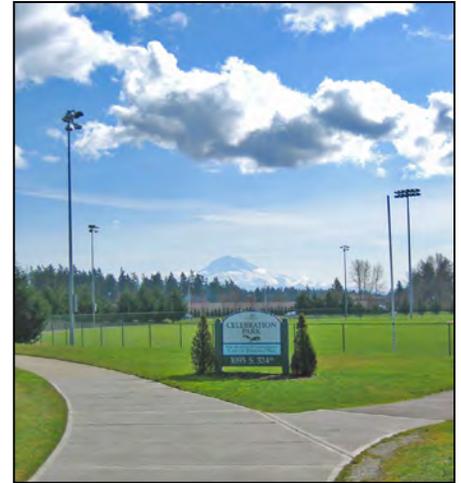
the evenings and winter months. Other recommended community park improvements are meant to address the image and identity of the parks, to help them be more visible to the public as civic/community destinations, and to make them welcoming and inviting places.

Recommended Actions:

- A phased approach to implementing master plans for Lakota and Sacajawea Parks as funding is available.
- Update Master Plan to upgrade athletic facilities and passive recreation areas at Steel Lake Park.
- Develop a facilities improvement plan to address the athletic fields at Saghalié Park.
- At Saghalié Park, install park identity and street frontage improvements along SW Campus Dr. This would include streetscape improvements, enhanced pedestrian entrances, park identity signs, and other treatments as appropriate.
- Develop a phasing plan for converting some existing grass soccer fields in community parks to artificial turf.
- Given Sacajawea Park's high visibility and heavily traveled arterial location adjacent to SR 509/Dash Point Road, seek state and community funding for a project to upgrade existing weed-infested appearance of the Park street frontage berm with permanent, low-maintenance groundcover landscaping.

If demand has not been satisfied even after improvements have been made to existing facilities, the City should then explore other options, focused on improvements on other public lands that do not require further property acquisition. Specific actions could include:

- Explore partnerships with Federal Way Public Schools to identify opportunities for active recreation improvements.
- If and when areas within the Potential Annexation Area (PAA) are annexed, the Department should develop a phasing plan to update the community parks located within the PAA. There are currently three community parks in the PAA with active recreation facilities: Five Mile Lake Park, Lake Geneva Park, and South County Ball fields. At a minimum this phasing plan should include evaluating the needs and opportunities associated with each park, negotiating conditions of transfer from King County, identifying funding sources, and would address specific actions that need to occur to bring the fields and facilities up to current standards. The City should consider requesting parks to be upgraded by King County before being transferred to the City's parks system.



Celebration Park's four large soccer fields have beautiful views of Mt. Rainier.



Artificial turf is installed at Steel Lake Park.

Figure 5.1 visually illustrates the recommendations described above.

Neighborhood Parks

The City has an extensive system of neighborhood parks. Many of these parks are under utilized and have untapped potential. Some of these parks have high potential as neighborhood gathering places, while others will remain as small neighborhood parks where general upkeep and improvements should occur over time. Other neighborhood parks can realize potential based on their location as part of a larger trail and sidewalk network in the City. The greatest opportunity in many of these neighborhood parks is to design improvements that help to activate or enliven the spaces. Recommendations for neighborhood parks are both general and specific to different neighborhood park types. For the purposes of this analysis and the recommendations, neighborhood parks were divided into the following four subcategories.

- Neighborhood Gathering Places
- Passive Neighborhood Parks
- Neighborhood Trail Nodes

Recommended actions:

- Improve parks according to their unique potential and context within the system.
- Prioritize park improvements to make them more usable, inviting, and minimize impacts to local neighbors.
- Phase improvements with high priority placed on those parks that have potential as neighborhood gathering places, especially in areas close to multi-family housing.
- Cultivate “community ownership” of parks through neighborhood stewardship, neighborhood work sessions and open houses, adopt-a-park programs, and community gardens.
- Develop a phased improvement plan for each of the neighborhood parks to address:
 - Installation of durable materials;
 - Safety/visibility concerns;
 - Street presence;
 - Natural drainage;
 - Invasive species management;
 - Low-impact (sustainable) design and maintenance practices such as use of drought-resistant native plants, integrated pest management, natural drainage, etc.

Specific actions for each of the neighborhood parks will be based on the neighborhood park potential and the specific neighborhood park subcategories identified above. Each of the neighborhood parks were evaluated based on criteria, such as visible park entries, access, sense of place, surrounding land use, etc. Table C.2 in Appendix C summarizes the potential of each neighborhood park.

a) Neighborhood Gathering Places

These are neighborhood parks that have unique features or assets that could be capitalized upon further. These parks have features such as: off-street parking, trails, large open areas, multi-use potential, presence of special features, and are located on a minor collector or arterial. Parks with the potential to be neighborhood gathering places include:

- Adelaide
- Alderdale
- Alderbrook
- Cedar Grove
- Coronado
- French Lake
- Mirror Lake
- Palisades

Working with local neighbors, the City should develop improvements for each of these parks based on their unique potential and community desires. This process would be designed to identify specific improvements that would help to activate the parks.

b) Passive Neighborhood Parks

These are some of the small neighborhood parks that have limited access, are tucked away on local residential streets, are often completely surrounded by single family residential homes, have low usage currently, and have limited or no parking. Passive neighborhood parks include:

- Dash Point Highlands Park
- Heritage Woods Park
- Lake Grove Park
- Wildwood Park
- Wedgewood Park

Recommended actions at passive neighborhood/local use parks focus on small upgrades to increase the function and safety of the park, and

to help activate them. This could include actions such as upgrading play equipment and site furnishings as needed.

c) Neighborhood Trail Nodes

There are several neighborhood parks within the system that have the potential to connect to a larger system of trails and non-motorized improvements in the City. These are parks that are located near other open space areas and the City's existing trail network. Improvements at these parks will help to link together routes between community destinations such as schools, community facilities, parks, multifamily housing, and create longer trail segments and loops in the system. Parks with the potential as neighborhood trail nodes include:

- Alderbrook Park
- English Gardens Park
- Olympic View Park
- Madrona Park

Both Alderbrook Park and English Gardens Park have the potential to connect with the BPA Trail, West Campus Open Space, and Panther Lake Open Space. Linking these parks to the larger network of trails in the central part of the City will make significant strides in developing an interconnected system of trails and sidewalks connecting community destinations and landmarks.

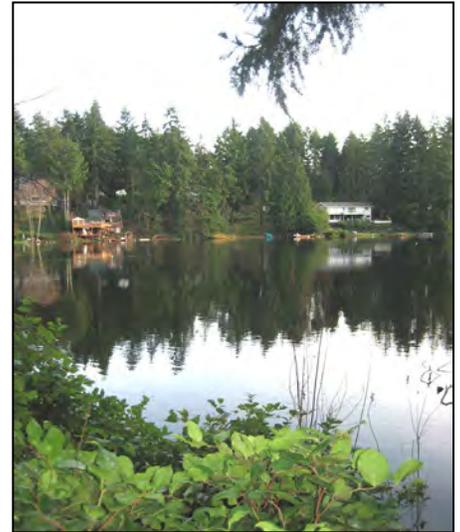
Olympic View Park, adjacent to Woodbridge Park Open Space, is another park with potential to extend the City's trail network. Long term, a trail/sidewalk network linking Woodbridge Park Open Space, Olympic View Park, Lochaven Open Space, and Poverty Bay Open Space would provide a recreational walking route on the west side of the City.

Madrona Park, a recently developed neighborhood park, is already connected to the BPA Trail. This park links the south part of the city to the BPA Trail, Panther Lake Open Space, and Celebration Park.

Specific recommended actions for neighborhood trail node parks focus on trail installation or improvements, a wayfinding signage system, and trailhead improvements.

d) Park Activation

Park activation recommendations are two-fold. The first step is to enhance safety and visibility into the parks as a means to encourage increased use. The second is programmatic, in terms of supporting



Lake Killarney Park has a quiet, natural setting.



This play structure at Wildwood Park is enjoyed by many children.

activities in parks that help to activate the spaces. The key improvement for every neighborhood park is to increase the visibility of the park from the street—both in terms of safety and security to park users, as well as making sure that the parks are readily identifiable as parks. This means integrating Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles, improving the street frontage, facilitating visibility into the parks, installing identity signs at each park entrance, and other treatments such as low lying plants, bollards, or low fences to define the edge of the park.

Beyond physical improvements at neighborhood parks, programmatic efforts will also help to activate the parks and make them more usable to the public. This can occur through several potential efforts including:

- Utilize the neighborhood workshop process to help customize improvements specific to neighborhood needs.
- Encourage 'ownership' of neighborhood parks through:
 - Neighborhood residents/homeowner association stewardship;
 - Partnering with local service clubs and organizations such as the Rainier Audubon Society, Master Gardeners, Korean Seniors Association, service clubs and schools in an adopt-a-park program;
 - School curriculums addressing physical activity and the natural environment;
 - Reinstating the City's small and simple grant program for neighborhood initiated park improvements;
- Volunteer work parties associated with Earth Day, Day of Caring, Clean Sweep, etc.
- Working with Federal Way businesses, develop a corporate sponsorship/volunteer program to organize employees into volunteer work teams for specific projects and activities.
- Encourage cultural and special events to take place in the parks.
- Consider quarterly or annual events such as summer movies in the park.

Figure 5.2 visually shows the recommendations described above.

Maintenance Program

An essential component of implementing the intent of Core Value #1 is to ensure that the existing park facilities are well maintained and that improvements are made on an ongoing basis. Proper maintenance and renovation of parks and replacement of outdated equipment will prevent and/or correct potentially hazardous conditions. This

protects the public, as well as reduces liability to the City. An ongoing maintenance program also helps to improve the image and identity of the park system by addressing issues like vandalism and graffiti.

Recommended Actions:

The City should develop a systematic annual maintenance plan/work program that helps to address ongoing maintenance tasks and prioritizes staff hours. A maintenance program addresses:

- Phased installation of durable materials;
- Landscape maintenance activities;
- Invasive species management program;
- Incorporate natural drainage systems and low impact design and maintenance practices where feasible.

C. Create community gathering places and destinations (Core value 2)

Recent community input placed an emphasis on community gathering places in the City, particularly for the City Center. Analysis shows the following to be true:

- The City's parks are places where the community recreates and socially interacts. Community parks, such as Celebration Park and Steel Lake Park currently serve the function as community gathering places for outdoor special events and community functions, such as the Red, White and Blues Festival and summer concerts.
- The Community Center serves as a gathering place year round and is envisioned to be the 'heart' of the community.
- The public has indicated a desire for more places within the City where people can informally gather, such as small downtown plazas, or neighborhood commercial districts where people can stroll and people watch.
- In addition, some of the City's neighborhood parks also have the potential for becoming neighborhood gathering places for local residents. This would also help to activate the parks and encourage increased use.
- The off-leash dog park at French Lake is an example of how a change in use can help to activate a park. This park now functions as a community gathering place for dog owners who visit each day. Many of these park patrons are quite active in volunteer efforts and raise funds to maintain and improve the park facilities.



The “big red mower” helps in maintaining the City’s many sports fields and grassy areas.



A maintenance crew rebuilds a fence.

- Gathering spaces should be connected by trails and sidewalks so that they are part of a larger, interconnected network.
- The City Center offers the best opportunity for these types of gathering places.

Recommended Actions:

- Develop an open space strategy that would incorporate multiple gathering places or a ‘central ‘commons’ or town square in conjunction with City Center mixed-use redevelopment.
- Some neighborhood parks have the potential to become neighborhood level gathering places (as described above), especially if neighborhood events were held there, such as movies in the park or neighborhood picnics to help activate the space.
- Identify other park sites that may have the potential for an off-leash dog park area. Potential locations could include: BPA Trail right-of-way, Adelaide (horse arena) and potentially other sites to explore through the public process.
- Activate and increase use of the BPA trail. Consider engaging groups in beautification and landscaping efforts, e.g., adopt-a-tree, and/or siting of special uses, such as off-leash areas, pea-patches, etc, where feasible.
- Develop a more effective marketing strategy for Dumas Bay Centre so that it becomes more ‘visible’ and functions more as a community gathering place.

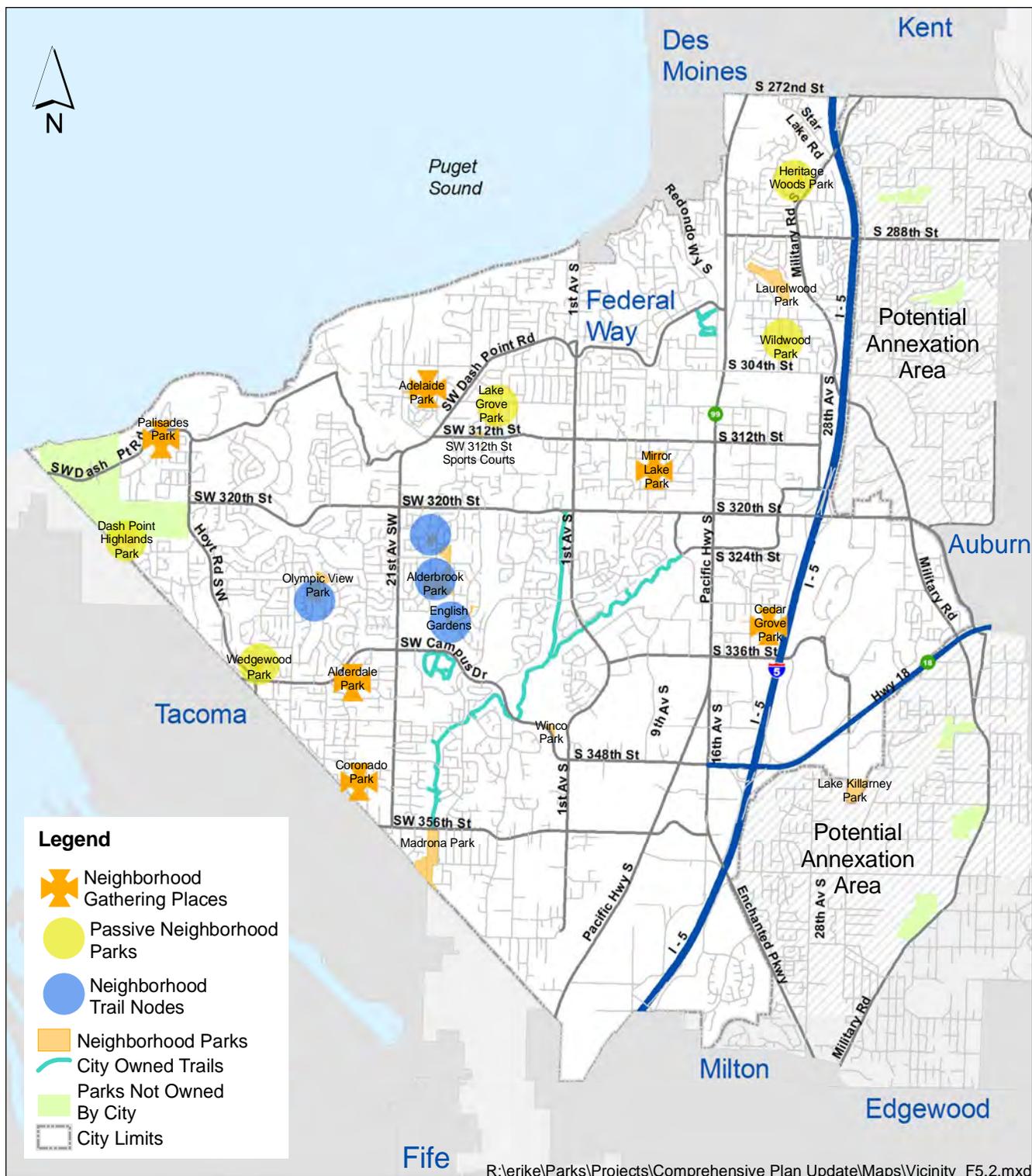
Figures 5.1 and 5.2 visually show the community parks/facilities and neighborhood parks, respectively, that could function more as gathering places and destinations.

D. Retain and improve natural open spaces (Core value 3)

The City’s extensive open space system provides a variety of outdoor settings to access nature close to home. The following points were derived from public input and analysis of open space trends both locally and state-wide:

- Open spaces and natural areas help define Federal Way’s character.

FIGURE 5.2: FEDERAL WAY NEIGHBORHOOD PARK RECOMMENDATIONS



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Residents enjoy shows at community gathering places like this one in a more urban context.



Funland in Steel Lake Park functions as a community gathering place.

- Many people use parks for their natural and scenic qualities and to ‘get away’ from urban life. In the region and the state, access to natural areas is important to our quality of life. In fact, walking/hiking in nature is one of the more popular recreation activities in the state.
- The open spaces within the City have varying constraints and potential. Some open spaces are small parcels of land with limited ecological or recreational function. Others are quite large and include a wealth of natural and cultural features unique to Federal Way, such as the West Hylebos
- The needs assessment indicates that the City currently has an adequate supply of open space.
- The key to an effective management strategy is to determine the potential of each open space as habitat first, and then for an appropriate level of public access and future recreational opportunities. The larger open spaces were evaluated using criteria such as the presence of environmental constraints, habitat value and function, accessibility, the potential for public access/trails, and other criteria as shown. Open space characteristics and qualities are summarized in Table C.3 in Appendix C. Based on that analysis, there are essentially four types of open spaces in the City:
 - 1) Open spaces with habitat and ecological function that have the potential for enhanced public access and education.
 - 2) Open spaces that provide shoreline access.
 - 3) “Breathing Room” open spaces. These are undeveloped areas with environmental constraints that may offer limited public access, but serve a function by protecting sensitive areas and providing green space in the City.
 - 4) Open spaces that have the potential to become developed parks to meet future recreation demand.

Recommended Actions:

a) Overall Open Space System

- Develop an Open Space Management Program that:
 - Identifies critical areas and wildlife habitat potential
 - Addresses invasive species and plant management
 - Integrates low impact, sustainable maintenance practices.

- Evaluate each of the open spaces in greater detail to determine the potential for highest and best use of the property. Some of these lands are located in the south part of the City, or near areas that are currently under served by parks. These individual parks should be evaluated to determine their potential as future developed parks. In addition, there are some properties that do not add significant value to the open space system. The City should evaluate whether any of these lands should be surplused to provide funding toward other park/open space enhancements.
- Construct low impact trails where safe and feasible to enhance public access to open spaces.

b) Habitat Value/Ecological Function

The City's larger open spaces offer the most opportunities for public use and have the greatest potential habitat value and ecological function in the City. These include:

- West Hylebos
- Panther Lake
- Poverty Bay
- Fisher's Pond

For open spaces with the potential for enhanced public access and educational opportunities, recommendations include:

- Determine the extent of environmental constraints and habitat value at each of these open spaces.
- Balance ecological function with public access and education;
- Construct low impact trails where safe and feasible.
- Integrate educational component such as interpretive signage
- Partner with local groups such as the Audubon Society, Earth Corps/Friends of the Hylebos Wetlands, Master Gardeners, etc to do work projects and sponsor guided tours/walks.
- Partner with the School District to develop a "learning landscapes" program that encourages a student curriculum around:
 - Native species and control of invasive species
 - Urban Wildlife
 - Design
 - Stewardship
 - Environmental awareness



Hylebos Creek flows through Spring Valley Open Space.



Interpretive information is posted in West Hylebos Wetlands Park.



Panther Lake offers trails and a wetland nature area.

c) Shoreline Access

Although the City is situated on the Puget Sound, there is limited public shoreline access due to private ownership of much of the shoreline. Parks, open spaces, and other community facilities with public shoreline access include:

- Dumas Bay Centre
- Dumas Bay Sanctuary
- Poverty Bay
- Dash Point State Park (not owned by City)

Topography also influences shoreline access in the City. Both Poverty Bay and Dumas Bay are located on a bluff overlooking Puget Sound. Recommendations include:

- Enhance public shoreline access opportunities at Poverty Bay and Dumas Bay.
- Explore additional shoreline access at small shoreline open spaces located at unopened street ends.
- Explore the potential for a Washington Water Association trail (for kayaks, canoes, and other non-motorized watercraft) connecting Federal Way parks along the shoreline, and potentially connecting to a larger regional system to waterfront parks in Des Moines and Tacoma.
- Restore and protect eroded shoreline areas.

d) Breathing Room Open Spaces

Many of the linear open spaces in the City, or greenbelts, have environmentally sensitive areas, such as steep slopes or creeks that may limit future improvements. These 'breathing room' open spaces, such as Lochhaven Open Space or Woodbridge Park Open Space, are important to the open space system because they not only protect these sensitive areas from development, but they provide the opportunity to provide trail connections to other parks and community destinations. Public access, i.e trails should be encouraged where safe, feasible, and not destructive to high quality habitat or critical areas.

The retention of private open spaces through incentive-based programs, such as conservation easements, should also be explored. These private open spaces, which often occur in environmentally-sensitive areas, may also serve ecological and 'breathing room' open space functions even if they are not publicly accessible.

E. Develop a walking and biking community through an integrated trail and sidewalk network (Core value 4)

This core value is about connecting community destinations and linking them in ways that encourage people to exercise and recreate. The following points emerged from the planning process and analysis:

- Walking is consistently the number one recreational activity people participate in, and this trend is on the rise.
- The needs assessment shows the City has a deficiency of trails. Sidewalks are also limited in the City.
- Providing safe places for pedestrian movement is an important aspect of encouraging people to walk.
- To be a vibrant, healthy city, community destinations and landmarks should be connected via an integrated system of sidewalks and trails.
- The BPA Trail is one of the most heavily used recreation facilities in the City. The trail serves Celebration Park, Madrona Park, and the Aquatic Center but does not serve many other community destinations. Most users drive to the trail, park, walk for a while, and then turn around and go back to their cars.
- People often choose parks when they are accessible to walking, bicycling, or transit routes, or because they have adequate parking.
- Expanding the trail system is a high priority for the community, particularly routes that ‘go somewhere’ and connect major City destinations.
- It is unreasonable to expect that the City has the funding to build an extensive trail system. Instead, the focus should be on strategic connections, utilizing both the existing and planned sidewalk system with existing and new trails in parks.

Figure 5.4 conceptually depicts some potential walking and biking routes in the City based on the City’s non-motorized transportation plan.



Residents may enter English Gardens Park, a linear park, through one of several entrances.



The BPA Trail currently extends south through Madrona Park and may in the future extend to the Federal Way City Limits.

Recommended Actions:

- Prioritize sidewalk and trail improvements in areas near schools, community facilities, retail areas, and multi-family residential (where a higher concentration of people live).
- Utilize the existing and planned sidewalk network to facilitate connections between parks and trail routes.
- Connect Celebration Park to Steel Lake Park through a downtown sidewalk network, safe pedestrian street crossings, intersection improvements, way finding signage, and enhanced pedestrian treatments and amenities.
- Create neighborhood walking routes that link neighborhood parks, open spaces, and public lands with trails and sidewalk improvements, such as connecting:
 - Panther Lake/BPA Trail through English Gardens Park to Alderbrook Park.
 - Woodbridge Open Space to Olympic View Park through Lochhaven and eventually connecting to Poverty Bay Open Space.
 - Saghalie Park to BPA trail via new trail development and sidewalk improvements.
- In partnership with the School District and the Public Works Department, continue to pursue funding from the Safe Routes to Schools program to improve sidewalks in locations where parks are located on routes to schools.
- Develop a comprehensive walking program to promote physical activity, develop community ownership, and walking identity in the City. The Walk Federal Way campaign could include an array of activities, programs, and events including:
 - Walking events;
 - The development of neighborhood ‘walking maps’, which would highlight key community features and landmarks along each route, identify distances and level of difficulty, and public amenities along the way.
 - Develop a greater awareness of the walking routes and trails through a system-wide way finding signage program that identifies routes, distances, and pedestrian orientation maps.
 - Engage walking groups such as Volksmarch, etc. (See Figure 5.3)

FIGURE 5.3: FEDERAL WAY OPEN SPACE RECOMMENDATIONS





Rockin' teens at a summer concert.

F. Provide a balance of facilities & services for a diverse population (Core value 5)

As evidenced in demographic trends, the City's population is diversifying. Understanding the makeup of the Federal Way community is important so that the City is providing programs and services that meet all residents' needs and interests. To be effective, recreation programming must adapt and respond to changing community interests and activities. The City must continue to be pro-active in monitoring local and national trends to ensure all ages, abilities and backgrounds are being served.

Recommended Actions:

a) Recreation Programs

Through the 2006 public process, both teen programs and senior programs were ranked as important to the community. There is an identified need, both in terms of trends and anecdotal evidence, for a wider range of senior programs that provide active recreation opportunities for seniors, especially given that the baby boomers will reach senior status within the planning horizon of this Plan. In addition, teen programming was identified as important to the community, though it is unclear whether people desire more programs for teens or are simply looking for things for teens to do.

- Develop a more detailed analysis of senior and teen programming needs.
- The City should evaluate the need for structured teen programs. Consider using the Youth Commission to do a Teen Assessment to understand what teens need and want.
- The City should balance the development of passive and active recreation opportunities.

As previously identified, Federal Way is becoming increasingly diverse. Yet it is unclear what that means from a recreation programming perspective. Part of the challenge is engaging these groups to understand their needs. Anecdotal evidence points to a need for unprogrammed recreation facilities (such as soccer fields and basketball courts).

- The City should delve further into the needs of minority populations in the City, particularly because the City will continue to see more diversity in its population.
- The City should look for opportunities to tie cultural programming to special events and cultural celebrations/holidays in the community.
- The City should consider incorporating other languages such as Spanish and Korean in its outreach materials and/or park signage.

FIGURE 5.4: WALKING AND BIKING COMMUNITY - CONCEPTUAL DIAGRAM





Young artists at work.

b) Inclusive Recreation

The City should conduct an assessment of its facilities and programs to assure that it is fully accommodating the needs of those residents with disabilities.

c) Coordination with Other Service Providers

- Department staff should continue to partner and coordinate with other recreation service providers in the community to regularly assess how well community recreation needs are being met and to be responsive in addressing gaps and deficiencies in service. This will ensure the City is providing programs which are complimentary to other recreation providers in the community and are not duplicating services.

d) Recreation Programming Space

- Ensure there is adequate 'flexible' program space (classrooms/multipurpose rooms) to accommodate a range of programs. This allows the City to respond to trends and provide new classes and programs without the need to build new facilities.
- There is a need for additional arts/visual media spaces that would support popular arts/visual media classes. These types of spaces are not addressed in the Community Center. The best location for these facilities is at the Dumas Bay Centre. A facility master plan for the Centre would help to evaluate the potential for additional arts/visual media classrooms.

e) Arts and Cultural Plan

- Update the City's Arts and Culture Plan, in association with the Arts Commission, to address the arts and cultural programming in the City. This plan should emphasize ways of engaging and bringing together diverse communities.



Chapter Six

Goals and Policies

Chapter 6: Goals and Policies

1. Improve Existing Facilities and Provide for Multiple Functions in Parks (Core value 1)

Intent: The City has a wide range of properties and assets in its parks and recreation system, including community recreation facilities, neighborhood parks, trails, and open spaces. Public input indicated that there is a strong community desire for improving the parks and open space facilities the City currently owns and maintains. The following goals and policies address the intention of improving existing facilities both in terms of quality of facilities and the range of uses offered at each location.

A. Community Parks

Goal A.1: Improve the City's existing active recreation facilities to maximize utilization.

Policy A.1: Bring active recreation fields up to standards in order to meet current and future demand.

Policy A.2: Update master plan for Steel Lake Park

Policy A.3: Coordinate with Federal Way Public Schools to share costs of improving parks adjacent to schools.

Policy A.4: Implement the master plans that have been developed for Lakota Park and Sacajawea Park.

Policy A.5: Balance passive and active uses to provide a range of recreation options at each community park.



Sacajawea Park offers several sports fields, including this baseball field.



Play area at Palisades Park.

B. Neighborhood Parks

Goal B.1: Improve and maintain all neighborhood parks to maximize safety, visibility, usability, appeal, and identity.

Policy B.1: Broaden the definition of neighborhood parks to include uses such as passive public space, neighborhood gathering places, or special uses based upon the analysis of each park's potential.

Policy B.2: Plan for improvements to neighborhood parks based upon their unique potential and designated role in the City-wide system.

Policy B.3: Explore ways to allow for informal play opportunities by incorporating unprogrammed spaces such as fields and forested areas.

C. Park Activation

Goal C.1: Maintain City parks and open spaces so that they are inviting to users and offer facilities and activities based on the potential of each property and community need.

Policy C.1: Develop a more recognizable and inviting park and open space system that may include:

- Developing a design checklist of baseline conditions for park amenities such as furnishings, signage, etc.
- Consistent signage
- Park entry/street frontage landscaping and site features such as bollards, low fences, etc.

Policy C.2: Enhance visibility into parks to increase safety and encourage use.

Policy C.3: Balance maintaining habitat and aesthetic value with maintaining visibility in and out of parks and open space areas.

Policy C.4: Integrate Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) techniques to address safety and security concerns in parks.

Policy C.5: Track crime and vandalism in each park and open space and measure achievements using an established baseline.

D. Parks and Recreation Financing

Goal D.1: Operate the Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services Department in a fiscally responsible manner.

Policy D.1: Budget adequate funding for maintenance and staffing needs based on public use of facilities.

Policy D.2: Develop an impact fee analysis to determine the feasibility of using an impact fee system for park development and facilities improvements.

E. Public Awareness/Outreach

Goal E.1: Celebrate the City’s park, open space and recreation system by keeping residents informed about parks, recreational programming, and community events.

Policy E.1: Continue developing and implementing a comprehensive system-wide signage and wayfinding program for parks, open spaces, and walking routes.

Policy E.2: Develop a comprehensive walking program.

Policy E.3: Develop a comprehensive pocket map of the parks, open space and trail system.

Policy E.4: Continue public relations and publicity efforts to inform citizens of the recreational opportunities available.

Policy E.5: Consider developing a series of educational/interpretive information about low-impact use of parks and open spaces that may include signage, the City’s website, and Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department publications.

Policy E.6: Monitor park and recreation needs and trends periodically through questionnaires, surveys, meetings, and research.



Wayfinding signage on the BPA trail through Panther Lake Open Space.



Maintenance workers clear a storm drain.

F. Maintenance

Goal F.1: Maintain existing park resources in a manner which promotes safety, supports a diverse ecosystem, and minimizes ongoing maintenance costs.

Policy F.1: Develop a maintenance phasing plan to address ongoing maintenance tasks and help to prioritize staffing.

Policy F.2: Integrate maintenance considerations in the planning and design of park facilities.

Policy F.3: Consider converting to low-impact maintenance practices, phased over a several year period that may include the following:

- Maximizing the use of native and naturalized plants and turf that are biologically appropriate for the region to avoid or minimize use of irrigation, fertilizers, and pesticides.
- Controlling erosion and runoff using natural materials such as grass or hay bales.
- Avoiding or minimizing the use of fertilizers and pesticides through the use of Integrated Pest Management practices, especially near water bodies.
- Composting all organic wastes for use in parks and open space.
- Designing and retrofitting irrigation systems to use only the minimum water needed, only where needed.
- Where it is safe, retaining dead standing trees, fallen trees, logs, and vegetative litter, such as fallen branches, twigs, and leaves to preserve water and habitat.
- Installing low-flow water devices where possible.
- Developing a system to use rainwater and graywater for irrigation purposes where possible.
- Minimizing impervious surface, integrating natural drainage systems
- Improve City staff capability to manage open space and public lands in the disciplines of natural resource management e.g. habitat and wildlife biologist, horticulturist, etc.

G. Coordination/Partnerships

Goal G.1: City continues to foster relationships and shared facilities and programming with other organizations and agencies that have an impact on, or interest in, the health and recreation of Federal Way residents.

Policy G.1: City departments including Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services; Public Works; and Community Development and Planning should coordinate in areas that may affect parks, open spaces and trails, such as:

- Development Review
- Acquisition of public lands
- Non-motorized transportation improvements

Policy G.2: Institute a program with the Federal Way Public Schools to soften and improve the appeal of District properties that are adjacent to public park facilities. Identify entry improvements such as signage, landscaping, and lighting that may allow such properties to read as part of the overall parks and recreation system.

Policy G.3: Partner with other organizations, concerned with improving public health through active living, within the Federal Way community.



Winco Park is under-used due to its small size, isolation and lack of attractions.

H. Acquisition/Surplus of Properties

Intent: Although the focus for this Plan is on upgrading and enhancing existing park and open space facilities, the City should be poised to respond should property acquisition opportunities arise. The following goals and policies provide direction on future park acquisition:

Goal H.1: Be poised to act when land acquisition opportunities or major changes in the park system occur.

Policy H.1: Focus on developing new parks in the areas that will experience population growth and increased density (such as the City Center) or where deficiencies currently exist.

Policy H.2: Respond to opportunities to acquire ownership of lands which will make a unique or significant contribution to the City's overall park and open space system.

Policy H.3: Explore the potential to use other existing public lands to meet future park needs such as:

- City's undeveloped open spaces
- Other City owned properties
- King County Surface Water Management
- Lakehaven Utility District
- Federal Way Public Schools properties

Policy H.4: Establish a transition plan for King County parks within the Potential Annexation Area that would minimize costs to the City for bringing these parks up to City of Federal Way standards.

Policy H.5: Consider surplus lands which are difficult and costly to maintain or do not significantly contribute to the overall parks and recreation system, or provide benefits to Federal Way residents. Any revenues derived from surplus should be put towards the enhancement of existing parks and open spaces.

2. Create Community Gathering Places and Destinations (Core value 2)

Some of the City's parks such as Celebration Park and Steel Lake Park currently fulfill the role as community gathering places. Many more of the City's parks and open spaces may be enhanced to better serve this role by incorporating a certain baseline of characteristics such as having multi-use functions, being safe and comfortable for the public's use, and spaces that can accommodate a range of crowd sizes. Creating community gathering places is especially important as the City Center area develops. Furthermore, ensuring that the trail and non-motorized improvements connect popular destinations in the City will encourage increased use of these facilities.



Small public green spaces such as this one in Portland, OR add to the livability of denser urban areas.

I. City Center/High Density Areas

Intent: The City Center will dramatically transform over the next twenty years. As redevelopment occurs, there is an opportunity to activate the City Center through a network of public spaces such as green areas, informal plazas, and wide sidewalks.

Goal I.1: Integrate a system of open spaces, plazas, and walkways throughout the City Center and other high density areas to make the area livable, host community events, and create community identity.

Policy I.1: Actively develop a plan for community gathering places in the City Center.

Policy I.2: Work with Community Development Services Department to create development standards for the City Center and other higher density neighborhoods that result in spaces being set aside for parks and plazas.

Policy I.3: Encourage mini-parks/gardens near new multi-family development. Explore opportunities to do so in partnership with the Department of Community Development and Planning.

J. Neighborhood Gathering Places

Goal J.1: Establish neighborhood gathering places in neighborhood parks (where appropriate) where neighbors can meet, hold small-scale events, and establish and strengthen neighborhood identity.

Policy J.1: Designate some neighborhood parks as neighborhood gathering places, where appropriate, based upon an analysis of park potential and participation by local residents.

Policy J.2: Explore potential for more public use of the existing BPA trail right-of-way by encouraging other uses within the corridor (such as off-leash areas and community gardens if the area can be serviced with water).

K. Special Use Parks

Goal K.1: Provide for special use parks and/or facilities to meet specific community needs.

Policy K.1: Design parks with special uses such as off-leash areas, plazas, community gardens, or skate parks to accommodate anticipated levels of use while minimizing impacts to surrounding neighbors.

3. Retain and Improve Open Spaces (Core value 3)

Intent: Open spaces are valuable to the community because they provide connections to a natural setting, habitat, improved air and water quality, and educational opportunities. The City's open spaces include wooded areas, ravines, wetlands, and shoreline environments. Many of these open spaces contain trails and other opportunities to experience nature close to home. These open spaces help to define Federal Way's character. Protecting these natural systems is critical to preserving the quality of life in the community and providing public access to open spaces. The following goals and policies address the protection of these open spaces, encourage low impact public access where feasible, and the use of these spaces as "learning landscapes."

L. Environmentally Sensitive Areas

Goal L.1: Manage environmentally sensitive lands for long-term ecosystem health and biodiversity of natural systems, while making them accessible to the community.

Policy L.1: Maintain open spaces so that they are accessible to residents.

Policy L.2: Protect ecologically sensitive areas from degrading impacts due to human use and development.

Policy L.3: Target significant open space areas in the City, with emphasis on their planning and efforts toward habitat restoration. Target areas within the City include:

- Hylebos Creek Basin
- Puget Sound waterfront and tributary creeks and streams

Policy L.4: Wildlife habitat requirements should be determined for species expected to occupy a given open space property. These habitat needs should help guide site restoration and design of recreational and other facilities.

Policy L.5: Support habitat improvements and site restoration efforts that will provide benefit to watersheds, wetlands, and salmon habitat.

Policy L.6: Preserve, protect and enhance areas or structures found in parks or open spaces that have significant historic or cultural value to the City.



Kids learn about the plants and animals of West Hylebos wetlands.

M. Environmental Education

Goal M.1: Inform residents about the area’s environment so that they are aware of, and take pride in, the natural systems that help to define the character of the City.

Policy M.1: Partner with existing local groups such as Earth Corps/ Friends of the Hylebos Wetlands, Federal Way Historical Society, and Rainier Audubon Society to lead tours of open spaces where there are safe walking trails and features of interest and importance.

Policy M.2: Integrate interpretive signage within the open spaces with habitat value and/or unique historic/cultural qualities such as West Hylebos Wetlands, Panther Lake, Poverty Bay, Spring Valley, and Fisher’s Pond.

Policy M.3: Partner with Federal Way Public Schools to develop “learning landscape” opportunities such as gardens, plant nurseries, and landscape beautification for learning/teaching at school-based parks or adjacent City open spaces.

N. Privately Owned Open Space Lands

Goal N.1: Preserve privately-owned open spaces with environmental constraints through incentive-based programs to provide ‘breathing-room’ open space.

Policy N.1: Consider developing a program that allows private property owners to preserve their land as permanent open space using incentive-based mechanisms such as conservation easements and “life estates”.

Policy N.2: Consider developing a program to keep property owners that have property adjacent to City parks and open spaces informed about low-impact landscape maintenance, control of invasive species, and protection of environmentally sensitive areas.

Policy N.3: To gain maximum effect on overall parks and recreation system, audit and revise City code requirements for on-site open space, and revise to require contribution to larger parks system rather than small, on-site parcels.

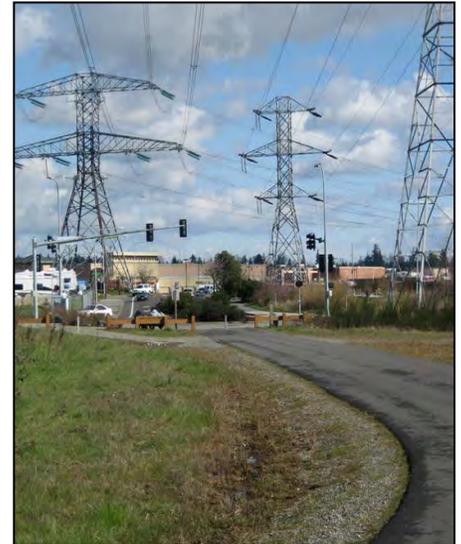
O. Shoreline Access

Goal O.1: Ensure that residents can easily access public shoreline areas and enjoy a safe, scenic, and educational experience.

Policy O.1: Improve public access on existing City shoreline properties.

Policy O.2: Explore potential to provide public access to the shoreline via small shoreline open spaces located at unopened street ends.

Policy O.3: Explore potential for Washington Water Association trail (for kayaks, canoes and other non-motorized watercraft) connecting Federal Way parks along the waterfront, and potentially connecting to a larger regional system to waterfront parks in Des Moines and Tacoma.



The BPA trail winds toward the City Center.

P. Maintenance of Open Space

Goal P.1: Maintain a system of open spaces that preserves Federal Way's natural heritage and character.

Policy P.1.1: Develop an Open Space Management Plan for the entire system of open spaces, identifying resources such as wildlife habitat, shoreline, wetlands, scenic resources, recreational resources, and trails, and evaluate potential for highest and best use for each property.

Policy P.1.2: Prepare feasibility studies or master plans for open spaces that offer some opportunity for passive recreational use, such as West Hylebos Wetlands Park, Spring Valley, Panther Lake, and Poverty Bay.

Goal P.2: Provide safe public access while keeping natural systems intact and well-functioning.

Policy P.2.1: Control invasive species and use native species, where possible, when replacing or enhancing vegetation.

Policy P.2.2: Identify and preserve open spaces and corridors of high wildlife and water quality value.

Policy P.2.3: Where safety is not an issue, retain dead standing trees, fallen trees, and vegetative litter to preserve habitat and water quality values.

4. Develop a Walking and Biking Community (Core value 4)

Intent: Developing a network of trails, interconnected walking loops, and other non-motorized facilities is a priority for Federal Way's future not only because this supports the most common recreational activity of residents – walking – but also because it improves everyday quality of life. The following goals and policies address developing community connectivity through a City-wide non-motorized network of trails and sidewalks.

Q. Walking System and Programs

Goal Q.1: Develop an interconnected system of trails and sidewalks throughout the City that are safe and comfortable and encourage people to walk and bike, both as recreation, and as a way to travel between destinations.

Policy Q.1.1: Integrate park and open space planning with the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan by coordinating with other departments such as Public Works and Community Development and Planning to prioritize and implement the plan.

Policy Q.1.2: Identify parks and open spaces that are on routes to schools and coordinate with other agencies such as Federal Way Public Schools and Public Works to seek Safe Routes to Schools funding.

Policy Q.1.3: Connect Celebration Park and Steel Lake Park via a network of sidewalk and pedestrian improvements through the City Center.

Policy Q.1.4: Expand trail system at West Hylebos Wetlands Park to create a connection between north and south parts of the park, and a link to the proposed bike lane on S 356th Street.

Goal Q.2: Develop a Comprehensive City-wide Walking Program that would encourage people to walk by providing maps, creating an identifiable way finding signage system, connecting community landmarks and destinations, and organizing special events such as walking campaigns.

Policy Q.2.1: Create neighborhood walking routes that link parks and open spaces with trail/pedestrian improvements.

5. Provide a Balance of Services For a Diverse Population (Core value 5)

Intent: Understanding the evolving Federal Way population and demographic needs and providing programs and recreational opportunities that meet all residents' needs and interests is an important goal for parks, recreation and open space planning. The following goals and policies address accommodation of people from diverse social, cultural, age, income, and ability groups.

R. Social Interaction

Goal R.1: Provide programs and opportunities for social interaction among residents from all backgrounds and walks of life.

Policy R.1: Support a broader variety of cultural events and festivals.

Policy R.2: Form partnerships with homeowner, community, and cultural organizations to build support for community events.



Students engage in track practice at Sacajawea Park.

Policy R.3: Facilitate or support events and activities that reflect the cultural diversity of the Federal Way community.

Policy R.4: Expand outreach efforts to underrepresented sectors of the Federal Way community for recreation programs and community events.

S. Sports and Recreation

Goal S.1: Provide recreation programs and community events for all.

Policy S.1: Provide a diversity of sports and recreational opportunities.

Policy S.2: Work to accommodate evolving and special user groups as the need or demand arises.

Policy S.3: Work with the Youth Commission to be more responsive to current recreational demands and develop more activities for teens.

Policy S.4: Consider providing or increasing scholarships and/or co-sponsorships for sports groups and recreation programs.

Policy S.5: Outreach to the diverse social, ethnic, and age groups within the Federal Way community during the Parks and Recreation planning and programming process.

T. Active Living Recreation

Goal T.1: The Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services Department plays a role in promoting active, healthy lifestyles in the Federal Way Community.

Policy T.1: Develop programs that promote walking, biking and physical activity.

U. Arts, Culture, and Recreation Programming

Goal U.1: Serve the community’s specific and diverse arts, cultural, and recreation programming needs.

Policy U.1: Be poised to respond to changing trends and demographics by providing a diverse range of programming.

Policy U.2: Coordinate with other recreation and cultural programming providers to ensure that the needs and interests of all ages, abilities, backgrounds, and incomes are being met.

Policy U.3: Regularly assess local recreational demand and participation.

Policy U.4: Update the City Arts and Cultural Plan, in partnership with the Arts Commission, to address current residents’ needs and ways of bringing diverse communities together.



Community stewardship of parks and open spaces instills pride and “ownership” in the community’s assets.

V. Community Stewardship

Goal V.1: Activate and increase social interaction within parks and open spaces by encouraging community use and maintenance where appropriate.

Policy V.1: Engage community organizations (such as Audubon, Master Gardeners, Service Clubs, Korean Seniors Association, and schools) in an Adopt-A-Park program.

Policy V.2: Encourage cultural and special events to take place in parks given that appropriate special use permits are obtained and granted.

Policy V.3: Consider organizing volunteer work parties in order to mobilize residents to carry out discrete projects and tasks.

Policy V.4: Engage residents in the park planning and design process when upgrading or developing parks.

Policy V.5: Engage the corporate community to sponsor parks and organize employees into volunteer work teams.



Chapter Seven Implementation

Chapter 7: Implementation

This chapter provides both a general time frame for implementation of the recommended actions contained within this plan as well as the 6-year Capital Improvement Plan. The Capital Improvement Plan provides the framework to address and prioritize capital improvements in the near and mid-term.

1. Phasing of Implementation

The Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan has identified a large project list to implement the Core Values, Goals & Policies contained within this plan. Many of these projects will occur over an extended period of time, ranging from now to 20 years in the future. The projects with the most immediate need were prioritized according to near term (2013-2014), mid-term (2014-2015) and long term (2016+). The list of projects within Table 7-1 was evaluated by the Parks Commission to determine priorities for the near term and mid term, which will inform the City's six-year capital improvement plan.

It is the intent of this plan to evaluate the list of projects in Table 7-1 on a regular basis to determine if community needs have changed or if new or alternative funding mechanisms have been identified.

2. Potential Funding Sources

This section provides an overview of potential funding sources to fund projects identified in this plan. All funding sources discussed below will be considered when determining a budget for each project. A combination of several sources is frequently used to fund projects.

General Fund

General Funds from the City are allocated to the Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services Department.

Capital Project Fund – Parks

The Capital Project Fund accounts for the acquisition or construction of major park facilities with the exception of those facilities financed by proprietary and trust funds. The major source of revenue for this Fund



Artificial turf has been installed in several City parks.

TABLE 7-1: PROJECT LIST AND PRIORITIZATION

Projects	Description	Funded '12 Budget	Near Term '13-'14	Mid Term '14-'15	Long Term 2016+
Community Parks					
Saghalie	Renovate natural turf fields			•	
	Renovate tennis courts & basketball court			•	
Sacajawea	Artificial turf replacement on soccer field	•			
	Implement Master Plan				•
Lakota	Upgrade soccer field to artificial turf		•		
	Upgrade Restrooms and increase parking				•
Steel Lake	Master Plan				•
Celebration Park	Complete the mezzanine & fencing for the Maintenance Building		•		
	Renovate natural turf fields			•	•
	Upgrade softball fields to artificial turf				•
	Upgrade two soccer fields: 7 & 8 to artificial turf				•
Neighborhood Parks					
Alderbrook	Develop Master Plan for trail connectivity				•
Adelaide	Renovate tennis courts				•
Downtown	Work with future development groups when opportunities arise to develop a park in downtown			•	

Table 7-1 cont.

Projects	Description	Funded '12 Budget	Near Term '13-'14	Mid Term '14-'15	Long Term 2016+
Open Spaces					
Fisher Pond	Development Feasibility Analysis				•
	Master Plan				•
Poverty Bay	Development Feasibility Analysis				•
	Master Plan				•
Panther Lake	Development Feasibility Analysis	•			
	Master Plan		•		
West Hylebos	Development Feasibility Analysis				•
	Master Plan				•
Playgrounds					
Steel Lake Funland	Condition Study	•			
	Renovate and Improve		•		
Mirror Lake Park	Replace and Improve			•	
Adelaide Park	Replace and Improve			•	
Other / TBD	Design and/or Replace and Improve		•		
Trails					
Trail Repair Program	Evaluate and renovate all asphalt paths in system		•	•	
Alderbrook Park	Develop Feasibility Analysis to connect to Panther Lake Park				•
	Master Plan				•
Poverty Bay	Develop Feasibility Analysis				•
	Master Plan				•
West Hylebos Wetlands	Master Plan connection to BPA Trail			•	
Olympic View Park	Develop Feasibility Analysis				•
	Master Plan				•

CHAPTER 7: IMPLEMENTATION

Table 7-1 cont.

Projects	Description	Funded '12 Budget	Near Term '13-'14	Mid Term '14-'15	Long Term 2016+
Community Facilities					
Community Center	Building Security & Communications		•		
	Preschool Playground			•	
	Community Courtyard			•	
Dumas Bay Centre	Roof Replacement	•			
System-Wide					
Park Impact Fees	Develop Feasibility Assessment			•	
Maintenance Management Plan	Develop a phased maintenance plan			•	
Open Space Management Plan	Evaluate all open spaces for a maintenance plan				•
Park Sign Replacement Program	Replace Monument location signs in Parks	•	•		
Trails & Walking Routes	Evaluate regional connectivity of pedestrian trails and walking paths		•		
	Develop wayfinding methods & signs		•		
	Design and construct a wayfinding system			•	
Arts and Cultural Plan Update	Update current plan		•		
Parking Lot Renovations	Condition Study			•	
	Repair & Renovate Parking Lots				•

is general obligation bond proceeds, grants from other agencies, local taxes and contributions from other funds. All park costs associated with acquisitions, improvements, issue of bonds and other costs shall be paid by this Fund. This funding source is tied to the City's 2-year budget cycle.

Real Estate Excise Tax (REET)

Cities planning under the State's Growth Management Act must generally use fund derived from a Real Estate Excise Tax for capital projects as described by state law. A REET is derived from a modest tax on the selling of real property within the City. A typical rate for such a tax is one-half percent of the selling price.

Voter-approved Bonds/Levies

Voter-approved General Obligation bonds can be generated for acquisition or development and are typically repaid through an annual "excess" property tax levy through the maturity period of the bonds, normally 15 to 20 years.

Council manic Bonds

Bonds issued by the City Council. This type of bond does not require citizen vote but must be paid out of the City's annual operating budget.

Developer Mitigation Fees

These are fees imposed by the City for park land acquisition and development. This is a funding source derived from mitigation monies required through SEPA (State Environmental Protection Act) for development projects located within the City. For example, residential subdivisions are required to provide open space for 15 percent of the gross land area of the subdivision. Most developers provide a fee to the City in-lieu of constructing parks. Mitigation fees must be spent within the Park Planning Area where the proposed development is located. See Figure 7-1 for Park Planning Areas.

Grants

The City pursues a number of grant funding sources to augment funding available for capital projects.

One of the primary grant sources in the state are grants available through the Washington State Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation. IAC administers several grant programs for recreation and habitat conservation purposes including:

- Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account
- Boating Facilities Program
- Boating Infrastructure Grants
- Land and Water Conservation Fund
- National Recreational Trails Program
- Non-highway and Off-road Vehicle Activities
- Washington Wildlife Recreation Program
- Farmland Preservation Grants
- Riparian Protection Grants

Annexations/Transfers

The potential annexation area east of I-5 has several park facilities that would likely become part of the Federal Way park and open space system when this area is annexed to the City.

Path and Trails Reserve Fund

The purpose of this fund is to accumulate unexpended proceeds of the motor vehicle fuel tax receipts, which are legally restricted to the construction, and maintenance of paths and trails within City street rights-of-way. One-half percent of these proceeds are restricted for these purposes. This fund must transfer such accumulated receipts back to a street construction/maintenance-oriented fund when specific projects have been defined.

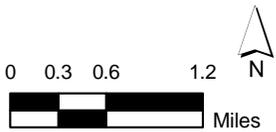
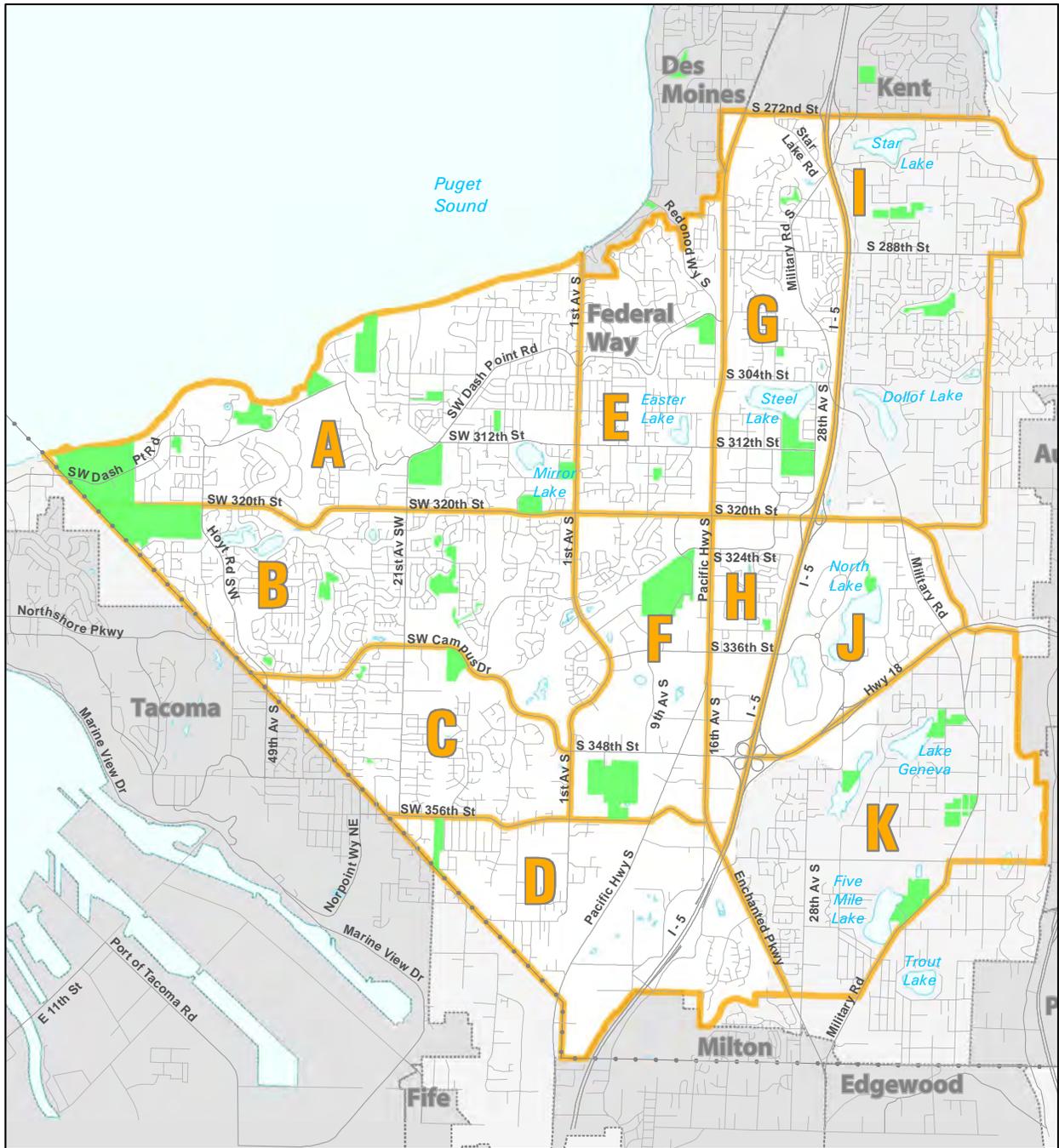
Dumas Bay Centre Fund

Established as an Enterprise Fund, this fund specifically accounts for the revenues and expenses related to the acquisition, capital improvements, maintenance and operations of the Dumas Bay Centre and Knutzen Family Theatre. The intent of the fund is to recover, primarily through user charges, the costs (expenses, depreciation) of providing services to the general public on a continuing basis.

Impact Fees

The City does not currently have impact fees. The City will analyze the financial implications of using impact fees to help fund park acquisition and improvement projects when the economy improves in the future.

FIGURE 7-1: PARK PLANNING AREAS



Legend
 Park Planning Areas Parks

This map is accompanied by NO warranties.



Park Acquisition, Development and Renovation

At times unexpected opportunities occur to purchase land or develop a project that has not been identified in this plan or listed in the Capital Improvements Plan. In those circumstances, the following criteria may be used to evaluate the property or project as an aid in decision-making. Staff may assess the situation using these criteria, identify potential funding sources, then present to the Parks and Recreation Commission and the City Council for their consideration.

1. Responds to an important gap in the park system or an urgent need or opportunity such as geographic location or unique circumstances not otherwise provided. Also may conform to legal contractual mandate.
2. Documented need based on evidence of unsanitary conditions, health and safety code violation, visible deterioration, and/or injuries.
3. Funding availability for the capital project as well as maintenance and operation or potential for leveraging 50% of project costs from other sources.
4. Deferring the project will have negative implications for future park and recreation use or other capital projects within the City.
5. Conforms to the Parks and Recreation and Open Space Plan or other adopted plans.

In order for acquisition, development, or renovation to be considered, the majority of these criteria need to be met.

3. Six-Year Capital Improvement Plan

The Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan is a planning document that is integrally tied to the City's Comprehensive Plan and the City's 6-year Capital Improvement Plan. The six-year capital improvement plan for parks (Table 7-2) will focus on the near and mid-term actions identified in this chapter (2012-2017).

Funding for projects in the Capital Improvement Plan are considered along with the preparation and approval of the City's biennium budget process. The biennium budget's first year begins on odd years. For example, the current budget cycle is 2011-2012. The City Council identifies goals and objectives for the operating and capital budgets in even years.

The Parks Commission will review staff updates of the Park Capital Improvement Plan at a public meeting to receive comment and weigh priorities. After the public process, the Parks Capital Improvement Plan is forwarded to City Council for funding along with the proposed biennium budget for the entire City.

CHAPTER 7: IMPLEMENTATION

TABLE 7-2: 6-YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Project	Description	Estimated Costs (dollars in thousands)						Total Project Cost
		2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	
Community Parks								
Sacajawea	Artificial turf replacement on soccer field	620						620
	Implement Master Plan						1500	1500
Lakota	Upgrade soccer field to artificial turf						750	750
	Upgrade restrooms and increase parking						800	800
Steel Lake	Master Plan						80	80
Celebration Park	Complete the mezzanine & fencing for the Maintenance Building		72					72
	Renovate natural turf fields				60			60
	Upgrade softball fields to artificial turf						450	450
	Upgrade two soccer fields; 7&8 to artificial turf						1600	1600
Saghalie	Renovate natural turf fields					60		60
	Renovate tennis courts & basketball courts				70			70
Neighborhood Parks								
Alderbrook	Develop Master Plan						40	40
Adelaide	Renovate tennis courts						30	30
Downtown	Work with future development groups when opportunities arise					96		96
Open Spaces								
Fisher Pond	Feasibility Analysis						40	40
	Master Plan						80	80
Poverty Bay	Feasibility Analysis						40	40
	Master Plan						80	80

Table 7-2 cont.

Project	Description	Estimated Costs (dollars in thousands)						Total Project Cost
		2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	
Panther Lake	Feasibility Analysis	50						50
	Master Plan		240					240
West Hylebos Basin	Feasibility Analysis						40	40
	Master Plan						80	80
Playgrounds								
Steel Lake Funland	Condition Study	3						3
	Renovate and Improve		150					150
Mirror Lake Park	Replace and Improve				80			80
Adelaide Park	Replace and Improve					80		80
Other/TBD	Design and/or Replace and Improve			140				140
Trails								
Trail Repair Program	Evaluate and renovate all asphalt paths in the system			50	50			100
Alderbrook Park	Develop Feasibility Analysis to connect to Panther Lake Park						40	40
	Master Plan						80	80
Poverty Bay	Develop Feasibility Analysis						40	40
	Master Plan						80	80
West Hylebos Wetlands	Master Plan connection to BPA					100		
Olympic View Park	Develop Feasibility Analysis						40	40
	Master Plan						80	80
Community Facilities								
Community Center	Building Security			30				30
	Preschool Playground				30			30
	Community Courtyard					120		120
Dumas Bay Centre	Roof Replacement	90						90

CHAPTER 7: IMPLEMENTATION

Table 7-2 cont.

Project	Description	Estimated Costs (dollars in thousands)						Total Project Cost
		2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	
System-Wide Planning								
Park Impact Fees	Develop Feasibility Assessment					40		40
Maintenance Management Plan	Develop a phased maintenance plan					20		20
Open Space Management Plan	Evaluate all Open Spaces for appropriate use						80	80
Sign Replacement Program	Replace Monument location signs in the Parks	45	20					65
Trails & Walking Routes	Evaluate regional connectivity of pedestrian trails and walking paths			40				40
	Develop wayfinding methods & signs			20				20
	Design & construct wayfinding system				80			80
Arts and Cultural Plan	Update Current Plan			40				40
Parking Lot Renovations	Condition Study					15		15
	Repair & Renovate Parking Lots						1000	1000
Total Project Costs		808	482	320	370	530	6450	8950

Note 1: In 2010 Dollars

Note 2: These figures are preliminary estimates for planning purposes only, and should not be used for budgeting. Figures will be evaluated and updated during each budget cycle.

City of Federal Way Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan Update

**APPENDIX A:
PARK AND OPEN SPACE INVENTORY AND ASSESSMENT**

Final Plan
January 2013

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COMMUNITY PARKS

CELEBRATION PARK

Park Character & Context

Celebration Park is the largest community park in the City. It includes a regionally known sports facilities, natural areas with wetlands and an unpaved trail system. The new Community Center was constructed on the south 10 acres of the property and opened to the public in 2007. Residential uses are located north of the park, office parks to the south and west of the park, and commercial businesses to the east. The park is located in close proximity to local bus routes. Vehicular access to the park is available from a number of points along 9th Ave S, Park Rd, 13th Pl S near the intersection with S. 324th Street, and S 333rd St. Off-street parking is located along the street frontage. Good pedestrian access to the park is available from the surrounding residential neighborhood and adjacent office parks via sidewalks and the BPA Trail. The park is highly visible from Park Road/13th Pl. S.

Park Issues

- Further expansion of developed areas is limited by the presence of an extensive wetlands system. Mitigation for impacts associated with the Community Center construction resulted in 3.5 acres of wooded areas being permanently maintained as a natural growth protection area.
- Existing grass soccer fields have drainage related issues that limit year round play.

Park Potential

- As the premier park in the City's system, the objective for this park is to maintain the high level of amenity and general upkeep on facilities to keep the park fresh and attractive to sports leagues and competitions, which come from all over the state to compete.

Needs

Near Term

- Water fountains with potable water/water bottle filler
- Fencing and asphalt drive for new maintenance building
- Renovate or implement a turf replacement program

Long Term

- Install electrical power around perimeter of fields
- Refresh soft trail surfaces
- Exercise stations for stretching
- Tree replacements
- Artificial turf for softball/baseball infields (1 - 4) and consider soccer fields 7 & 8
- Concession stand improvements
- Play feature for older kids

CELEBRATION PARK

PARK INFORMATION

1095 S 324th St
83.5 acres
Type: Community Park

KEY FEATURES

Soccer fields (4)
Baseball/Softball fields (4)
Children's Play area
Wetland nature area
Hiking/Walking trail
Connections to BPA Trail
Community Center

OTHER FACILITIES

Benches
Bleachers
2 Concession stand
Picnic tables
Public Art
Restrooms



Vicinity Map



Map not to scale

DUMAS BAY CENTRE PARK

Park Character & Context

Dumas Bay Centre Park is located on the Puget Sound shoreline. The facility includes Dumas Bay Centre and the Knutzen Family Theatre, the primary location for the City's arts and theater recreation programs. Since 1993, the City of Federal Way has owned and operated Dumas Bay Centre, a full-service conference and retreat facility. Dumas Bay Centre can accommodate a wide variety of events including conferences; meetings and banquets; overnight retreats; weddings, receptions, and other special occasions; and performing arts events. Guests are able to experience the tranquility and natural beauty of Puget Sound overlooking the Olympic Mountains while being close to major metropolitan areas. The City recently completed upgrades to the site, including improving site stormwater detention and installation of new landscaping/gardens. Surrounding land uses include single family residential, undeveloped land, and Lakehaven Utility District properties. The park is accessible from Dash Point Road. There are limited pedestrian facilities.

Park Issues

The building and site at Dumas Bay Centre are facing multiple challenges. The building was constructed in the 1950s and has serious problems with plumbing, roof, windows, and other systems. The guest rooms do not have full bathrooms, and thus do not meet current expectations for overnight accommodations. There is no elevator in the two-story building, thus the facility is not fully accessible. The north side of the site is lined with steep bluffs, which have been compromised by erosion and slope failures.

Park Potential

- One of the key community destinations for recreation programming and cultural events.
- Dumas Bay Centre plays a unique role in the City. It is located directly on Puget Sound waterfront and offers a beautiful setting for events. The Centre is operated as an enterprise fund, and is therefore responsible for financially supporting itself. The building includes guest rooms, four meeting rooms, a theatre, rehearsal hall, and offices. The basement is used for children's dance and gymnastics classes.
- Provides one of the few public access points to Puget Sound.

Needs

Near Term

- Slope improvements/stabilization

Long Term

- Improve ADA accessibility both in building and on site.
- Facility Master Plan to address building restoration and site improvements.

DUMAS BAY CENTRE PARK

PARK INFORMATION

3200 SW Dash Point Rd

12.0 acres

Type: Community Park

KEY FEATURES

Knutzen Family Theatre

Hiking/Walking trail

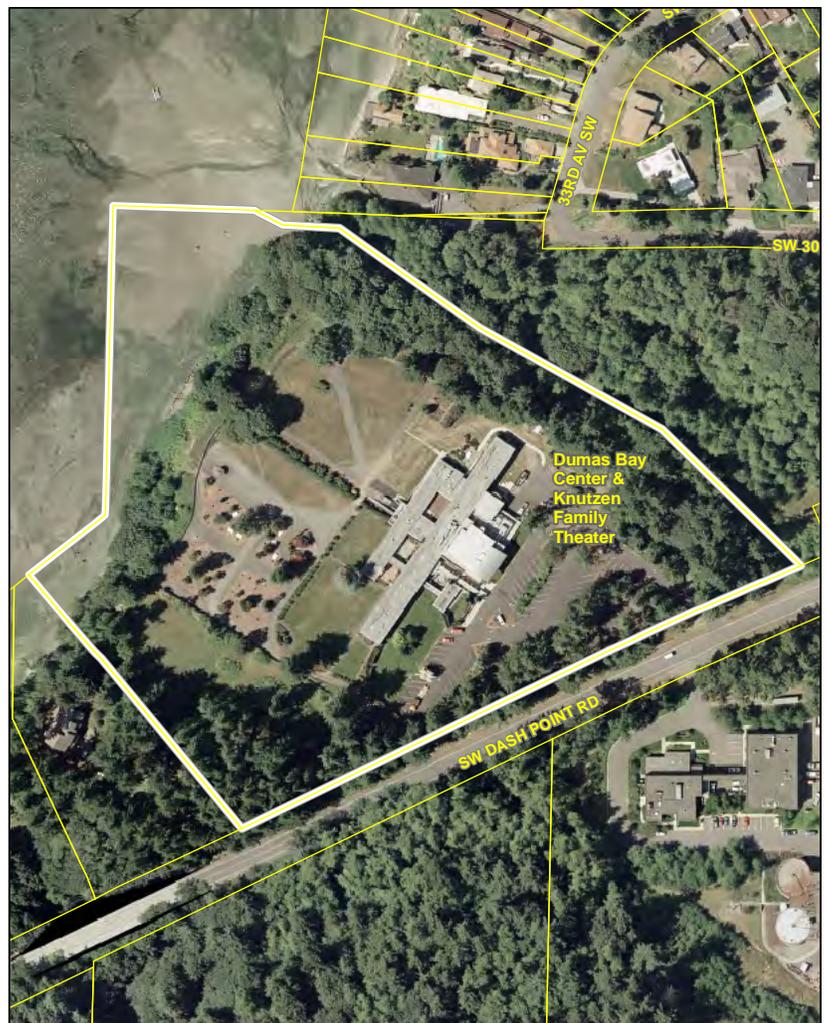
Nature area

Shoreline Access

OTHER FACILITIES

Picnic tables

Benches



Map not to scale

Vicinity Map



DUMAS BAY SANCTUARY

Park Character & Context

This 19.3-acre park is located between Southwest Dash Point Road and Puget Sound. It is the only site with direct trail access to the waterfront at this time. Facilities at the site include a small parking area, limited interpretive signs, benches in the woods, and a paved asphalt path to the shoreline. The park was designated as a wildlife sanctuary at one time by King County. Neighborhood residents have encouraged the City to restore this designation, and to manage the property as a wildlife sanctuary. The site contains a high degree of ecological diversity, with forested ravine, 200 feet of sandy beach, a wetland with bulrush covering half the site, cattails, beach pea and beach grass. Low-density residential surrounds the park. Vehicle access is from 44th Avenue S, a local, dead-end street with very low traffic volumes. Pedestrian access is limited.

Park Issues

- Main access is through a single family residential area.
- The park is difficult to find due to its lack of visible directional signage on Dash Point Road, and secluded, wooded location.
- Local residents have voiced complaints regarding garbage and noise levels associated with loitering in the parking lot and recently skim boarding activities on low tides.
- Dogs off-leash on the beach has become a problem, as this is inappropriate for a wildlife sanctuary

Park Potential

- The site was formerly known for the presence of a heron rookery. It is currently used by owls and migrating songbirds. Other animal species could be attracted to and supported by the park.
- Interpretive opportunities could be enhanced.
- The sandy beach access is unique (other City shoreline parks consist of high, steep bluffs) and provides for a potential kayak/canoe access

Needs

Near Term

- Remove invasive species (ivy, blackberry, knotweed, cattails) and increase plant diversity
- Add signage: "No dogs off-leash"
- Mow once per year, after July 15, to keep blackberries down, maintain open quality and sunlight, and discourage undesirable activities
- Replace park name sign

Long Term

- Open forest by removing some vegetation and alders. Leave trees on the ground or make snags out of some of them.
- Plant Sitka spruce in wet spots, including near the beach
- Interpretive signage to describe unique qualities

DUMAS BAY SANCTUARY

PARK INFORMATION

30844 44th Ave SW
19.3 acres
Type: Community Park

KEY FEATURES

Wetland nature area
Walking/biking trail
Shoreline Access

OTHER FACILITIES

Benches
Off-street Parking



Map not
to scale



FRENCH LAKE PARK

Park Character & Context

The park includes two parcels, one of which is owned by Lakehaven Utility District. The park contains a mix of wooded areas, grassy clearings, and ponds. French Lake Park is the site of the City's off-leash dog park. Since conversion to the off-leash area, the park is becoming increasingly popular in the City, especially as increased awareness of its presence in the community grows. The park is located on 1st Avenue South and is surrounded by single family to the north and west, multi-family residential to the east, and a fire station to the south. Vehicular access and parking is located off of 1st Avenue South.

Park Issues

- The park is not readily identifiable from the street. Park visibility from 1st Avenue South is limited. An outdated park identity sign is obscured from the road.
- There is no direct pedestrian access from 1st Avenue S. Pedestrians must access the park through the parking lot.
- Lakehaven Utility District may have alternative uses for their parcel in the future

Park Potential

- This park is already functioning as a community destination/ gathering place due to the new off-leash dog park use. A small group of users have formed a non-profit organization called "Park Pals" and organize volunteer work projects to help maintain the park and raise funds to purchase park amenities.
- The park has adequate off-street parking for the dog park use.
- Additional site furnishings and amenities could be provided to address increased park use such as additional trash cans distributed throughout the park, benches, shelters and picnic tables.

Needs

Near term

- Evaluate whether it is feasible to keep the small man made pond in a healthy useable condition.
- Develop a plan to try to keep more turn areas healthy enough to handle the high use.
- Prepare a master plan for future site improvements
- Continue to work with Lakehaven Utility District concerning the park operations and long term use

FRENCH LAKE PARK

PARK INFORMATION

31531 1st Ave S

10.0 acres*

Type: Community Park

KEY FEATURES

Off-Leash Fenced Dog Park

Man made Horseshoe pit

Pond

Lakehaven Utility District

Off-street parking

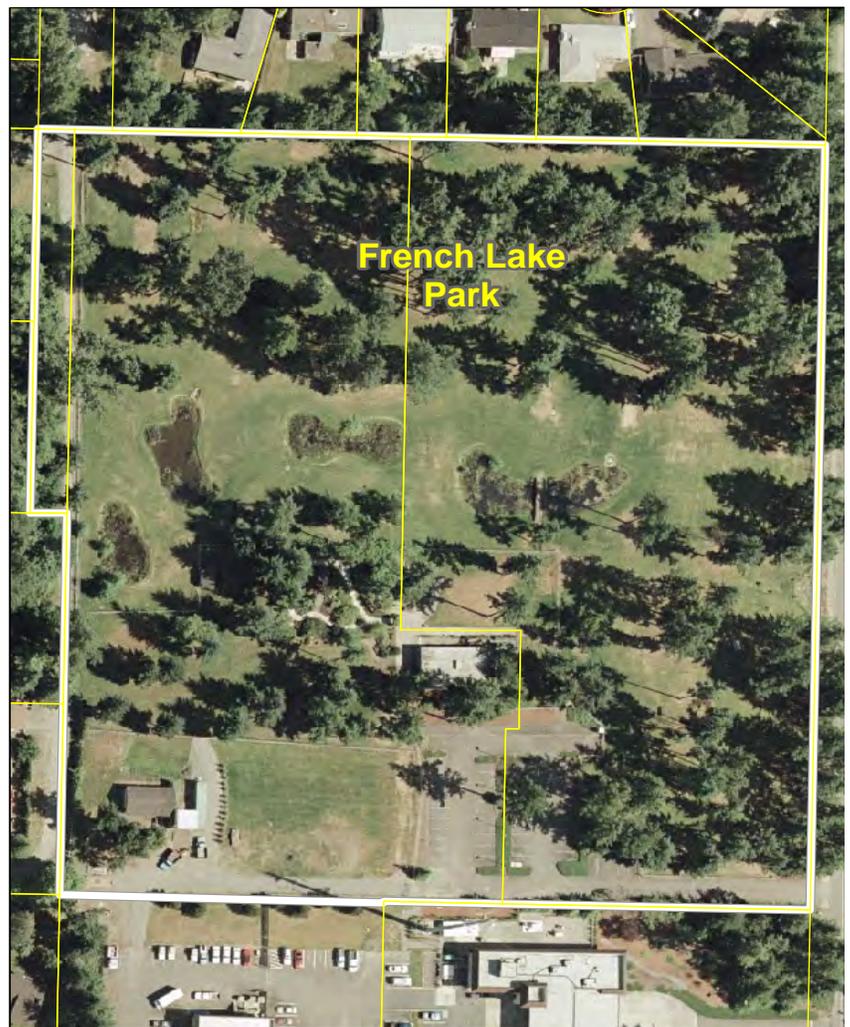
OTHER FEATURES

Benches

Picnic tables

Dual use drinking fountain

**Note: Only 5 acres are owned by the City. The remaining 5 are owned by Lakehaven Utility District*



Map not to scale

Vicinity Map



HYLEBOS BLUEBERRY FARM

Park Character & Context

This unique park has a quiet, natural setting surrounding an old blueberry farm. There are no longer any buildings left from the farm, but many rows of blueberries remain. The park is situated on the south side of the Brooklake pond and the West Hylebos Wetlands Park. A private Community Center and a private school are near this park. South King Fire District owns a parcel adjoining this Park and plans to develop a station in the future.

Park Issues

- The unique half-acre setting of blueberries is the main feature of this park, but the plants are old and heavily infested with invasive species of weeds and plants.
- The parking consists of an undeveloped gravel area.
- No restroom facilities.

Park Potential

The park functions more as an open space with an opportunity for the public to u-pick berries in season. Passive recreation use with picnic areas could be developed. Providing improved facilities and developing more of a farm setting with orchards and nut trees, could enhance the u-pick and educational experience.

Needs

Near Term

- Solve parking issues
- Improve the blueberry field by weeding, mulching, pruning and replanting vacant spaces.
- Remove invasive plant species.
- Continue to encourage volunteer groups and grass root efforts to help reclaim the field and prune to increase berry production.

Long Term

- Provide an improved picnic area(s).
- Master plan site and develop orchards to compliment and give variety to the site.
- Work with the South King Fire Department on opportunities of joint improvements; like parking or restrooms when they develop their site.

HYLEBOS BLUEBERRY FARM

PARK INFORMATION

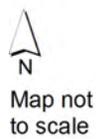
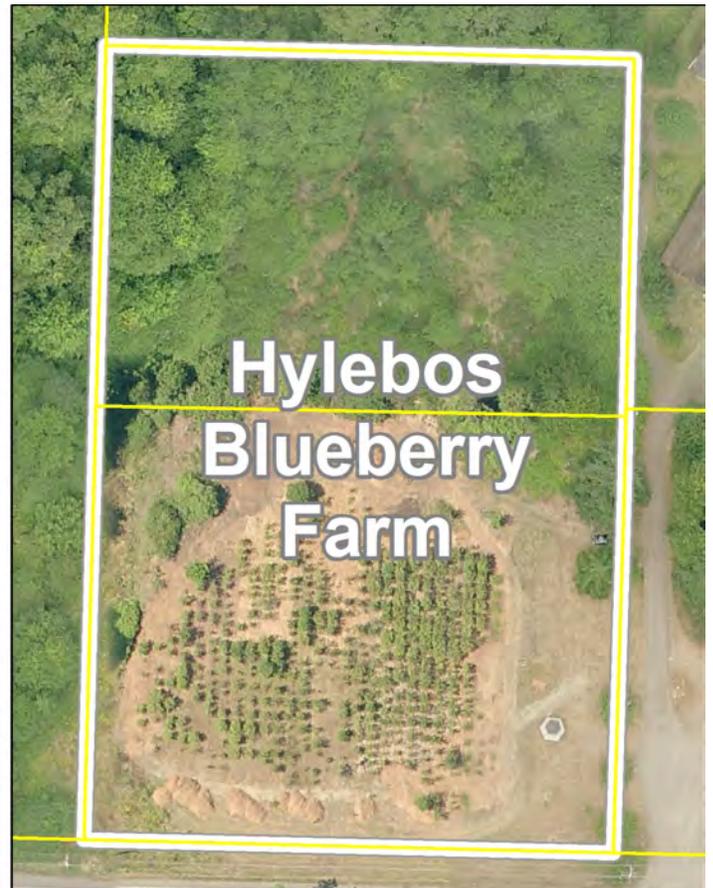
630 SW 356th St
3.34 acres
Type: Community Park

KEY FEATURES

Natural Area
Blueberry Plants
Fruit Trees
Nut Trees

OTHER FACILITIES

Kiosk
Picnic Table



Map not
to scale

Vicinity Map



LAKOTA PARK

Park Character & Context

This community park consists primarily of athletic fields at this time, and is heavily used for athletic training and events. It is located adjacent to Lakota Middle School, which uses the fields for its P.E. classes and sports teams. The park is bordered to the north by Dash Point Road and to the west by 21st Ave. SW. Main access to the park is at SW 316th St. and Dash Point Road. The park consists of two distinct areas: the north part of the park is relatively flat and open, with steep slopes at the east end of the site, and is managed by the Parks Department. The south part of the site is primarily wetland and wetland buffer and was acquired by the City's Surface Water Utility in 2004. The north part of the site is primarily oriented towards active recreation uses. Pedestrian access is primarily from the school and the parking lot northwest of the athletic fields. There are no sidewalks along the street frontage. Residential properties border the site to the south and southwest. The Fire District training center is adjacent to the northeast.

Park Issues

- The natural grass fields currently have poor drainage and turf problems. Play is limited each year due to soggy conditions.
- Although the park has excellent site visibility, it currently lacks a strong park identity due to its location adjacent to Lakota Middle School and low level of development.
- There is a lack of safe pedestrian access and circulation
- There is insufficient parking during events. Overflow parking is located at the middle school and at the Wayside Church across the street (which creates dangerous crossings for pedestrians).

The City has a completed facilities master plan for the site, which identifies specific improvements to the fields, including addressing the drainage issues, updating fields to regulation size and upgrading to artificial turf.

Park Potential

As one of the five community parks with an active recreation emphasis, the park's utilization by other participants will increase significantly once recommended improvements are implemented. The addition of passive recreation uses at the park will help to broaden its multiple functions.

Needs

Near term

- Strategy for requests from cell phone and other telecommunications providers.
- Design and construct improvements in Master Plan.
- Improve Little League fields (2011-2012).
- Improve restrooms and storage.

Long Term

- Consider converting the all-weather dirt soccer field to a synthetic turf field which will make it more useful and easier to program.

LAKOTA PARK

PARK INFORMATION

31334 SW Dash Point Rd

27.88 acres*

Type: Community Park

KEY FEATURES

Soccer field (3)

Baseball/Softball fields (3)

Track

Wetlands

OTHER FACILITIES

Restrooms

Benches

Off-Street Parking



Map not
to scale

Vicinity Map



SACAJAWEA PARK

Park Character & Context

Sacajawea Park is one of the City's ten community parks with an active recreation emphasis. This park has a high level of use for organized sports and athletic events. Sacajawea Middle School is located immediately west of the park. Residential and commercial uses surround the park. Dash Point Road borders the park to the north and 16th Ave S to the east. The primary vehicular access to the park is off Dash Point Road. Pedestrian access is hazardous due to heavy traffic and a lack of adequate sidewalks. A signalized pedestrian crossing is located at 11th Place S.

There is a large parking area that is shared with the middle school. The site is laid out on multiple terraces with steep slopes situated between, and a grade change of 64 feet rising from north to south. The north portion of the site consists of athletic facilities and the south end is oriented toward more passive activities. The passive recreation area is isolated from the rest of the park and is obscured from public view.

Park Issues

- Graffiti/Vandalism, particularly on restroom buildings
- Park Identity. The park appears to be a part of the middle school and not a City park facility.
- Site visibility into the park is obscured by a heavily wooded boundary.
- Drainage issues associated with topographic changes.
- The facilities are dated and need to be upgraded.
- Undersized athletic fields, in part due to the size of existing terraces on site and steep slopes.
- Artificial turf soccer field is experiencing problems due to heavy use and drainage issues.

Park Potential

This park's utilization will increase significantly once the recommended improvements are implemented.

Needs

Near term

- Address drainage problems and replace existing artificial turf soccer field.
- Given Sacajawea Park's high visibility and heavily traveled arterial location adjacent to SR 509/Dash Point Road, seek state and community funding for a project to upgrade existing weed-infested appearance of the Park street frontage berm with permanent, low-maintenance groundcover landscaping.

Long Term

- Implement Sacajawea Master Plan recommended improvements when funding becomes available
- Repair an aging parking lot
- Repair a major crack developing across the tennis court

SACAJAWEA PARK

PARK INFORMATION

1401 S Dash Point Rd
18.3 acres
0.8 miles of walking path
Type: Community Park

KEY FEATURES

Soccer field (artificial turf)
Baseball/Softball fields
Track
Tennis courts
Play area
Hiking/Walking trail

OTHER FACILITIES

Restrooms
Benches




Map not
to scale

SAGHALIE PARK

Park Character & Context

Saghalie Park is one of the ten active recreation parks in the City. It is located immediately adjacent to and shares athletic facilities with Saghalie Middle School. The park sits on a high point above SW Campus Drive. The park has a sense of enclosure due to topographic changes and the surrounding tree cover and its location behind a school. Off-street parking is available behind the middle school. Three pedestrian entry points are located along SW Campus Drive. Land uses immediately surrounding the park includes Saghalie Middle School, retail areas, and a concentration of multi-family residential.

Park Issues

In general, the park is in good condition; only minor improvements and enhancements are needed to increase usability and attractiveness.

Current park issues include:

- Vandalism. The park has a history of high levels of vandalism and graffiti. This can be attributed, in part, to the low visibility into the park from street and adjacent properties.
- Visibility. Improve visibility of park from the street, including pedestrian access points along SW Campus Drive.
- Demand for cell tower access.
- Rubber track needs repaired or replaced soon.

Park Potential

As one of the community parks, the recreational fields at this park are heavily used. By upgrading the fields to address deficiencies, the city can increase the number of games that can be played year-round.

Needs

Near term

- Develop a facility improvement plan for Saghalie which identifies specific facilities improvements for the active recreation fields;
- Update park identity sign at park entry;
- Include 1-2 directional signs along SW Campus Dr.;
- Improve sightlines and visibility into park along SW Campus Dr.

Long-Term

- Improve trail surface conditions and enhance trail connections;
- Improved landscaping and street frontage treatments to create a more defined park entry, including park identity signs.
- Work with the school district to repair or replace the rubber track.

SAGHALIE PARK

PARK INFORMATION

33914 19th Ave SW
 16.4 acres
 0.8 miles of walking path
 Type: Community Park

KEY FEATURES

Softball/baseball fields
 Sand soccer field
 Soccer/Football field
 Track
 Basketball court
 Tennis courts (4)
 Volleyball court
 Walking/Biking trail
 Play area

OTHER FACILITIES

Restrooms
 Concessions area
 Benches
 Picnic tables
 Off-Street Parking



Vicinity Map



Map not to scale

STEEL LAKE PARK

Park Character & Context

Steel Lake Park is a unique and popular park north of the City Center. It is divided into two parts by S 312th Street. The northern portion of the site is oriented toward passive recreation activities, with Steel Lake being the dominant feature. This site contains a beach, swimming area, fishing pier, multiple picnic areas with one picnic shelter, 'Funland' play structure, a restroom/concession building, boat launch, basketball court, sand volleyball courts, and a large meadow with many large trees of varied species. The portion south of S. 312th Street (often referred to as "Steel Lake Annex") functions as the active recreation area and contains two lighted softball fields, an artificial turf soccer field, a skate park, concession/restroom building, small playground for preschool age children, maintenance barn and an older brick house that is currently being leased by the Historical Society. The City's maintenance shop is located just east of Steel Lake Park. The park is located at the intersection of two minor arterial streets, S 312th Street and 28th Avenue S. Access to both the north and south portions of the park is from S 312th Street. There is no curb or sidewalk along the perimeter of Steel Lake Park, although there is a wide shoulder in some locations.

Park Issues

- Parking and traffic are major issues during the busy summer weekends.
- There is significant demand for picnic facilities.
- Vandalism, graffiti and theft are problems, particularly at the Annex.

Park Potential

There is continual high demand for picnic facilities, particularly for the single covered picnic shelter. Well-designed picnic areas and shelters are needed here or in other community parks. The large variety of species of trees on the site lend the possibility of developing the park as an informal arboretum. Because of the complexity of the site and the many uses and demands on it, an updated master planning process is recommended to guide future redevelopment.

Needs

Near Term

- Renovate Funland Play Area
- Regrade/reseed meadow area
- Repair fishing pier
- Provide concrete pad for Picnic Site 4
- Improve lighting at Annex parking lot

Long Term

- Develop a revised Park Master Plan

STEEL LAKE PARK

PARK INFORMATION

2410 S 312th St &
2645 S 312th St.
52.0 acres
Type: Community Park

KEY FEATURES

Steel Lake
Soccer field
Baseball/Softball fields
Basketball court
Sand Volleyball court
Horseshoe pit
Skateboard park
Walking/Biking trail
Swimming beach
Fishing Pier
Boat Launch
Play area (“Funland”)

OTHER FACILITIES

Restrooms
Picnic tables
Benches
Concession area
Off-Street Parking



Map not
to scale

Vicinity Map



WEST HYLEBOS WETLANDS PARK

Park Character & Context

West Hylebos Wetlands Park consists of four key areas:

- West Hylebos Wetlands Park
- Historic Cabins
- West Hylebos Open Space

The main park was acquired from the State in 2004.

Park Potential

West Hylebos Wetlands Park is a model for open space in the city that integrates habitat preservation, public access and educational opportunities and community stewardship.

Needs

Near Term

- Manage invasive species (blackberry, nightshade)
- Install a delineation fence around caretaker homes.
- Develop a plan to get a water line to the boardwalk to aid in cleaning.

Long Term

- Develop Master Plan for entire site
- Create trail connection to south part of site and proposed bike lanes on S 356th Street.
- Explore environmental education opportunities
- Coordinate habitat improvements with Earth Corps.

WEST HYLEBOS WETLANDS PARK

PARK INFORMATION

34915 4th Ave S
66.47 acres
Type: Community Park

KEY FEATURES

Historic Cabins
Open Space
W. Hylebos Wetlands
Nature area
Hiking/Walking trail

OTHER FACILITIES

Restrooms
Benches
Picnic tables
Interpretive Signage
Off-Street Parking
Two caretaker homes



Map not to scale

Vicinity Map



NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

ADELAIDE PARK

Park Character & Context

Adelaide is a mostly wooded neighborhood park located adjacent to Adelaide Elementary School. The park's main entrance is at the large, east end of the property, on 16th Avenue SW and a smaller entrance is on 21st Avenue SW. A paved trail links the two entries, passing through a narrow, wooded section between houses, then through a picnic area set in a grassy opening in the woods. The trail also forms a side loop that connects a horse arena, tennis court and play area near the east park entry. The majority of the site is level. Partial sidewalks are located along the eastern side of the park along 16th Ave SW.

Park Issues

- Moderate visibility into the park due to wooded condition.
- The existing tennis court is under utilized due to low visibility and shady areas.
- The horse arena in the rear of the site is under utilized and is no longer maintained for equestrian use.
- The park could benefit from 'opening up' the site by selectively thinning the tree cover to let additional sunlight into the park near the play structure and site furnishings as well as along the 16th Ave SW frontage.

Park Potential

Adelaide Park serves a residential neighborhood in the north central part of the City. Park improvements, including picnic area, playground, and tennis court, and horse arena were added in the 1990s, based on local neighborhood input. The old horse arena is informally being used as an off leash dog area.

Needs

Near-Term

- Park identity signs; add a new park sign at the 21st St entrance
- Provide additional trash receptacles
- Invasive species management—blackberry, ivy, moles
- Graffiti removal—picnic tables, bull rail
- Repair trail surface
- Evaluate use of horse arena / Consider redevelopment as off-leash dog area for small dogs or small agility course

Long Term

- Improve accessibility to play structure

ADELAIDE PARK

PARK INFORMATION

30619 16th Ave SW

7.0 acres

Type: Neighborhood Park

KEY FEATURES

Play area

Swing set

Wood play structure

Spring toys

Tennis court

Horse arena

Hiking/Walking trail

OTHER FACILITIES

Picnic tables

Benches



Map not to scale

ALDERBROOK PARK

Park Character & Context

Alderbrook Park is comprised of three separate park areas, two of which are relatively undeveloped. The park is located immediately west and southwest of Silverlake Elementary School. The primary park entrance and facilities are located along the south side of SW 325th Pl. This area contains play equipment and a large, informal lawn area. A series of wetlands are located within each of the three park areas. The three park areas are connected by an eight-foot, paved asphalt path. The path itself is situated in a wooded setting along the periphery of the park, and in some locations the path runs along the edge of the wetlands. There are multiple pedestrian access points to each of the three park areas from the surrounding single family residential subdivisions.

Park Issues

- The trail connecting each of the three park areas crosses SW 325th Pl. An improved pedestrian crossing at this location would help to facilitate safe pedestrian movement.
- No off-street parking; although parking is available at Silverlake Elementary School.
- Multiple park entries do not have park identification signs.
- Park is surrounded by single-family residential. Future park improvements must be sensitive to adjacent neighbors.

Park Potential

- Evaluate park for potential “community gathering place” improvements.
- Trail/sidewalk improvements to connect the trail system within this park to link to trails within English Gardens Park, Panther Lake Open Space and the BPA trail system.

Needs

Near Term

- Park identity signs

Long Term

- Park specific improvements based on the park’s unique potential based on public outreach process.
- Connect Alderbrook Park trail to the trails within English Gardens Park, Panther Lake, and the BPA trail.
- Enhanced pedestrian/trail wayfinding signage or park map/kiosk to orient park visitors to amenities and trails.
- Improve drainage in the large turf areas as it holds water for a long period of time.

ALDERBROOK PARK

PARK INFORMATION

32730 17th Ave SW

35.0 acres

Type: Neighborhood Park

KEY FEATURES

Wood play structure

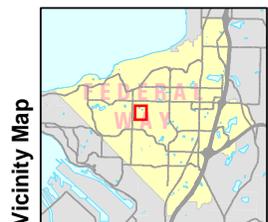
Hiking/Walking trail

Wetland nature area

OTHER FACILITIES

Benches

Picnic table



ALDERDALE PARK

Park Character & Context

Alderdale Park is a recently constructed neighborhood park that is in fairly good condition. It is a well-designed small park with a playground, basketball and tennis courts, a short loop trail, and site furnishings that include picnic tables and benches. The site is fairly flat, with some short, steep slopes toward the back or north side of the site. There is an open lawn area in the middle of the park, with formal landscaping beds along the east and west edges of the park. A basketball and tennis court are located at the rear of the park. Vehicular and pedestrian access is from SW 340th Place, a minor collector street.

Park Issues

- Lack of visibility to the basketball and tennis courts from the street.
- Evidence of drainage and erosion problems near the basketball and tennis courts.
- A rolled curb along the street allows vehicles to drive onto the lawn.

Park Potential

Alderdale is an appealing neighborhood park, in good condition. This park has the potential to serve as a “neighborhood gathering place”. This might be accomplished at first through some programming efforts, such as neighborhood picnics or events. The area residents could be involved to develop ideas for additional features which might strengthen its draw.

Needs

Near Term

- Address drainage/erosion problems near tennis and basketball courts.
- Graffiti removal
- Invasive species management
- Clarify property boundary and landscape maintenance responsibilities
- Replace missing landscaping—this will screen fence which has repeated graffiti problems .
- Repair or replace older benches and picnic tables
- Working with local neighbors, identify potential neighborhood event in park.

Long Term Needs

- Neighborhood outreach process to identify potentials for neighborhood gathering place (if desired by neighborhood)
- Improve ADA accessibility to play structure.

ALDERDALE PARK

PARK INFORMATION

2700 SW 340th Pl
2.0 acres
Type: Neighborhood Park

KEY FEATURES

Play Area
Basketball court
Tennis court
Hiking/Walking trail

OTHER FACILITIES

Benches
Picnic Tables



Vicinity Map



Map not to scale

CEDAR GROVE PARK

Park Character & Context

The Thompson property was purchased for a park site in 1998. It was formerly the site of a veterinarian's kennel. It is no largely a wooded site, with the Hylebos Creek running offsite, just to the east of the property. Visitors to the site recently described this attractive green space as an "oasis". Construction of park improvements were completed in 2006. These include a 8- wide paved trail, two playground areas for toddlers and older children, a half-court basketball court, picnic area, landscaping and sidewalk and street improvements.

Park Issues

- Some homeless camps and vandalism has occurred in this park since opening.

Park Potential

- This park will provide a much needed recreation resource in a neighborhood with many children. There are no other parks in Planning Area H, where the site is located.

Needs

Near Term

- Construct planned improvements
- Install park name sign

Long Term

- Install benches

CEDAR GROVE PARK

PARK INFORMATION

S 333rd St and 24th Ave S

2.6 acres

Type: Neighborhood Park

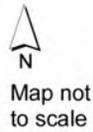
KEY FEATURES

2 Play Structures

Trails

Picnic Tables

Basketball Court (1/2 Court)



Vicinity Map



CORONADO PARK

Park Character & Context

Coronado is a small neighborhood park, tucked between homes on a residential street. Neighborhood residents brought some concerns about safety and the condition of some of the facilities to the City and the park has received some repair and replacement efforts over the past couple of years. This included adding some low landscaping along the street, removing some overgrown shrubs and an old bike rack, and replacing play equipment and a water fountain. Views of the Cascade Mountains and the BPA transmission lines are visible from the street in front of the park. Coronado Park is located off of SW 349th Place. The park includes a play structure, basketball court, connection path, an informal lawn area, and some site furnishings. The park is surrounded by single family residential to the east and south of the park.

Park Issues

- Some of the park is tucked away from view and may limit future development potential

Park Potential

- Potential for neighborhood gathering place
- A long, narrow segment of lawn runs behind several houses, and serves as the connecting link to the southern entrance. This lawn might be suitable for another use, but since some of the lawn has very low visibility, and is in such close proximity to homes, this may limit what can be accomplished.

Needs

Near Term

- New park signage
- Repair or replace several benches and picnic tables
- Continue landscape improvements
- Determine property line/screen adjacent decaying fence
- Buffer between playground and street
- Replace plant material in poor condition

Long Term

- Improve ADA accessibility to play structure.
- Consider new use or site improvements for open grassy areas

CORONADO PARK

PARK INFORMATION

2501 SW 349th Pl

1.5 acres

Type: Neighborhood Park

KEY FEATURES

Toddler play area

Play Area

- Wood play structure
- Metal swing sets

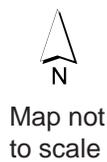
Basketball court

Grassy open space

OTHER FACILITIES

Benches

Picnic tables



DASH POINT HIGHLANDS PARK

Park Character & Context

Dash Point Highlands is directly south of Dash Point State Park, which creates a heavily wooded backdrop to the park site. Southwest 324th Place serves as the only access to the site. The park's trail connects to Dash Point State Park trail system. The site is relatively level except for the retention pond, and a drainage swale along the street frontage. Residences abut the park on two sides, but because of the park's long street frontage it feels open and fairly comfortable. A new play structure, benches and picnic tables were installed in 2011 along with an expanded grassy field are the primary recreational features of the site. Small children are protected by a bull rail fence on the street side of the playground.

Park Issues

- Dark and secluded atmosphere creates a party setting for youth at night.

Park Potential

- Dash Point Highlands has good visibility from the street, but its location deep in the neighborhood, near the City's heavily wooded western limits, indicates that the park will continue to mostly serve the local residential neighborhood population.
- This park's proximity to Dash Point State Park is its biggest asset and it serves as a trailhead into the State Park's trail system for the public and neighborhood residents. It could also be connected to an open space on SW 325th Way, via trails within the State Park, to create a loop trail.
- The open nature of the park also lends itself to additional development of recreational facilities

Needs

Near Term

- Identify potential recreation facilities for the park

Long Term

- Forest management—trees overcrowded, no understory
- Better definition of property boundaries/screening for adjacent residences

DASH POINT HIGHLANDS PARK

PARK INFORMATION

5200 SW 324th Pl

5.0 acres

Type: Neighborhood Park

KEY FEATURES

Play Area

- Metal and composite play structure
- Metal swing set
- Formal trailhead connecting to Dash Point State Park trail system

OTHER FACILITIES

Picnic table

Benches



Map not to scale

ENGLISH GARDENS PARK

Park Character & Context

English Gardens Park is a linear park located in the central part of the City. The park includes wooded areas, landscaped beds, paths, benches and clearings. The park has multiple pedestrian access points from the surrounding residential neighborhood.

Park Issues

- Limited visibility from the street due to linear nature of the park and surrounding single family residential areas.
- The park is not well known by the community and is mostly used by the surrounding residences.
- Although street frontages are planted with landscaping and have a low fence, there are no park identity signs to delineate park entrances.

Park Potential

The parks greatest potential is its role in linking trails between Alderbrook Park, BPA Trail, Panther Lake Open Space, and West Campus Open Space to form a more interconnected system of trails through the area.

Needs

Near Term

- Install park identity signs at park entrances

Long Term

- Develop trail connections to Alderbrook Park and West Campus Open Space

ENGLISH GARDENS PARK

PARK INFORMATION

1210 SW 333rd St
3.43 acres
Type: Neighborhood Park

KEY FEATURES

Hiking/Walking trail

OTHER FACILITIES

Benches
Picnic tables



Map not
to scale

Vicinity Map



HERITAGE WOODS PARK

Park Character & Context

This small neighborhood park is sited in a new neighborhood in the northeast corner of the City. The park has good access to adjacent streets at three locations. A playground and picnic tables were installed at the time of park dedication. Paved trail was added to access two cul-de-sacs in 2005. The site has a mix of wooded and open areas.

Park Issues

This relatively new park is in good condition. The trail extensions were added in response to requests for better access to the playground through some wet soil conditions. At present only about 1/3 of the site is accessible for recreational use.

Park Potential

With some additional trail extensions, the eastern 2/3 of the site could become accessible, and used to create a walking loop. There are two potential access points that would increase the visibility of this park. There is also a large grassy area that may be suitable for a neighborhood gathering area.

Needs

Near Term

- New monument sign

Long Term

- Extend trail to east and north sides of the property
- Explore neighborhood gathering space.

HERITAGE WOODS PARK

PARK INFORMATION

28159 S 24th Pl
4.01 acres
Type: Neighborhood Park

KEY FEATURES

Play structure
Walking trail

OTHER FACILITIES

Picnic tables




Map not
to scale

LAKE GROVE PARK

Park Character & Context

Lake Grove Park is a heavily wooded site with a paved loop trail, new replacement playground in 2011, small picnic area and basketball court. The park is long and narrow, and only about ¼ of it is developed. Vehicular access is challenging. One car can park at the street end on SW 310th Street, though this could block the adjacent driveway. On SW 308th Street it appears that cars park on the gravel shoulder on an adjacent property. There are multiple access points from two sides of the park. Informal trails indicate the approaches that many users take. Single family residential surrounds the park.

Park Issues

- Very low visibility from 8th and 10th Avenues SW.
- There are no sidewalks. However, the park is near existing or proposed bike lanes or shoulders on SW Dash Point Road and SW 312th St.
- Long, narrow configuration between houses.
- Dense woods and shade

Park Potential

Work with neighborhood residents to identify potential “community gathering place” improvements.

Needs

Near Term

- Provide park signage--Replace main sign on 8th Avenue SW, add small sign on 10th Avenue SW; Directional signage on 10th Avenue SW
- Invasive species management—blackberry and holly

Long Term

- Address trail buckling caused by tree roots
- Provide parking on-site
- Neighborhood workshop to determine need / desire for additional development

LAKE GROVE PARK

PARK INFORMATION

833 SW 308th St

5.0 acres

Type: Neighborhood Park

KEY FEATURES

Play area

- Metal and composite play structure
- Metal swing set

Basketball court (1/2 court)

Hiking/Walking trail

OTHER FACILITIES

Benches

Picnic tables



LAKE KILLARNEY PARK

Park Character & Context

This unique park has a quiet, natural setting on the shore of Lake Killarney. The park is wooded, and contains many native species. A walking trail runs through the park, and features several very attractive water views. Lake Killarney Park is located east of I-5, and south of SR-18. It is immediately south of the World Vision headquarters. Single family housing is located east across the lake, and south of the park. A church is on the west side of Weyerhaeuser Way, which street is the primary access to the park. The street has wide shoulders along most of its length, suitable for pedestrian use, with sidewalks only in front of the World Vision property to the north.

Park Issues

- The park has low visibility from the street and neighboring area due to heavily wooded conditions. Low visibility into the park has contributed to issues with dumping, vandalism and other illegal activities.
- The parking lot is currently closed to the public due to excessive problems with dumping and illegal activity.

Park Potential

The park functions more as an open space with passive recreation uses than a traditional neighborhood park. Improving the trail surface and opening up the park to view from the street may help with some of the current park issues. Providing more or improved facilities or site furnishing could also increase the number of visitors to the park, thus improving its safety and usefulness

Needs

Near term

- Solve parking issues
- Improve pedestrian access from the street
- Improve visibility into park from Weyerhaeuser Way S.
- Enhance view to lake from existing clearing
- Remove invasive plant species

Long Term

- Provide comfortable seating in lake viewing areas
- Create additional seating/gathering areas in the park

LAKE KILLARNEY PARK

PARK INFORMATION

34902 Weyerhaeuser Way S

11.0 acres

Type: Neighborhood Park

KEY FEATURES

Lake Killarney

Walking/Biking trail

Canoe/kayak water access

OTHER FACILITIES

Picnic tables

Mini-amphitheater seating

Off-street Parking



Map not
to scale

Vicinity Map



LAURELWOOD PARK

Park Character & Context

Laurelwood is a mostly wooded neighborhood park with a large multi-purpose grass field, located within a residential area. The park's main walk-in entrance is located near the T intersection of S. 292nd St and 23rd Ave S.

Park Issues

- Poor visibility into the park due to the size, shape, heavily wooded conditions and the surrounding residential parcels adjacent to the park.
- The park had been a private Home Owners' Association (HOA) maintained park until they turned it over to the City in 2009 due to economic impacts.
- The park was initially cleaned up and an old play structure and backstop was removed that were not up to code. Storm water structures were cleaned and improvements made.

Park Potential

Laurelwood Park serves a residential neighborhood in the north part of the City. Future park improvements could include addition of a new backstop and fencing for the multipurpose field, playground, trail system through the greenbelt and connection points to the south and west.

Needs

Near term

- Park identity sign: add a new park monument sign at the 23rd Ave S entrance
- Provide additional trash receptacles
- Invasive species management- blackberry, moles

Long Term

- Park Master plan development
- Addition of backstop and fencing
- Play structure
- Hard surface court improvement
- Formal trail system and additional connection points into the park
- Benches
- Parking area considerations

MADRONA PARK

Park Character & Context

Madrona Park is a new park with facilities constructed in 2005. The park and Phase IV of the BPA trail follow the BPA transmission lines. The BPA Trail terminates within the park. The center of the site is largely wetland and associated buffer and is heavily vegetated with wetland plant species. The developed portions of the park include a play structure, BPA trail extension, and site furnishings. Vehicular access to the park is available from 15th Ave. SW between SW 356th St and SW 362nd St. Pedestrian access is available along SW 356th St and 15th Ave SW. A pedestrian crossing at SW 356th St/BPA Trail, including a refuge island, was installed during the BPA Trail extension (Phase IV). Adjacent land uses surrounding the park are primarily single family residential. The northern edge of the park is visible from SW 356th St., a principal arterial.

Park Issues

- Wetlands and utilities on the site limit future development of the park.
- Any development must be coordinated with BPA, public utilities (power) and Tacoma (water pipeline #5).

Park Potential

The BPA Trail terminates at this park. Future extension of the trail (BPA Trail Phase V) has the potential to connect to Pierce County. The County has long range plans for a trail connection, making it a regional trail system. Madrona Meadows, a city-owned open space, is also adjacent to the park on the north side of S 356th St.

Needs

Near-term

- Picnic tables with concrete pads
- Install a vehicle control system to keep vehicles out of the park and off the trail.

Long Term

- Extend BPA trail to southern City limits once Pierce County makes progress on trail development to link the two trail systems into a larger regional system.
- Manage invasive species (blackberry).

MADRONA PARK

PARK INFORMATION

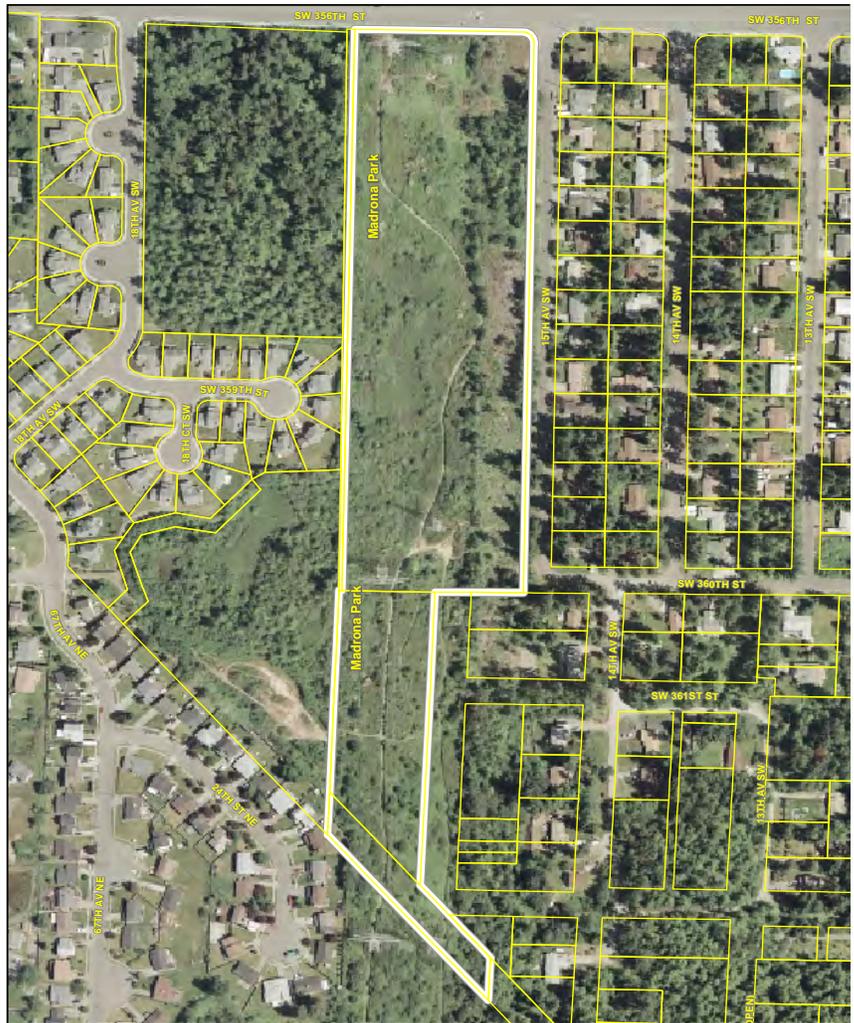
SW 356th & 15th Ave SW to
SW 363rd
19.8 acres
Type: Neighborhood Park

KEY FEATURES

- Play area
- Play structure
 - Swing set
- Nature/wetland area
Walking/Biking trail
Connects to BPA Trail

OTHER FACILITIES

Benches



Vicinity Map



Map not
to scale

MIRROR LAKE PARK

Park Character & Context

This park contains 3.43 acres of land located off South 315th Avenue. Facilities at the site include a small playground area and large open lawn area. The character of the site is fairly level and partially wooded with a mixture of understory vegetation. The park has limited access from adjacent residential areas and is only accessible from two small dead-end streets.

Park Issues

- Limited parking
- Site visibility
- Invasive Species
- There are no sidewalks in the vicinity of the park

Park Potential

- This park serves the local neighborhood. The park is tucked away behind single family residential and is not readily visible from the street. This park will continue to serve the neighborhood immediately surrounding it. The park is located near Mirror Lake Elementary School.
- Thinning some of the tree cover near the play structure may help to open up the site and allow more sunlight in the play area and seating.

Needs

Long Term

- Work with local neighbors, identify potential for other recreation uses at the park, particularly the potential of the large open lawn area
- Monitor older play structure for future replacement and upgrade.

MIRROR LAKE PARK

PARK INFORMATION

915 S 315th St

3.43 acres

Type: Neighborhood Park

KEY FEATURES

Wood play set

Hiking/Walking trail

OTHER FACILITIES

Benches

Picnic tables



Map not
to scale

Vicinity Map



OLYMPIC VIEW PARK

Park Character & Context

Olympic View Park consists primarily of a heavily wooded ravine, with two flat areas at each end of the property. The park abuts a longer open space site to the south, Woodbridge Park Open Space. Playground structures and some site furnishings are present on the upland areas at the northeast end of the park.

The park is located between 30th Avenue SW and 32nd Avenue SW. Vehicular access is limited, although about two parking spaces are present near the NE entry. The park has four pedestrian access points and neighborhood residents actively use the informal trails that traverse the open space and park. The neighborhood has few sidewalks.

Park Issues

- Steep slopes in the ravine limit the accessibility of a trail system.
- Limited visibility of the park entries and its secluded nature limit the awareness of the presence of this park.

Park Potential

- Olympic View Park is a quiet, secluded park that has the potential for expanded usability with development of a trail system that connects to the open space south of the park. Well-designed entries and improved seating/gathering areas around two open grass areas would attract more users and offer more possibilities for use.
- High potential for creation of linear park-type trail system through Olympic View.

Needs

Near term

- Park identity sign at each entry (4)
- Invasive plant species and mole management
- Graffiti removal
- Asphalt path repair
- New trash receptacles and benches

Long Term

- Seating/gathering areas in two upland areas
- Develop a formal Trail system through the ravine, connecting with open spaces and neighborhood entry points.

OLYMPIC VIEW PARK

PARK INFORMATION

29th Ave SW & SW 330th

21.0 acres

Type: Neighborhood Park

KEY FEATURES

Open play area

- Play structure
- Swing set

Hiking/Walking trail

Joe's Creek

OTHER FACILITIES

Picnic tables



Map not to scale

PALISADES PARK

Park Character & Context

This 4.5-acre park is located off Dash Point Road. Facilities at the site include a basketball court, play equipment, open lawn area and a trail system. A small parking area that contains six spaces is located adjacent to the roadway. The park contains two areas, the fairly open park area where the play structure, trail, and basketball court are located. The rear of the site is a wooded condition with limited improvements. The park has some limited view of Puget Sound.

Park Issues

- A storm ditch along the roadway prevents parallel parking near the park.

Needs

Near Term

- Resurface/paint basketball court

PALISADES PARK

PARK INFORMATION

5039 Dash Point Road

4.5 acres

Type: Neighborhood Park

KEY FEATURES

Play area

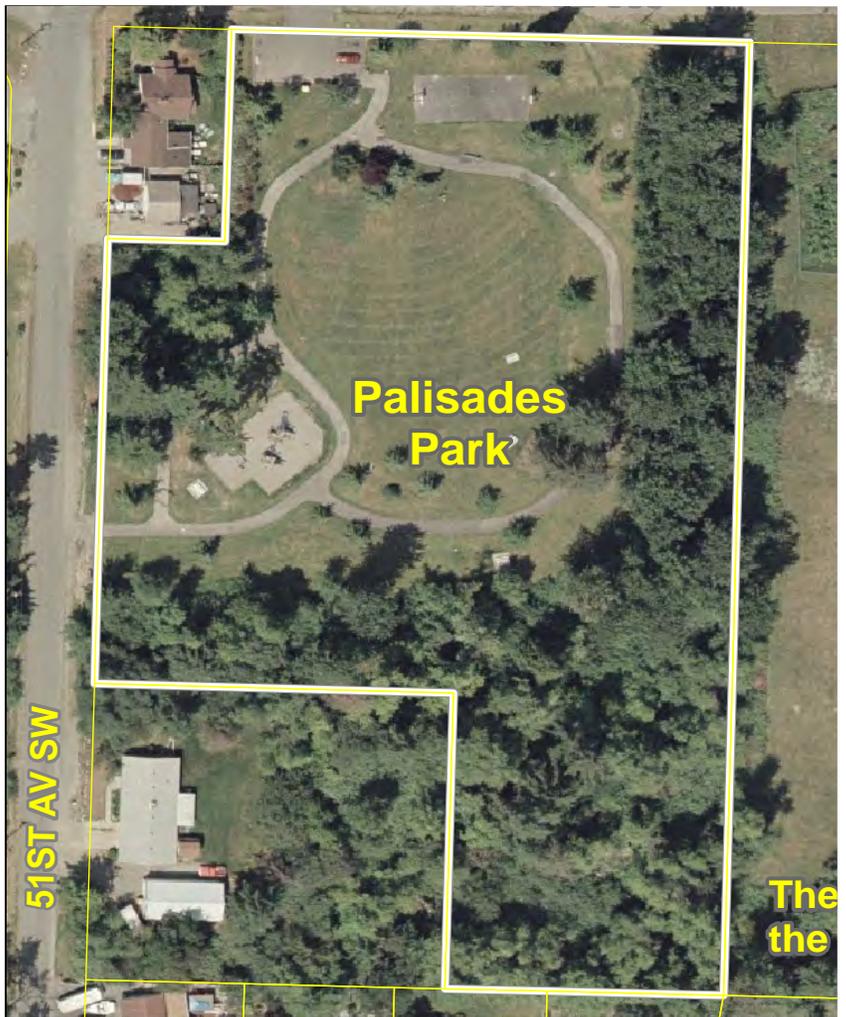
Basketball court

Walking/Hiking trail

OTHER FACILITIES

Benches

Picnic tables



Map not
to scale

Vicinity Map



SW 312TH SPORTS COURTS

Park Character & Context

This site consists entirely of three paved sports courts, including one basketball court, one tennis court and one pickleball court, placed end to end. The two larger courts are enclosed with high fencing, and one gate serves both courts. The pickleball court has fencing only at the ends of the court. The courts are depressed into the site by about 3 feet, due to the site is a detention pond, though it rarely holds any water.

A natural vegetative screen north of the courts provides a buffer between the sports activities and the adjacent homes. However, homes on each end of the courts have direct views of the courts. There is good vehicular access from SW 312th Street, a minor arterial. There are no sidewalks in this neighborhood or on the site.

Park Issues

- Since the park is not signed well, and does not have parking, it is not immediately evident that this is a public property.
- There is no formalized parking on the site, and visitors park on random gravel pads along the edge of the street.
- Drainage and erosion problems are evident.
- There is no seating and very limited pedestrian circulation on the site.

Park Potential

SW 312th Sports Courts is a “special use” neighborhood park because it offers an important and unique resource to the community. The courts might receive more use with needed improvements such as seating areas, parking and sidewalks. This must be balanced with their close proximity to residents, who are sometimes affected by noise from the courts.

Needs

Near Term

- Benches
- Park sign
- Plantings to screen residences

Long Term

- Paved parking
- Pedestrian walkways
- Address drainage and erosion problems, possibly with concrete block wall around edge of courts that can double as seating.

SW 312TH SPORTS COURTS

PARK INFORMATION

SW 312th & 11th Ave S

2.0 acres

Type: Neighborhood Park

KEY FEATURES

Basketball court

Tennis court

Pickleball court



Map not
to scale

Vicinity Map



WEDGEWOOD PARK

Park Character & Context

This neighborhood park is completely surrounded by single family residential. There are multiple access points into the park in breaks between the single family houses. Access is from SW 339th Street and SW 337th Street. The park is primarily an open area with tree cover along the perimeter to buffer adjacent neighbors.

Park Issues

- This park is under utilized, likely in part due to its location tucked behind single family homes.
- Neighbors have encroached on park property with fences.

Park Potential

- This park serves the local residents and will continue to serve this function. Future improvements should address street presence of the park and upgrades for safety.

Needs

Near Term

- Address fence encroachment by adjoining property owners.

WEDGEWOOD PARK

PARK INFORMATION

3913 SW 337th St

3.09 acres

Type: Neighborhood Park

KEY FEATURES

Play area

Hiking/Walking trail

OTHER FACILITIES

Picnic tables



Map not to scale

WILDWOOD PARK

Park Character & Context

This 2.43 acre park is situated off SW 300th Street, adjacent to Wildwood Elementary School. The park is located in a secluded wooded setting, with a gently rolling topography centered along a small drainage swale. Facilities at the site include a new playground area in 2010, an informal lawn area, and an eight-foot wide paved trail.

The park is surrounded by single-family residential and Wildwood Elementary School is located to the east. Pedestrian access to the park is located off of 23rd Street South.

Park Issues

- Heavily wooded. Sight lines are limited by native vegetation.

Park Potential

Continue as a low-key neighborhood park.

Needs

Near Term

- Install new park monument sign

WILDWOOD PARK

PARK INFORMATION

2315 S 300th St

2.43 acres

Type: Neighborhood Park

KEY FEATURES

Metal and composite play structure and separate toddler play area

Hiking/Walking trail

Wooden bridge over a drainage swale

OTHER FACILITIES

Benches

Picnic Tables



Vicinity Map

WINCO PARK

Park Character & Context

This small park is situated between the Winco Shopping Center and West Campus Drive. Half of the site is improved with a small plaza and benches in association with a maintained turf area. The other half is a native woodland area.

WINCO PARK

PARK INFORMATION

Off of SW Campus Drive
1.6 acres
Primary entry is from the Winco Shopping Center parking lot
Type: Neighborhood Park

KEY FEATURES

Paved plaza
Benches
Trash cans
Landscaping
Pedestrian lighting



Vicinity Map



OPEN
SPACES

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ALMA BENNET OPEN SPACE

PARK INFORMATION

SW 363rd Street and 13th Avenue SW

Type: Open Space
7.7Acres

Property Description

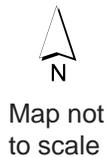
Originally known as; SW 363rd Open Space, its name was officially changed to Alma Bennett in 2009. It is approximately 7.7 acres located along the southern City Limits. The open space is comprised of 14 parcels and undeveloped rights-of-way. Alma Bennet is located in a single family neighborhood.

Open Space Value

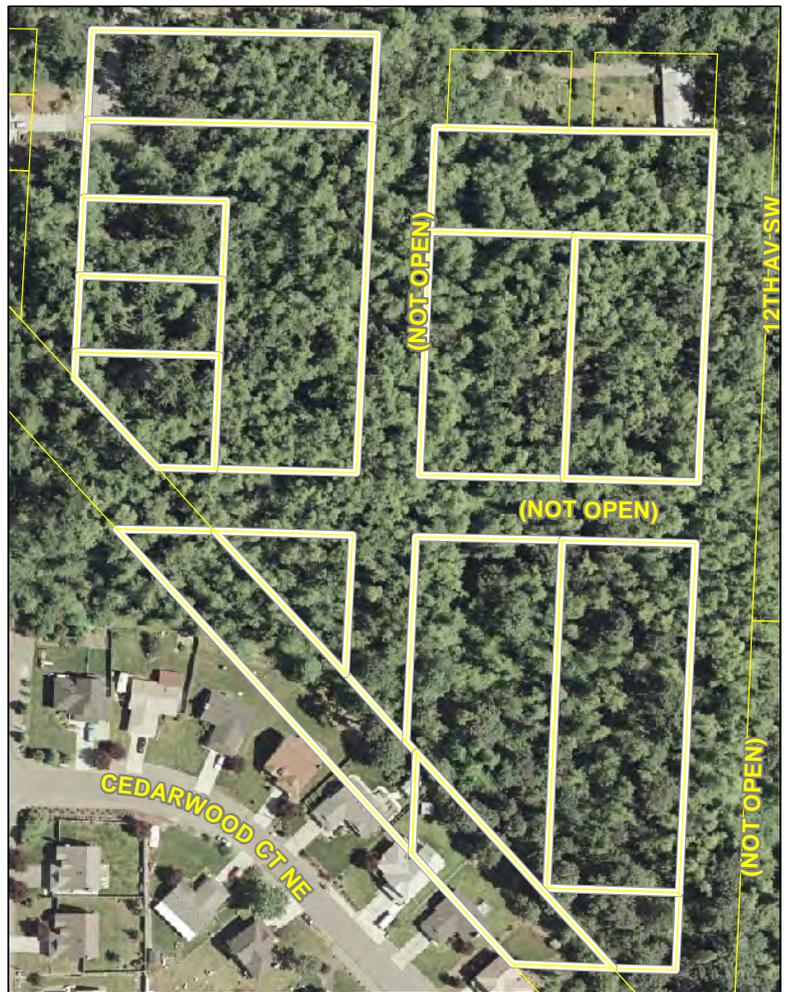
- Habitat
- Breathing room open space

Future Use Potential

Explore site as a potential location for future park development to serve the south portion of the City based on need and demand.



Vicinity Map



BRIGHTON PARK OPEN SPACE

PARK INFORMATION

Parcel lies between 12th Ave SW and 10th Ct SW along the southern City Limits

Type: Open Space
7.64Acres

Property Description

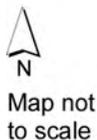
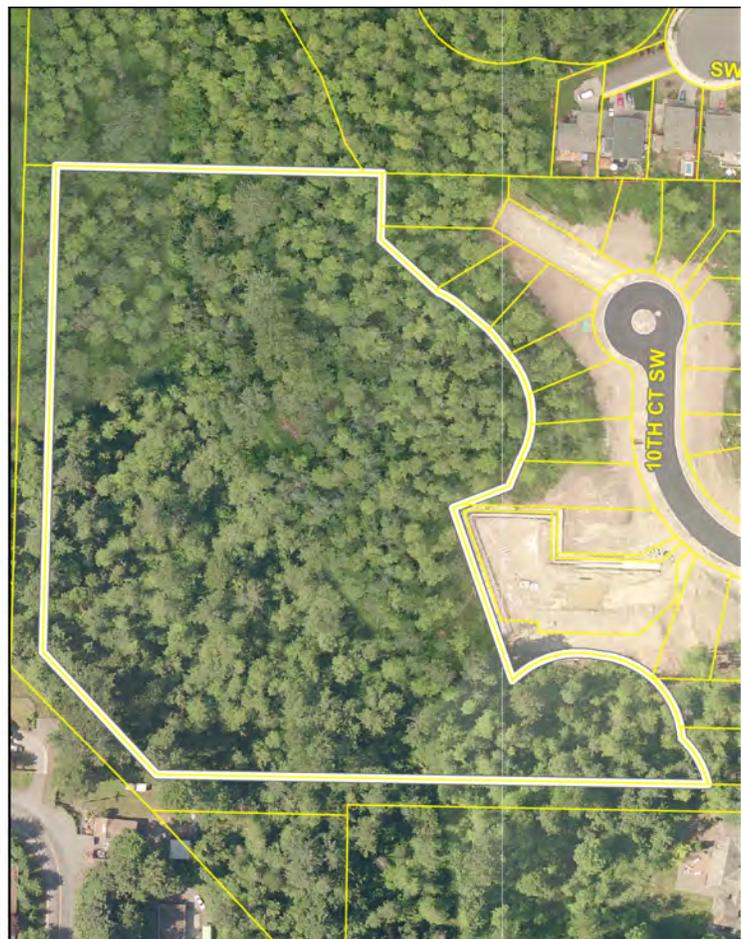
Brighton Place Open Space is approximately 7.64 acres located along the southern City limits and just east of Alma Bennet Open Space. The open space is undeveloped, contains dense tree cover, and has some environmentally sensitive areas. The open space was added to City inventory in 2008 through development mitigation and is located in a single family neighborhood.

Open Space Value

- Habitat
- Greenbelt
- Breathing room open space

Future Use Potential

Development potential is likely limited to passive recreation/trail improvements due to presence of environmentally sensitive areas.



CAMELOT OPEN SPACE

PARK INFORMATION

Type: Open Space
12.6 Acres

KEY FEATURES

Underdeveloped Land

Property Description

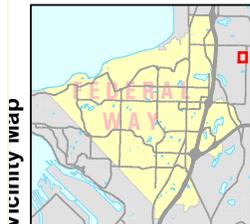
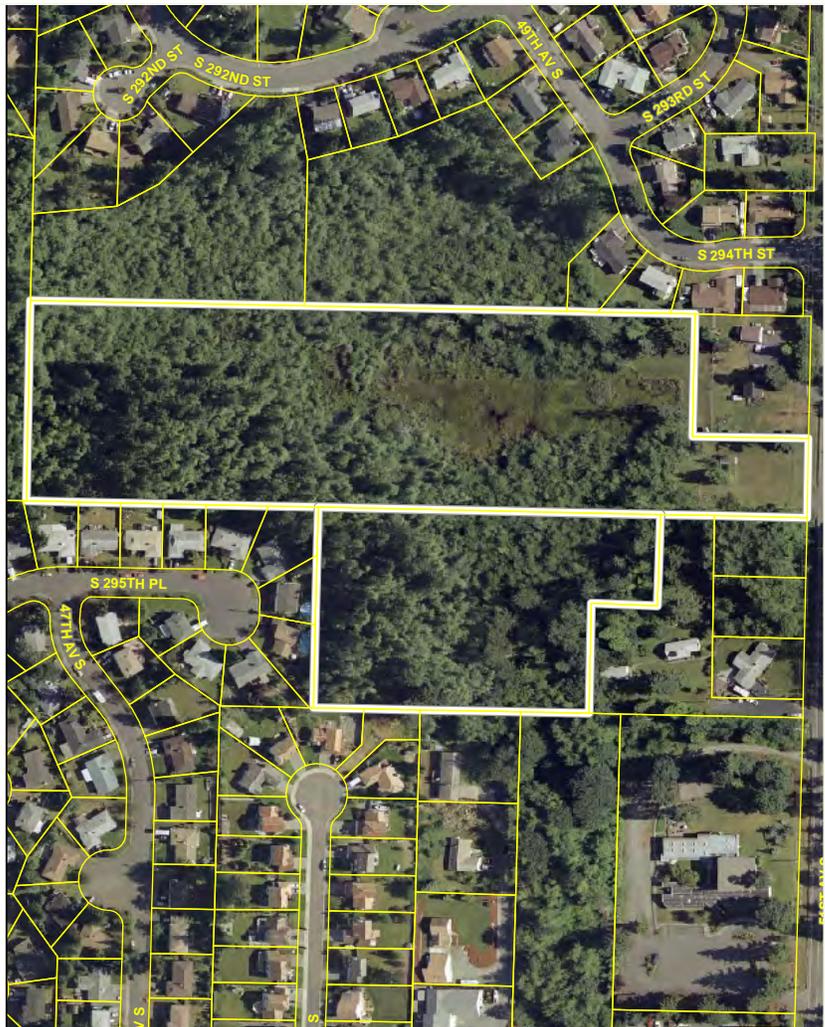
This 12.6-acre open space is located in unincorporated King County, adjacent to the County's Camelot Park. The open space is undeveloped, contains dense tree cover, and has environmentally sensitive areas.

Habitat/Open Space Value

- Wetland
- Greenbelt

Future Use/Development Potential

Development potential likely limited to passive recreation/trail improvements due to presence of environmentally sensitive areas.



Map not to scale

FISHER'S POND OPEN SPACE

PARK INFORMATION

S 320th and 7th Ave SW

Type: Open Space

13.43 Acres

KEY FEATURES

Wetlands

Year round Pond

OTHER FACILITIES

Gravel parking lot from previous use.



Vicinity Map



Map not to scale

FISHER'S POND OPEN SPACE

Park Character & Context

Fisher's Pond is approximately 13 acres located along 320th St. SW. The site primarily consists of Fisher's Pond and associated wetlands. A series of informal trails are located on the west side of the site. Single family residential uses are located to the north and west and multi-family residential is located to the east. S 320th Street is located to the south.

Open Space Value

- Wildlife Habitat
- Environmentally Sensitive Areas

Future Use Potential

- The site could serve location to educate the community on the natural history of Federal Way through interpretive signage and displays.
- Potential picnic rental site could be developed

Needs

Near Term

- None

Long Term

- Develop Master Plan

KENWOOD OPEN SPACE

PARK INFORMATION

SW 354th St and 7th Ave SW

6.34 acres

Type: Open Space

Property Description

Kenwood Open Space is located in the south part of the City. It is the site of a former gravel operation. The open space is currently in a natural state, with heavy tree cover. The site is located in a single family residential neighborhood.

Open Space Value

- Habitat Value
- Connects to a larger system owned by a homeowner's association

Future Use Potential

Explore potential for future neighborhood park at this site based on need and demand to serve the residential population in the south part of the City.



Map not to scale

LAKOTA WETLANDS

PARK INFORMATION

21st Ave SW and south of
Lakota Park
16.85 Acres
Type: Open Space

Property Description

This 16.85 acre open space is currently undeveloped with dense tree cover and wetlands. The site contains environmentally sensitive areas. The open space is surrounded by single family housing and Lakota Middle School.

Open Space Value

- Greenbelt
- Environmental sensitive area protection

Future Use Potential

- Passive Recreation/Potential Trail connections



MADRONA MEADOWS OPEN SPACE

PARK INFORMATION

SW 354th Place and 13th Way SW
 6.18 acres
 Type: Open Space

Property Description

Madrona Meadows is located adjacent to Phase III of the BPA Trail. The open space is accessible from 13th Way SW. The site is currently undeveloped. It includes some wetlands and associated vegetation. The open space is surrounded by single family residential

Habitat/Open Space Value

- Environmentally sensitive area
- Wetland
- Adjacent to larger open space and BPA trail

Future Use Potential

A connection from the BPA Trail to this site, and the construction of a loop trail within Madrona Meadows would make this site a destination along the BPA, and create a neighborhood walking route through an interesting ecological setting.



Vicinity Map



Map not to scale

PANTHER LAKE OPEN SPACE

Park Character & Context

This 78.72-acre site is located along Southwest Campus Drive. The open space trail system around Panther Lake connects to the BPA Trail and West Campus Trail.

Park Potential

Panther Lake Open Space has the potential to be an integral hub in a system of trails and open space links. It currently serves this function already by connecting to the BPA Trail and West Campus Trail. Panther Lake Open Space is connected to Celebration Park and Madrona Park via the current BPA Trail system. Future improvements could link Panther Lake to Alderbrook Park to the north and West Hylebos Wetlands Park to the south.

The open space also has the potential for enhanced public access and educational opportunities such as interpretive signage. This site is a popular location for Eagle Scout projects.

Needs

Near Term

- Develop a Master Plan for the Open Space that identifies enhanced public access opportunities, interpretive features, invasive species management, and environmental considerations/constraints.
- Enhance trail connections.
- Improve the trail around Panther Lake
- Potential formal Park development with parking and passive use.
- Develop an Eagle Scout project list.

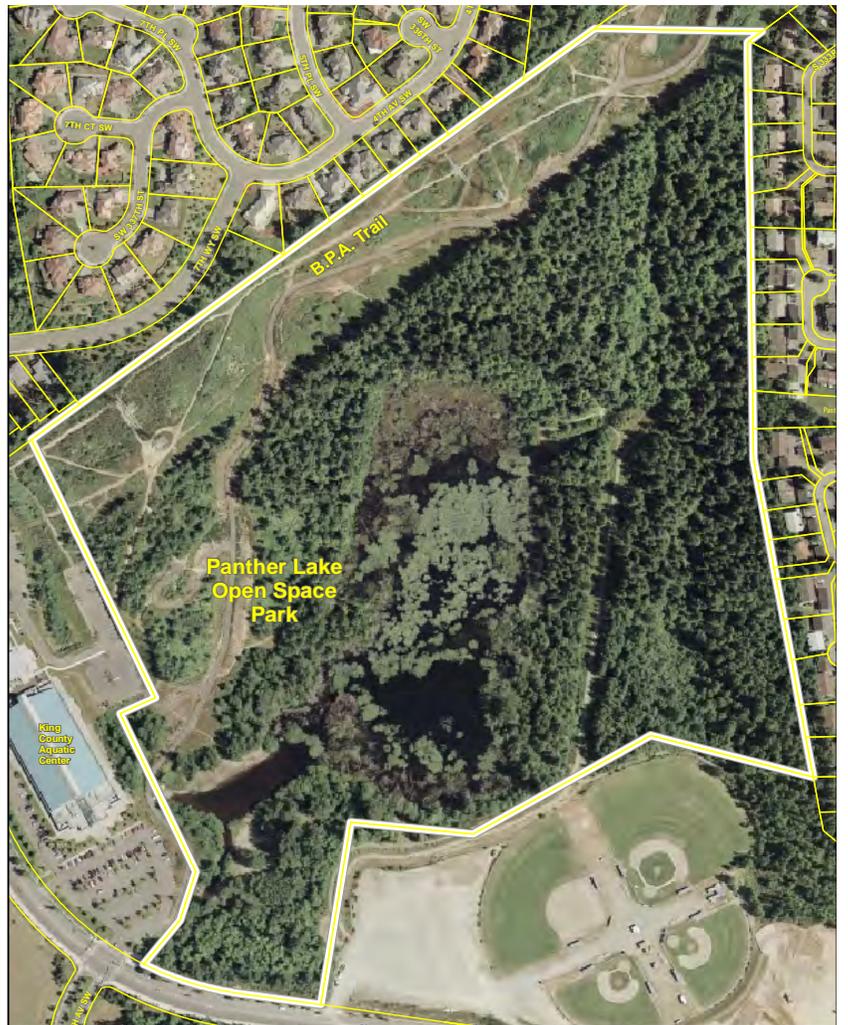
PANTHER LAKE OPEN SPACE

PARK INFORMATION

SW Campus Dr and 7th Wy SW
78.72 acres
Type: Open Space

KEY FEATURES

Panther Lake
Wetland nature area
Trails
Located at the intersection of
West Campus and BPA trails.



Vicinity Map



Map not
to scale

POVERTY BAY OPEN SPACE

Park Character and Context

Poverty Bay is an undeveloped site located on Puget Sound. The open space includes three parcels for a total of 59.5 acres. The site has dense tree cover, steep slope area, and sits on a bluff overlooking Puget Sound.

Open Space Value

- Shoreline Access
- Wildlife Habitat
- Informal public access trails
- Environmentally Sensitive Areas (steep slopes and wetlands)

Future Use Potential

- Future passive recreation uses such as trail and shoreline access. A feasibility study for Poverty Bay open space would help to identify environmental constraints and the site's potential for passive recreation uses.
- Explore potential for Washington Water Association trail access point

Needs

Near Term

- Feasibility study to evaluate environmental constraints and potential for public use.

POVERTY BAY OPEN SPACE

PARK INFORMATION

SW Dash Point Rd and 28th Ave SW
59.5 acres
Type: Open Space

KEY FEATURES

Wetlands
Shoreline access
Land Hazard Area



Map not to scale

TWIN LAKES VISTA OPEN SPACE

PARK INFORMATION

SW 325th Way and 47th Avenue SW
3.9 acres
Type: Open Space

Property Description

Twin Lakes Vista Open Space is approximately 3.9 acres. The site is currently undeveloped and is located immediately south of Dash Point State Park, which contributes to its overall wooded character. The open space is accessed from SW 325th Place or a cul-de-sac on 48th Avenue SW. The site contains wetlands throughout.

Open Space Value

- Environmentally sensitive areas
- Wildlife Habitat

Future Use Potential

Potential trailhead into the trail system at Dash Point State Park.



Vicinity Map



Map not to scale

WEST CAMPUS OPEN SPACE

PARK INFORMATION

11th Ave SW and SW 330th St
57.0 acres
Type: Open Space

KEY FEATURES

Underdeveloped Land
Wetlands

Property Description

West Campus Open Space is located in the center of the City. It consists of several adjacent parcels, and is surrounded by single and multi-family residential. There are multiple pedestrian access points to this open space from the surrounding neighborhood.

Open Space Value

- Greenbelt
- Environmentally sensitive areas
- Public Access/Trails

Future Use Potential

This open space presents an opportunity to provide trail linkages to English Gardens Park, Panther Lake Open Space, BPA Trail, and West Campus Trail to more fully connect trails and sidewalks in the area.



Map not
to scale

WEST HYLEBOS

PARK INFORMATION

183.83 Acres

Type: Open Space

KEY FEATURES

Undeveloped Land

Environmentally Sensitive Areas

Property Description

This 183.83-acre open space is comprised of twelve parcels that were acquired from King County and other private property owners. Recent acquisitions by the City's Surface Water Management Department has increased the open space acreage. The open space is undeveloped and has dense tree cover. The site also contains environmentally sensitive areas such as wetlands.

Open Space Value

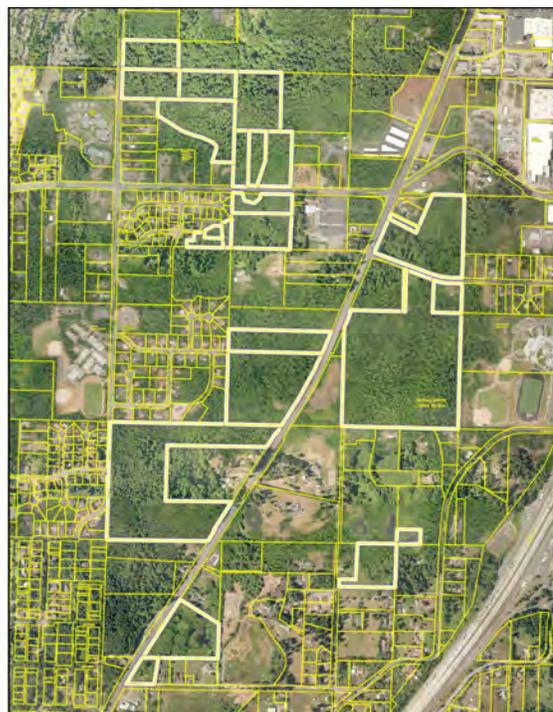
- Greenbelt
- Environmentally sensitive area protection

Park Potential

West Hylebos Wetlands Open Space is connected to the West Hylebos Wetland Park and helps to protect the park and preserve additional sensitive areas.

Future Use Potential

This open space presents an opportunity to provide trail linkages to the boardwalk and possible sidewalks in the area. Potential nature trail system.



TRAILS

BPA TRAIL

Park Character & Context

The BPA Trail is one of the more heavily used recreation facilities in the City. The paved trail measures 3.64 miles in length and connects Celebration Park to Madrona Park, and also connects with West Campus Trail. The BPA trail has a rolling topography and occasional views to Mt. Rainier.

Park Issues

- Extensive invasive species such as Scotch Broom and Blackberry.
- Except where the trail intersects with major arterials, there is limited visibility into portions of the BPA right-of-way.
- Safe pedestrian crossings where the trail crosses major arterials.

Park Potential

The BPA Trail right-of-way includes a large area, yet only the trail is currently usable recreation space. Additional uses that can help to activate the right-of-way should be explored in greater detail, such as the setting for a potential dog park, BMX track, community gardens, etc. Given the high use and interest in the trail, the BPA trail also has the opportunity to tap into community volunteer/stewardship to clean up and maintain the BPA right-of-way.

Needs

Near Term

- Explore other uses for the right-of-way that can help to activate the space

Long Term Needs

- Phase V BPA Trail to extend trail to southern City limits in coordination with Pierce County park planning efforts.

BPA TRAIL

PARK INFORMATION

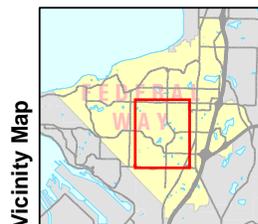
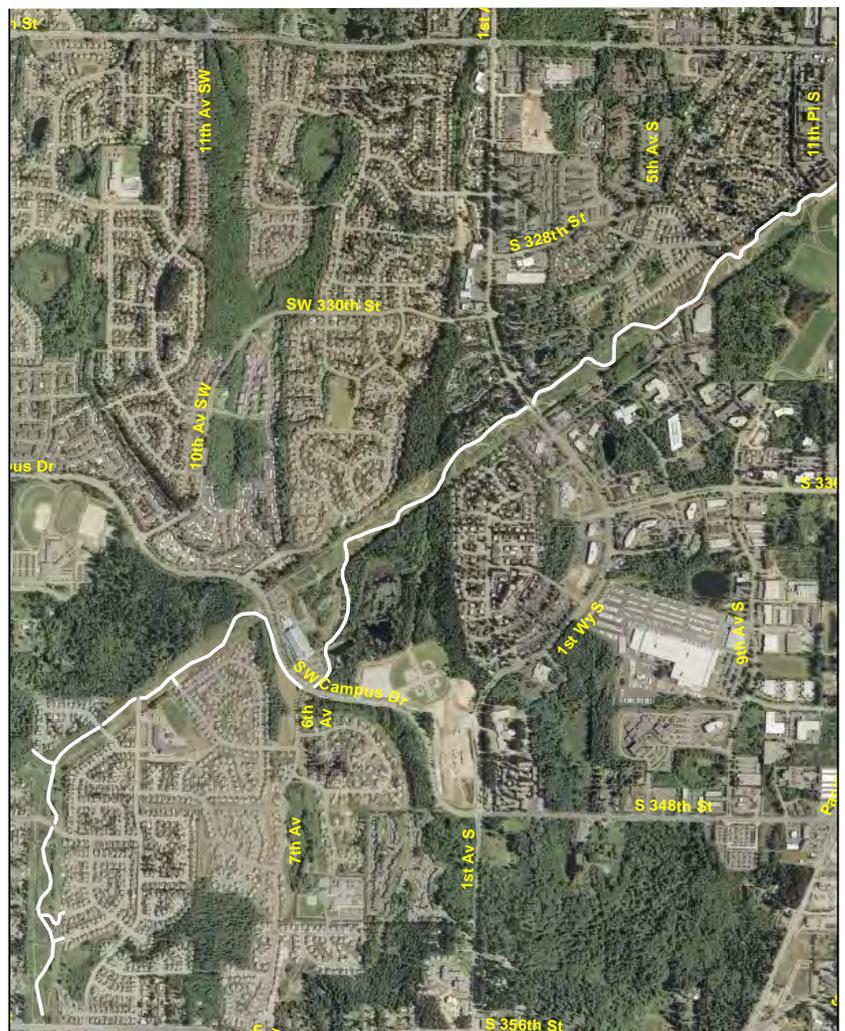
1100 S 324th St/1540 SW
356th St
3.64 miles
Type: Trail

KEY FEATURES

Walking/Biking trail
Wetland nature area

OTHER FACILITIES

Benches



Vicinity Map



Map not
to scale

WEST CAMPUS TRAIL

Park Character & Context

This park contains 27.8 acres situated along a wooded hillside and is located off SW 320th and SW 336th between 1st and 2nd Avenues. The trail continues south until reaching the BPA power lines at Panther Lake Open Space. Facilities at the site are limited to an eight-foot wide paved trail that extends approximately one mile. Surrounding land uses include single-family residential and multifamily residential.

Park Issues

There is root damage to some areas of the asphalt path.

Park Potential

- Connects residential area to larger BPA trail system and Panther Lake

Needs

- Address uneven surfaces

WEST CAMPUS TRAIL

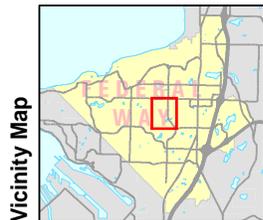
PARK INFORMATION

27.8 acres (1.04 miles)

Type: Trail

KEY FEATURES

1.04 miles walking/biking trail



Vicinity Map

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City of Federal Way Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan

APPENDIX B: ATHLETIC FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Final Plan
January 2013

Please note that only the sections on Swimming Pools and Gymnasiums have been updated.
A major update will be undertaken at a future date.

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Athletic Facility Needs Assessment

In addition to the needs for the different park classifications, an analysis of athletic facilities was also prepared to understand current deficiencies and future needs. The analysis of athletic facilities is based on anecdotal feedback from the public outreach process, recreation staff observations, and level of service calculations. The level of service standards recommended in this Plan for athletic facilities is based on the 2000 Comprehensive Park, Recreation, and Open Space Plan. Table B-1 depicts the level of service calculations for baseball/softball, soccer, football, basketball, tennis, and swimming pools. Table B-1 shows both the National Recreation and Parks Association standards as well as the standards adopted as a part of the 2000 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan. National Recreation and Parks Association standards are often referred to as a baseline for determining level of service standards, however many jurisdictions find that they do not accurately reflect particular community needs.

BASEBALL/ADULT SOFTBALL

According to the most recent inventory of baseball/adult softball fields the City is meeting its level of service standard of 1 field per 7,000 residents by having a current service level of 1 field per 3,886 residents. However, according to input received during the public outreach process, there is a perceived shortage of regulation sized baseball fields with 90' bases as well as fields that are lit. Currently, there are 13 adult-sized baseball fields within the City. There are 14 softball fields within the City Boundaries, and 3 more in the PAA. By 2012, if no additional facilities are built, the City will easily fulfill the desired level of service of 1 field per 7,000 persons.

LITTLE LEAGUE/YOUTH SOFTBALL

There are 35 little league/youth fields in the City. These fields meet the City's level of service standard of 1 field per 7,000 persons and will also meet the same standard given the 2017 projected population for the City. There are 11 little league/youth fields in the PAA. When calculating for both the current City boundaries and the PAA the level of service is one field per 2,415 residents. Given the 2017 projected population for both the City and PAA, the City will continue to meet its level of service standard, providing 1 field per 2,524 residents. No additional fields will be needed to fulfill a 2017 standard of 1 field per 7,000 persons.

Appendix B: Athletic Facilities Needs Assessment

Table B-1: Athletic Facilities LOS Analysis

Facility Type	Current Facility Inventory	NRPA Standard	Current Service Levels (# of facilities per population)	Currently meeting standard?	City Standard	Additional projected facilities needed by 2017 to meet LOS standards
Adult Baseball/ Softball Fields (City Only)	23	1/5,000 population	1/ 3,886	yes	1/7,000 population	0
City + PAA	30	1/5,000 population	1/ 3,702	yes	1/7,000 population	0
Youth Baseball/ Softball Fields (City Only)	35	1/5,000 population	1/ 2,553	yes	1/7,000 population	0
City + PAA	46	1/5,000 population	1/ 2,415	yes	1/7,000 population	0
Soccer Fields (City Only)	24	1/10,000 population	1/ 3,724	yes	1/2,300 population	17
City + PAA	30	1/10,000 population	1/ 3,702	yes	1/2,300 population	20
Football Fields (City Only)	7	1/20,000 population	1/ 12,767	yes	1/10,000 population	2
City + PAA	10	1/20,000 population	1/ 11,108	yes	1/10,000 population	2
Tennis Courts (City Only)	25	1/2,000 population	1/ 3,575	no	1/2,500 population	12
City + PAA	27	1/2,000 population	1/ 4,114	no	1/ 2,500 population	25
Swimming Pools (City Only)	5	1/20,000 population	1/ 17,874	yes	142.7 sq. ft./1,000 population	
City + PAA	5	1/20,000 population	1/ 22,216	no	142.7 sq. ft./1,000 population	

Population Assumptions: Population based on April 1, 2011 OFM population estimate projected to determine the 2017 population. The same annual growth rate was applied to the PAA for the purposes of this analysis. Population figures are as follows: 2011 City population = 89,370, 2017 City population = 93,369; 2011 City +PAA = 111,078; 2017 City +PAA = 116,124.

SOCCER

There are currently 24 soccer fields within the City including City and School District properties. These provide 1 field per 3,724 residents, which represents a deficiency of approximately 15 fields based on the City's higher recommended standard of 1 field per 2,300 residents (see Table B.1 for comparison to other field standards). This deficiency may actually be an underestimate based on current demand. According to public and staff input there appears to be a need for unprogrammed soccer fields based on current use patterns. For example, there is a growing demand for soccer which may be stimulated by new arrivals from countries with a strong soccer tradition. Since 2000 the City has been successful in improving usage of existing soccer fields by turfing and lighting fields. However, according to staff and public input, there are more improvements that could be made in order to increase utilization of fields, including improving drainage on some fields and lighting more fields. For 2017 population projections the City will continue to be deficient in soccer fields even when the 6 fields within the PAA are considered. Calculations show that an additional 17 fields will be needed to accommodate soccer demand in 2017, and 20 fields if including the PAA population if the City's higher standard is adhered to.

BASKETBALL

There is anecdotal demand for additional basketball courts, especially for informal play/"pick up" ball. Similar to soccer field use, groups within the community use the basketball courts at parks and schools regularly, even though they are not associated with a basketball league. There are a total of 8 basketball courts in the City. The City does not currently have a level of service standard for basketball.

GYMNASIUMS

There is currently a perceived shortage of gymnasiums in the City. Most of the gyms in the City are located in the local schools, and there are three gyms in the community center. Recreation providers in the City who offer athletics programs (such as the Boys & Girls Club) all vie for the same gymnasium space. Many of the schools offer Boys & Girls Club sponsored athletic programs. The schools also have their own athletic programs that need to use these gymnasiums. As a result, City programs planned in school gymnasiums often get 'bumped' for things like school bands, plays, etc. This requires close coordination between City recreation and school district staff to schedule use of the gyms.

TENNIS

Although the level of service analysis indicates that there is a shortage of tennis courts in the community, public outreach and national trends indicate a declining interest in tennis. The City has several tennis courts that are not fully utilized. The NRPA service standard of 1 court per 2,000 persons is not currently being met by the 25 courts within the City, and 27 courts when including the PAA. A lower standard of 1 facility per 2,500 persons can be met by 2017 if 12 more facilities are built within City boundaries, or 25 if including the PAA. However, given current public use, this does not appear to be a priority for the City.

FOOTBALL

There are currently 7 football fields within the City boundaries, and 3 in the PAA. This includes football fields at the local schools. These fields fulfill the current standard of 1 field per 20,000 persons. A desired service standard of 1 field per 10,000 persons can be achieved by 2017 with the construction of two fields with either the current city boundaries, or with the inclusion of the PAA.

SWIMMING POOLS

The City maintains and operates two swimming pools at the Community Center, a six lane lap and a zero depth entry leisure pool. The Weyerhaeuser King County Aquatic Center offers 3 pools – a 50 meter pool, a 25 meter pool, and a diving tank. The City's current level of service standard is based upon a surface area calculation and not on the number of pools/population.

City of Federal Way Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan Update

**APPENDIX C:
PARK AND OPEN SPACE EVALUATION
MATRICES**

Final Plan
January 2013

**Table C.1
Community Park Evaluation Matrix**

Community Park Name	CONSTRAINTS			POTENTIAL												
	Environmental Critical Areas	Invasive Species	Poor Drainage	Non-regulation Fields	Unconnected (no sidewalks or trails)	Inadequate Lighting	Inadequate Parking	Undeveloped Land	Accessibility	Views	Trail Connection Potential	Parking	Passive Uses	Proximity to Multi-Family	Adjacent to School	Adjacent to Other Public Land
Celebration	●	●							●	●			●	●		●
Dumas Bay Centre	●	●			●	●	●	●		●		●	●			●
Dumas Bay Sanctuary	●	●	●		●	●		●	●	●			●			
French Lake Park			●			●	●		●					●		●
Hylebos Blueberry Farm	●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●		●	●	●		●	●
Lakota	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●	●		●	●	●
Sacajawea			●	●	●	●		●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●
Saghalie			●			●	●				●	●	●		●	●
Steel Lake	●				●	●	●		●		●	●	●	●	●	●
West Hylebos Wetland Park	●	●	●			●	●	●	●		●	●	●	●		●

**Table C.2
Neighborhood Park Evaluation Matrix**

Neighborhood Park Name	Constraints								Potential/Opportunities	Arterial/Collector Access	Inviting/Street Appeal	Parking Opportunities	Potential Gathering Space	Shoreline Access	Native Vegetation	Sense of Place	Views	Underused/ Land Area Available	Potential Trail/Park Linkages	School Nearby	Adjacent to Public Property Other Than School	Potential P-Patch
	Single Family Surround	Limited Access	On Local Street	Security/Visibility	Invasive Species	Graffiti/Vandalism	Obsolete Equipment															
Adelaide			●	●	●	●	●		●	●		●		●	●		●		●			
Alderbrook		●		●	●	●			●	●	●	●		●	●		●	●	●			
Alderdale		●	●	●	●	●	●			●		●										
Cedar Grove				●	●	●	●			●		●		●								
Coronado		●		●	●					●		●										
Dash Point Highlands		●	●	●		●				●		●		●			●	●		●		
English Gardens		●	●	●	●		●		●	●					●			●				
Heritage Woods		●		●	●												●					
Lake Grove		●	●	●	●	●	●			●				●			●		●			
Lake Killarney			●	●	●	●	●				●			●	●	●	●	●				
Laurelwood		●	●	●	●	●	●				●	●		●	●		●	●				
Madrona		●		●	●	●	●		●	●	●	●		●	●		●	●		●	●	
Mirror Lake		●	●		●	●	●	●			●			●				●	●			
Olympic View		●	●	●	●	●	●					●		●	●		●	●	●			
Palisades		●		●	●		●			●	●	●			●		●		●			
SW 312 th Sports Courts		●		●			●				●								●			
Wedgewood		●	●	●	●	●	●							●			●					
Wildwood		●		●	●	●	●			●				●					●			
Winco Park			●			●					●				●		●	●				

