



PARKS & RECREATION

PARKS & RECREATION ELEMENT TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	PR-2
RELATIONSHIP TO PREVIOUS PLANNING EFFORTS	PR-3
GROWTH MANAGEMENT ACT	PR-4
VISION STATEMENT	PR-5
PARK & RECREATION FACILITY CLASSIFICATIONS	PR-5
Community Parks.....	PR-6
Neighborhood & Pocket Parks.....	PR-6
Greenways & Natural Areas	PR-7
Special Facilities	PR-7
PARK & FACILITY INVENTORY	PR-7
DEMAND & NEED ANALYSIS	PR-11
Standards & Levels of Service.....	PR-11
Park & Facility Needs	PR-12
Trails & Pathways	PR-14
Recreation Programs	PR-15
Other Active Outdoor Needs	PR-16
Spraygrounds	PR-16
Skateboard/BMX Facilities.....	PR-16
Off-Leash Dog Area	PR-17
Community Gardens & Pea Patches	PR-17
CAPITAL FACILITIES PLANNING	PR-17
IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES	PR-19
Partner Coordination & Collaboration	PR-19
Park Impact Fees	PR-20
Other Local Funding.....	PR-20
GOALS & POLICIES	PR-23

LIST OF MAPS

Figure 5.5	Existing Parks, Trails and Natural Areas	PR-10
Figure 5.12	Proposed Parks and Greenways	PR-21
Figure 5.13	Proposed Trailways, Bikeways and Neighborhood Greenways	PR-22

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN	PR-1
--------------------	------



PARKS & RECREATION

Support Analysis

INTRODUCTION

The Parks and Recreation Element summarizes and relies on technical information provided in the 2014 Parks, Recreation, Cultural and Human Services (PRCHS) Plan, which establishes the City's path forward for providing high quality, community-driven parks, trails, natural areas and recreational opportunities throughout Maple Valley. The 2014 PRCHS Plan included revisions to City service standards and addressed action items and other management considerations toward the continuation of quality recreation opportunities for City residents and visitors. This chapter discusses community demand for parks and recreation facilities, provides goals and policies and offers a capital facilities plan and implementation strategies to further enhance the City's parks system.

Residents of Maple Valley benefit from a diverse array of natural areas, public and private parks and recreation facilities in and around the City. Maple Valley has over 700 acres of park and open space lands located within the City and in the immediate vicinity; this includes lands owned by the City, King County, Tahoma School District, private organizations and homeowner associations.

The City owns and maintains one active-use park (Take-A-Break), one special facility (Lake Wilderness Golf Course), one natural open space area (Fernwood Natural Area), and four undeveloped parks (Henry's Switch Park, Summit Park, Legacy Site, and the 216th Ave Park site). In addition, King County transferred ownership of Lake Wilderness Park to the City in 2003. Also in 2003, the City began offering its own recreation programs, while also looking for partnership opportunities with local, commercial and non-profit groups to offer a wider range of services to the community. Demand for services has been strong, and the number of City programs has since dramatically increased.

In addition to offering recreation programs through its own Parks and Recreation Department, the City has established partnerships with area service providers including the Greater Maple Valley Community Center (GMVCC), as well as private vendors to provide a wide variety of programs and services to the community.

Maple Valley is not staffed as a full-service city and contracts for many of its services to help control costs and operate within its budget. The Parks and Recreation Department currently employs 6 full-time equivalent (FTE) staff, with 8.25 FTEs budgeted for 2014. Operations and capital improvement are funded from a variety of sources including the general fund, park impact fees, real estate excise taxes, grants and user fees.

The City adopted and has been following the former King County policy of requiring dedication and construction of neighborhood parks by residential developers. These parks are then transferred to a private homeowner's group to maintain and manage. The current park dedication requirement is more than adequate for the provision of small neighborhood parks, but it is inadequate for a park system as a whole. Large, multi-use community parks are needed to provide for the variety of recreation interests and activities requested by residents. Identifying, securing and financing community parkland remains a challenge as urban development makes large blocks of usable land increasingly rare.



PARKS & RECREATION

Support Analysis

RELATIONSHIP TO PREVIOUS PLANNING EFFORTS

Several planning documents and studies have been prepared since the City was incorporated in 1997 that have influenced parks and recreation service in the City. A summary of each of these is listed below.

- Maple Valley Revised Parks, Recreation, Cultural and Human Services Plan (2007)
The 2007 PRCHS Plan update built upon the City's first parks plan prepared in 1999. The 2007 update revised the demographic and community changes over those seven years and included an existing inventory assessment, community outreach and evaluation of future park and recreation needs.
- Maple Valley Strategic Priorities & Economic Development Recommendations (2007)
The Strategic Priorities and Economic Development Recommendations is a guiding document aimed at increasing the economic vitality and quality of life in Maple Valley. Two of the six priorities identified in these recommendations are directly related to the City's park system and are with regard to maintaining a high quality of life and enhancing the City's natural surroundings.
- Maple Valley Non-Motorized Transportation Plan (2013)
This plan provides information and guidance on existing and planned pedestrian and bicycle facilities throughout Maple Valley. It addresses the non-motorized elements within the Maple Valley Comprehensive Plan and proposes projects and programs to enhance the system of alternative transportation within the City. The plan identifies three broad goals for the planning, design and coordination for pedestrian and bikeway connections across the City. This plan was utilized to help formulate the trail goals in the PRCHS Plan and this Element.
- Lake Wilderness Park Master Plan (2007)
This site master plan provides a layout of the entire Lake Wilderness Park and the Lodge. Proposed improvements include a new dock and remodeled bathhouse at the swimming beach, new trails and waterfront promenade, amphitheater and band-shell, improvements to the Lodge rental facilities, shoreline enhancements and low impact development stormwater features.
- Summit Park Master Plan (2010)
The master plan established a design blueprint for the future development of the site which included ball fields, tennis courts, basketball court, playgrounds, skate spot and parking. The master planning process identified the challenges, opportunities, constraints and cost allowances for project implementation.



PARKS & RECREATION Support Analysis

- Legacy Site Planning Study (2005)
This site planning study was led by a project citizen advisory committee, which concluded in 2005. The report provides a blueprint for the future use of this 54-acre site, and it discusses the site's history, findings and conditions related to the potential development of the site.
- King County Open Space Plan (2010)
This plan provides demographic characteristics, open space and park definitions, an inventory of park and recreation facilities, standards, goals and objectives, recommendations and funding alternatives.
- Green to Cedar Rivers Trail Feasibility Study (2012)
This feasibility study is a high level overview that is intended to identify key considerations for future development of two trail corridors. The Green to Cedar Rivers Trail and Covington Highlands Trail are proposed to connect from the Green River to the existing Cedar River Trail, and between the Soos Creek Trail and the Green to Cedar Rivers Trail.
- King County Framework Policies for Human Services (2007)
The purpose of this plan is to identify goals, clarify roles and establish general priorities for providing human services in the County.

GROWTH MANAGEMENT ACT

The Growth Management Act (GMA) is intended to help communities deal efficiently with the challenges of growth to ensure their long-term sustainability and high quality of life. The Act identifies 14 broad planning goals to guide the development of comprehensive plans and development regulations (codified in RCW 36.70A). Four of these goals directly influence the development and implementation of the City's parks, recreation and cultural programs.

- Retain open space, enhance recreational opportunities, conserve fish and wildlife habitat, increase access to natural resource lands and water, and develop parks and recreation facilities. RCW 36.70A.020(9)
- Protect the environment and enhance the state's high quality of life, including air and water quality, and the availability of water. RCW 36.70A.020(10)
- Identify and encourage the preservation of lands, sites, and structures that have historical or archaeological significance. RCW 36.70A.020(13)
- Carry-out the goals of the Shoreline Management Act with regards to shorelines and critical areas. RCW 36.70A.020(14)

During the 2002 legislative session, a mandatory requirement for a park and recreation element was added to the list of required GMA comprehensive plan elements, with the state legislature finding that "*regular physical activity is essential to maintaining good health and reducing the rates of chronic disease*" and that "*providing opportunities for walking, biking, horseback riding, and other*



PARKS & RECREATION Support Analysis

regular forms of exercise is best accomplished through collaboration between the private sector and local, state, and institutional policymakers. While the state's lawmakers recognized the critical role of parks and recreation in community health, the GMA requirement for a parks element was suspended until sufficient funding is provided by the state. Additionally, language regarding the new parks and recreation element was further amended in 2005 changing the six-year improvement program to be a ten-year improvement program. The revised RCWs require the following:

A park and recreation element that implements, and is consistent with, the capital facilities plan element as it relates to park and recreation facilities. The element shall include: (a) Estimates of park and recreation demand for at least a ten-year period; (b) an evaluation of facilities and service needs; and (c) an evaluation of intergovernmental coordination opportunities to provide regional approaches for meeting park and recreational demand. (RCW 36.70A.070(8))

This Parks and Recreation Element for the City of Maple Valley aims to meet the intent of the requirements outlined in the GMA and provide a clear direction toward the protection and expansion of recreation opportunities for the citizens of Maple Valley.

VISION STATEMENT

As described in the 2014 Parks, Recreation, Cultural and Human Services Plan, the following vision statement is a guiding force for City efforts and was an outgrowth from resident feedback regarding their interests, needs and preferences for parks and recreation services.

The Maple Valley Community will provide a carefully and progressively integrated range of parks, recreation, cultural and human services. The City shall endeavor to foster creative partnerships and be responsible to the evolving needs of a growing community.

This vision provides the foundation for the goals, objectives and service standards within this Parks and Recreation Element.

PARK & RECREATION FACILITY CLASSIFICATIONS

Parkland is classified to assist in planning for the community's recreational needs. The Maple Valley park system is composed of a hierarchy of various park types, each offering recreation and/or natural area opportunities. Separately, each park type may serve only one function, but collectively the system serves the full range of community needs. Classifying parkland by function allows the City to evaluate its needs and plan for an efficient, cost effective and usable park system that minimizes conflicts between park visitors and adjacent uses. The classification characteristics are meant as



PARKS & RECREATION

Support Analysis

general guidelines addressing the intended size and use of each park type. The following four classifications are used by the City of Maple Valley and are defined as follows:

- Community Parks
- Neighborhood & Pocket Parks
- Special Facilities
- Greenways & Natural Areas

Community Parks

Community parks are larger sites developed for organized play, contain a wider array of facilities and, as a result, appeal to a more diverse group of users. Community parks are generally 15 to 80 acres in size, should meet a minimum size of 15 acres when possible and serve residents within a 1 - 2 mile drive, walk or bike ride from the site. In areas without neighborhood parks, community parks can also serve as local neighborhood parks. In general, community park facilities are designed for organized or intensive recreational activities and sports, although passive components such as pathways, picnic areas and natural areas are highly encouraged and complementary to active use facilities. Developed community parks typically include amenities such as water access, court sports (basketball, tennis), covered activity areas, soccer and/or baseball fields and bike and pedestrian trails. Since community parks serve a larger area and offer more facilities than neighborhood parks, parking and restroom facilities should be provided.

Neighborhood & Pocket Parks

Neighborhood and pocket parks are generally considered the basic unit of traditional park systems. Neighborhood parks are small park areas designed for unstructured, non-organized play and limited active and passive recreation. Pocket parks are smallest sites used to address limited or isolated recreational needs and typically only provide a small tot lot or other limited amenities. They are generally 0.5 - 6 acres in size, depending on a variety of factors including neighborhood need, physical location and opportunity. These parks are intended to serve residential areas within close proximity (ranging from ¼- to ½-mile walking or biking distance) and should be geographically distributed throughout the community. Generally, developed neighborhood and pocket parks may include amenities such as pedestrian paths, picnic tables, benches, play equipment, a multi-use open field for informal play, sport courts or multi-purpose paved areas and landscaping. The primary distinction between these two park types is that of usable, functional recreation space.

Maple Valley's standing policy is that neighborhood and pocket parks are provided for and maintained by private entities and homeowner associations as new residential construction occurs throughout the City. For these parks that are owned and maintained by homeowners associations, they serve only the members of the respective homeowners association and are not accessible and available to the general public. To address potential parkland distribution or equity concerns about private neighborhood parks, the City may choose to acquire additional land to provide the City's residents access to publicly-held land of this park type.



PARKS & RECREATION

Support Analysis

Greenways & Natural Areas

Greenways provide green connections between parks, schools, natural areas and other destinations. Greenways provide for connected or linked open space corridors that can support broader ecological functions than stand-alone properties. Greenways may serve as trail corridors, and provide for low-impact or passive activities, such as walking and nature observation. Natural areas are individual tracts of open space that are not connected to a larger greenway network. These lands are usually owned or managed by a governmental agency, which may or may not have public access. This type of land often includes wetlands, steep hillsides or other similar spaces. In some cases, environmentally sensitive areas are considered as part of greenways or natural areas and can include wildlife habitats, stream and creek corridors, or unique and/or endangered plant species.

Special Facilities

Special facilities include single-purpose recreational areas or stand-alone sites designed to support a specific, specialized use. This classification includes stand-alone sports field complexes, golf courses, recreation centers, sites of historical or cultural significance, such as museums, historical landmarks and structures, and public plazas in or near commercial centers. Specialized facilities may also be provided within a park of another classification. No standards exist or are proposed concerning special facilities, since facility size is a function of the specific use.

PARK & FACILITY INVENTORY

The City of Maple Valley benefits from a diverse array of natural areas, public and private parks and recreation facilities. As outlined in the 2014 PRCHS Plan, the City directly provides over 320 acres of public parkland and recreation facilities distributed among 9 parks, special facilities and natural areas. Figure 5.5 illustrates the location of City-owned parks, homeowner association parks and existing trail and bikeway corridors.



Element 5
PARKS & RECREATION
 Support Analysis

Park Name	Current Classification	Status	Acreage
Lake Wilderness Park	Community Park	Developed	89.38
Summit Park Site	Community Park	Undeveloped	23.97
<i>Subtotal</i>			<i>113.35</i>
Take-A-Break Park	Neighborhood Park	Developed	1.92
<i>Subtotal</i>			<i>1.92</i>
Lake Wilderness Arboretum	Special Facilities	Partially Developed	25.06
Lake Wilderness Golf Course	Special Facilities	Developed	106.40
<i>Subtotal</i>			<i>131.46</i>
216th Avenue Site	Greenway & Natural Area	Undeveloped	5.17
Fernwood Natural Area	Greenway & Natural Area	Undeveloped	5.96
Henry's Switch Site	Greenway & Natural Area	Undeveloped	15.54
Legacy Site	Greenway & Natural Area	Undeveloped	50.37
<i>Subtotal</i>			<i>77.04</i>
Total Acreage			323.77

Figure 5.1 - Existing Inventory: City-owned Parklands by Type

Through its policy of requiring new developments to provide neighborhood parks and set aside open space tracts, residents of Maple Valley have benefitted from an expanded network of recreational lands and natural areas. The private parks and open space tracts complement the existing public parklands. In total, over 196 acres of private open space (excluding the former Elk Run golf course) have been set aside to date, with approximately 76% as greenway or natural areas. Overall, residents of Maple Valley have access to over 700 acres of public and private lands, which include City facilities, private parks, private facilities and the recreational portions of local school properties. This accounting excludes the King County owned natural areas along the City's eastern border.

Parkland Classification	Acreage
Community Park	113.35
Neighborhood Park	1.92
Special Facilities	131.46
Greenway	77.04
School Sites (recreation lands)	39.50
Private HOA Parks	51.22
Private Special Facilities	145.23
Private Open Space Tracts	144.90
Total Acreage	704.62

Figure 5.2 - Public & Private Parklands by Type



PARKS & RECREATION Support Analysis

The City of Maple Valley has approximately 2.7 miles of trails and walking paths located on City parkland. Walking paths exist within developed parks, such as the Lake Wilderness Arboretum and Lake Wilderness Park. Also, King County manages over 8 miles of trails in close proximity to the City along the Lake Wilderness Trail and Green to Cedar Rivers Trail.

Trail Name	Ownership	Mileage
Lake Wilderness Park	City of Maple Valley	2.7
Cedar River Trail	King County	0.5
Lake Wilderness Trail (CGRT)	King County	4.6

Figure 5.3 - Existing Trails

In addition to park and open space lands, several recreation and athletic facilities exist within the City. Figure 5.4 lists these facilities by type and ownership.

	Facility Type								
	Regulation Baseball	Youth Baseball ⁽¹⁾	Regulation Softball	Regulation Soccer	Youth Soccer ⁽¹⁾	Football	Multi-Purpose Backstops	Tennis Courts	Gymnasiums ⁽²⁾
City of Maple Valley	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	2	-
King County	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tahoma School District	-	6	-	-	7	-	7	-	4
Private	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	0	6	1	0	7	0	8	2	4

NOTES:

(1): Fields at Tahoma School District elementary schools are multi-use and are available for youth baseball and soccer

(2): Gymnasiums are small and not suited for more than elementary-age use

Figure 5.4 - Existing Inventory of Recreation Facilities

Overall, the Tahoma School District is the primary field provider, with field scheduling coordinated by the Tahoma Sports Council. City recreation programs, private and non-profit groups provide programming. The sport field shortage is largely a result of low inventory and limited land base, but other complicating factors exist, such as poor field conditions, scheduling conflicts and use of fields by regional teams. As greater field demand is created with growth, the City should take a leadership role in addressing the provision of field space and coordination with the School District and leagues.



Element 5
PARKS & RECREATION
 Support Analysis

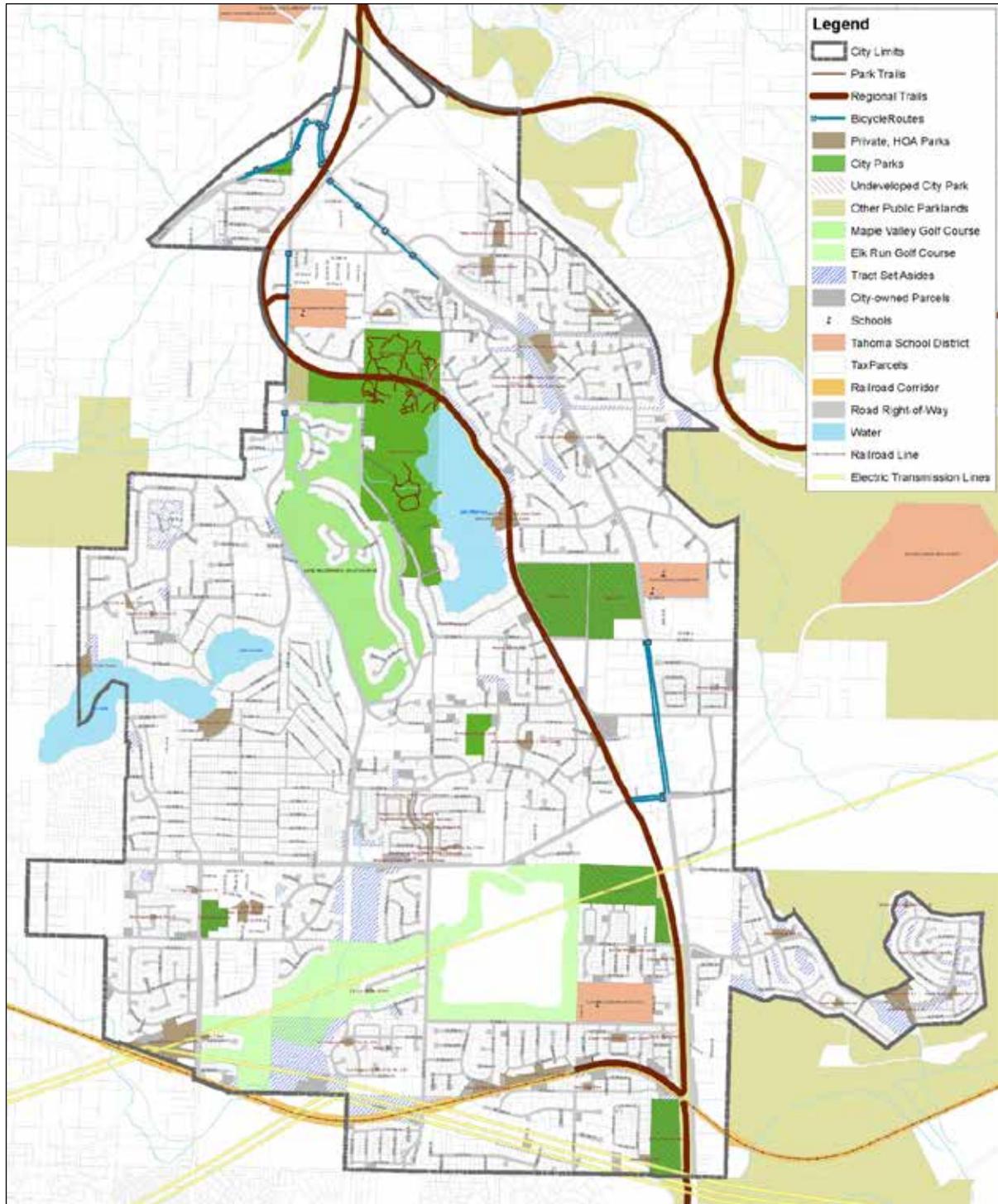


Figure 5.5 – Existing Parks, Trails and Natural Areas (* Elk Run Golf Course has since been decommissioned)



PARKS & RECREATION

Support Analysis

DEMAND & NEED ANALYSIS

Parks, trails, recreation programs and open spaces enhance the quality of life for City residents. This has been articulated by residents who attended public open house meetings for the 2014 PRCHS Plan and validated by community survey results that rank very highly the importance of parks and recreation. The protection and expansion of recreation opportunities are critical to growth of the City and well-being of its residents. Continued urban development not only creates intense wear on the more environmentally-sensitive and appealing features of existing parks, such as the shoreline of Lake Wilderness Park, but also may preclude the purchase and development of some of the larger or unique tracts of land that may be suitable as future community parks or greenway corridors. Without additional acquisitions or parkland dedications, existing facilities may become increasingly overcrowded and the variety and availability of recreational activities would be diminished.

To determine specific recreational needs for the Maple Valley planning area, several analytical methods were used. These included a numeric review of level of service, geographic gap analysis to assess parkland deficiencies, a review of the results of a citywide survey and a review of national trends. It should be noted that even with all the statistical information available, a certain amount of subjective analysis and professional experience is necessary to quantify the standards.

Standards & Levels of Service

Two terms are commonly used to describe a jurisdiction’s target for parkland coverage and measure performance in serving residents with access to parks, trails and greenways. **Service standards** are the adopted guidelines or benchmarks the City is trying to attain with their parks system. In Maple Valley, the service standard is expressed in terms of overall acres of parkland per 1,000 residents. The **level of service** is a snapshot in time of how well the City is meeting the adopted standards. The level of service is often described in terms of current need or projected need for each of the park types or facilities.

The 2014 Parks, Recreation, Cultural and Human Services Plan identified and detailed separate service standards for parks and sport facilities. The following tables illustrate these standards.

Facility Classification	Service Standard
Community	6 acres per 1,000
Neighborhood & Pocket	2.5 acres per 1,000
Baseball Fields	1 field per 5,000
Softball Fields	1 field per 5,000
Soccer Fields	1 field per 5,000

Figure 5.6 - Park Land & Recreation Facility Standards



PARKS & RECREATION Support Analysis

Proximity and accessibility are also used to evaluate the City's level of service for parks. The proximity guidelines are that a neighborhood park is available within ¼- to ½-mile walking distance and a community park is available within 1- to 2-mile drive from all residences. Topography, physical barriers, visibility, public availability, affordability of activities, pedestrian trails and public transportation patterns can also make parks either more, or less, accessible. Maps within the 2014 PRCHS Plan illustrate the application of these proximity guidelines in the form of a walkshed gap analysis based on travel distances along the street network.

Table 6 illustrates the current level of service by parkland classification. In comparing the current level of service to the service standard, the performance ratio shows how well the City is doing in meeting the various service standards. Based on the current inventory of parklands, the City has an existing acreage deficit for community and neighborhood parks. In part due to the existing deficits across all categories of parkland and recreation facilities, the 2014 PRCHS Plan outlined an overall consolidation and reduction in service standards and eliminated numeric standards for trails, special facilities and greenways.

<i>Type</i>	<i>Service Standard</i>	<i>Inventory *</i>	<i>Current (2014) Level of Service</i>	<i>Current (2014) Performance to Standard</i>
Community	6 ac/000	113.35	4.74	79.0%
Neighborhood & Pocket	2.5 ac/000	53.14	2.22	88.9%
Special Facilities	--- ac/000	276.69	---	NA
Greenways & Natural Areas	--- ac/000	221.94	---	NA
	8.5 ac/000	665.12	6.96	

* NOTE: Current Inventory column includes currently undeveloped sites and private parklands

Figure 5.7 - Current Level of Service by Parkland Classification

Park & Facility Needs

As the City of Maple Valley grows, new parklands will need to be acquired (or dedicated) and developed to meet the increasing demand for recreation amenities. Although neighborhood parks within Maple Valley generally are developed as part of private residential developments, homeowner groups define the access rules and maintain the park properties. Some of the neighborhood parks are available for non-members, while others are exclusive. Take-a-Break Park is the only City-owned neighborhood park.

Using the City's current and projected population figures, the amount of parkland acres needed by classification to meet the adopted service standard is shown in Table 7 below. Over the next ten years, the City needs to add over 60 acres of parks to maintain the service standards for community and neighborhood parks.



PARKS & RECREATION

Support Analysis

Type	Service Standard	Inventory *	Current (2014) Surplus / (Deficit)	Projected (2025) Surplus / (Deficit)
Community	6 ac/000	113.35	(30.1)	(46.8)
Neighborhood & Pocket	2.5 ac/000	53.14	(6.6)	(13.6)
Special Facilities	--- ac/000	276.69	---	---
Greenways & Natural Areas	--- ac/000	221.94	---	---
	8.5 ac/000	665.12	(36.7)	(60.5)

* NOTE: Current Inventory column includes currently undeveloped sites and private parklands

Figure 5.8 - Current & Projected Parkland Demand by Classification

The analysis of parkland needs identified the following:

- Neighborhood parks currently are being provided at a level near the adopted service standard. As the community continues to grow, the projected deficit of neighborhood parklands reaches 13.6 acres by 2025. While city policy requires that each subdivision provides a private neighborhood park, the number and location of these parks will be determined by the size and location of future subdivisions.
- Based on a current deficit of 30 acres and on a one-mile service area guideline, there is a need for a community park in the south-central/southwest area of the city. The acquisition of additional land will help the City reach its community park service standard into the future.

In addition to strict numerics, a gap analysis of the park system was conducted to examine and assess the current distribution of parks throughout the City. The analysis reviewed the locations and types of existing facilities, land use classifications, transportation/access barriers and other factors as a means to identify target areas representing service gaps. In reviewing parkland distribution and assessing opportunities to fill identified gaps, residentially zoned lands were isolated, since neighborhood and community parks primarily serve these areas. Additionally, primary and secondary service areas were used as follows:

- Community Parks: ½-mile primary & 1-mile secondary service areas
- Neighborhood & Pocket Parks: ¼-mile primary & ½-mile secondary service areas

The gap analysis also reviewed the need for parkland after considering the existing private homeowner association parks, along with the distribution of private condominium or apartment complex recreation common areas. It should be noted that the park walksheds for the private parks were restricted to the actual homeowner association boundaries of the respective parks.

Figure 5.12 highlights how the public neighborhood parks and private parks enhance the overall coverage of parklands in Maple Valley and identifies key gaps in service. Gaps in parkland distribution appear in four main areas of the City:



PARKS & RECREATION Support Analysis

- Southwestern section near Elk Run Golf Course
- Western section north of Lake Lucerne
- Northeastern section north of Rock Creek Elementary
- City center near Fernwood Natural Area

The greatest documented need is for additional community parks to improve overall distribution and equity, while promoting active use recreational spaces that can accommodate field sports, court sports and open play. The Capital Facilities Plan identifies several proposed projects, such as the development of Lake Wilderness Park and Summit Park, to meet the expected demand for developed park space. The development of these sites, in addition to future planned park acquisition and development, will significantly reduce the overall system deficits.

Table 8 shows the current and projected need for athletic fields. A significant number of athletic fields is required to meet the current and projected demand.

Type	Existing Standard	Current Inventory	Current (2014) Surplus / (Deficit)	Future (2025) Surplus / (Deficit)
Baseball Fields	1 fields/5000 people	0	(5)	(6)
Softball Fields	1 fields/5000 people	1 field	(4)	(5)
Soccer Fields	1 fields/5000 people	0	(5)	(6)

Figure 5.9 - Current & Projected Recreation Facility Demand by Type

There is a significant shortage of youth baseball, softball and soccer fields. The existing fields are in poor condition, are suitable only for youth play, are multi-use and cannot be used year-round. The pending development of synthetic turf fields at Ravensdale Park will greatly improve field availability for local teams; however, significant land base must be made available to provide the identified number of future fields. The future development of Summit Park and on-going coordination with the Tahoma School District may help meet some of the current demand, but additional community park land or interagency arrangements will be necessary to fully meet the proposed need for sport fields.

Trails & Pathways

The 2014 PRCHS Plan eliminated the previous trail facility mileage standard. Numeric standards for trails are not an optimal guideline, since the greater intent of a trail network is more related to community connectivity and access, rather than a per capita distance measurement. The elimination of the mileage-based standard for trails does not diminish or reduce the importance of or value in continuing to expand and grow the trails network; this adjustment is merely to re-orient the City's efforts toward a policy-based approach to trail connectivity.

Maple Valley is fortunate to have two major regional trails pass through or near the City. As more residents adopt active lifestyles, these trails offer an unparalleled recreation opportunity. As with parklands, a gap analysis was conducted on the existing trail network, and discrete walksheds were



PARKS & RECREATION

Support Analysis

generated using known trail access points. Through continued coordination and discussions with King County, Covington and Black Diamond, the City should seek ways to facilitate the improvement to or expansion of the regional trail network via the proposed Tri-Cities Trail. Additionally, paving and upgrading the Lake Wilderness Trail will create a more prominent active transportation and recreational spine through the core of the community that is significantly more user friendly. This trail currently abuts four City-owned park properties, and future linkages from these sites to the trail will further improve the access to, and functionality of, the County owned and maintained trail.

The on-street bike route in the City's Non-Motorized Transportation Plan supplements the recreational trail system by providing linkages and offering connections where off-street connections are presently unfeasible. Additionally, neighborhood greenways are becoming an increasingly popular way to connect residents with neighborhood destinations like schools, parks and community centers. Neighborhood greenways make smart, strategic, cost-effective retrofits to the existing public rights-of-way to increase public access to Maple Valley's parks and greenspace assets. Low-volume streets are made more pedestrian and bicycle friendly through additional traffic calming measures. Wayfinding helps residents navigate to destinations, and landscaping provides contact to nearby nature.

Maple Valley's neighborhoods are ideally suited to neighborhood greenways. The hierarchical street network leaves a great number of streets that have a very low volume of traffic. Additionally, smart planning has left pedestrian and cyclist connections between subdivisions and adjacent schools or parks. This, coupled with the spine of Lake Wilderness Trail, has established a framework for an interconnected network for the entire city. A series of neighborhood greenways are proposed as shown on Figure 5.13. These routes primarily utilize low volume streets, but they also suggest the use of City-owned stormwater facilities or neighborhood parks as connections and throughways to provide efficient linkages and to activate these facilities.

Recreation Programs

Recreation services are available to Maple Valley residents through a wide range of public and private recreation, health and fitness providers and facilities.

Aquatic facilities are accessible within a five to 25 minute drive at the Covington, Kent Meridian or Renton aquatic centers or several different YMCAs. Adult fitness opportunities range from private specialized women's and cross-training facilities to facilities and programs offered by YMCAs and public park and recreation providers. Boys and Girls clubs are known for their youth programming offered through a variety of schools and community centers to enhance learning, fitness and social development of school age children. Youth and adult sports leagues offer individual sport team experiences that require fields, courts or gyms that are distributed in various locations, mostly outside of Maple Valley. Senior programming and age-specific facilities are available, but they are dispersed across multiple locations and are separated from intergenerational uses.



PARKS & RECREATION

Support Analysis

Maple Valley's recreation services are a major community asset and support the physical, mental and social health of the community. The City currently offers a variety of programming, including fitness, sports, day camps, creative movement and a variety of other programs and special events for all ages. To continue to provide attractive, responsive and productive programs, the City should continue to:

- Enhance the diversity of programs offered, focusing on programs that are in high demand or serve a range of users
- Meet the needs of diverse users, including at-risk communities or those with special needs
- Improve the accessibility of programs, by holding classes and activities at locations throughout the community and maintaining affordable rates
- Monitor local and regional recreation trends to ensure community needs and interests are addressed by available programming

Given limited resources and the availability of recreational providers in the region, the City should continue to expand partnerships with the School District, GMVCC, private fitness clubs and the local businesses to provide recreation services. The City should also promote and coordinate recreational opportunities provided by its partners to help connect residents with options to learn and recreate.

However, to achieve these programming objectives, the City must secure additional indoor recreational space. The construction of a new, expanded community center to replace the facility that GMVCC is currently using has been a long discussed potential. Expanding indoor recreation space is a high priority because of the community's need for additional human services and flexible indoor recreational space. The City should continue to explore the potential to site and finance an indoor facility and should consider conducting an indoor recreation feasibility study to explore the options of siting, sizing, programming needs and local partnerships; such an effort could help focus a community discussion about what could be included in a new facility, its projected costs and the community willingness to support such an endeavor.

Other Active Outdoor Needs

In addition to the provision of parklands and trails, new park amenities or facilities could be considered for development within existing parks or as components of future sites.

Spraygrounds

Spraygrounds are water play features that are very popular and provide a means of integrating aquatics into parks at a relatively low cost. Maple Valley should consider at least one sprayground in a community park or as component of the swim area/beach renovation to Lake Wilderness Park, as noted in the master plan, when the timing is right for implementation of that phase.

Skateboard/BMX Facilities

As currently planned in the Summit Park master plan, the City should install a new skatepark to replace the existing skatepark located next to the Community Center. It has been noted by skaters and staff from the GMVCC that the existing facility is less than desirable due to its location and poor



PARKS & RECREATION Support Analysis

visibility for surveillance. A future facility should be designed with the input of local skaters, and should be suitable for development in phases.

Off-Leash Dog Area

An off-leash dog area provides a location where residents can exercise dogs. A one- to two-acre site should be considered for future development of an off-leash dog area in a location away from natural resource areas. Ideally, a dog park would be a component to a larger community park, where infrastructure (parking, restrooms, garbage collection) exists and supports multiple activities. Also, areas under the powerline corridors could be explored for potential candidate sites. Maple Valley should look to partnership opportunities in the development of an off-leash area; communities throughout the Northwest have relied on grassroots or non-profit organizations for the on-going operations and maintenance of such facilities.

Community Gardens & Pea Patches

Gardening is a popular activity statewide, with 58% of residents reporting participation. Community gardens provide common space for residents to grow fruits, vegetables and flowers. Gardens have been shown to increase healthy food consumption, while providing opportunities for active living, social interactions and lifelong learning. Community gardens are becoming more popular park amenities in urban environments, where residents may have limited outdoor space resulting from reduced lot sizes. Gardens are also popular with a diverse range of residents.

CAPITAL FACILITIES PLANNING

The Parks and Recreation Capital Facilities Plan (CFP) lists all park and facility projects considered through 2020. Projects are listed on the following pages by name, type of improvement and estimated cost by year.

Park Type	Acquisition	Development	Renovation	Sum
Park	\$ 3,540,000	\$ 10,975,000	\$ 970,000	\$ 15,485,000
Greenway			\$ 29,000	\$ 29,000
Trail		\$ 60,000		\$ 60,000
Special Facility		\$ 60,000		\$ 60,000
TOTAL	\$ 3,540,000	\$ 11,095,000	\$ 999,000	\$ 15,634,000

Figure 5.10 – Summary of Projects (2014 – 2020)

The following Parks CFP may be modified or amended annually, as needed, with the adoption of the City's Budget and 6-Year Transportation CIP.



Element 5 PARKS & RECREATION Support Analysis

Park Type	Park Site	Project Description	Activity	Priority	Funding	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020*	Sum	
Community	Lake Wilderness Park	Replace existing doc	R	1	GF, REET	\$525,000							\$525,000	
		Signage & wayfinding	D	3	GF, REET				\$20,000					\$20,000
		Play equipment upgrade	R	2	GF, REET				\$60,000					\$60,000
		Additional parking	D	1	PIF, REET, Gr, TBD	\$300,000								\$300,000
		Beach house remodel	R	1	PIF, REET, TBD		\$250,000							\$250,000
		Swim beach phase	D	2	PIF, REET, Gr, TBD				\$2,000,000					\$2,000,000
		Lodge repairs	R	2	REET, GF	\$50,000			\$50,000					
Community	Summit Park	Site design	D	1	PIF, REET		\$125,000						\$125,000	
	Summit Park	Park construction	D	1	PIF, REED, Gr, TBD			\$8,500,000					\$8,500,000	
Greenway	Fernwood Natural Area	Vegetation management plan, improve trails wetland stewardship; Restoration plantings	R	2	GF		\$20,000	\$5,000	\$3,000	\$1,000			\$29,000	
		Shelter/overlook & environmental interpretive panels	D	3	PIF, REED, Gr					\$15,000				\$15,000
Neighborhood	216th Avenue Park	Site evaluation/assessment	D	2	GF		\$5,000						\$5,000	
	216th Avenue Park	Park master plan concept	D	3	PIF, REET			\$10,000					\$10,000	
Renovation	Systemwide	Repair, renovation & ADA compliance audits and upgrades	R	2	GF		\$10,000	\$10,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000		\$35,000	
		Develop final neighborhood greenways plan with a prioritized implementation tool kit	D	2	REET, GF		\$20,000							\$20,000
Trail	Lake Wilderness Trail	Implement neighborhood greenway improvements	D	2	REET, GF, Gr		\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$30,000	
		Create LWT access improvements at SE 250th Street adjacent to the Legacy site	D	3	PIF, REET, Gr						\$10,000			\$10,000
Community	Community Park Acquisition	Acquire 20-40 acres (Gap Area 4)	A	1	PIF, TBD, Gr		\$3,500,000						\$3,500,000	
	Neighborhood Park Evaluation	Assess gap opportunities for either purchasing property or converting existing stormwater property to parks	A	3	PIF, Gr		\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000			\$40,000	
Special Facility	Indoor Recreation Center Study	Facility study	D	2	GF, REET		\$60,000						\$60,000	
						\$875,000	\$4,005,000	\$8,540,000	\$2,153,000	\$36,000	\$70,000	\$5,000	\$15,634,000	

Code Funding Source

- PIF Park Impact Fees
- RSET Real Estate Excise Tax
- Priv Private Funds, Dedications, Donations
- Gr Grants
- GF General Fund/Local Share
- TBD To Be Determined; other funding sources needed for replacement, rehabilitation, general maintenance

Code Activity

- A Acquisition
- D Development
- R Renovation/Repair

Code Priority

- 1 High Priority
- 2
- 3

Figure 5.11 - PRCHS Plan 6-Year Capital Facilities Plan (2014 – 2019)



PARKS & RECREATION

Support Analysis

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

The City does not currently have sufficient funding to completely address the desired need for parks and recreation facilities throughout the community. However, the City successfully has allocated a portion of its General Fund resources to parks capital projects and facility maintenance. Based on a review of potential funding sources to address the anticipated funding deficiencies, recommended actions are as follows:

Partner Coordination & Collaboration

Internal coordination with the Public Works and Community Development departments can increase the potential toward the implementation of the proposed trail and neighborhood greenways network, which will rely on ensuring connectivity within and to adjoining subdivisions. Coordination with the Community Development Department will be crucial in reviewing development applications with consideration toward potential parkland acquisition areas and for easement or set-aside requests. Coordination with the Public Works Department also is necessary to explore the potential of repurposing certain stormwater facilities to serve a secondary role as recreational areas. However, to more fully extend the extent of the park system and recreation programs, additional partnerships and collaborations should be sought.

The City should discuss the terms of and prepare an interlocal agreement with the Tahoma School District to formalize the use of District gymnasiums and other facilities for recreation programs and classes. Additionally, an interlocal agreement addresses and details the roles and responsibilities for the development, maintenance and use priorities regarding the development of the Summit Park site.

Maple Valley should explore partnership opportunities with regional health care providers and services, such as MultiCare, Valley Medical and the King County Health Department, to promote wellness activities, healthy living and communications about the benefits of parks and recreation. For example, this group could more directly cross-market services and help expand resident understanding of local wellness options, and they could sponsor a series of organized trail walks throughout Maple Valley as a means to expand public awareness of local trail opportunities and encourage residents to stay fit.

The City should continue to facilitate discussions with local youth leagues and staff from King County, Covington and Black Diamond and the Tahoma School District for the purposes of sport field planning and financing a multi-field complex. A complex of four fields or more could provide field rental revenue, as well as additional tourism revenue, from leagues or sport clubs interested in hosting tournaments.

The City should reach out to the property owners of certain private open space tracts that were set aside through the land development process for the potential to utilize some of these lands for trail or neighborhood greenway linkages.



PARKS & RECREATION

Support Analysis

Park Impact Fees

Park Impact Fees (PIF) are imposed on new development to meet the increased demand for parks resulting from the new growth. PIF can only be used for parkland acquisition, planning, and/or development. They cannot be used for operations, maintenance or repairs of parks and facilities. The City of Maple Valley currently assesses impact fees, but the City should review its PIF ordinance and update the methodology and rate structure as appropriate to be best positioned to obtain future acquisition and development financing from renewed residential development. Once revised, the methodology and rates should be forwarded to City Council for review and approval. The City should prioritize the usage of PIF to secure additional community parkland and consider the potential to match PIF with a councilmanic or voter-approved bond to have the requisite capital to purchase key properties and develop new community park amenities.

Other Local Funding

Although a variety of approaches exist to support individual projects or programs, the broader assessment of community needs suggests that additional, dedicated funding may be required to finance upgrades to and growth in the parks system. In 2013, City Council committed to pursuing a capital bond to primarily support the development of Summit Park. Depending on the outcome of the negotiations with the Tahoma School District regarding the future development of that site, City Council will need to reassess the scope of a bond and strategize for the implementation of parks and recreation related civic infrastructure.

Also, a levy or levy lid lift could be used to fund ongoing operating expenses, expand recreation program offerings and/or offset the maintenance deficit created by the transfer of the Lake Wilderness Park and Lodge from King County. A levy could be structured to maximize voter support to include additional park development, trail development, waterfront improvements at Lake Wilderness and general park amenity upgrades. This will require additional effort by the Parks and Recreation Commission to compile a specific funding package, along with an assessment of potential revenue, political willingness and potential voter support. Based on the 2014 Budget, the City has ample debt capacity available to it to finance these improvements.



Element 5
PARKS & RECREATION
 Support Analysis

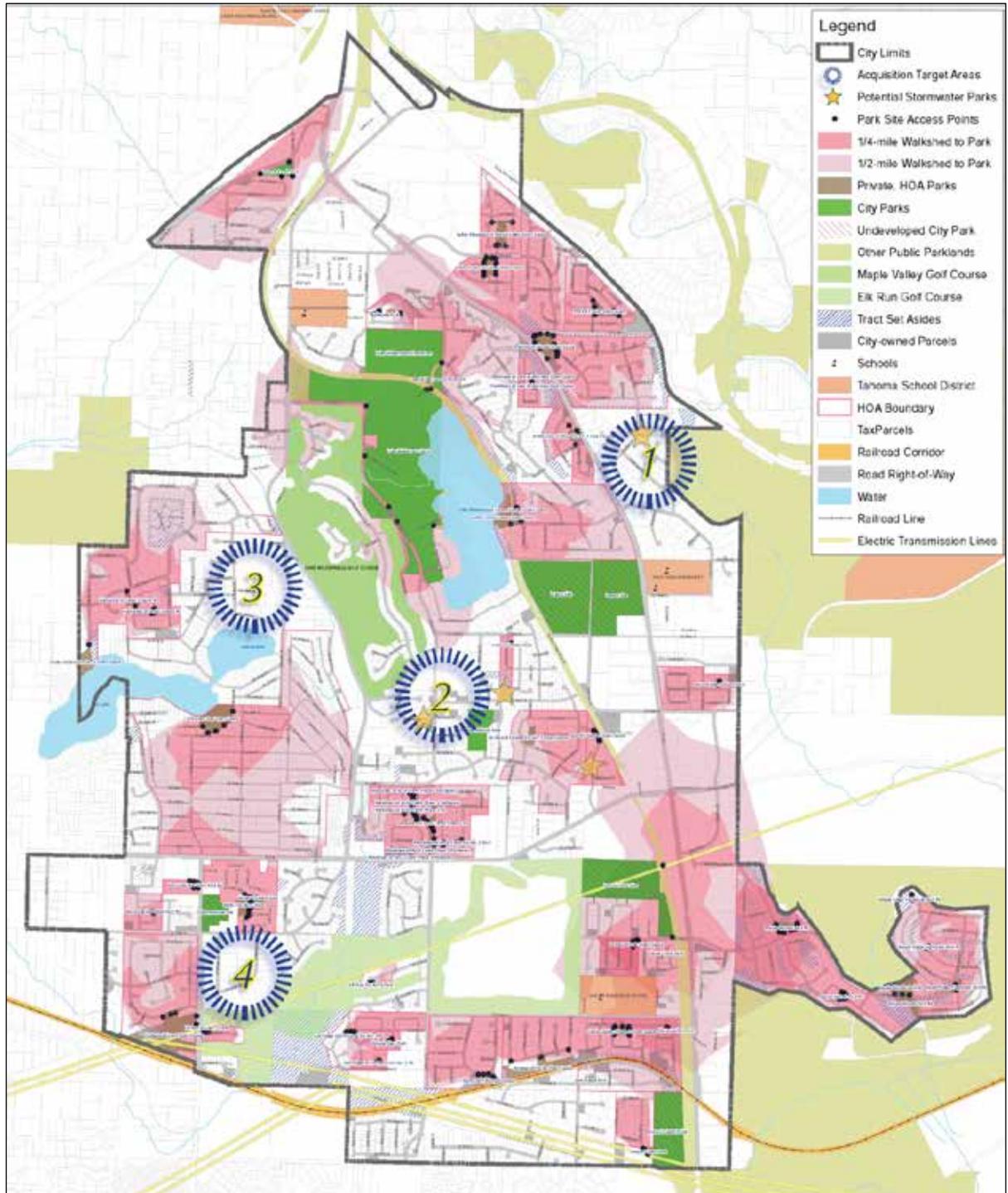


Figure 5.12 – Proposed Parks and Greenways



Element 5
PARKS & RECREATION
Support Analysis

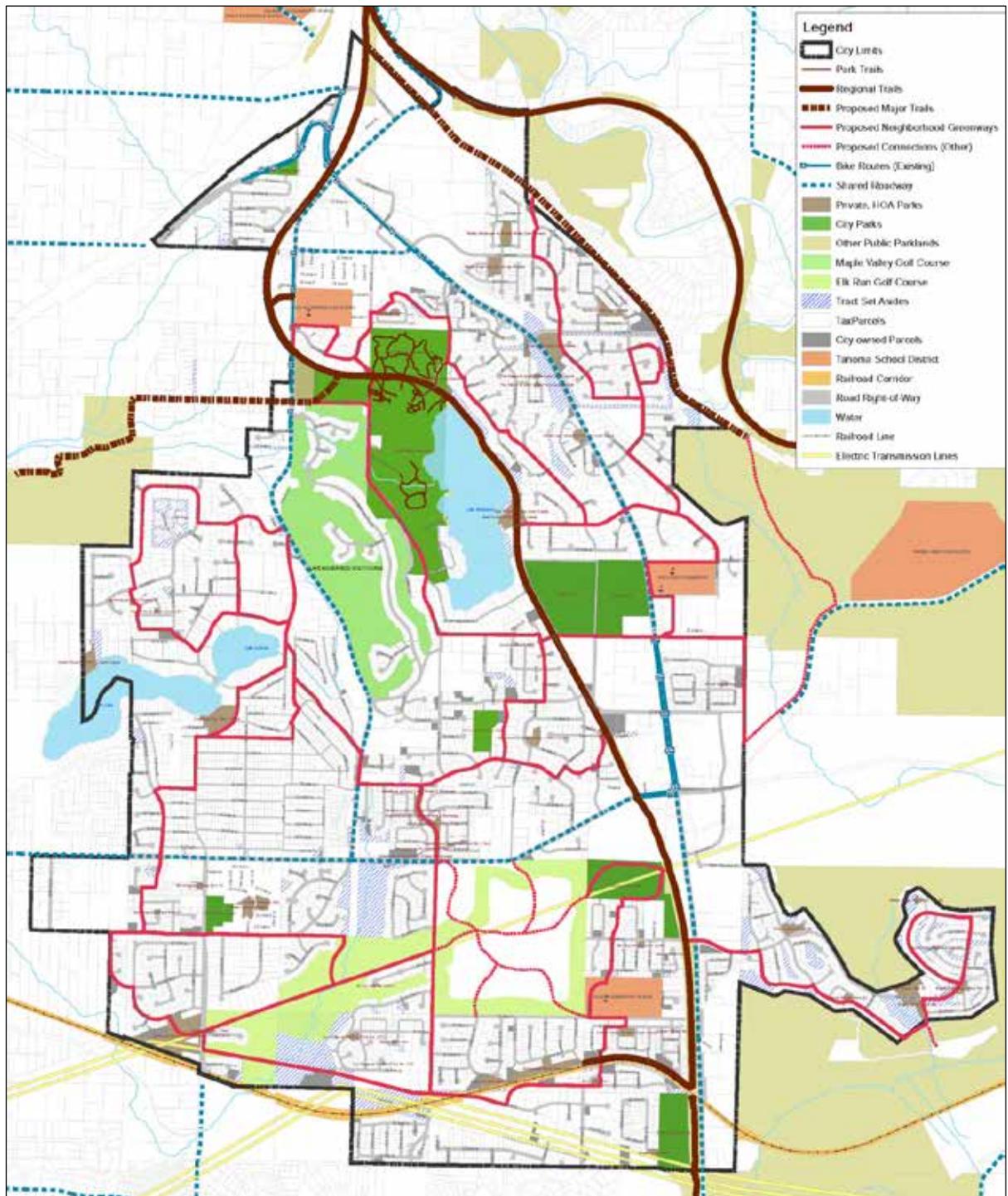


Figure 5.13 – Proposed Trails, Bikeways and Neighborhood Greenways (* Elk Run Golf Course has since been decommissioned.)



PARKS & RECREATION

Goals & Policies

GOALS & POLICIES

ACTIVE USE PARKS

Goal PR-1: Maple Valley's park system meets local recreation needs, supports the health and well-being of residents, and enhances the environmental and visual quality of the community.

- Policies:**
- PR-P1.1** The City shall endeavor to provide park lands at the following service standards:
 - Community Parks: 6 acres per 1,000 residents
 - Neighborhood & Pocket Parks: 2.5 acres per 1,000 residents
 - PR-P1.2** The City shall encourage the private ownership, development and management of neighborhood parks within all new residential subdivisions to provide residents with nearby opportunities for unstructured recreation.
 - PR-P1.3** The City shall strive to provide and maintain a developed community park within a 1.5 mile travelshed of all residents to provide multi-use recreation areas.
 - PR-P1.4** The City shall endeavor to provide special facilities and use areas to accommodate a variety of recreation uses, such as golf courses, sport field complexes, sites for community centers, etc.
 - PR-P1.5** The City shall support the preservation and improvement of state, county and municipal parks, trails and facilities that provide park and recreational opportunities to City residents.
 - PR-P1.6** Require dedication and development of a local neighborhood park as a condition of approval for subdivisions of four (4) or more lots. The City may accept fees in lieu of development if such mitigation is not practical (see "Funding").
 - PR-P1.7** Require that development of recreational amenities conform to the City's minimum guidelines and the general needs outlined in this Plan.

NATURAL AREA PRESERVATION & RESTORATION

Goal PR-2: Develop and promote a culture oriented to economic development in City services and communicate that priority to residents and externally.

- Policies:**
- PR-P2.1** The City shall endeavor to preserve significant natural areas to provide opportunities for residents to recreate and connect with nature and to meet habitat protection needs.
 - PR-P2.2** The City shall strive to manage City-owned natural areas to protect and enhance their ecological health, sensitive habitats, and native species.



PARKS & RECREATION

Goals & Policies

TRAIL & PATHWAY SYSTEM

Goal PR-3: Maple Valley's system of interconnected shared-use paths, trails, sidewalks, and pedestrian and bicycle corridors connect residents to parks, schools, businesses and key destinations throughout the city. The City's trail and pathway system builds upon the existing Cedar to Green River Trail and integrates with the City's active transportation network to ensure safe, convenient, and accessible transportation options for the community.

- Policies:**
- PR-P3.1** The City shall develop a network of shared-use trails and neighborhood greenways that connect within and between parks, nearby neighborhoods, key community destinations, and major pedestrian and bicycle routes identified in the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan.
 - PR-P3.2** The City shall develop and implement a network of neighborhood greenways that increase access to parks and greenspace through the City's existing paved and unpaved facilities, greenways, forested paths and facilities along the City's roadway network.
 - PR-P3.3** The City shall ensure the City's trail and pathway network is accessible, identifiable, convenient and safe for users of all ages and abilities.
 - PR-P3.4** Require development projects along proposed designated trail routes to incorporate trail segments as part of the project.
 - PR-P3.5** Coordinate with King County and other local jurisdictions to provide a regional trail network, to include the extension of the Lake Wilderness Trail and establishment of the Covington Highlands Trail and the Tri-Cities Trail, and connect the City's trail and pathway system to regional trails.
 - PR-P3.6** Seek opportunities to develop east/west pathway, trail and sidewalk connections to complement the north/southeastern route provided by the Cedar to Green River Trail.

RECREATION FACILITIES

Goal PR-4: Maple Valley's sports fields, courts and other recreation facilities provide high-quality places for children, teens, adults and seniors to recreate and play.

- Policies:**
- PR-P4.1** The City shall provide a diversity of recreational facilities, including sports fields, courts and specialized facilities (e.g. golf courses, skate parks, off-leash areas, pea patches) to meet a wide range of community needs.
 - PR-P4.2** The City shall endeavor to develop recreation facilities that provide maximum flexibility for current uses and can be adapted for emerging sports.
 - PR-P4.3** The City shall explore options with the community for developing enhanced facilities for all age groups to include all-weather and/or illuminated sport fields.
 - PR-P4.4** The City shall collaborate with sport groups, the Tahoma School District



PARKS & RECREATION

Goals & Policies

and other providers to facilitate the development of a variety of affordable recreation facilities and options for residents of all ages.

PR-P4.5 The City shall maintain and manage recreation facilities to ensure the safety and enjoyment of participants and protection of the City's capital investment.

PR-P4.6 The City shall strive to develop sufficient sports fields to meet the recreational needs of Maple Valley residents. This Plan recommends a level of service standard for sports fields of:

- Baseball Fields: 1 field per 5,000 residents
- Softball Fields: 1 field per 5,000 residents
- Soccer Fields: 1 field per 5,000 residents

PR-P4.7 The city shall evaluate long term maintenance costs for park properties as a part of a bond measure or financing program to acquire additional recreational properties.

RECREATION PROGRAMMING

Goal PR-5: The City of Maple Valley offers residents a diverse array of recreational activities and programs that promotes the health and well-being of residents of all ages, abilities and interests.

Policies: **PR-P5.1** The City shall encourage the expansion of engaging, affordable and safe recreation programs and healthy alternatives for leisure time.

PR-P5.2 The City shall foster positive, collaborative relationships with recognized athletic and recreational providers and organizations to provide recreational programs.

PR-P5.3 Continue and enhance partnerships with the Greater Maple Valley Community Center, the Tahoma School District, private and non-profit agencies, private fitness clubs and local businesses to provide recreation services to the community.

PR-P5.4 Enhance the diversity of recreation programs offered, in partnership with other recreation providers and organizations, focusing on programs that are in high demand or serve a range of users.

CULTURAL & HERITAGE

Goal PR-6: Maple Valley's parks, recreation facilities and community events bring residents together and foster community pride, identity and livability.

Policies: **PR-P6.1** The City shall work with the community and recognized organizations to foster a greater number and variety of cultural events and support community celebrations.



PARKS & RECREATION

Goals & Policies

- PR-P6.2** The City shall seek opportunities to support heritage facilities within City limits.

HUMAN SERVICES

Goal PR-7: All members of the Maple Valley community have the resources and opportunities necessary to meet their basic physical, economic and social needs and to improve the quality of life for themselves and their families.

- Policies:**
- PR-P7.1** The City shall support opportunities for residents to engage in social, educational, justice, and health programs, in partnership with community agencies.
 - PR-P7.2** The City shall partner with the Greater Maple Valley Community Center, Maple Valley Food Bank & Emergency Services, King County, the Tahoma School District and community organizations to provide social, educational and health programs that enrich residents' lives.

PLANNING & COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Goal PR-8: Members of the Maple Valley community are actively engaged in the planning, design and stewardship of the City's parks, recreation facilities, and cultural and human services.

- Policies:**
- PR-P8.1** The City shall encourage and support active and ongoing participation by diverse community members in the planning and decision-making for parks and recreation.
 - PR-P8.2** The City shall develop and maintain system-wide and site-specific plans for the development and management of the park and recreation system to guide future actions.

SITE DESIGN, DEVELOPMENT & MANAGEMENT

Goal PR-9: Maple Valley's park and recreation system is efficient to maintain and operate, and provides a high level of user comfort, safety, aesthetic quality and protects the public's capital investment.

- Policies:**
- PR-P9.1** The City shall endeavor to design, develop and manage the City's park sites and facilities to ensure the safety and enjoyment of users, maximize recreational experience and minimize maintenance and operational costs.
 - PR-P9.2** The City shall strive to reduce barriers to participation and ensure facilities and programs are accessible and welcoming to all users.
 - PR-P9.3** The City shall provide informative, convenient, and consistent signage; communication and informational materials to help residents fully utilize the City's recreational resources.



PARKS & RECREATION

Goals & Policies

FUNDING

Goal PR-10: Maple Valley's park, recreation, natural areas, and cultural facilities and programs are supported by varied, dependable and sustainable funding sources.

- Policies:**
- PR-P10.1** The City shall use a variety of funding sources to adequately and cost-effectively acquire, develop and maintain park and open space land.
 - PR-P10.2** The City shall require dedication of parkland, recreational areas, and/or open space or a fee in lieu of dedication in conjunction with all new residential development, consistent with the requirements of the City's Development Regulations.
 - PR-P10.3** The City shall pursue traditional and alternative funding sources for parks, facilities and programs to include private donations, partnerships, sponsorships, state and federal grant sources, dedicated local taxes and local bonds or levies.
 - PR-P10.4** The City shall manage and update the Park Impact Fee program to ensure new development contributes its proportional share toward the provision of community park lands and facilities to meet adopted service standards.

ADMINISTRATION

Goal PR-11: Maple Valley's Parks and Recreation Department coalesces the community and stewards its human, social and physical capital and resources to expand recreational opportunities for City residents.

- Policies:**
- PR-P11.1** The City shall strive to provide sufficient staff resources to maintain the overall parks and recreation system to the City's standards.
 - PR-P11.2** The City shall promote volunteerism to engage individuals, groups, organizations and businesses in the planning, development and stewardship of the park and recreation system.