



City of Maple Valley
Parks, Recreation, Arts & Open Space Plan

February 2020

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Parks, Recreation, Arts and Open Space (PRAOS) Plan is a six-year guide and strategic plan for managing and enhancing park and recreation services in Maple Valley. It establishes a path forward for providing high quality, community-driven parks, trails, open spaces and recreational opportunities. The Plan reinforces the City's vision for its park and recreation system, proposes updates to service standards for parks and trails and addresses departmental goals, objectives and other management considerations toward the continuation of quality recreation opportunities to benefit the residents of Maple Valley.

This Plan was developed with the input and direction of Maple Valley residents. The Plan inventories and evaluates existing park and recreation areas, assesses the needs for acquisition, site development and operations and offers specific policies and recommendations to achieve the community's goals.

VISION FOR THE FUTURE

Guided by the mission of the Parks and Recreation Department and the current goals of the City Council, this PRAOS Plan frames service delivery around a core vision that was an outgrowth from resident feedback regarding their interests, needs and preferences for parks and recreation services.

The mission of the Parks and Recreation Department is to enhance the quality of life and build community by providing safe, welcoming parks and recreation opportunities for people to gather and engage in activities that promote health, well-being and community. The Department shall be good stewards of the environment and resources entrusted to our care, endeavor to foster creative partnerships and be responsive to the evolving needs of our community.

This mission provided the foundation for the goals, objectives, recommendations and guidelines found throughout this Plan.

MAPLE VALLEY'S RECREATION SYSTEM

The City of Maple Valley currently provides approximately 360 acres of public parkland and recreation facilities distributed among nine sites, and the system of parks supports a range of active and passive recreation experiences. In addition, the City provides athletic fields for soccer and baseball, a skate park and approximately 9 miles of trails. Maple Valley residents also can access additional parks, trails, open spaces and recreational facilities provided by King County, the Tahoma School District and private homeowners association parks.

The heart of Maple Valley's park system is Lake Wilderness Park. Situated on Lake Wilderness and offering views of Mt. Rainier, the park is the community's gathering place for recreation and social events. A variety of annual community events are held in Lake Wilderness Park and include Maple Valley Days, Music in the Park, 4th of July Celebration, Fishing Derby, Kid's Festival and Movie Under the Stars. The historic Lake Wilderness Lodge, Lake Wilderness Golf Course and Lake Wilderness Arboretum complement the park and provide significant recreational assets for the community. Also, the recently constructed Summit Park expands local recreation options and offers all-weather sport fields, skate park, dog park and an inclusive playground. The City also provides recreation programs ranging from youth and adult sports, fitness, music and dance, and the City has partnerships with local providers including the Tahoma School District and the Greater Maple Valley Community Center.

With new development and projected population growth, continued investments in parks and recreation will be necessary to meet the needs of the community, support youth development, provide options for residents to lead healthy, active lives and foster greater social and community connections.

GOALS & POLICIES

This Plan includes a series of goals intended to guide City decision-making to ensure the parks and recreation system meets the needs of the Maple Valley community for years to come. These goals and policies were based on community input and technical analysis. They include:

- **Planning & Community Involvement:** Members of the Maple Valley community are actively engaged in the planning, design and stewardship of the City's parks, recreation facilities, and cultural offerings.
- **Active Use Parks:** 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.
- **Natural Area Preservation and Restoration:** Maple Valley's natural areas are protected, support healthy habitat and native wildlife, and provide opportunities for residents to experience nature.
- **Trail & Pathway System:** Maple Valley's system of interconnected shared-use paths, trails, sidewalks and pedestrian and bicycle corridors connect residents to parks, schools, and key destinations throughout the city. The City's trail and pathway system builds upon the existing Green to Cedar River Trail and integrates with the city's active transportation network to ensure safe, convenient and accessible transportation options for the community.
- **Site Design, Development & Management:** 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.

- **Recreation Facilities & Programming:** Maple Valley’s sports fields, courts and other recreation facilities provide high-quality places for children, teens, adults and seniors to recreate and play.
- **Recreation Facilities & Programming:** 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.
- **Public Art, Cultural & Heritage:** Maple Valley’s parks, recreation facilities and community events bring residents together and foster community pride, identity and livability.
- **Funding:** Maple Valley’s park, recreation, natural areas and cultural facilities and programs are supported by varied, dependable and sustainable funding sources.
- **Administration:** 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.

FUTURE IMPROVEMENTS

The City of Maple Valley is anticipated to grow to approximately 29,680 residents by 2030 based on a build-out forecast. Serving existing and future residents will require improvements to existing parks, expansion of the park system, expansion of the path and trail network and development of recreation facilities. The six-year Capital Facilities Plan proposes approximately \$9.7 million of investment in acquisition, development and renovation of the parks system over the next six to ten years and identifies additional investment priorities for the future.

To ensure existing parks provide desired recreational amenities and offer safe and accessible opportunities to play and gather, the Plan includes investments in the development and improvement of neighborhood and community parks. For example, the future development of the Legacy site, Elk Run Natural Area and Henrys Switch Open Space, along with renovation of the golf course clubhouse, will provide enjoyment for decades to come. The Plan also proposes smaller improvements throughout the park system to enhance ADA accessibility, safety and usability of park amenities.

The importance for enhanced connectivity for walking and biking has been expressed through public feedback and is endorsed in existing City’s planning documents. The Plan proposes development of paths and trails, and many of these connections will help fill existing gaps in the path and trail network to make a more connected and comprehensive system. The extension of the Green to Cedar Rivers Trail should be promoted through King County as a priority for their trail plan implementation. The City’s continuing efforts to plan for and improve the Elk Run Natural Area is a good example of its commitment to providing more connections and enhancements for the community of walkers, runners, and cyclists who are looking for safe and enjoyable routes to explore.

Expanded recreational and community programming has been an identified need through this planning process. The City should continue to focus on programs that are in high demand or serve a range of users, while continuing to monitor local and regional recreation trends to ensure local needs and interests are addressed by program offerings. However, the number and types of activities the City can offer in its facilities are limited by a lack of facility capacity and staffing. To meet this need, the City should continue to explore options for a multi-use indoor facility

to enable comprehensive recreation programs for Maple Valley residents. The facility should include gymnasiums, classrooms and multi-functional rooms, fitness rooms and possibly aquatics. A close look at financing alternatives and partnership opportunities will be necessary to offset development and operational costs.

The Plan identifies the need for additional acquisitions to ensure sufficient land for outdoor recreation as population grows, and it identifies target acquisition areas to secure community parkland, gain access rights along key trail corridors and fill gaps in core park access. However, opportunities to acquire large park sites will become more difficult as the City nears its projected build-out, so a re-evaluation of service standards is warranted for a subsequent update to the PRAOS Plan.

STRATEGIES

A number of strategies exist to enhance and expand park and recreation service delivery for the City of Maple Valley; however, clear decisions must be made in an environment of competing interests and limited resources. A strong community willingness to offer financial support is necessary to bring many of the projects listed in this Plan to life. While grants and other efficiencies may help, these alone will not be enough to realize many ideas and projects noted in this Plan. Some strategies include enhanced inter-departmental coordination related to land use and development planning, maintaining and updating park impact fees as appropriate, volunteer and community-based improvement projects and exploring options for local funding.



CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION & OVERVIEW

PURPOSE OF THE PLAN

This Parks, Recreation, Arts & Open Space (PRAOS) Plan considers the park and recreation needs of Maple Valley residents and was prepared with the input and direction of local recreation leaders, stakeholders and residents. The Plan provides a blueprint for the growth, enhancement and management of the Maple Valley park and recreation system and is an update to the 2014 Parks, Recreation, Cultural and Human Services Plan.

As a six-year guide and strategic plan for enhancing park and recreation services, the Plan establishes a path forward for providing high quality, community-driven parks, trails, natural areas and recreational opportunities throughout Maple Valley. The Plan provides a vision for the City's park and recreation system, proposes updates to City service standards and addresses departmental goals, objectives and other management considerations toward the continuation of quality recreation opportunities, programs and facility enhancements to benefit the residents of Maple Valley.

The PRAOS Plan was developed with the input of Maple Valley residents through public meetings and a community survey and was guided by the direction of the Parks and Recreation Commission. The Plan inventories and evaluates existing park and recreation areas, assesses the needs for acquisition, site development and operations and offers specific policies and recommendations to achieve the community's goals.

The recommendations in this Plan are based on community input, evaluations of the existing park system, and needs for operations. The Plan is intended to be updated periodically to remain current with local interests and maintain eligibility for state-based grants.

PLANNING PROCESS

The PRAOS Plan represents the culmination of a year-long planning effort to define the community's needs for parks, recreation facilities and programs, and trails over the next six years.

The Plan reflects the community's interests and needs for park and recreational facilities, trails and programming. The planning process encouraged and enabled public engagement in the choices, priorities and future direction of the City's park and recreation system. The Plan project team conducted a variety of public outreach activities. Community members expressed their interests through a mail and online survey, open house meeting, stakeholder discussions, online engagement, and Parks and Recreation Commission meetings.

In addition to community engagement, the actions identified in this Plan are based on:

- An inventory and assessment of the City's existing park and recreation facilities to establish the current performance of the system and to identify needed maintenance and capital repair and replacement projects,
- A level of service and walkability assessment to quantify the system's ability to serve both current and future residents.

The Plan's capital facilities plan and accompanying implementation and funding strategies are intended to move the City toward the community's park and recreation goals while recognizing operational realities.

PARKS & RECREATION SYSTEM OVERVIEW

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, which includes lands owned by the City, King County, Tahoma School District, private organizations and homeowner associations.

The City owns and maintains three active-use parks (Lake Wilderness, Summit, Take-A-Break Parks), one special facility (Lake Wilderness Golf Course), one natural open space area (Fernwood Natural Area), and three undeveloped parks (Henry's Switch Park, Legacy Site, and the Elk Run Natural Area). The City also provides recreation programs ranging from youth and adult sports, fitness, music, dance and special events. In addition, the City has partnerships with local providers including the Tahoma School District and the Greater Maple Valley Community Center, as well as private vendors to provide a wide variety of programs and services to the community.

The Parks and Recreation Department is comprised of four key areas: Administration, Parks Maintenance, Lake Wilderness Lodge Operations, and Recreation Services.

- Administration: responsible for fiscal and personnel management, clerical support services, staff support to Park and Recreation Commission, the Capital Improvement Program, and management of Lake Wilderness Golf Course.
- Parks Maintenance: responsible to maintain, repair, and improve parks and facilities throughout the City.
- Lake Wilderness Lodge Operations: maintains, repairs, schedules, and monitors use of the Lodge.
- Recreation Services: provides a variety of recreational programs and events, and promotes programs and facilities.

With the recent opening of Summit Park, the Department has successfully increased staffing for parks maintenance. The Parks and Recreation Department accounts for approximately 19% of the City's 2019/2020 Budget. The Department currently employs 13.5 full-time equivalent (FTE) staff, with the same number of FTEs budgeted for 2020. Expenditures in 2018 were \$3,685,484 with proposed 2020 budget of \$4,377,340 - representing a 19% increase over the two year cycle. 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.

VISION FOR THE FUTURE

The 2014 park system plan offered a future vision of Maple Valley that was an outgrowth from resident feedback regarding their interests, needs and preferences for parks and recreation services. This vision remains relevant today as a guiding force for City efforts.

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.

The mission of the Parks and Recreation Department is to enhance the quality of life and build community by providing safe, welcoming parks and recreation opportunities for people to gather and engage in activities that promote health, well-being and community. The Department shall be good stewards of the environment and resources entrusted to our care, endeavor to foster creative partnerships, and be responsive the evolving needs of the community.

Additionally, City Council identified its goals for each department providing public services within the city. The Council goals for the Parks & Recreation Department for 2019-2020 were articulated as follows:

- Support the Parks staff in their efforts to complete the construction of the Summit Park
- Finalize new park rules including scheduling priorities and policies for the new athletic fields
- Provide enough funding to maintain our park infrastructure
- Finalize plans to improve Lake Wilderness Golf Course
- Support the addition of parking at Lake Wilderness Park
- Continue to support community events such as Music in the Park, Family 4th of July at the Park.

This vision provides the foundation for the goals, objectives, recommendations and guidelines in the following chapters within this Plan.

REVIEW OF PAST COMMUNITY PLANS

The City has produced and updated a range of planning documents and studies since incorporation. To a varying degree, each has had impact on parks, recreation, cultural and human services within the City. Several community plans were reviewed for past policy direction and goals as they pertain to the provision and planning for parks, trails and recreation in Maple Valley. The development of each involved public input and final adoption by their respective responsible legislative body. A summary of each of these is listed below.

Parks, Recreation, Cultural & Human Services Plan (2014)

The City's first parks plan was 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. The 2014 Parks, Recreation, Cultural and Human Services Plan Update proposed revised service standards for park and facility classifications and modified departmental goals, objectives and other management directions to ensure continued high-quality recreation opportunities for Maple Valley residents. The Plan considered the City's current inventory of 320 acres of public parkland and recreation facilities distributed among 9 parks, special facilities and natural areas as well as a skate park and approximately 3 miles of trails. The Plan recognized the additional park and recreational amenities provided by King County and the Tahoma School District that are available to the community. The public parkland inventory is also complimented by several hundred acres of private HOA parks, private special facilities and open space tracts. The combined public and private parkland acreage reaches over 700 acres. The 2014 PRCHS Plan included a 6-year Capital Facilities Plan proposing approximately \$15.6 million of investment in acquisition, development and renovation of the parks system over the next six years and identifying additional investment priorities for the future.

Maple Valley Comprehensive Plan (2016)

The Comprehensive Plan, updated in January 2016, establishes the policy framework for land use, housing, transportation and public services in Maple Valley. The policies guide the future of development and influence the provision of parks and protection of natural areas. The Parks and Recreation Element, part of the 2016 update, synthesized content from the 2014 Parks, Recreation, Cultural and Human Services (PRCHS) Plan which included revisions to the City services standards and addressed action items and management considerations for the provision of park, recreation and other services for residents. The Park and Recreation Element also reaffirmed the Parks and Recreation Capital Facilities Plan (CFP) for 2014-2019.

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.

Lake Wilderness Park Master Plan (2007)

Prepared in 2007, this site master plan provides a layout of the entire Lake Wilderness Park and the Lodge. The master plan addresses recreational programming for the park's growing number of visitors. 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. Conceived as a three phase project, the planning improvements to the site include ballfields, tennis courts, basketball court, playgrounds, skate spot and parking. The master planning process identified the challenges, opportunities, constraints and cost allowances for project implementation.

Legacy Site Planning Study (2005 - 2018)

This site planning study was led by a project citizen advisory committee, which concluded in 2005. In early 2016, City Council established a new Legacy Site Task Force with the purpose to research, study and make recommendations for the future use of the site. Additional studies were conducted by the Urban Lands Institute and the University of Washington. Building on these studies and public outreach that included a community survey, the Task Force offered the following recommended uses for the site to Council in 2018:

- Active Forest
- Civic Green
- Commercial with unique retail
- Destination “brewhouse” type restaurant (no national chain)
- Higher Learning Center (tech or corporate campus with residency)
- Farmers/Public Market
- Innovative Offices and Collaborative Workspaces
- Recreation Center with Indoor pool
- Visitor Center

Downtown Visioning Workshop Study (2019)

In May and June, 2019, the City held two visioning workshops to explore ideas and opportunities to create a future downtown with vitality, local scale, environmental integrity and sense of place that draws people to want to visit. City Council is collaborating with the Economic Development Commission and Planning Commission to develop a plan for the future of the downtown. Planning work is expected to continue to formulate the vision for a vibrant and place-making downtown identity.

King County Open Space Plan (2016)

The 2016 King County Open Space Plan: Parks, Trails, and Natural Areas (2016 Open Space Plan), a functional plan of the King County Comprehensive Plan, provides the policy framework for the county’s acquisition, planning, development, stewardship, maintenance, management, and funding of its complex system of 200 parks, 175 miles of regional trails, and 28,000 acres of open space. The Open Space Plan reflects changes that King County’s Parks and Recreation Division (Parks) has undergone in recent years (since last 2010 plan). This 2016 plan addresses the King County Strategic Plan goals of achieving environmental and social justice, public engagement, sustainability and regional collaboration. The plan also incorporates the policy direction from the King County Strategic Climate Action Plan. Additional specific plan revisions provided policy direction towards implementing:

- Stewardship plans for forests on all types of park lands, not just working forest lands, consistent with the Strategic Climate Action Plan, to ensure healthy and resilient forests.
- Regional trail corridors that provide recreational opportunities as well as non-motorized transportation options and that future development will focus on filling gaps in the system, providing connections to regional destinations and providing equal access for all.
- The preservation and stewardship of significant historic and archaeological resources within the open space system.
- The priority goals and objectives of the 2014-2019 Parks, Trails and Open Space Replacement Levy.

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. The plan identified a preliminary preferred alignment for these trails, as well as opportunities and constraints for trail development. Maple Valley is located at the center of these two trail alignments, and when completed, these trails will significantly enhance regional trail connectivity.

CONTENTS OF THE PLAN

The remainder of the Maple Valley PRAOS Plan is organized as follows:

- Chapter 2: Community Profile – provides an overview of the City of Maple Valley and its demographics.
- Chapter 3: Community Outreach – highlights the methods used to engage the Maple Valley community in the development of the Plan.
- Chapter 4: Goals & Objectives – provides a policy framework for the parks and recreation system grouped by major functional or program area.
- Chapter 5: Classifications & Inventory – describes the existing park and recreation system in the City and highlights recreational resources located within or near Maple Valley.
- Chapters 6: System Needs Assessment – discusses survey results, community feedback and other recreation trend data and provides context to the identification of potential park, trail and recreation system enhancements.
- Chapter 7: Capital Planning – details a 6-year program for addressing park and recreation facility enhancement or expansion projects.
- Chapter 8: Implementation – describes a range of strategies and alternatives to consider in the implementation of the Plan.
- Appendices: Provides technical or supporting information to the planning effort and includes a summary of the community survey, public meeting notes, funding alternatives, among others.



COMMUNITY PROFILE

Incorporated in 1997, Maple Valley is a relatively young city that has experienced rapid growth over the past 20+ years. The city is home to many families with children. Maple Valley's residents are generally well-educated and have higher than average incomes. While the city is predominately white, the population of communities of color has increased over the past two decades.

Population

The City of Maple Valley experienced rapid population growth after incorporation in 1997, when the population was approximately 7,450. According to Census and Washington Office of Financial Management data, the City grew by 84% between 2000 and 2019 to a population of 26,180. The City currently projects a 2030 population of 29,680.

Maple Valley has grown more quickly than King County as a whole, where the population increased 28% between 2000 and 2019.

Figure 1. Population Characteristics: Maple Valley, King County & Washington

Demographics	Maple Valley	King County	Washington
Population Characteristics			
Population (2019)	26,180	2,226,300	7,546,410
Population (2010)	22,684	1,931,249	6,724,540
Population (2000)	14,209	1,737,034	5,894,121
Percent Change (2000-19)	84.2%	28.2%	28.0%
Persons w/ Disabilities under age 65	5.9%	5.6%	7.7%
Household Characteristics (2013-17)			
Households	8,656	851,077	2,755,697
Percent with children	54.5%	29.2%	30.9%
Median Household Income	\$102,130	\$83,571	\$66,174
Average Household Size	2.93	2.45	2.55
Average Family Size	3.29	3.06	3.10
Owner Occupancy Rate	83.1%	57.4%	62.7%
Age Groups (2013-2017)			
Median Age	35.8	37.2	37.6
Population < 5 years of age	7.7%	6.0%	6.3%
Population < 18 years of age	31.5%	20.7%	22.5%
Population 18 - 64 years of age	60.6%	66.8%	63.1%
Population > 65 years of age	7.9%	12.5%	14.4%

Sources: Washington Office of Financial Management Population Estimates, 2019
 U.S. Census, 2000 Census, 2010 Census, 2013-2017 American Community Survey

Age Group Distribution

The City of Maple Valley has a younger population compared to King County. Nearly one-third (31.5%) of Maple Valley residents are youth up to 18 years of age, 50.5% are 18 to 55 year olds, and 18% are 55 and older. The median age of City residents is 35.8 – younger than King County (37.2), the State of Washington (37.6) and the nation (37.2).

The City’s largest “20-year” population groups are comprised of 30- to 49-year-olds and 0- to 19-year olds, each representing 34% of the population in 2017.

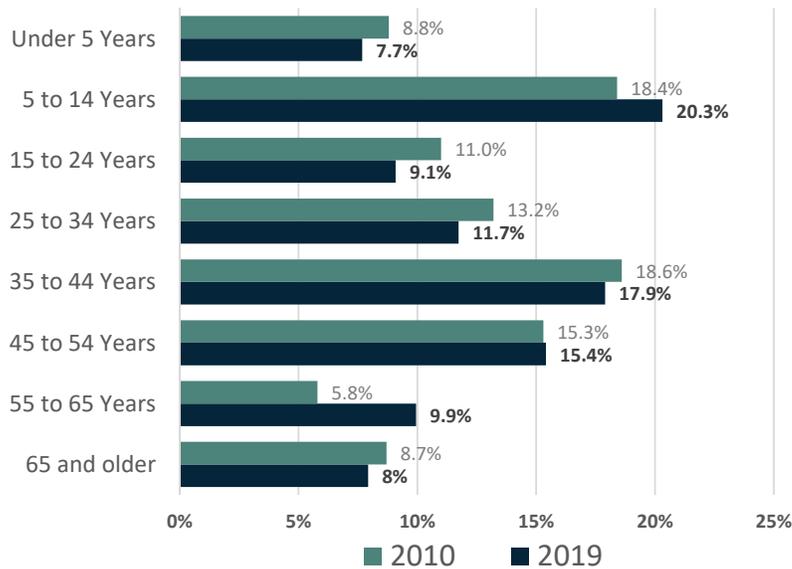
The following breakdown is used to separate the population into age-sensitive user groups.

- Youth under 5 years of age make up 8% of Maple Valley’s population. This group represents users of preschool and tot programs and facilities, and as trails and open space users, are often in strollers. These individuals are the future participants in youth activities.
- Children 5 to 14 years make up current youth program participants. Approximately 20% of the city’s population falls into this age range.
- Teens and young adults, age 15 to 24 years, are in transition from youth program to adult programs and participate in teen/young adult programs where available. Members of this age group are often seasonal employment seekers. About 9% percent of residents are teens and young adults.
- Adults ages 25 to 34 years are users of adult programs. Approximately 12% of residents are in this age category. These residents may be entering long-term relationships and establishing families. One-in-three city households are families with children (30%).

- Adults between 35 and 54 years of age, who make up 33% of the city’s population, represent users of a wide range of adult programs and park facilities. Their characteristics extend from having children using preschool and youth programs to becoming empty nesters.
- Older adults, ages 55 years and older, make up approximately 18% of the city’s population. This group represents users of older adult programs. These residents may be approaching retirement or already retired and may be spending time with grandchildren. This group also ranges from very healthy, active seniors to more physically inactive seniors.

Figure 2 illustrates the age distribution characteristics of these cohorts with a comparison to 2010 Census data.

Figure 2. Age Group Distributions: 2010 & 2017



Race & Ethnicity

In 2017, Maple Valley was 82.9% White, 5.6% Asian, 1.6% African American, 0.6% American Indian or Alaskan Native, 0.1% Pacific Islander, 1.3% other race, and 7.9% from two or more races. Just over 5.7% of people identified as Hispanic or Latino of any race. This was an increase (11%) in the percentage of communities of color since 2000.

According to the 2017 American Community Survey, approximately 8% of Maple Valley’s population speaks a language other than English at home, although 80% of this group also speaks English very well. This is a lower percentage of people than in King County (27%) and in Washington as a whole (19%).

Household Characteristics

The 2017 average household size in the City of Maple Valley was 2.93 people, higher than the county (2.45) and state (2.55) average. Average household size dropped slightly since 2010. The average family size in Maple Valley is larger, at 3.29 people. Of the 8,656 households in the City, 79% have children under 18, 66% were married couples living together, 16% had a single head of household and 21% were non-families.

Income & Poverty

According to the 2017 American Community Survey, the median household income in the City of Maple Valley was \$102,130. This figure is \$18,559 (22%) higher than the median income for King County residents, \$35,956 (54%) higher than residents of Washington. The median household income in Maple Valley has increased by 9% (\$8,637) since 2010.

At the lower end of the household income scale, approximately 8.1% percent of Maple Valley households earn less than \$25,000 annually, which is significantly fewer than households of King County (14%), the State of Washington (17%) and the United States (23%). On the other end, 51% of City households have household incomes in the higher income brackets (\$100,000 and greater), greater than the county (42%) and state (31%) figures.

In 2017, 3.3% of Maple Valley's families were living below the poverty level. The poverty threshold was an income of \$24,600 for a family of four. This percentage is much lower than the county (6%) and statewide (8%) levels. A review of subgroups shows that poverty affects 5% of those under 18 and 5% of those 65 and older, which is lower than county, statewide and national figures.

Employment & Education

The 2017 work force population (16 years and over) of Maple Valley is 17,881. Of this population, nearly three quarters (74%) is in the labor force, while one quarter (26%) is unemployed or otherwise not in the labor force. The primary occupation of the working population is management, professional and science occupations at 48%, while sales, office and service occupations comprise an additional 26% of the workforce.

On average, Maple Valley residents have higher educational attainment than residents of Washington in general. According to the 2017 American Community Survey, 40.7% of City residents over age 25 had earned a Bachelor's degree or higher (27.3% having a Bachelor's degree and 13.4% having a Graduate degree), as compared to 35.5% statewide. Additionally, 97.2% of City residents have a high school degree or higher, which is 6% higher than the statewide average.

Persons with Disabilities

The 2017 American Community Survey reported 8.3% (2,106 persons) of Maple Valley's population 5 years and older as having a disability that interferes with life activities. This is lower than state and national averages (12.9% and 12.6%, respectively). Among residents 65 and older, the percentage rises to 30%, or 2,012 persons, which is on par with percentages found in the general senior population of Washington State.



CHAPTER 3 COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Community input played a crucial role in establishing a clear planning framework that reflects current community priorities. Residents voiced their interest for the future of parks and recreation programs in Maple Valley and offered significant feedback in the development of this Plan. Public outreach methods included:

- A mail and online community survey
- A public open house meeting
- Tabling at a community events
- Group & individual stakeholder discussions
- 3 Parks & Recreation Commission meetings
- 1 Public Art Commission meeting

Throughout this process, the public provided information and expressed opinions about their needs and priorities for parks, trails and recreation services in Maple Valley. This feedback was important in preparing and organizing policy statements and prioritizing the capital facilities project list contained within this Plan.

COMMUNITY SURVEY

To help determine park, trail and recreation priorities of the community, a mixed mode (mail and online) community survey was administered for this plan update. In all, 1,105 survey responses were received.

The 17-question survey was mailed to a random sample of 2,500 households within the City of Maple Valley on June 6, 2019. An online version of the survey was posted to the City’s website at the same time. Reminder postcards were mailed to the 2,500 households on June 24th. Information about the survey was provided on the City’s website home page and on the PRAOS

Plan subpage, and it was promoted via social media. The survey was also promoted during the Maple Valley Days event on June 8th, 2019 that served as the first public venue for the PRAOS Plan. The survey was closed on August 2nd, and data were compiled and reviewed. In all, 1,105 surveys were completed. There were 437 responses completed from the print version mail survey, and 668 responses were generated via the online link published on the City's website.

Survey respondents were asked about:

- Performance and quality of programs and parks
- Usage of City parks and recreation facilities
- Overall satisfaction with the value of services being delivered by the City
- Opinions about the need for various park, recreation and trail improvements
- Priorities for future park and recreation services and facilities

Major survey findings are noted below, and a more detailed discussion of results can be found in the needs assessment (Chapter 6). A complete summary of survey findings can be found in Appendix A.

Major Findings from Community Survey

Maple Valley residents strongly value their parks and recreation facilities.

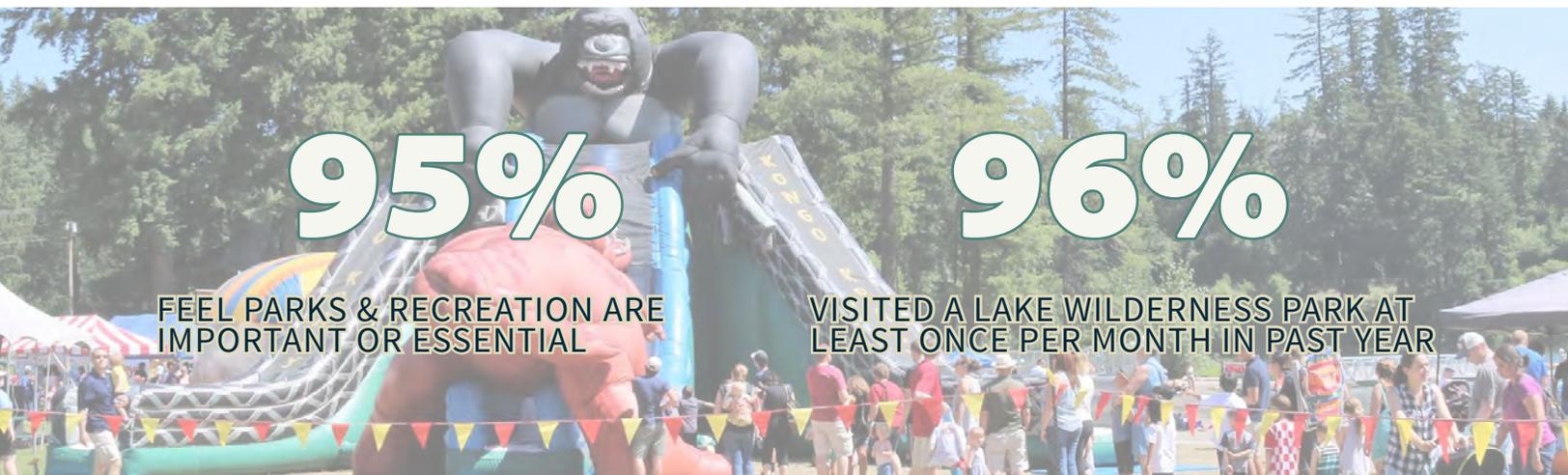
- Nearly all respondents (95%) think parks and recreation are important to quality of life in Maple Valley.

Residents visit parks frequently.

- More than nine in ten (96%) respondents have visited Lake Wilderness Park, and more than 60% have visited the Lake Wilderness Park Arboretum and Lodge.
- The most popular activities include trails, relaxation, playgrounds, and participating in festivals or celebrations.

Residents are generally satisfied with existing parks and recreation facilities.

- A large majority of respondents (79%) are somewhat to very satisfied with the value they receive from the City of Maple Valley for parks and recreation amenities.
- Approximately nine in ten gave a condition rating of excellent or good for Lake Wilderness Park (90%), Arboretum (91%), Lodge (88%) and the Gaffney Grove Disc Golf Course (91%).



Residents would like to see improvements made to the parks & recreation system.

- A majority of survey respondents (52%) think that Maple Valley does not have enough parks.
- Respondents were somewhat split on the adequacy of the remainder of recreation opportunities, with pluralities feeling there are not enough picnic areas, playgrounds and sport fields and courts.
- A large majority of respondents (80% or more) were supportive of expanding and improving multi-use walking and biking trails, all-inclusive accessible playgrounds, and picnic areas or shelters for group gatherings.

Residents are somewhat willing to fund improvements for parks and recreation facilities.

- When asked about general willingness to pay for system improvements, approximately 34% of respondents would be willing to pay up to \$5 per month, and another 24% would pay between \$6 and \$10 monthly.
- About 28% of residents would be willing to pay \$10 or more per month for improved park services.
- Respondents prefer to use non-resident fees, rental fees or user fees to support improving parks and recreation opportunities in Maple Valley.

PUBLIC EVENTS

The project team aimed to get feedback from local residents and program users at multiple community events and a public meeting during the course of the project. The City's website, social media, and local news media were used to publicize the events and encourage participation. Summary responses from the community meeting are provided in Appendix B.

Pop-Up Engagement at Events

City staff and members of the Park and Recreation Commission coordinated for and attended two community events during the summer of 2019 to solicit feedback from the public. The events included the following:

- Maple Valley Days (June 8)
- Ice Cream Social (August 26)

Display materials offered attendees to learn about the project and provide feedback about their recreational interests and priorities. Over 300 people connected with the PRAOS Plan update during these two community events.

Community Open House Meeting

Community members were invited to an open house on Wednesday, October 2, 2019 from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. at Lake Wilderness Lodge. The project team prepared informational displays covering the major themes of the PRAOS Plan. These displays included Project Overview, Survey Summary, Parks & Trails, Recreation Programs, Investment Priorities and concept plans for three city park properties.

Following a brief presentation to review the purpose of the PRAOS Plan and highlights from the community survey, attendees were encouraged to talk to project team members, record their

comments and complete a written comment card. City staff and project team staff engaged with participants to identify general needs and interests for park and recreation in Maple Valley. Approximately 20 people attended the meeting to review materials and provide comment.

STAKEHOLDER DISCUSSIONS

Interviews with external stakeholder were conducted to more broadly assess the opportunities for park system enhancements, partnerships and coordination. Stakeholders were identified by City staff based on their past coordination with the City and their involvement or interest in the future of Maple Valley's parks, programs, arts or trail facilities. The stakeholder meetings were held between September and November 2019, and the following organizations or representatives provided insight to the Plan:

- Tahoma High School
- Lake Wilderness Arboretum
- Maple Valley Black Diamond Chamber of Commerce
- Interested residents aligned with arts, trails & other aspects of parks & recreation
- Public Arts Commission
- Parks & Recreation Commission
- Maple Valley Deputy Mayor

Attendees offered a variety of suggestions on how to improve the City's park and recreation system. Comments ranged from the need for a recreation center to address the shortage of indoor facilities and programs to trail projects to specific park amenities. Attendees also encouraged greater coordination and collaboration with King County on regional trail improvements and the extension of the Green to Cedar River Trail. The following list illustrates the range of comments:

- Replace picnic shelters at Lake Wilderness Park and consider a larger (100+ person) shelter
- Tout the message of health and wellness opportunities (senior center, teen center, parks, trails, farmers market) and protect what we have
- The City should run and administer programs for local adults with special needs
- Do more to get kids in nature and work with the Arboretum for nature opportunities and programming
- Sport trends include lacrosse, rugby, pickleball, cricket and climbing; the City needs additional multi-use fields and spaces to accommodate different sports and be convertible
- A recreation center could include additional gym space and courts, but such a facility would need to be multi-use with spaces and venues that help pay for the operations
- The opportunity for public/private partnerships may be explored with local studios to expand the variety and quantity of public art and cultural activities in Maple Valley.
- Activating the Legacy Site should have a strong emphasis on getting outdoor recreation integrated into the site design. An active challenge ropes course or similar highly visible outdoor venue should be incorporated within the development to enliven the space.

Specific ideas are incorporated in the Needs Assessment chapter, and a full summary is provided in Appendix C.

COMMISSION MEETINGS

The Parks and Recreation Commission provided feedback on the Plan during three regularly scheduled public sessions. The first session occurred on May 16th shortly after the plan update project was initiated. The Commission discussed the update and provided their perspectives on a vision for the system, parks and programs, specific challenges, opportunities and potential community partnerships. A second session was held on October 16th to review the findings of the community survey, and a third session was held on January 15th to discuss the draft Plan and provide direction on proposed goals and capital improvements.

Key Project Ideas from the Parks and Recreation Commission

- Need more trail connections city-wide, especially east-west.
- Recreation Center with indoor pool; maybe in coordination with other nearby cities; maybe include classroom spaces, climbing wall, gym for volleyball and basketball, accommodate day-use passes
- New facilities for pickleball, sand volleyball, splash pad / wading pool
- A place where families want to stay and don't need/want to go out of the city for amenities; for them to have reasons to stay here and not go elsewhere to play
- Programs to explore nature; the experiences to play in the woods/forest
- Want to maintain the sites the City controls to protect open space but also open it up for use. Maintain as much forest as we can
- Legacy site – an active use forest; zip lines and platforms; protect the forest; farmers market; adventure/forest playground; trails; keep it rustic and woodsy
- Lake Wilderness Elementary – supposed to build a sport field in front of school along Witte Rd
- Programs like arts and theater for older kids and adults with disabilities

The Public Arts Commission provided feedback on the arts component of this Plan during a regularly scheduled public session on June 6th. The Commission provided feedback on the status of the public arts inventory, current project efforts and ideas for partnership or project opportunities. The Commission voiced interest in advocating for a variety of art:

- Cultural (Asian, African, Native)
- Performing (dance, theater, poetry, workshops, symphonies in the park, parades/festivals)
- Accessibility of art so people can see and experience it

The Commission sees their role as working together with the art community to support these efforts. There is interest to get the broader community involved before and during art projects to enable the sense of shared responsibility, ownership and sense of community.

OTHER OUTREACH

In addition to the direct outreach opportunities noted above, the Maple Valley community was informed about the project and opportunities to participate and offer comments through the City's website and social media. A project webpage was posted on the City's website to provide background information and meeting announcements. The page was updated periodically to keep residents informed of progress and alerted to opportunities for involvement during the process.

BENEFITS OF PARKS, RECREATION & OPEN SPACE

A number of organizations and non-profits have documented the overall health and wellness benefits provided by parks, open space and trails. The Trust for Public Land published a report in 2005 called *The Benefits of Parks: Why America Needs More City Parks and Open Space*. This report makes the following observations about the health, economic, environmental and social benefits of parks and open space:

- Physical activity makes people healthier.
- Physical activity increases with access to parks.
- Contact with the natural world improves physical and physiological health.
- Value is added to community and economic development sustainability.
- Benefits of tourism are enhanced.
- Trees are effective in improving air quality and assisting with stormwater control.
- Recreational opportunities for all ages are provided.



Physical Activity Benefits

Residents in communities with increased access to parks, recreation, natural areas and trails have more opportunities for physical activity, both through recreation and active transportation. By participating in physical activity, residents can reduce their risk of being or becoming overweight or obese, decrease their likelihood of suffering from chronic diseases, such as heart disease and type-2 diabetes, and improve their levels of stress and anxiety. Nearby access to parks has been shown to increase levels of physical activity. According to studies cited in a 2010 report by the National Park and Recreation Association, the majority of people of all ages who visit parks are physically active during their visit. Also, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that greater access to parks leads to 25% more people exercising three or more days per week.



Social & Community Benefits

Park and recreation facilities provide opportunities to engage with family, friends, and neighbors, thereby increasing social capital and community cohesion, which can improve residents' mental health and overall well-being. People who feel that they are connected to their community and those who participate in recreational, community and other activities are more likely to have better mental and physical health and to live longer lives. Access to parks and recreational facilities has also been linked to reductions in crime, particularly juvenile delinquency.



Economic Benefits

Parks and recreation facilities can bring positive economic impacts through increased property values, increased attractiveness for businesses and workers (quality of life), and through direct increases in employment opportunities.

In Washington, outdoor recreation generates \$26.2 billion in consumer spending annually, \$7.6 billion in wages and salaries and \$2.3 billion in state and local tax revenue. Preserving access to outdoor recreation protects the economy, the businesses, the communities and the people who depend on the ability to play outside. According to the Outdoor Recreation Economy Report published by the Outdoor Industry Association, outdoor recreation can grow jobs and drive the economy through management and investment in parks, waters and trails as an interconnected system designed to sustain economic dividends for citizens.



CHAPTER 4

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

The goals and objectives described in this chapter define the park and recreation services that Maple Valley aims to provide. These goals and objectives were derived from input received throughout the planning process, from city staff, the Parks and Recreation Commission and community members.

Goals & Objectives

The Growth Management Act (GMA) adopted by the Washington State Legislature in 1990 provided a new foundation for land use planning in selected cities and counties throughout the state, including King County and the City of Maple Valley. The GMA's purpose is to help communities deal efficiently with the challenges of growth to ensure their long-term sustainability and high quality of life. It identifies 14 planning goals to guide the development of comprehensive plans and development regulations (codified in Chapter 36.70A of the Revised Code of Washington). Four of these goals directly affect the development and implementation of this plan.

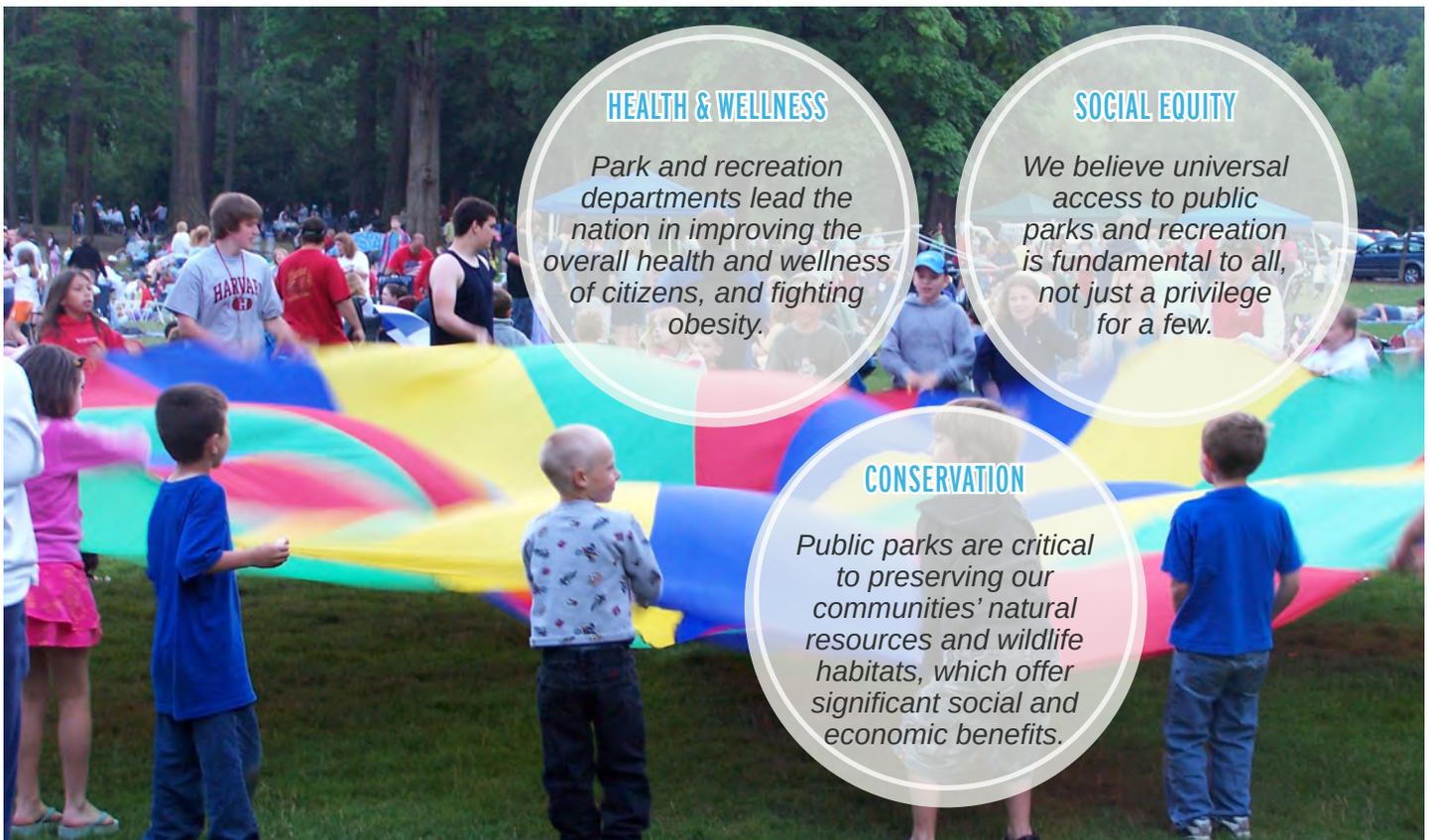
- “Encourage the retention of open space and development of recreational opportunities, conserve fish and wildlife habitat, increase access to natural resource lands and water, and develop parks.” RCW 36.70A.020(9)
- “Protect the environment and enhance the state’s high quality of life, including air 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)

Furthermore, the Maple Valley Comprehensive Plan, the previous park system plan and county-wide planning policies provide a framework for this PRAOS Plan.

A goal is a general statement describing an outcome the City wishes to provide. Goals typically do not change over time unless community values shift. Objectives are more specific, measurable statements that describe a means to achieving the stated goals. Objectives may change over time. Recommendations are specific actions intended to implement and achieve the goals and objectives and are contained in Needs Assessment and Capital Planning chapters of the Plan.

The Plan's goals align with the National Recreation and Parks Association's Three Pillars, which are foundational concepts adopted by the national organization in 2012. These core values (below) are crucial to improving the quality of life for all Americans by inspiring the protection of natural resources, increasing opportunities for physical activity and healthy eating, and empowering citizens to improve the livability of their communities.

- **Conservation** – Public parks are critical to preserving our communities' natural resources and wildlife habitats, which offer significant social and economic benefits. Local park and recreation agencies are leaders in protecting our open space, connecting children to nature and providing education and programs that engage communities in conservation.
- **Health and Wellness** – Park and recreation departments lead the nation in improving the overall health and wellness of citizens, and fighting obesity. From fitness programs, to well-maintained, accessible, walking paths and trails, to nutrition programs for underserved youth and adults, our work is at the forefront of providing solutions to these challenges.
- **Social Equity** – We believe universal access to public parks and recreation is fundamental to all, not just a privilege for a few. Every day, our members work hard to ensure all people have access to resources and programs that connect citizens, and in turn, make our communities more livable and desirable.





Planning & Community Involvement

Goal 1

Members of the Maple Valley community are actively engaged in the planning, design and stewardship of the City's parks, recreation facilities, and cultural offerings.

Policies

- The City shall encourage and support active and ongoing participation by diverse community members in the planning and decision-making for parks and recreation.
- 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.

Actions/Objectives

- 1.1 Support the Parks & Recreation Commission as the forum for public discussion of parks and recreation issues.
- 1.2 Involve residents and stakeholders in park and recreation facility planning, design and recreation program development to solicit community input, facilitate project understanding and build public support.
- 1.3 Survey, review and publish local park and recreation preferences, needs and trends at least once every six years.
- 1.4 Continue to promote and distribute information about parks and facilities, recreational activities, education programs, community services and events, and volunteer activities provided by the City and partner agencies and organizations.
- 1.5 Update this comprehensive Parks, Recreation, Arts & Open Space Plan periodically to ensure facilities and services meet current and future needs.
- 1.6 Prepare master plans for park sites prior to development or major improvement to ensure development meets community needs, is within available resources and is consistent with the City's park and recreation objectives.
- 1.7 Periodically update the capital facilities plan and develop prioritization criteria to address facility improvement needs.
- 1.8 Develop and maintain a financial plan that assists the City in obtaining and managing funds for capital improvements, maintenance and operations



Active Use Parks

Goal 2

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

- The City shall encourage the private ownership, development and management of neighborhood and pocket parks within all new residential subdivisions to provide residents with nearby opportunities for unstructured recreation.
- The City shall strive to provide and maintain a developed community park within a 2 mile travelshed of all residents to provide multi-use recreation areas.
- 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.
- 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.

Actions/Objectives

- 2.1 Evaluate acquisition opportunities based on criteria such as appropriateness for park use and potential contribution to level of service, connectivity, preservation and scenic or recreational opportunities for residents.
- 2.2 Coordinate with private development for the siting and development of parklands in deficient areas, as identified in this Plan.
- 2.3 Consider the acquisition of additional neighborhood parklands in areas with a noted deficiency and where redevelopment is unlikely in the foreseeable future to fill existing distribution gaps and provide equitable access to active parklands.
- 2.4 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.
- 2.5 Require that development of recreational amenities conform to the City's minimum guidelines and the general needs outlined in this Plan.
- 2.6 Pursue low-cost and/or non-purchase options to preserve open space, including acquisition of surplus properties, conservation easements and development covenants.
- 2.7 Partner to finance, phase and implement the master plans for Lake Wilderness Park.
- 2.8 Coordinate with King County to plan for the development and management of County-owned parks, trails and open space areas within or nearby the City.
- 2.9 Promote the efforts of the Elk Run Farm.



Natural Area Preservation and Restoration

Goal 3

Maple Valley's natural areas are protected, support healthy habitat and native wildlife, and provide opportunities for residents to experience nature.

Policies

- 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.
- The City shall strive to manage City-owned natural areas to protect and enhance their ecological health, sensitive habitats and native species.

Actions/Objectives

- 3.1 Pursue opportunities to protect high value resources, or those that create important wildlife and recreation connections, through public acquisition or protection through a Native Growth Protection Easement, as they become available.
- 3.2 Actively work to improve the condition of City-owned natural areas through invasive species removal and planting of native species.
- 3.3 Pursue and implement improvements to the Elk Run Natural Area to restore habitat and provide for passive uses (e.g., trails, exercise, interpretative) on site.
- 3.4 Actively pursue and coordinate efforts to improve the health and functioning of local water bodies, especially Lake Wilderness.
- 3.5 Explore options to support the Lake Wilderness Arboretum with maintenance or capital to expand its role as a regional destination.
- 3.6 Pursue opportunities to provide appropriate public access (e.g. trails, viewpoints and wildlife viewing areas) within natural areas to support passive recreation and environmental education.
- 3.7 Explore opportunities to convert underutilized active recreation areas to natural areas.
- 3.8 Pursue opportunities to engage community volunteer groups in the care and restoration of natural areas.



Trail & Pathway System

Goal 4

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

Policies

- 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.
- 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.
- The City shall ensure the City's trail and pathway network is accessible, identifiable, convenient and safe for users of all ages and abilities.

Actions/Objectives

- 4.1 Support coordinated implementation of the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan in partnership with Public Works and Community Development to provide a comprehensive pedestrian and bicyclist network.
- 4.2 Coordinate with King County and other local jurisdictions to provide a regional trail network, to include the extension of the Green to Cedar 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.
- 4.3 Partner with local utilities, public agencies and private landowners to secure trail easements and access to open space for trail connections.
- 4.4 Require development projects along proposed designated trail routes to incorporate trail segments as part of the project.
- 4.5 Pursue opportunities to develop east/west pathway, trail and sidewalk connections to complement the north/southeastern route provided by the Green to Cedar River Trail.
- 4.6 Utilize and implement a trail system hierarchy to accommodate different user types and different user experiences.
- 4.7 Provide trailhead accommodations, as appropriate, which may include parking, signage, restrooms and other amenities.
- 4.8 Develop clear and consistent wayfinding signage and information materials for trails and associated facilities.
- 4.9 Develop guidance for homeowner associations adjacent to powerline corridors about trail improvements that could be installed in those rights of way.



Site Design, Development & Management

Goal 5

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

- The City shall 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.
- The City shall strive to reduce barriers to participation and ensure facilities and programs are accessible and welcoming to all users.
- The City shall provide informative, convenient, and consistent signage, communication and informational materials to help residents fully utilize the City's recreational resources.

Actions/Objectives

- 5.1 Maintain and update land use guidelines, site criteria and design standards for each park type, as appropriate.
- 5.2 Develop City-owned or maintained park sites based on master plans, management plans, or other adopted strategies to ensure parks reflect local needs, community input, recreational and conservation goals and available financial resources.
- 5.3 Design future improvements to parks, recreation facilities and trails to offer universal accessibility for residents of all ages and physical abilities and in compliance with the guidelines of the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- 5.4 Prepare an ADA Transition Plan to guide priorities to retrofit and renovate existing sites so that they will be brought to current code and guidelines.
- 5.5 Design, improve and maintain parks and facilities in a manner that will conserve the use of energy and other resources and minimize maintenance needs (e.g. consistency in furnishings and construction materials, use of native vegetation)
- 5.6 Perform routine inspections and preventative maintenance, and repair or remove damaged components immediately upon identification.
- 5.7 Estimate the maintenance costs and staffing levels associated with acquisition, development, or renovation of parks or natural open space areas, and ensure adequate long-term maintenance and operation funding is available prior to action.
- 5.8 Develop and update asset management plans for major assets to support improved stewardship, reduce costs, and increase maintenance and replacement efficiency.



Recreation Facilities & Programming

Goal 6

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

- The City shall provide a diversity of recreational facilities, including sports fields, courts and specialized facilities (e.g. golf courses, skateparks, off-leash areas, disc golf) to meet a wide range of community needs.
- The City shall endeavor to develop recreation facilities that provide maximum flexibility for current uses and can be adapted for emerging sports.
- The City shall explore options with the community for developing enhanced facilities for all age groups.
- The City shall collaborate with sport groups, the Tahoma School District and other providers to facilitate the development of a variety of affordable recreation facilities and options for residents of all ages.
- The City shall maintain and manage recreation facilities to ensure the safety and enjoyment of participants and protection of the City's capital investment.

Actions/Objectives

- 6.1 Consider local needs, recreational trends and availability of similar facilities within the City and region when planning for sports fields, courts and specialized recreational facilities, such as skateparks and indoor recreation centers.
- 6.2 Encourage the development of recreation and specialized facilities that generate revenues to offset the cost of their operation and maintenance.
- 6.3 Continue and expand partnerships with King County, the Tahoma School District, local organizations, and other regional providers to ensure coordinated planning, support the availability of recreation facilities and explore further joint-use opportunities.
- 6.4 As the City grows, examine the need for additional community recreation facility space to meet indoor recreation needs for recreation, educational classes, community and cultural events and meeting space. As necessary, explore opportunities to develop additional indoor multi-use recreation space, in partnership with other organizations, agencies or nearby communities.
- 6.5 Undertake a feasibility study to identify capital and operating costs and impacts prior to the acquisition and development of a recreation center or special facility.
- 6.6 Encourage private development and operation of recreational facilities or programs that meet identified public need and the City's recreational objectives.
- 6.7 Develop and maintain field use policies, agreements and fees to ensure responsible field stewardship and cost recovery.



- 6.8 Aim 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
- 6.9 Evaluate opportunities to include sports fields, courts and specialized facilities in the development of new community parks. Establish minimum design standards for game and practice fields.
- 6.10 Explore opportunities to use existing and new sports fields most efficiently, such as through multi-use design, synthetic turf surfacing, lighting and effective scheduling.
- 6.11 Partner with the Tahoma School District or an alternate organization to manage coordination of field scheduling of City and school district fields.
- 6.12 Explore opportunities to partner with adjoining cities and King County to provide a tournament level field complex.



Recreation Facilities & Programming

Goal 7

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

- The City shall encourage the expansion of engaging, affordable and safe recreation programs and healthy alternatives for leisure time.
- The City shall foster positive, collaborative relationships with recognized athletic and recreational providers and organizations to provide recreational programs.

Actions/Objectives

- 7.1 Monitor local and regional recreation trends to ensure community needs and interests are addressed by available programming.
- 7.2 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.
- 7.3 Explore options to directly offer recreational programs for participants of all ages with special needs and support inclusion opportunities in all programs, when feasible.
- 7.4 Continue and enhance partnerships with local sports organizations to provide sports programs for all ages.
- 7.5 Enhance the diversity of programs offered, in partnership with other recreation providers and organizations, focusing on programs that are in high demand or serve a range of users.
- 7.6 Evaluate and improve recreational services and programs to meet identified cost recovery goals.



Public Art, Cultural & Heritage

Goal 8

Maple Valley's parks, recreation facilities and community events bring residents together and foster community pride, identity and livability.

Policies

- The City shall work with the community and recognized organizations to foster a greater number and variety of cultural events and support community celebrations.
- The City shall seek opportunities to support heritage facilities within City limits.

Actions/Objectives

- 8.1 Support the goals and initiatives of the Public Arts Commission, and support the goals and initiatives of the Public Arts Plan.
- 8.2 Continue to offer community events, such movies, concerts and picnics in the park, to provide opportunities for social engagement and bring families and neighbors together.
- 8.3 Continue to coordinate and offer programs related to culture, heritage and the arts.
- 8.4 Promote and partner with the Tahoma School District, community organizations and other providers for drop-in and structured programs in art, music and dance, as well as educational and environmental activities for youth.
- 8.5 Continue to provide support to the Maple Valley Historical Society to continue coordinating projects dedicated to preserving historical sites, buildings and area history.
- 8.6 Reflect the city's identity by incorporating art, history and culture into the park and recreation system, and identify appropriate locations within City parks and public spaces for the installation of public art, interpretive signs, or cultural displays.



Funding

Goal 9

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

Policies

- The City shall use a variety of funding sources to adequately and cost-effectively acquire, develop and maintain park and open space land.
- 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.

Actions/Objectives

- 9.1 Maintain general fund support of parks, recreation programs and maintenance.
- 9.2 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.
- 9.3 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.
- 9.4 Place priority on maximizing grants and other external sources of funding, or inter-agency cooperative arrangements, to develop the City's park resources.
- 9.5 Utilize voter-approved initiatives, such as general obligation bonds and serial levies, to finance future acquisitions, programs, facilities and maintenance.
- 9.6 Consider developing rental facilities, such as reservable picnic areas or sports fields, to meet community needs and generate additional operating resources.
- 9.7 Update use and rental fees on a periodic basis to reflect market rates.



Administration

Goal 10

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

- The City shall provide clear leadership for the development and management of the park and recreation system.
- The City shall strive to provide sufficient staff resources to maintain the overall parks and recreation system to the City's standards.
- The City shall promote volunteerism to engage individuals, groups, organizations and businesses in the planning, development and stewardship of the park and recreation system.

Actions/Objectives

- 10.1 Develop and document Department policies, strategic priorities and financial objectives to focus the direction of the Department and support funding requests.
- 10.2 Assess the Department's staffing needs on a regular basis and hire adequate staff to manage the City's park and recreation system.
- 10.3 Assign staff responsibilities, resources and timeframes in annual work plans as necessary to make progress on the goals and policies of the Plan.
- 10.4 Continue to allocate staff time and resources to programs and activities that can leverage existing resources (e.g. managing volunteer programs, and partnerships with local schools and organizations, and grant development and administration).
- 10.5 Use part-time, seasonal, and contract employees for select functions to meet peak demands and respond to specialized or urgent needs.
- 10.6 Maintain written partnership agreements that specify responsibilities, legal, financial and other terms.
- 10.7 Encourage and promote volunteer park improvement and beautification projects from a variety of individuals, service clubs, school groups, churches and businesses.
- 10.8 Provide public information to educate the community about park stewardship, rules and regulations, and safety.

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CHAPTER 5

CLASSIFICATIONS & INVENTORY

PARKLAND 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 general guidelines addressing the intended size and use of each park type.

The previous PRCHS Plan consolidated park system classifications from seven to four types. This PRAOS Plan maintains these classifications, and they 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, pickleball), 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. The primary distinction between these two park types is that of usable, functional recreation space. Maple Valley's standing policy is that these parks are provided for and maintained by private entities and homeowner associations as new residential construction occurs throughout the City.

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. Access to these parks is mostly pedestrian and bicycle, and they should be located such that people living within the service area can reach the park safely and conveniently. Park siting and design should ensure visitors do not have to cross a major arterial street or other significant natural or man-made barrier to get to the site, unless safe pedestrian crossings are provided. Neighborhood and pocket parks should be located along road frontages to improve visual access and community awareness of the sites. Connecting and frontage streets should include sidewalks with a safe crossing nearby. Additionally, street plans should encourage maximum connectivity and public access to park sites. Locating neighborhood and pocket parks adjacent to other park system components, such as recreational trails, is also desirable.

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. Restrooms are not provided due to high construction and maintenance costs. Parking is also not usually provided; however, on-street, ADA-accessible parking stall(s) may be provided.

School grounds in Maple Valley play a limited role in its overall park system. While school sites may offer an open field or play equipment, daytime access is restricted by school use and limited for security concerns. School facilities do provide access to recreational opportunity, but that access is limited and priority is given to the student population.

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.

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.

No standards exist or are proposed for greenways and natural areas.

FACILITY INVENTORY

The park and open space inventory identifies the recreational assets within Maple Valley. The City directly provides over 360 acres of public parkland and recreation facilities distributed among 9 parks, special facilities and natural areas.

Figure 3. Existing Inventory: City-owned Parklands by Type

Park Name	Classification	Status	Acreage
Lake Wilderness Park	Community Park	Developed	89.38
Summit Park Site	Community Park	Developed	15.81
Subtotal			105.19
Take-A-Break Park	Neighborhood Park	Developed	1.92
Subtotal			1.92
Lake Wilderness Arboretum	Special Facilities	Partially Developed	25.06
Lake Wilderness Golf Course	Special Facilities	Developed	106.40
Subtotal			131.46
Elk Run Natural Area	Greenway & Natural Area	Undeveloped	52.20
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
Subtotal			124.07
Total Acreage			362.65

NOTE: Classifications are not intended to limit future design & development options.

Additionally, private homeowners association parks contribute significantly to the overall park system in Maple Valley. 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. The private parks complement the existing public parklands. In total, over 51 acres of private parks have been set aside to date.

In total, approximately 558 acres of public and private lands exist within Maple Valley, which include City properties, other public lands, private parks and private open spaces. This accounting excludes the King County owned natural areas outside of the city limits to the east and south.

Figure 4. Public & Private Parklands by Type

Parkland Classification	Acreage
Community Park	105.19
Neighborhood Park	1.92
Special Facilities	131.46
Greenway	230.12
School Sites (recreation areas)	32.95
Private HOA Parks	51.56
Private Special Facilities	4.52
Total Acreage	557.72

The following map shows the location of existing parks, trail and recreation areas within the City.

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LAKE WILDERNESS PARK

AMENITIES

- Lodge facility
- Parking - several lots
- Lake, beach & docks
- Beachfront swimming area
- Beach House (including concessions, outdoor showers)
- Boat launch
- Playground
- Ballfield (Patrick's Field)
- Paved path
- Natural areas
- Lawns
- Picnic shelters, sites with grills
- Tennis courts
- Restrooms
- Drinking fountains

DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- Park amenities be better connected with a more complete pathway system.
- Orientation to park layout & amenities unclear to visitors. Better wayfinding needed.
- Kiosks scattered thru-out park should have coordinated mapping/wayfinding.

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- Handicapped parking at Lodge entrance needs ADA travel aisle. Gravel boat launch access entry has many potholes.
- Paved path has some root upheavals & need repair.
- ADA access lacking to many park features.





SUMMIT PARK

AMENITIES

- Ballfields & multi-purpose fields
- Parking
- Sport court
- Dog park
- Benches
- Playground
- Access to Cedar-Green Trail
- Skate park
- Picnic shelter
- Restrooms
- Plaza
- Picnic tables

DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- None noted.

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- New park recently constructed. Develop asset management plan for future replacement schedules.





TAKE-A-BREAK PARK

AMENITIES

- Playground + digger pit
- Open lawn in basin
- Walking path thru park
- Benches
- Mutt mitt dispenser
- Trash receptacles
- Trees
- Landscape plantings

DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- Basin consumes open lawn area - potential for native plantings & interpretation.
- Informal path through grove of Douglas firs could be opportunity for nature play area.
- Consider developing direct public access to park from 219th Street.

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- Asphalt path has cracks from root upheavals by park sign.
- Digger play pit has no ADA access ramp.





GAFFNEY'S GROVE DISC GOLF COURSE

AMENITIES

- Gravel parking lot next to Arboretum
- 18-hole course
- Kiosk at entry
- Launch pads & cages
- Douglas Fir woods

DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- The parking lot is a large, undefined gravel area. More efficiency in handling vehicles could be gained by designing the layout for parking spots and travel lanes.

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- The gravel parking lot has several potholes and should be regraded.
- Maintain maintenance agreement with Gaffney Grove Disc Golf Association for the maintenance of the site.





FERNWOOD NATURAL AREA

AMENITIES

- Developed access from 267th
- Wooded area with small pond
- Crushed rock entry path
- Fence
- Sign
- Mutt Mitt dispenser
- Trash receptacle
- Native landscape plantings
- Natural surface trail

DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- Trail often cuts directly up or downhill allowing for more erosive forces. Rerouting trail alignment could make path system more durable and easier for walkers.
- Trail entry on westside of adjacent stormwater basin is obscured from the street. A small sign could identify this entry point and a more defined pathway improvement could reach to 231st Street for a better trail system.

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- The sign location from 267th Street is recessed from the sidewalk. Locating an identification sign closer to the sidewalk and street could help make this natural area more inviting.





LAKE WILDERNESS ARBORETUM

AMENITIES

- Trails
- Gazebo
- Parking
- Kiosks
- Plant collections
- Benches
- Pond (empties seasonally)
- Growing area with hoop houses
- Access to Green-Cedar Rivers Trail
- Little Free Library



DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- Improve small section of parking lot to address ADA parking and access.
- Consider a more comprehensive wayfinding system for trail navigation.



MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- None noted.



PARK CONDITIONS SUMMARY

The following summary offers an overview of site conditions in Maple Valley Parks. The overview is categorized by overarching and related characteristics.

Playgrounds

Playground equipment was a mix of newer or relatively new in the park system. A regular schedule of playground equipment inspections is incorporated into the park maintenance routine to ensure continual play-safe structures.

However, access to playground areas was not always barrier-free. The digger pit at Take-A-Break Park lacked a ramp or provision to transfer from park pathway pavement to the lower surfacing of the play area. The drop-off edges varied from 3-6 inches, far exceeding the maximum ½ inch tolerance. Any contained play area should have a playground ramp added to provide functional ADA accessible routes.

Site Furnishings

Standards for park furnishing such as benches, picnic tables, drinking fountains, bike racks, trash receptacles and other common amenities used throughout the park system can be instrumental in assuring consistent ADA compliance and streamlined maintenance and repairs. Picnic tables did not provide for wheelchair seating and many tables were located in grass areas with no accessible route from the park paved paths. Park benches should have back and armrests and be located along accessible routes with adjacent wheelchair spaces at one end of the bench pad. Choosing a consistent style and installation design could help simplify park development and future maintenance for site furnishings.

Buildings and Structures

Maple Valley Parks contain a variety of structures with variable ages. Restrooms, picnic shelters and storage compose the building mix in most parks. The Lodge at Wilderness Park encompasses a significant infrastructure in the park system. In general, the structures are in good repair. If not already in place, a regular routine of repainting, roof cleaning, and maintenance updates should be planned.

Trails and Pavement

Pavement maintenance should address cracks and root upheavals as well as seams where different pavement types meet (curbs, bridges, sidewalk-to-trail, boardwalks, path to play areas, etc.) and have a tendency to settle at different rates to create architectural barriers to universal access.

Sport courts and parking should have regularly scheduled repainting to ensure retention of functional court play and identified parking stalls.

Trails through natural areas should undergo regular inspections to ensure the identification of potential erosion and surface wear. Common challenges to natural area trails such as root upheavals, cracking, slumping and eroded edges can sometimes be addressed more readily if treated early. Some paved pathways have tripping hazards where root upheavals have raised and cracked pavement. Overly steep pathways, especially with unpaved trail tread tend to have eroded and slippery surfaces making walking more difficult, especially in areas such as the Fernwood Natural Area.

ADA Accessibility and Compliance

As with many older parks, some architectural barriers were present in the park system. ADA accessibility and compliance should be part of a regular capital repair schedule to ensure the updating of older pavements, parking, playgrounds, picnic amenities, restrooms and recreational elements. Maple Valley Park system has ADA compliance issues with park access at parking areas, barriers to access into playground areas as well as non-complaint benches and picnic tables and picnic shelters in inaccessible locations. Transition zones from park pathways to parking and traffic areas did not always have tactile warning strips to alert the visually impaired about entering traffic zones. All drinking fountains were not on accessible routes or ADA-compliant fixtures. The City will want to develop an ADA Compliance Checklist to identify and prioritize these deficiencies and develop a methodology for bringing the parks into compliance.

Natural Areas and Open Space

In general, Maple Valley natural areas did not appear to have severe problems with noxious or invasive plant species. Lake Wilderness Park & Arboretum natural areas, Fernwood Natural Area, and the undeveloped Henry's Switch and Legacy parks did not appear to have obvious invasive vegetation issues although continual monitoring is recommended to avoid future problems.

Rough mow areas within parks and natural areas typically tolerate a wider range of plant species including different grass species and many herbaceous forbs. Using mowing schedules of once or twice a year along trail corridors, woodland edges and in natural meadow management serves to keep vegetation under control and prevents many invasive plant species from gaining a foothold.

Regular inspections of rough mown and natural areas should include identification of noxious weeds and initiate control measures to prevent noxious weed takeovers.

Trees and Landscape Maintenance

In general, the trees and landscapes in Maple Valley parks were in good condition. In Maple Valley neighborhood parks, most of the individual park trees were mulched at the base helping to protect their trunks and roots from mower damage.

Safety

The park layouts and landscapes seemed to meet the basic CPTED (crime prevention through environmental design) principles of good visibility and overall positive perceptions of public safety. Park safety conditions were generally good throughout the park system with a few notable exceptions.

Wayfinding, Identity and Signage

At locations within Lake Wilderness Park, there were additional opportunities to help guide visitors and inform them about the public spaces they were navigating. The value of a unified method for identifying and locating parks and trails is demonstrated in other park systems. A good wayfinding system can provide a consistent identity and display effective and accessible information to orient the user. This guidance system ensures efficient use of the trail, park or other public space and conveys safety to the user by translating the environment into a known geography. Signs, symbols, mapping, color, standardized site amenities combined with good design of the physical environment (i.e., trail or park) helps the user navigate the space and stay comfortably oriented.

The site conditions assessment conducted as part of this park master plan indicated that Maple Valley parks could benefit from clearer, more prominent identification and signage located at multiple entry points. While good park identification signs were present at main entries, side entrance signs were often lacking.

Such comprehensive signage should identify the City of Maple Valley as the provider, to be distinguished from school or private property, and offer methods for accessing additional information (e.g., contacts, volunteering, other facilities, etc.) to inform park users and visitors.

Maple Valley could update its comprehensive wayfinding program that includes both visual graphic standards and site furnishing standards. The use of consistent graphics and a coordinated hierarchy of sign types and sizes can provide park and trail users with wayfinding information to enhance their access and knowledge of the recreational system available for their enjoyment.

The City should consider a wayfinding and signage system that integrates all its parks and trails with similar 'branding' to help all park and trail users understand where they are, what they might need to know, how to get more information and who the provider is. An effective wayfinding system not only provides directional and locational information to the trail user. The combination of materials, color, specific sign types for conveying different information, unified font designs, and matching site furnishings (benches, bollards, drinking fountains, etc.) can all contribute to creating strong identifiers and that unique sense of place for Maple Valley's park system.

Undeveloped Parkland

In the overall assessment of the park system, the undeveloped park sites, Henry's Switch and Legacy, did not have any existing access improvements. As such, the parklands were not walked to assess their current natural conditions, including general topography, wetlands presence, woodland health, etc. Following initial master plan design concepts, a more comprehensive master planning effort for both sites is recommended to thoroughly explore the site analyses, identify the potential developable areas and develop the design for the recreation opportunities expressed by public engagement and the needs for expanding the park system assets.

Summit Park was under construction at the time of this parks assessment. This significant park development project will add considerable amenities to the Maple Valley park system. As new construction, the future park should meet all ADA compliance issues and be expected to provide safe and valued recreational features for the community.

OTHER RECREATIONAL EXPERIENCES

Lake Wilderness Arboretum

The Lake Wilderness Arboretum Foundation developed the Arboretum for the propagation and display of native and cultivated plants, shrubs and trees, assembly of exhibits and production of instructional materials for the enjoyment of its members and the general public. The Foundation has successfully operated the Arboretum with community volunteers since 1965 and the City and the Foundation continue to jointly develop, operate, maintain and cooperatively use the Arboretum for the public's enjoyment.

Trails & Neighborhood Greenways

The City of Maple Valley has over 2.6 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 Cedar River Trail.

King County Parks & Trails

Several large natural areas containing diverse habitats and landscapes in and around Maple Valley have been permanently protected through the King County Natural Resource Lands Program. King County manages these ecological lands to conserve and enhance ecological value and to accommodate passive recreational use that does not harm the ecological resources on the site. Most of the following county properties are outside Maple Valley city limits.

Ravensdale Park

Ravensdale Park is located adjacent to Rock Creek, east of Maple Valley, along Kent-Kangley Road. Owned and operated by King County, the 43-acre park is surrounded by forested hills and provides natural turf and all-weather sport fields. The park has been the center of the community for over 100 years, having its origins as a recreational site for the Ravensdale mining community before becoming a larger King County park. The Gracie Hansen Community Center, a picnic shelter, playground and parking are also part of the park. A master plan was completed in 2008 that defined improvements and expansion of recreational facilities. In November 2013, the Maple Valley City Council passed a resolution to help finance the design and construction of the two synthetic turf fields and committed \$2 million of City funds to the project. The redeveloped Ravensdale Park now features:

- Two lit multi-sport synthetic fields
- A new synthetic infield for the baseball field
- A new synthetic soccer field
- An indoor baseball training facility, and
- New restrooms, parking lot, a maintenance building and a community meadow.

Just east of Ravensdale Park, the 145-acre Ravensdale Retreat Natural Area supports trails that extend along the Rock Creek Valley to Kent-Kangley Road on the eastern side. The trails are

regularly used for walking and horseback riding. Parking is available at Ravensdale Park. There is no parking allowed at the gated road off of Kent-Kangley Road.

Rock Creek Natural Area

East of Maple Valley, the 143-acre Rock Creek Natural Area includes a trail system, primarily for walking and nature observation. Trails on the east side of the natural area connect the Cedar River Trail and Seattle's Pipeline Road and onto Danville/Georgetown (Maple Ridge Highlands) Open Space. The west side has a small trail system on the west side. No trails connect across Rock Creek.

Dorre Don Natural Area

Dorre Don Reach Natural Area is located northeast of Maple Valley along the Cedar River, approximately River Mile 15.5 to 17.1. The natural area's lowlands include floodplain, a side channel, wetlands, and cottonwood-dominated riparian forest. At upland elevations, a fairly mature second-growth coniferous forest grows on both sides of the river. Walking and wildlife watching occur along the Cedar River Trail and a few small informal trails that lead off the Trail, west of a trail bridge across the river.

Black Diamond Natural Area

Black Diamond Natural Area located outside of Black Diamond contains 645 acres that are managed as three geographic units: Ravensdale Creek, north of Black Diamond; Crisp Creek, southwest of Black Diamond; and Icy Creek, southeast of Black Diamond. The Ravensdale Creek area has a lake, the creek, and a few large wetlands with a forested buffer; most of the site is young forest or shrubs. Existing trails are for non-motorized use. King County Parks' Green-to-Cedar River Regional Trail is planned for future development west of Ravensdale Creek. The Crisp Creek area contains steep forested slopes along Crisp Creek. The Icy Creek area is located along the Green River containing stands of young and mature forest and located adjacent to lands managed by Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Henrys Ridge Open Space

The Henry's Ridge Open Space is adjacent to the Danville-Georgetown Open Space combining 600 acres of protected natural area, east of Maple Valley. The Henry's Ridge forestlands contain trails used primarily by mountain bikers but open to all non-motorized trails users. King County recently conducted an open space trail planning effort for long-term trail improvements and usage by hikers, equestrians and mountain bikers for both Danville-Georgetown Open Space and Henry's Ridge Open Space. Trail signage improvements are one of the proposed enhancements.

Cedar River Trail

The Cedar River Trail (CRT) follows the Cedar River from where it enters Lake Washington in the City of Renton upriver to the community of Landsburg at the boundary of the City of Seattle's Cedar River Watershed. At 17.3 miles in length the CRT is a paved, off-road trail for the first 12.3 miles, and features a soft surface for the last five miles. The trail follows a historic railroad route between the river and State Route 169 and passes through or near Renton, Maplewood, Cedar Mountain, Maple Valley and Rock Creek. Between Renton and Maple Valley the CRT is popular with bicyclists and skaters and provides both recreational and nonmotorized commuting opportunities.

Lake Wilderness Trail

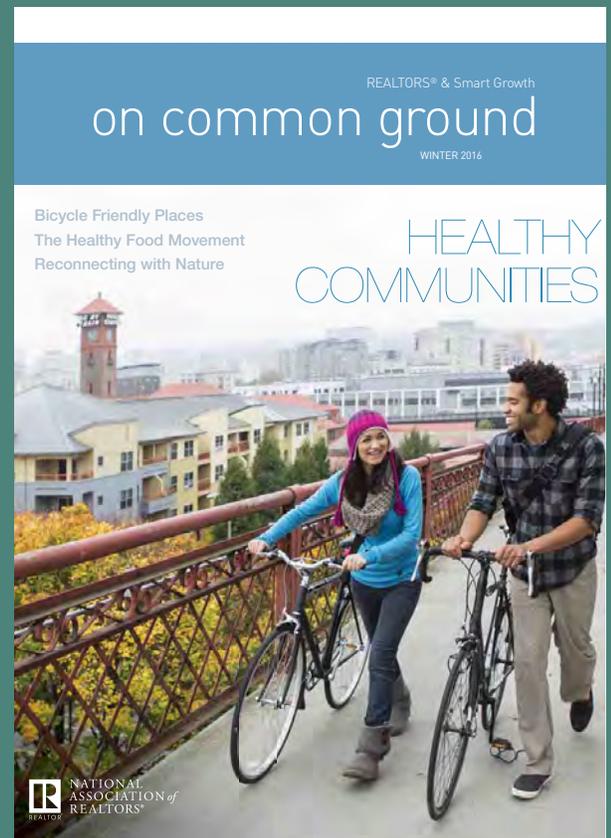
The Lake Wilderness Trail, also known as the Green to Cedar River Trail, is a 3.5-mile, soft-surface rail trail passing through central Maple Valley. The trail is owned and managed by King County and is the core trail spine linking the Maple Valley community together.

From the winter 2015 issue of the National Association of Realtors (NAR) magazine, the direct link between how communities are built and grow is tied to health and quality of life. More walkable and bike-able environments with better access to nature and parks have become essential for personal well-being and needs to be integrated into community planning. The NAR articles identify walkable communities as a prescription for better health.

Even the U.S. Surgeon General sounded a call to action challenging communities to become more walkable to allow more Americans to increase their physical activity through walking. The Center for Disease Control and its Healthy Community Design Initiative focuses on walkability and the need to better integrate into transportation planning.

The NAR magazine issue also reported on the value of bicycle-friendly communities and the direct tie to healthy and sustainable living. Access to healthy, locally-grown food choices is reported with the value of community gardens and urban food hubs for healthy diets, as well as connection to community engagement.

Realtors have long been aware that housing near a good system of parks and trails will hold strong appeal to buyers. The winter NAR issue illustrates the recognition that community design for healthy living goes beyond the single house location. People want choices, and these healthy community design traits of walking, biking, trails and parks all play an important role in housing prices, sales and re-sales.





CHAPTER 6

SYSTEM NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The following needs assessment synthesizes and articulates the community’s needs for Maple Valley’s park and recreation system. This chapter explores and addresses park and recreation activity, facility and programming needs and priorities. It relies heavily on public input from the community survey and public meetings, in addition to site inventories and regional and national recreation trends. By considering the location, size and number of facilities by type and use, along with community interests and priorities, this Plan evaluates the existing and projected demand for park and recreation amenities. This assessment provides a foundation for the six-year capital facilities plan (see Chapter 7), which identifies and prioritizes crucial upgrades, improvements and expansions consistent with the needs expressed by residents.

RECREATION TRENDS

The following summaries from recognized park and recreation resources provide background on national, state and local trends that may reflect potential recreational activities and facilities for future consideration in Maple Valley’s park system. Examining current recreation trends can help inform potential park and recreation improvements and opportunities that may enhance the community and create a more vibrant parks system as it moves into the future.

National Recreational Trends

The Outdoor Participation Report

According to 2018 Outdoor Participation Report, published by the Outdoor Foundation in Boulder, Colorado, more than 146.1 million Americans (49%) participated in an outdoor activity at least once in 2017. These outdoor participants went on a total of 10.9 billion outdoor outings, a decrease from 11.0 billion in 2016. Participation in outdoor recreation, team sports and indoor fitness activities vary by an individual’s age. Recent trend highlights include the following:

- Twenty percent (20%) of outdoor enthusiasts participated in outdoor activities at least twice per week.
- Running, including jogging and trail running, was the most popular activity among Americans when measured by number of participants and by number of total annual outings.
- Nineteen percent (19%) outdoor participants lived in the South Atlantic region of the US, making its population the most active in outdoor activities.
- Walking for fitness was the most popular crossover activity where 45.8% of all outdoor participants also walked.
- Data shows that adults who were introduced to the outdoors as children were more likely to participate in outdoor activities during adulthood than those who were not exposed to the outdoors as children.
- The biggest motivator for outdoor participation was getting exercise.

Sports, Fitness & Leisure Activities Topline Participation Report

Prepared by a partnership of the Sports and Fitness Industry Association (SFIA) and the Physical Activity Council (PAC), this 2018 participation report establishes levels of activity and identifies key trends in sports, fitness, and recreation in the US. The largest focus of activities continues to be toward fitness sports. Winter sports gained the most of all categories, increasing 2% over the last year. The interest in activities has started moving toward outdoor recreation. The top aspirational activity for all age segments was outside, ranging from camping to biking to birdwatching.

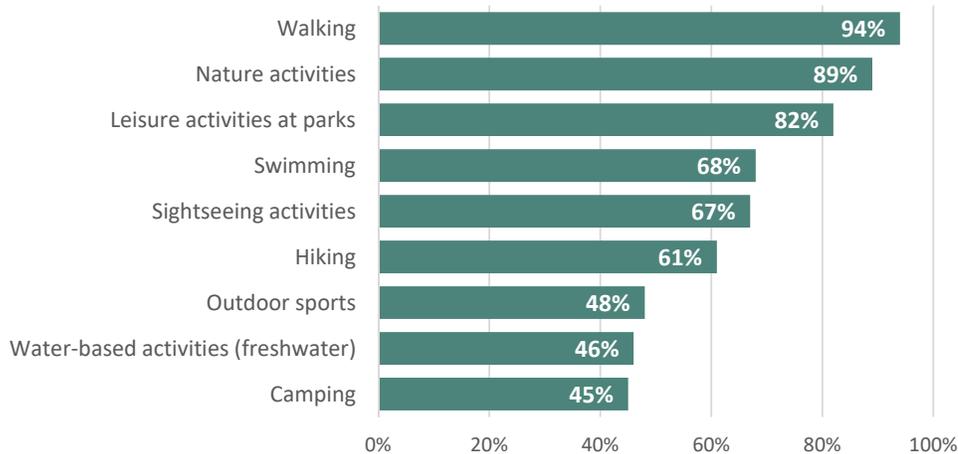
Fitness sports/activities continues to have the highest participation rates; having 64% of the US population ages 6 and over engaging in activities like running/jogging, high intensity/impact training, row machines, and swimming. Outdoor activities remained second but was flat from 2016; seeing a increase in day hiking and backpacking, but lost participants in canoeing and adventure racing.

While age clearly affects how often someone participates, what they do can also be age dependent. Young kids, ages 6 to 17, who tend to be more active overall, focus on team sports and outdoor activities. While Boomers prefer fitness activities, especially low impact such as aquatic exercise, cycling, and walking. Millennials are more likely than the other generations to participate in water sports, such as stand up paddling, boardsailing and surfing.

Statewide Recreational Trends

The SCORP is a five-year statewide recreation plan published by the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office. The Washington Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Planning (SCORP) document guides decision-makers in better understanding statewide recreation issues and is required to help maintain Washington's eligibility for federal Land and Water Conservation Fund dollars. The SCORP is designed to determine outdoor recreation issues and opportunities and helps explore local park and recreation planning strategies. It includes valuable data on current trends in recreation participation and demand in Washington. Findings from the Washington State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) were evaluated to help inform planning and funding considerations for future park and recreational facilities.

Figure 5. Statewide Participation Rates by Outdoor Activity (2018 SCORP)



The 2018–2022 Washington SCORP confirms that outdoor recreation is still an integral part of life for most Washington residents, 90% participate in the most popular category of activities, which includes walking and hiking, demonstrating the pervasiveness of outdoor recreation in Washington’s culture. Significant increases in rates of participation in outdoor recreation activities since 2006 indicate the importance of the state and local communities to continue their investment in outdoor recreation facilities and opportunities.

The 2018 SCORP includes five priority areas to meet the needs of Washington State residents. Listed below with their accompanying recommendations, these priorities seek to address current needs and plan for future demands for recreation and conservation. The 2018 SCORP Recommendations encourage local park and recreation service providers to:

- Sustain and Grow the Legacy of Parks, Trails and Conservation Lands: Through renovation of existing facilities; regional solutions; partnerships; coordination; and planning for growth.
- Improve Equity in Parks, Trails and Conservation Lands; By connecting more people to recreation; building facilities in underserved areas; providing experiences where people go most; and enhancing community health and safety.
- Plan for Culturally Relevant Parks and Trails to Meet Changing Demographics: By creating new and diverse opportunities that accommodate the active senior population
- Get Youth Outside: By providing a variety of high-quality facilities, activities, and programs for youth.
- Position as a Vital Public Service: By promoting outdoor recreation and conservation, and their benefits; improving communication tools and mapping; and maintaining adequate funding.

Summaries from other national and state recreation studies appears in Appendix E.

LOCAL INTERESTS IN OUTDOOR RECREATION

Local recreation demands and needs were explored through a variety of public engagement to gather feedback on the strengths of and opportunities for park and recreational resources available to Maple Valley residents. Public outreach notification to generate interest in the park system plan included a mail and online community survey, stakeholder discussions, an open house to review opportunities across the park system, and pop-up displays at several community events during the summer of 2019.

Community Survey

A community survey was conducted from June to August 2019 and was designed to measure the level of satisfaction with existing parks and recreation opportunities in Maple Valley and the priorities for future improvements and services.

Contribution of parks to quality of life

Nearly all respondents (95%) feel that local parks and recreation opportunities are important or essential to the quality of life in Maple Valley. More than seven in ten feel that they are essential; while an additional 18% believe that they are important to quality of life, but not essential. Less than 4% of respondents believe parks are “more of a luxury that we don’t need”. Respondents between 20 and 64 are more likely than older age groups to use parks and recreation facilities on a regular basis and to feel that they are essential to the quality of life in Maple Valley. A majority of every demographic group said they consider parks “essential” to quality of life. Even among respondents who were light users of existing parks, majorities rated them as “essential”.

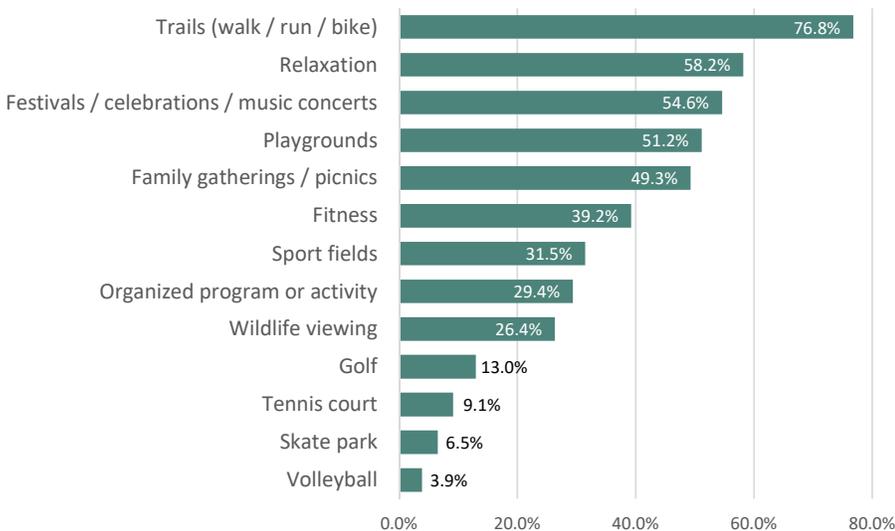
Satisfaction with existing parks

According to the survey, a large majority of residents (79%) are somewhat to very satisfied with the value they receive from the City of Maple Valley for parks and recreation amenities. However, a small share of respondents (16%) are either somewhat or very dissatisfied. Of the respondents who have visited city parks, approximately nine in ten gave a condition rating of excellent or good for Lake Wilderness Park (90%), Arboretum (91%), Lodge (88%) and the Gaffney Grove Disc Golf Course (91%).

Reasons for visiting parks

Maple Valley respondents visit local parks and recreation facilities for a variety of reasons. The most popular activities include trails (77%), relaxation (58%), playgrounds (51%) and participating in festivals or celebrations (55%). Fewer visited to use a tennis court (9%), skatepark (7%), or volleyball court (4%). In addition, the most common write-in responses included fishing, walking the dog and swimming.

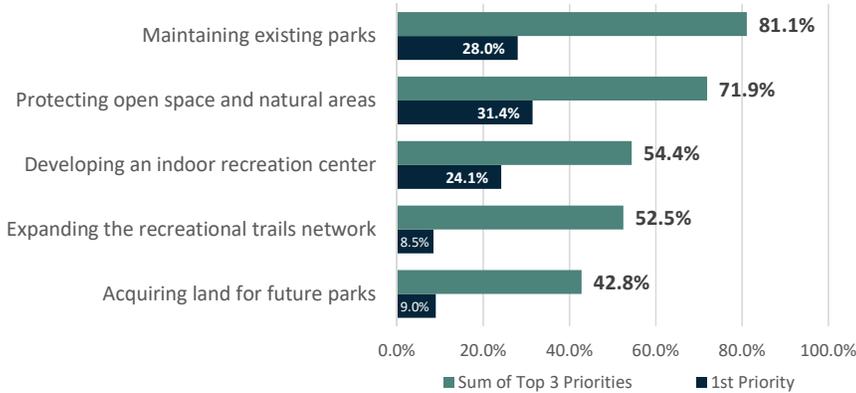
Figure 6. Main Reasons Survey Respondents Visit Parks



Priority park and facility improvements

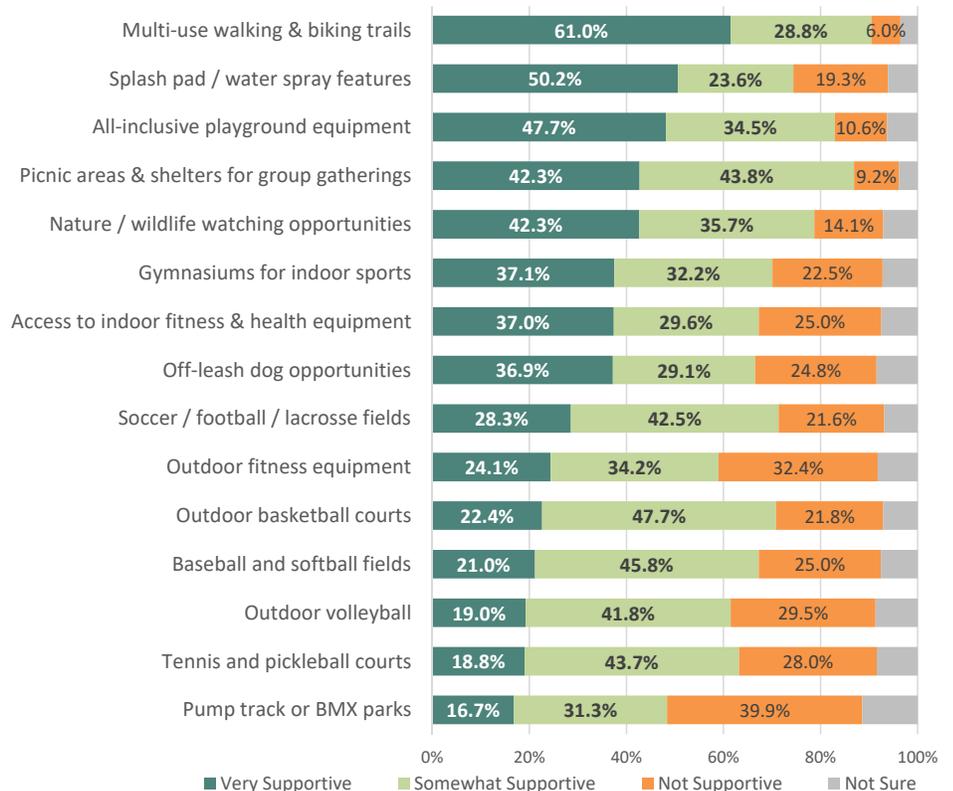
When asked which park and recreation improvements they would like to see the City focus on, eight in ten respondents identified maintaining existing parks as one of their top three priorities, with over 28% saying it should be the highest priority. Protecting open space and natural areas ranked as the single highest priority, with 31% of respondents ranking it as their highest priority. In looking at the sum of the top three priorities, majorities gave a high priority to expanding the recreational trail network (52%) and developing an indoor recreation center (54%).

Figure 7. Facility Priorities by Type



The survey also asked about residents' support for park and recreational improvements. A majority of respondents were very or somewhat supportive of expanding or improving nearly all of the facilities listed. A large majority of respondents (80% or more) were supportive of expanding and improving multi-use walking and biking trails, all-inclusive accessible playgrounds, and picnic areas or shelters for group gatherings. More than half of respondents were very or somewhat supportive of all other improvements listed, except for a pump track or BMX park, which only garnered 48% support.

Figure 8. Support for Various Recreational Amenities



PARKLAND GAP ANALYSIS

To better understand where efforts for potential acquisition should be directed, 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

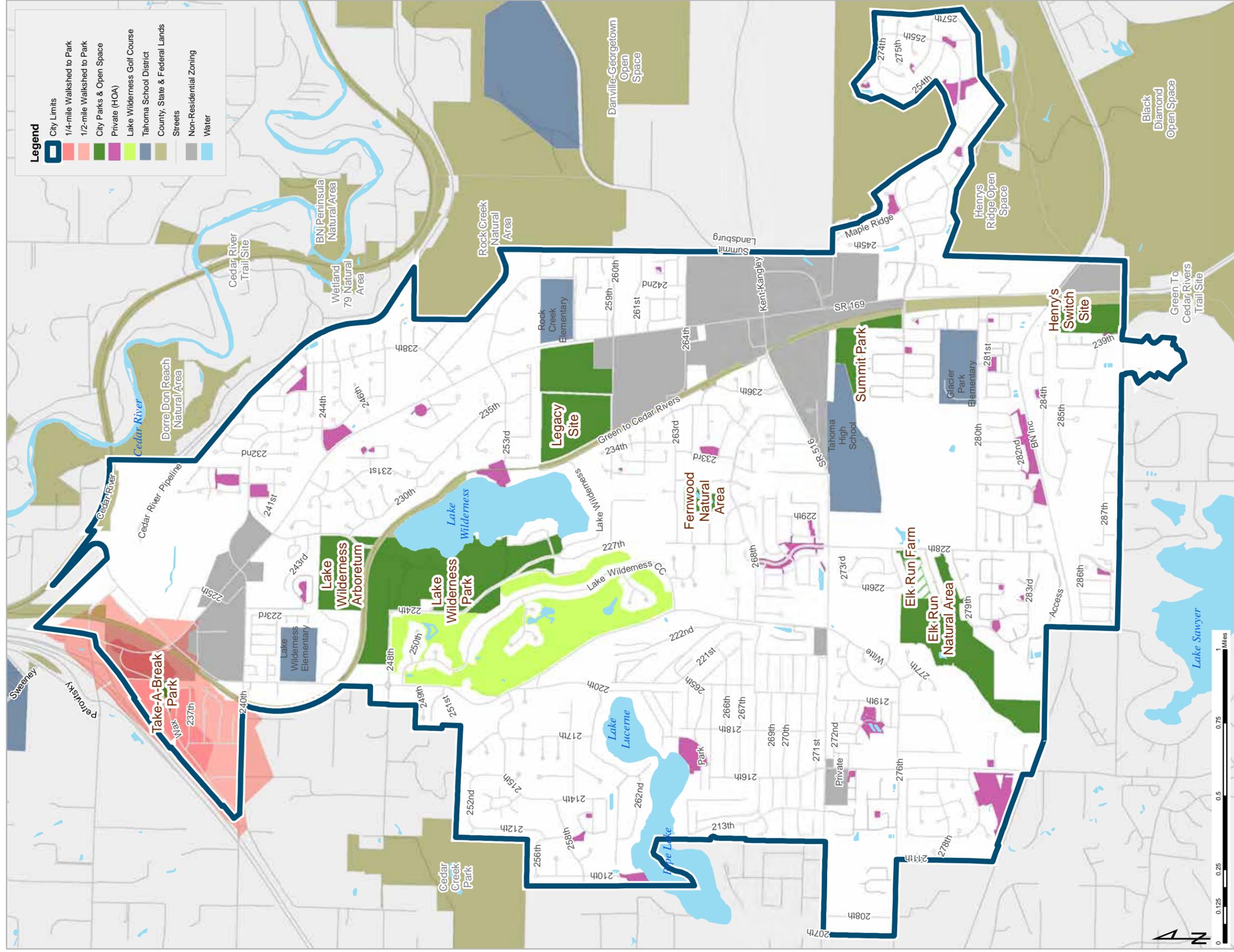
Maps 2 to 4 illustrate the application of these distribution criteria. The gap analysis also reviewed the need for parkland after considering the existing private homeowner association parks, along with the distribution of private condominium or apartment complex recreation common areas. Map 5 highlights how the public neighborhood parks and private parks enhance the overall coverage of parklands in Maple Valley. It should be noted that the park walksheds for the private parks were restricted to the actual homeowner association boundaries of the respective parks.

The greatest need based on system gaps is for additional neighborhood parks to improve overall distribution and equity, while promoting localized recreational spaces that can accommodate playgrounds, court sports and open play.

Gaps in parkland distribution appear in four main areas of the city:

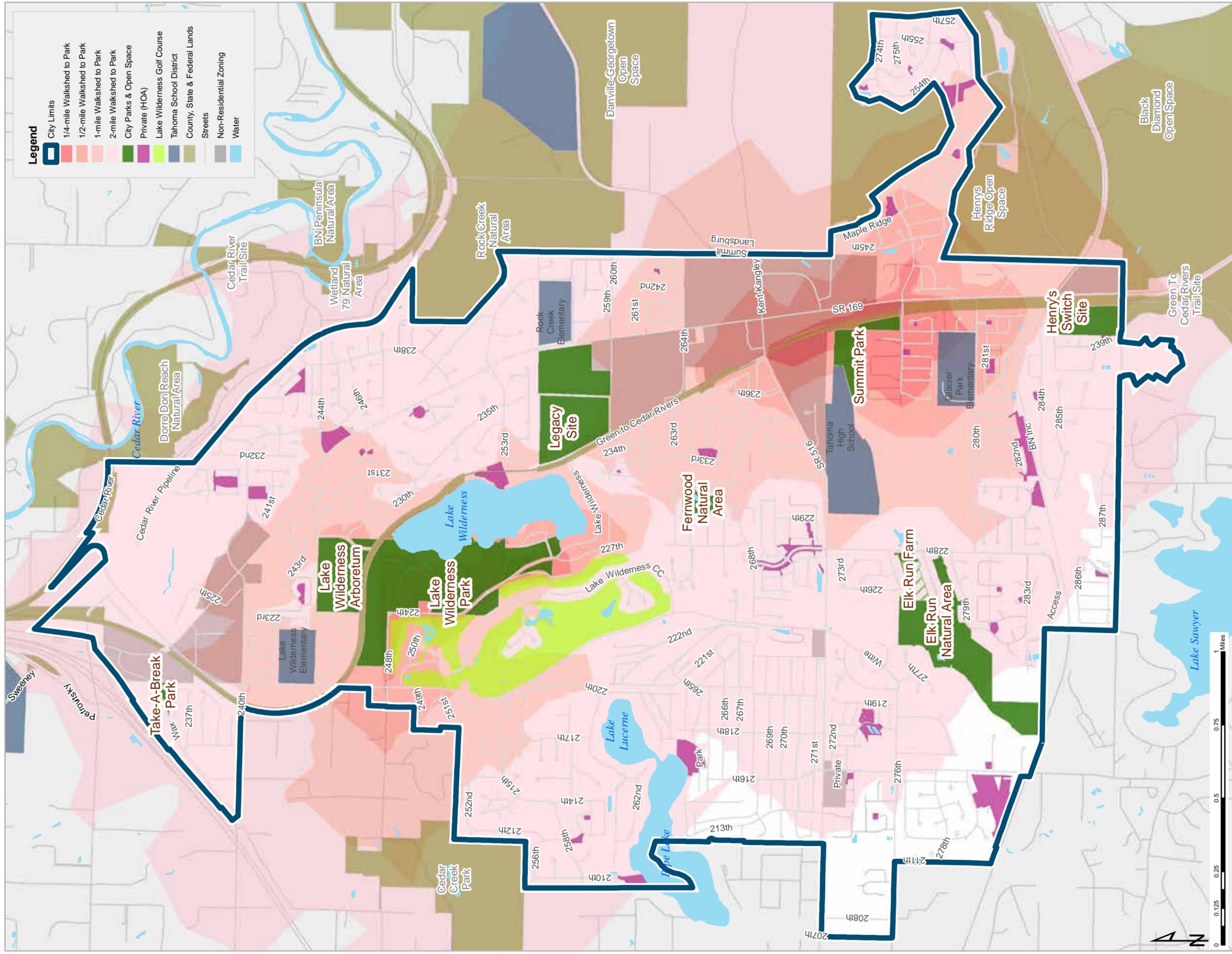
- Southcentral section south of Tahoma High School, if future residential development is proposed
- Western section north of Lake Lucerne
- Northeastern section north of Rock Creek Elementary
- City center near Fernwood Natural Area

While the targeted acquisition areas do not identify a specific parcel(s) for consideration, the area encompasses a broader region in which an acquisition would be ideally suited. These acquisition targets represent a long-term vision for improving parkland distribution throughout Maple Valley.



Map 2: Park Walkshed Map (City Neighborhood Parks)

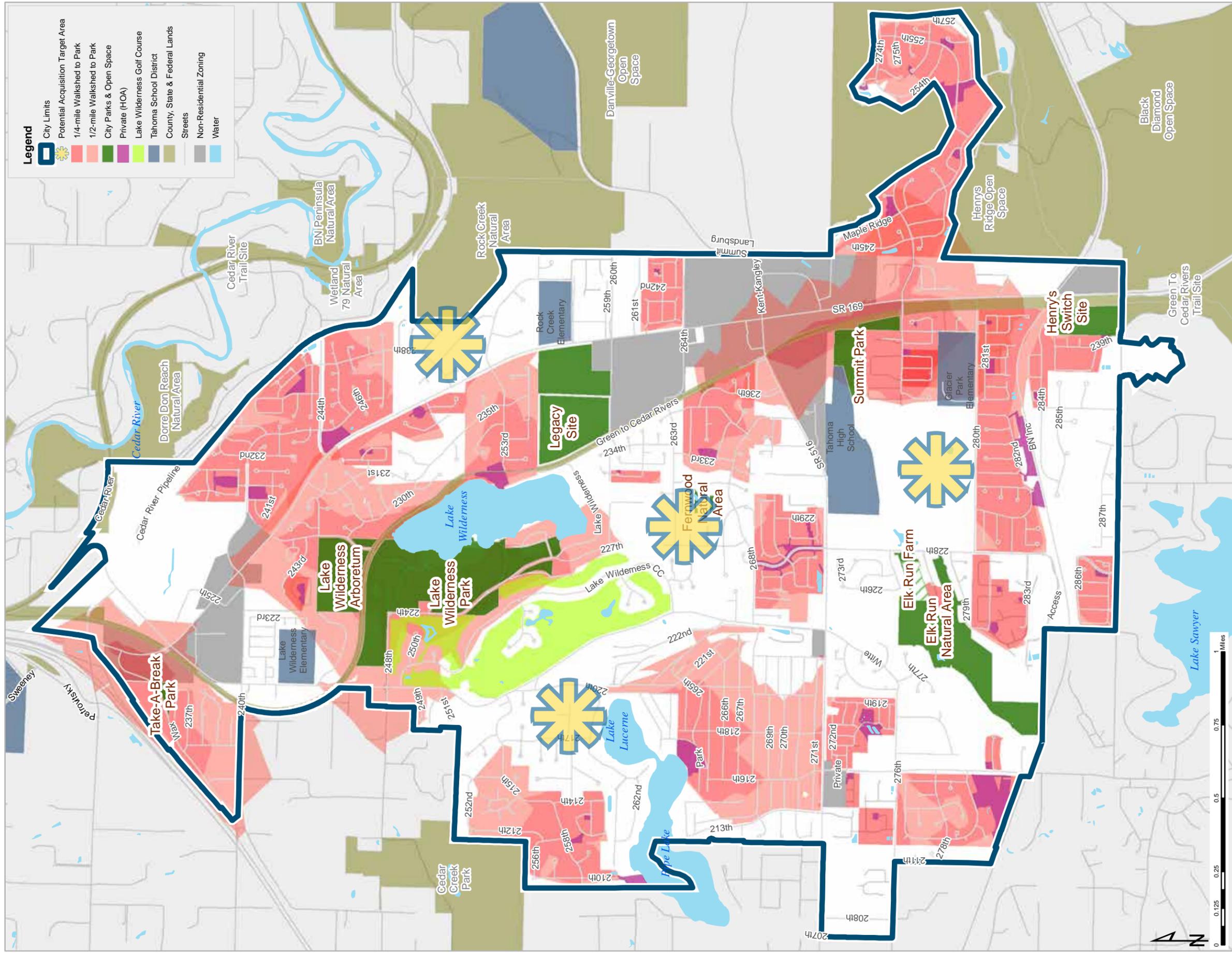
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Map 3: Park Walkshed Map (City Community Parks)

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Map 5: Target Acquisition Areas

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STANDARDS & LEVELS OF SERVICE

A level of service (LOS) review was conducted in addition to and in support of the gap analysis as a means to understand the distribution of parkland acreage by classification and for a broader measure of how well the City is serving its 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; the level of service is a snapshot in time of how well the City is meeting the adopted standards.

As noted in the inventory chapter, the City owns approximately 362 acres of parks and greenways. An additional 51 acres of private parks and 110 acres of open space also exist within Maple Valley. Utilizing the current standards adopted with the 2014 PRCHS Plan, the following tables provide a snapshot of the existing levels of service for parklands. It should be noted that per capita acreage standards do not apply to special use facility or natural area classifications, and these levels of service are provided merely for reference.

Figure 9. Existing Level of Service by Classification for City-owned Parklands

Type	Existing Standard	Current Inventory*	Current Level of Service	Current (2019**) Surplus / (Deficit)
Community	6 ac/000	105.19	4.02 ac/000	(51.89)
Neighborhood & Pocket	2.5 ac/000	1.92	0.07 ac/000	(63.53)
Special Facilities	--- ac/000	131.46	5.02 ac/000	-
Greenways & Natural Areas	--- ac/000	124.07	4.74 ac/000	-
	8.5 ac/000	362.65	13.85 ac/000	(115.4)

* NOTE: Current Inventory column includes currently undeveloped sites (City owned only); Legacy and Henry's Switch included in Greenways until designed

** NOTE: 2019 population estimated as 26,180 (OFM)

Figure 10. Existing Level of Service by Classification for City-owned & Private Parks

Type	Existing Standard	Current Inventory*	Current Level of Service	Current (2019**) Surplus / (Deficit)
Community	6 ac/000	105.19	4.02 ac/000	(51.89)
Neighborhood & Pocket	2.5 ac/000	53.48	2.04 ac/000	(11.97)
Special Facilities	--- ac/000	135.98	5.19 ac/000	-
Greenways & Natural Areas	--- ac/000	230.12	8.79 ac/000	-
	8.5 ac/000	524.77	20.05 ac/000	(63.9)

* NOTE: Current Inventory column includes currently undeveloped sites (City owned only) and HOAs; Legacy and Henry's Switch included in Greenways until designed

** NOTE: 2019 population estimated as 26,180 (OFM)

At 362.5 acres, the existing, overall level of service for the City of Maple Valley is 13.85 acres per 1,000 people, which is an increase from the level of service of 13.5 acres per 1,000 from the 2014 Plan. Based on today's inventory and existing standards, a deficit of 115.4 acres exists today when looking solely at City-owned land. For neighborhood and pocket parks, the current deficit is 63 acres, and there is a deficit of 52 acres for community parks. It should be noted that the acreage for the Legacy site and Henry's Switch Open Space is captured within the Greenways & Natural Areas classification for now. Once these sites are developed, acreage can be re-apportioned and potentially allocated to the community park classification to alleviate some of the existing deficit.

With the inclusion of privately-held parks and open space tracts, the combined, overall level of service within the city increases to 20.05 acres per 1,000 people. The contribution of private homeowners association parks significantly improved the level of service for the neighborhood park classification, which now indicates a current deficit of approximately 12 acres.

Following a review of the existing inventory along with potential development projects (i.e., Elk Run Natural Area, Henry’s Switch Park and the Legacy site) and potential parkland acquisitions or private development, the projected park deficit for both community and neighborhood park classifications remains high. The following table projects acreage demand for the 2030 population estimate. The projected deficit for community parks increases to 73 acres, and the deficit for neighborhood parks increases to 20 acres. Note that the table also assumes the addition of approximately three future, 2-acre neighborhood parks to be added to the system by 2030, which reduces the deficit to approximately 15 acres.

Figure 11. Projected Level of Service (2030) by Classification

Type	Proposed Standard	Inventory *	Projected Additions	Projected (2030**) Surplus / (Deficit)
Community	6 ac/000	105.19		(72.89)
Neighborhood & Pocket	2.5 ac/000	53.48	6	(14.72)
Special Facilities	--- ac/000	135.98		---
Greenways & Natural Areas	--- ac/000	230.12		---
	8.5 ac/000	524.77		(87.6)

* NOTE: Current Inventory column includes currently undeveloped sites (City owned only) and HOAs; Legacy and Henry’s Switch included in Greenways until designed

** NOTE: 2030 population estimated as 29,680 (City staff)

The use of numeric standards is a blunt and limited tool to assess how well the City is delivering park and recreation services, since the numeric values alone neglect any recognition for the quality of the facilities or their distribution (i.e., the ease to which residents have reasonable, proximate access to park sites). While public ownership of a broad range of recreation lands is crucial to the well-being of the city, the simple use of an overall acreage standard does not match with the citizen input received during this planning process. Residents were particularly interested in the availability of trails and active use parks (community parks) within a reasonable distance from their homes. The City should consider re-evaluating its service standards in the next PRAOS Plan and consider its capacity to expand the park system as it nears build out of the urban area.

This Plan also proposes to retain the approach of having no numeric standards for natural areas and special facilities. While numerical planning standards are common for helping to determine a desirable number of neighborhood parks per thousand residents, they do not translate easily to natural areas because of the uniqueness of the land base itself. Additionally, the City has provided strong leadership in requiring developers to set aside tracts of land through its critical areas regulations. The inclusion of future, protected critical areas and creek corridors as part of the broader greenway network further clouds the relevance of a numeric standard for greenways or natural areas. While it is important for the City to protect sensitive lands to set them aside as part of a greenway system, priority should be focused toward either the acquisition of or negotiation for additional, adjacent greenway lands to ensure sufficient property is available to accommodate trail connections and habitat linkages.

PARK SYSTEM ENHANCEMENTS

Community Parks

Maple Valley has added a newly developed community park, Summit Park, to expand recreational opportunities, and the park includes sports fields, skate park, sports court, off-leash dog area, an inclusive children's playground and a trailhead for the Green to Cedar Rivers Trail. The all-weather athletic fields are available for rent and are allocated to park and recreation programs, Tahoma School District events and local youth and adult sports teams with preference given to residency within the city. Summit Park added close to 16 acres of developed parkland to the City's inventory.

In addition, Lake Wilderness Park, the workhorse of Maple Valley's park system, provides water access with a beach and beach house, sport fields, tennis courts, playground, trails and the Lodge. The park was master planned in 2007 to guide future development and renovation efforts. The City should focus its energy in the near-term toward trail access improvements that connect to the Legacy site and additional paved pathways that improve circulation and universal access to its amenities. Additionally, minor improvements to access for site furnishings are necessary to conform to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Also, the City should evaluate the need to replace picnic shelters in the next 5-10 years, based on roof and structure conditions. The Lake Wilderness Lodge has been listed on the capital facilities plan for needed repairs and should be a more immediate focus. The recommendations in the Inventory chapter provide additional site-specific suggestions.

The Legacy site has been discussed as a potential location for a civic center and city hall. This large, wooded site has both access along SR-169 and the Lake Wilderness Trail. However, there are competing community interests at play with the Legacy site. On one hand, the community conducted a broad planning effort to bring a cohesive vision to the City Council that prioritizes a number of program elements and proposes the highest and best use for the site. On the other hand, there is still a strong desire in the community to protect the remaining forested parcels for habitat and open space uses. As supported in the 2005 report to Council, the western portions of the site, closest to Lake Wilderness Park and the Lake Wilderness Trail, should be protected, and a means of creating pedestrian and bicycle access down the slopes should be studied and implemented. This "local face" connection would make a strong pedestrian and bicycle link between Rock Creek Elementary and the regional amenity of the Lake Wilderness Trail. This also is an important linkage in the City's proposed neighborhood greenway network. Similar to the Maple Valley Library, developed by King County, the Legacy site should seek to minimize its development footprint and preserve as much as the remaining "green infrastructure" of the existing forest at the site.

With the recent acquisition of a portion of the former Elk Run Golf Course, the City has additional property in which to develop critical cross-community trail connections, publicly accessible natural spaces for walking, running and physical activity.

Neighborhood Parks

Maple Valley's current policy is to require new residential developments to develop and maintain their own neighborhood and pocket parks. As a result, the City only has one neighborhood park, Take-A-Break Park, under its direct management. This park provides walking paths, playground, benches and both natural and landscaped settings for the immediate neighborhood. The park does have opportunities for enhancing its recreational value through the addition of more active play features, and these recommendations are discussed later in this chapter.

Across Maple Valley, there are 46 small, private parks that serve residents of specific subdivisions or homeowner associations. These private parks offer a range of amenities, from small playgrounds to basketball and tennis courts to water access. Although these private parks are well-distributed across the City, several gaps exist as was discussed above. Also, residents who live in park deficient areas generally are outside the subdivision or homeowner association boundaries for these parks and are effectively unserved and have little access to local recreation opportunities. Filling these gaps in service equitably will require flexibility.

The Fernwood Natural Area is located within one of the primary gap areas. This is a small property with a towering second-growth overstory that mixes with a rich upland and riparian understory surrounding a central wetland. While this site will not function as a traditional neighborhood park, opportunities exist to make improvements to this site, such that access is improved and it can serve as the proxy park for its immediate neighborhood. Planting restoration and vegetation management would help make the site more inviting and accessible to users and an outdoor amphitheater with benches might invite naturalist programming and outdoor education to the site.

In the parkland gap areas where new residential development is unlikely in the foreseeable future, the City should consider either acquiring properties to serve as neighborhood parks or explore the idea to utilize existing, City-owned stormwater facilities as multi-purpose facilities. Maple Valley has generally well-draining soils, and opportunities may exist to convert certain stormwater facilities to dual use and allow limited recreation on them. These sites could accommodate small terraced play areas, pathway connections and interpretive elements.

Other Active Outdoor Interests

In addition to developing multi-purpose parks or engaging the development community for the provision of neighborhood and pocket parks, new park amenities or facilities could be considered for development within existing parks or as components of future sites.

Splash Pad

Splash pads 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 splash pad in a community park.

Skateboard/BMX Facilities

Summit Park contains a new skatepark that supplements the existing skatepark located next to the Community Center. BMX and mountain bike facility would add more recreational value to the park system separate from the concrete skatepark facility. A pump track and connecting flow track, currently being proposed as part of the development of the Henry's Switch site would add new challenges for young BMX riders and add to the range of outdoor recreational opportunities across older youth and teens.

Off-Leash Dog Area

The off-leash dog area at Summit Park provides a location where residents can exercise dogs. As a component of a community park, where infrastructure (parking, restrooms, garbage collection) exists and supports multiple activities, off-leash areas serve a wider range of park users and encourage interaction among pet owners and other park users. Beyond Summit Park, other areas under the powerline corridors could be explored for potential candidate sites. Maple Valley should look to partnership opportunities in the development of an additional 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.

Adventure Playgrounds & Parkour

Engaging older youth, teens and adults in more intense physical activity within parks requires amenities that support challenging active movement. Parkour courses, adventure playgrounds and exercise stations along park pathways and trails can offer a wide range of physical activity and enhance the user experience in park settings. The proposed development of Elk Run Natural Area includes exercise stations along its trail network. Proposed improvements to Take-a-Break Park identify a Parkour-like series of features that can challenge older youth and adults in conquering the physical route of activities.

Sport Courts & Pickleball

Growing in popularity, especially with aging adults and seniors, pickleball has seen significant jumps in participation over the last decade. Courts are best located in groups (at least two but preferably four) to provide for the regular league activity that grows as the sports is adopted within a community. Indoor courts often created within gyms provide year-round league use but outdoor settings can meet a growing need and fill a niche activity that is amenable to a wide range of ages. Other sport courts that offer multiple deck-based games and basketball play can be programmed for special classes and leagues as well. Both of these court-oriented sporting activities can provide programming for youth that are not typically participating in team field sports.

Sport Fields

As discussed in the 2014 PRCHS Plan, a shortage of playable sport fields existed within Maple Valley in the recent past. The inventory of fields increased significantly with the development of Summit Park and Ravensdale Park and the multi-use all-weather athletic fields provided at each. At Summit Park, there is one stand-alone softball field with two multi-use fields for baseball and soccer sharing the same space. These new fields are a valuable contribution with their longer seasons of playable surfacing and versatility across multiple sports.

The Tahoma School District is still the primary field provider, with field scheduling coordinated by the Tahoma Sports Council. City recreation programs, private and non-profit groups provide programming. The new Tahoma High School, built adjacent to Summit Park, also added all-weather turf fields, which include a football and track facility, one baseball, one softball and one soccer field.

Figure 12. Existing Inventory of Sport Facilities

	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	-	2	2	-	2	-	1	2	-
King County ⁽³⁾	-	4	-	-	4	-	-	-	-
Tahoma School District	-	11	3	-	5	3	7	11	12
Private	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	0	17	5	0	11	3	8	13	12

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
- (3): Refers to Ravensdale Park, to which the City of Maple Valley was a major contributor to field construction

As a regional facility, Ravensdale Park provides field space for a large geography and serves the needs of other communities, beyond just Maple Valley’s. While these fields are counted above, they may overstate the current inventory of fields, if just considering the needs of the Maple Valley sports community. Additionally, the Tahoma School District fields primarily serve the needs of the district’s programs, and the smaller fields available at the elementary schools for community use are suitable only for youth practice and cannot be used year-round.

The development of the new high school athletic fields, Summit Park and Ravensdale Park have contributed greatly to the inventory of sports fields in the community. The all-weather turf and lighting features at these sites add significant value by prolonging the daily use times and the availability for practice and games into the wet seasons. Regarding sport field standards, this Plan recommends retaining the current standards for the three sport field categories, and Maple Valley is currently meeting its standard for baseball and soccer fields.

Figure 13. Projected Levels of Service by Field Type

Type	Existing Standard	Current Inventory	Current (2019) Surplus / (Deficit)	Future (2030) Surplus / (Deficit)
Baseball Fields	1 fields/5000 people	6	1	0
Softball Fields	1 fields/5000 people	2	(3)	(4)
Soccer Fields	1 fields/5000 people	6	1	0

* NOTE: Current Inventory column excludes Tahoma School District fields

Upgrading the existing multi-use fields throughout the community could provide further capacity, in addition to developing formalized field space for community use in front of Lake Wilderness Elementary. As field demand changes with population growth or with increased competition for field space between the various sports, the City should continue its leadership role in addressing the provision of field space and coordination with the school district and leagues for equitable usage, appropriate scheduling and planning for long-term facility maintenance.

CONCEPTUAL PARK DESIGNS

Take-A-Break Park, Elk Run Natural Area and Henry's Switch Park represent major opportunities for the City to reinvest in its park system to better meet community needs and address existing renovation needs. The following conceptual park designs offer a blueprint for the enhancement and development of these three sites, based on site evaluations and community input. The Capital Facilities Plan includes projects necessary to realize the community's vision for these parks.

Elk Run Natural Area

Elk Run Natural Area, the undeveloped portion of the former Elk Run Golf Course, now owned and controlled by the City, consists of 52 acres, including the area in the northeast section of the property dedicated to the Elk Run Farm operations. The property extends from 228th Ave SE on its eastern borders and follows the corridor of Cranmar Creek crossing beneath the overhead power lines until its southern border abuts the railroad line.

Site Management / Design Recommendations

The site consists of former golf course fairways, greens and tees that weave through the riparian corridor of Cranmar Creek and perch above the creek and its wetlands on top of steep wooded slopes. While the former golf course maintained some open water, most of the wetlands that buffer the Creek are wooded. Former golf course grading and improvements provide linear openings, and the old golf cart path offers reasonable multi-use pathways for public access and use of the site.

The existing pathway alignments created from the golf course provide a variety of walking, jogging and running experiences through open areas, into the woodlands, up and down slopes and along water edges. Since many of the pathways cross sensitive environmental areas, the proposed design should keep those existing graded pathway improvements as much as possible to avoid costly re-alignments and impacts to wetlands and woodlands.

Since the park will not be managed as a golf course landscape, a thorough landscape restoration plan should be carefully crafted to control the establishment of noxious invasive plant species and encourage the establishment of native plant species, particularly in areas where the extensive golf course turf management kept open fairways, greens and tee boxes. A landscape management plan will be needed to direct the transition of those meadow areas as well as a longer term maintenance plan.

Design Concepts

The proposed design provides for an extensive trail network following the former golf cart paths and weaving through the bulk of the site to offer a range of loop experiences and access from numerous public streets. Trails connect 288th Ave SE on the east, across the park to 216th Ave SE just below its intersection with SE 280th Street. On the park's western side, a small parking lot is located just north of the corner of SE 291st Street and 216th Avenue SE. On the northeastern end of the park, parking can be shared with the Elk Run Farm growers and visitors.

The park design concept also includes a number of exercise stations located along the pathway network offering a mix of physical activity. Hydration stations are located at the two ends of the park where most access is likely to occur. These amenities would include drinking fountain, dog

watering spigot and water bottle filler. A boardwalk and overlook provide a close up view of the pond. The southernmost end of the park is left undeveloped, due to its extensive wooded wetland area and lack of potential beneficial connections.

While this design concept did not specify where landscape restoration efforts should be directed, a landscape management plan is recommended to help transition the former golf landscape into a more sustainable and low maintenance landscape without the susceptibility of extensive establishment of invasive plant species. Active restoration efforts (often a good target for volunteer energy and manpower) should be designed to initiate more rapid native plant establishment in those areas that supported high maintenance turf grasses. Otherwise, as those grasses thin out and disappear, more aggressive weeds may move in and take over extensive swaths of the former golf course.

TRAIL SYSTEM with AMENITIES

Wherever feasible, the proposed pathway alignment follows the existing remnants of the golf cart path to take advantage of existing crossings, culverts, pavement, and grading. Those existing cartways should be evaluated to ensure provision of reasonable outdoor recreation accessibility. The trail system is intended to provide a variety of loop choices, open meadow and woodland experiences and cross-park connections.

✳ Exercise stations (8-10) are proposed for along the pathway to provide additional options for physical activity in the natural area. The exercise stations are in open meadow spaces adjacent to the trail and could be part of an active trail experience.

💧 Proposed hydration stations include drinking fountain and water bottle filler.

Potential side entries
Wetland Boardwalk w/ Overlook

Proposed pathway
Proposed exercise stations

Proposed hydration station

Potential access & shared parking with Elk Run Farm

ELK RUN FARM

Proposed exercise stations

Potential new side entries

Proposed pathway



0 250 500 1,000

Figure 14: Elk Run Natural Area Concept Plan

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Henry's Switch Open Space

Adjacent to the Sawyer Crest neighborhood, Henry's Switch Open Space is currently an undeveloped 15.5-acre natural area. Access to the natural area from its south end is possible from 240th at an existing stub street adjacent to the small neighborhood playground. Except for the southern end with its overhead high power lines and associated necessary tree clearance, the natural area is wooded. The future Green to Cedar River Trail runs parallel to the park property along its eastern property line following the alignment of State Route 169.

Site Management / Design Recommendations

The natural area can accommodate a number of needed park amenities and should be developed to connect to and enhance the Green to Cedar River Trail and provide trailhead support facilities.

The site is characterized by steep slopes, overhead utility lines, limited access, existing woodland and the straight flat alignment that defines the future regional trail location. A residential neighborhood borders the western and northwestern edges of the park where potential pedestrian side entries could be connected to existing public roads.

The steep slopes run north-south through the center of the property and will dictate how trails can be aligned for sustainable trail management.

The powerlines and their towers require a permanent open area free of larger-growing trees or structures. Any proposed improvements must conform to the utility company's restrictions on height.

Design Concepts

To the largest extent feasible, the existing woodland will be retained and conserved to provide ecological value, stabilize steep slopes and offer a forested setting for outdoor recreation activities. The proposed park concept includes a parking lot with a small shelter and trailhead kiosk. The park will serve as a trailhead to support access to the future Green to Cedar River Trail. Due to steep slopes, trail access must switchback down to the Green to Cedar River Trail to provide reasonable and navigable grades.

Beyond serving as a trailhead, the park's recreational amenities focus on a pump track circuit that connects to a downhill flow track to provide skill development and challenge activities for BMX and mountain bike riders. The flow track is intended to be one-way downhill and would end at the Green to Cedar River Trail where riders could pedal south and connect up the switchback trailhead connection back to the pump track. The route provides a range of biking experiences and could be used for special club or small group events.

The proposed trail system for all users allows for connections from the main trailhead, side entries to neighborhood streets and access from the north and south to the Green to Cedar River Trail. Loop experiences are designed within the upper hillside and can be combined with the regional trail alignment.

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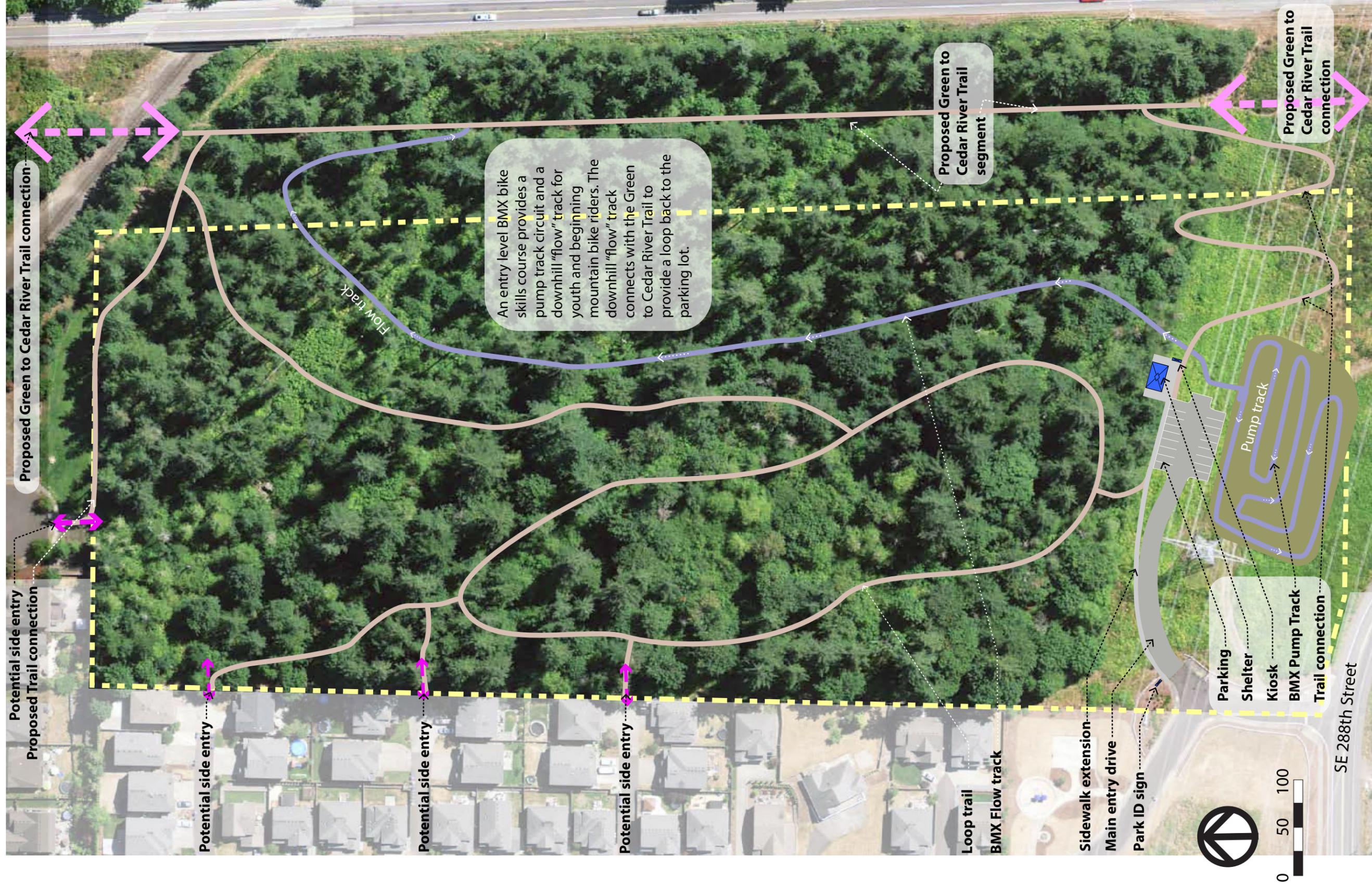


Figure 15: Henry's Switch Open Space Concept Plan

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Take-a-Break Park

This 1.92-acre neighborhood park is located along SE Wax Road. The small park contains a playground and play digger area, open grass area, paved walking paths, landscaped beds, native trees, street trees, benches, trash receptacles and dog waste bag dispenser. A large portion of the park functions as a stormwater drainage basin.

The eastern boundary of the park abuts the alignment of an unimproved street (SE Petrovitsky Road). This “paper street” could connect with the future Green to Cedar River Trail alignment. When the trail is improved, directional signage along SE Petrovitsky would be beneficial.

Site Management / Design Recommendations

The stormwater basin is managed as mown grass which limits its capacity for removing pollutants from runoff rainwater. The landscape approach could transition to native meadow plantings with some native shade trees to slow the runoff speed, cool the water temperatures and provide opportunities for sediment and nutrient removal. Interpretive signs could be added to the edge of the basin to explain the importance of cleaning stormwater runoff and the value of native landscapes.

An informal path that runs through the grove of Douglas firs could be an opportunity to create a nature play area. Some of this space shows signs of nature play activity and the space could be managed to allow more natural play with appropriate materials. The digger pit allows for only one child’s play at a time and consumes a relatively large area for its function. The pit area is not ADA compliant access, limiting its use even further. The asphalt pavement along the path near the park entry sign has significant cracks developing that could be a tripping hazard. Pavement cracks should be repaired.

Design Concepts

The proposed design concept identifies added recreational amenities to enhance the park experience and provide more activities for a broader range of ages. Proposed fitness elements and a renovated playground with added Parkour elements replace the lone digger toy and expand the play area significantly. A picnic table is added adjacent to the playground with all proposed site furnishings providing fully-compliant universal access. A 40-inch black vinyl-coated chain link fence is added between the sidewalk and the play areas, extending from the two park entry paths along SE Wax Road. This fence will provide a barrier between the street and the play area. The proposed fence area can have some of the existing shrubbery removed to allow better visibility in to the park. As an additional park management practice, some of the existing evergreen trees can be limbed up to allow for clear sight lines and avoid “hiding places”, if undesirable activities are occurring in the park.

The stormwater drainage basin could be converted to a native wet meadow landscape to provide better water quality treatment, more diverse plant interest, native species for wildlife habitat and cooler temperatures for rainwater runoff. A few larger native deciduous shade trees could be added to the basin landscape to help with cooling and provide more diversity and interest.

The grove of native Douglas fir trees in the southeast corner of the park offers a suitable space for encouraging nature play activities. Allowing branches to remain, adding some suitable logs, rocks and other natural materials can set up fun and explorative activities for children’s play that is less structured and more imaginative. Identifying the area as “nature play” can help park users understand the intended use and allow park staff to leave some natural materials on the ground.

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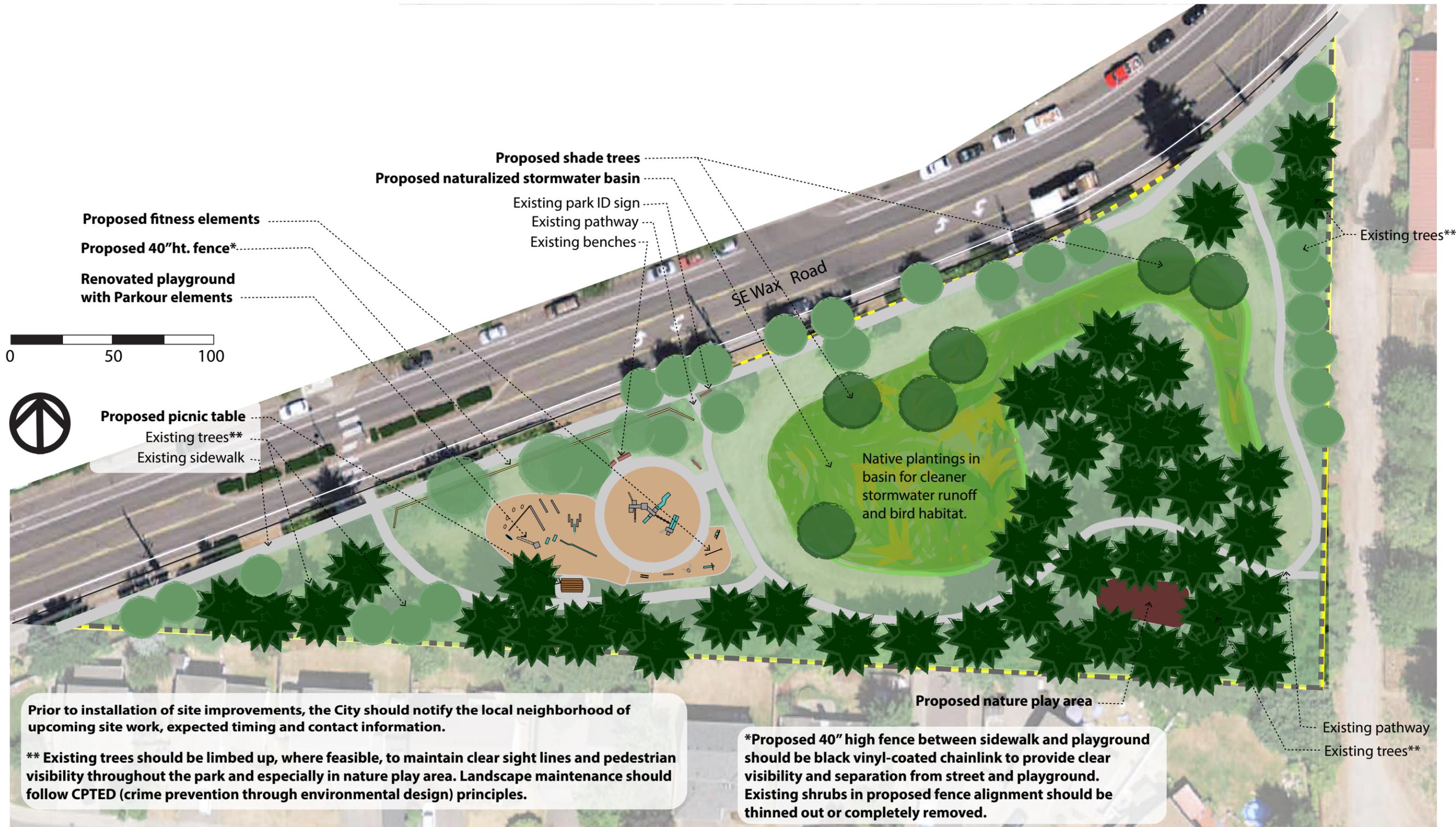


Figure 16: Take-A-Break Park Concept Plan

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NATURAL AREAS & OPEN SPACE STEWARDSHIP

Maple Valley is fortunate to have secured several significant natural areas across the City, in addition to Lake Wilderness Park with its extensive lakefront and shoreline. The greenway network includes wildlife habitat, creek corridors and vistas, which create unique connections as habitat for birds and other wildlife, as well as areas for special and/or endangered plant species to thrive. The network includes areas protected by the Critical Areas Protection Regulations, those under Native Growth Protection Easements, and incorporates privately-held subdivision open space tracts. While many of the City-managed sites do not currently accommodate formal, public access, many of these properties may serve as destinations or access points along future trail corridors.

Elk Run Natural Area is a perfect example of the City capturing an opportunity for better walkability through the community. The proposed concept for the former golf course restores and improves wildlife habitat by converting the former greens and fairways into native meadows and more functional wetlands. The Elk Run site provides over 50 acres and offers access to residents in the southwestern portion of the City.

In addition to protecting habitat and maintaining ecologic benefits (e.g., stormwater management and air quality), the greenway system provides educational and stewardship opportunities and is the primary framework for off-street recreational trails. The greenway network provides access to nature for passive recreation (including opportunities for viewpoints and wildlife viewing areas), relaxation and serves as both intermediate and ultimate destinations within a future trail network. The installation and integration of interpretive signage that reflects Maple Valley's unique history, natural assets and wildlife populations may enable programmed or self-guided outdoor learning.

Water quality is also an important aspect to local stewardship. The health of the water in Lake Wilderness is just as important as its stunning setting. In many water bodies, high levels of nitrogen - often from runoff flowing into lakes - have accelerated the growth of harmful algae. This affects the health of the lake and, in extreme instances, can limit the use of the lake for the community. The City should be a leader in integrated pest management and organic lawn care practices to limit the runoff of nitrogen into the lake, and could use these best practices to make other Maple Valley residents aware of their impacts on these receiving water bodies through the use of educational signage and by offering classes.

Future expansion of the City's greenway network should be focused toward locations that support the expansion of the trail network. In other locations, the City should continue to require the holding of critical areas as common areas or tracts, and, whenever possible, include public access easements or rights over those tracts to allow for future trail connections for public use.

LAKE WILDERNESS GOLF COURSE

Since 1929, Lake Wilderness Golf Course, an 18-hole public golf facility, has provided a challenging golf experience in a resort-like setting. The course hosts tournaments and events, includes a large banquet hall with a seating capacity of 150, and the Lake Wilderness Grill offers meals and drinks from lunch time through the afternoon. The 16,000 square foot clubhouse/restaurant facility supports both the golfing experience and special events, such as weddings and corporate functions.

The City contracts the management of the golf course to a professional golf management firm to oversee the operations, property maintenance, staffing and training, food, beverage and merchandising sales, golf instruction and financial management. A new contract was awarded in January 2019 to CourseCo, a regional golf management company.

In 2018, the City conducted an assessment of the golf course and its operations to consider how to improve its recreation opportunities, while maintaining maximum profitability for the City. The assessment report listed a number of recommended improvements for the golf course to ensure its future viability in the community. The most significant findings from the assessment involved the replacement of the existing, aging clubhouse with a newer clubhouse that focused on golfing and food services.

Event hosting would be offered through a new outdoor pavilion that could support special events and gatherings. Further discussions have led to the inclusion of the event space with the new clubhouse. The clubhouse replacement would follow a phased approach to allow for uninterrupted golf operations and capital financing for the new building.

Additional improvements proposed to enhance Lake Wilderness Golf Course includes the installation of indoor, multi-sport golf simulators, the development of an 18-hole miniature golf course, and improved course conditions. The overall result required an increased maintenance budget and the implementation of a capital reserve and reinvestment plan.

The City will need to decide how best to fund the golf course improvements. Based on the 2018 assessment report, cost estimates for the improvements are, as follows:

- Removal of existing clubhouse \$100,000
- Clubhouse (6,500 sf) construction \$2,600,000
- Outdoor pavilion (3,000 sf) \$300,000
- Reconfiguration of course \$80,000
- Miniature golf course \$250,000-350,000

The assessment report also proposed a number of improvements that involve improving play through drainage improvements, strategic tree removal and water hazard renovations to accommodate the new proposed improvements and general upgrades to improve playability of the course.

TRAILS & NEIGHBORHOOD GREENWAYS

Maple Valley is fortunate to have two major regional trails pass through or near the City. As residents continue to adopt more active lifestyles, these trails offer an unparalleled recreation opportunity. Through continued coordination and discussions with King County, Covington and Black Diamond, the City should seek ways to facilitate the improvement to and expansion of the regional trail network via the proposed Tri-Cities Trail. Additionally, extending and potentially paving the Lake Wilderness Trail (Green to Cedar Rivers 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 abuts four City-owned park properties, and future linkage improvements from these sites to the trail will further improve the access to, and functionality of, the trail.

The on-street bike routes in the City's Non-Motorized Transportation Plan supplement 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, striping and signage. 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 local planning has left pedestrian and cyclist connections between subdivisions and adjacent schools or parks. Together with the spine of Lake Wilderness Trail, these links have the potential for an excellent, interconnected network for the entire city within relatively close proximity. A series of neighborhood greenways are illustrated on Map 6. 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.

The former golf course, now the proposed Elk Run Natural Area, is again an example of a greenway connection across the street grid allowing pedestrians and cyclists to link other neighborhoods and destinations in a more direct route. The future improvements to the site will provide a range of trail options with several entries at public streets and create pathway loop experiences to add to outdoor activities.

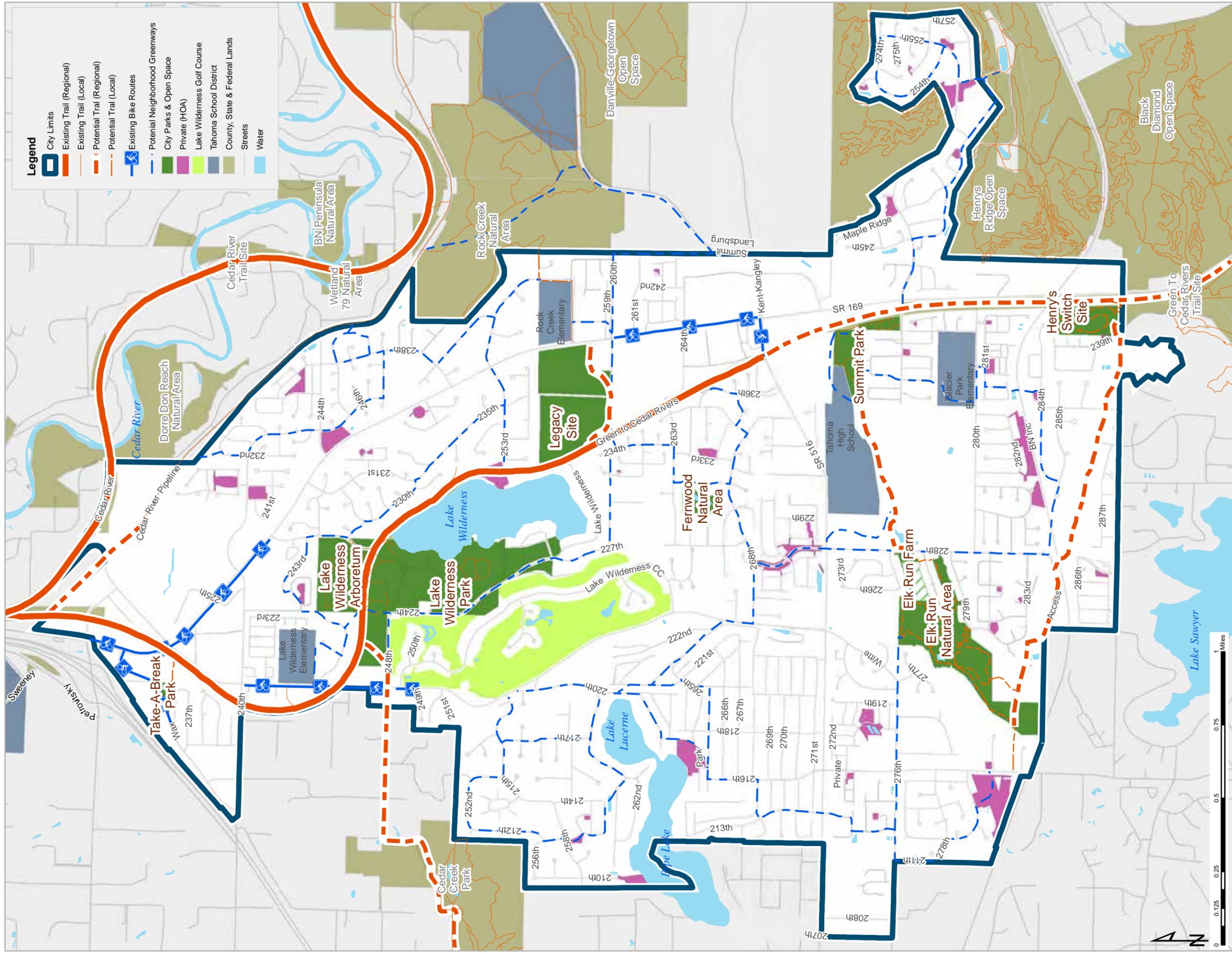
Service Standards & Level of Service

As with greenways, numeric standards for trails are not an optimal guideline. The greater intent of a trail network is more related to community connectivity and access, rather than a per capita distance measurement. The 2014 plan maintained a mileage standard on 0.97 miles per 1,000 people for trails. As illustrated in Figure 17, the application of this numeric standard results in a current deficit of 16 miles of trails, which might grow to a deficit of 19 miles by 2030.

Figure 17. Current & Projected Level of Service for Trails to Current Standard

Type	Existing Standard	Existing Inventory	Current Level of Service	Current (2019) Surplus / (Deficit)	Future (2030) Surplus / (Deficit)
Trails	0.97 mi/000	9.3 miles	0.46 mi/000	(16.1)	(19.5)

As noted in the Goals chapter, the provision of trails should be toward maximal connectivity from the core community trails (i.e., Lake Wilderness Trail spine) to neighborhood greenways, downtown and other community destinations. The use of policies and objectives is more appropriate for the expansion of the trails network with a focus on connectivity, than the use of a per capita distance metric. Therefore, this Plan proposes the elimination of the trail facility mileage standard. To be clear, the proposed elimination of a 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 proposed adjustment is merely to re-orient the City’s efforts toward a policy-based approach to trail connectivity.



Map 6: Proposed Recreational Trails & Bikeways

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RECREATION PROGRAMMING & FACILITIES

The recreation facilities and services available within Maple Valley are a major community asset and support the physical, mental and social health of community members. Recreation services are available through a wide range of public and private recreation, health and fitness providers and facilities. The City currently offers or promotes programming, including fitness, education and general interest classes, outdoor recreation, day camps and special events to reflect the wide ranging diversity of the Maple Valley community.

Aquatic facilities are accessible within a five to 25 minute drive at the Covington 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.

With the ability to search out, travel to and afford the desired recreation services, Maple Valley residents can find most of the opportunities they may need. However, no single facility within Maple Valley provides the full range of recreation and fitness opportunities, programs or facilities to accommodate the recreational needs of residents across all generations, income levels or for the entire family.

Community Feedback

Respondents to the community survey were asked about their overall interest for each recreational program or amenity type, as well as how well met their need is being met locally. A majority of respondents noted an interest for youth activities (62%), educational classes (60%), adult fitness classes (60%), outdoor youth camps (59%), and youth sports programs and camps (58%). A second tier set of programming interests included teen activities (49%), children's activities (49%), adult sports leagues (46%), and programs for adults 55 and over (43%).

Regarding needs for recreation programs and amenities being met, respondents identified that nearly all items listed were very well met in terms of need less than one-quarter of the time. One area showing a large gap in need (36%) is for specialized outdoor youth camps focusing on hiking, climbing, or archery. Other program types with the highest level of unmet needs include educational classes (28%), programs for youth & teens with special needs (29%), programs for young adults with special needs (28%), teen activities (32%).

Respondents with children in the household and those younger than 45 were more likely than other subgroups to indicate a stronger interest in all of the program options, except programs for people with special needs.

Figure 18. Interest in Various Recreation Offerings

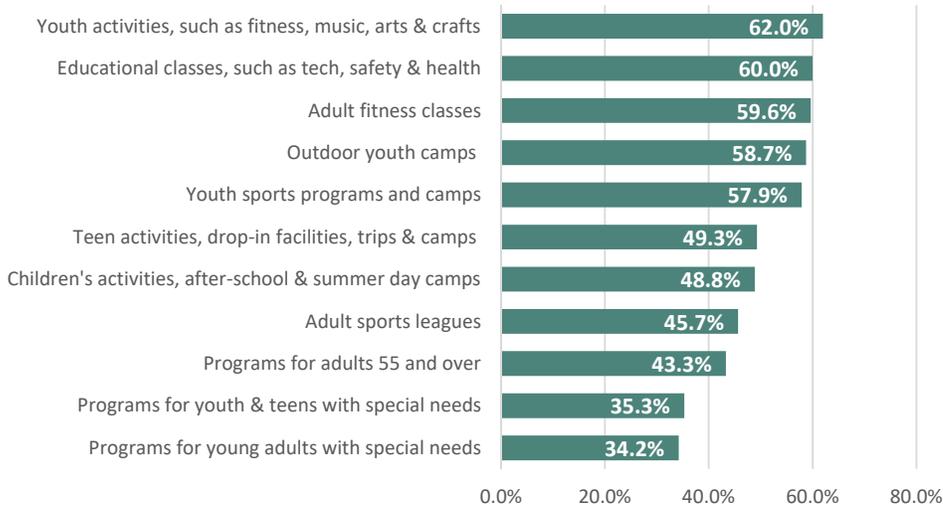
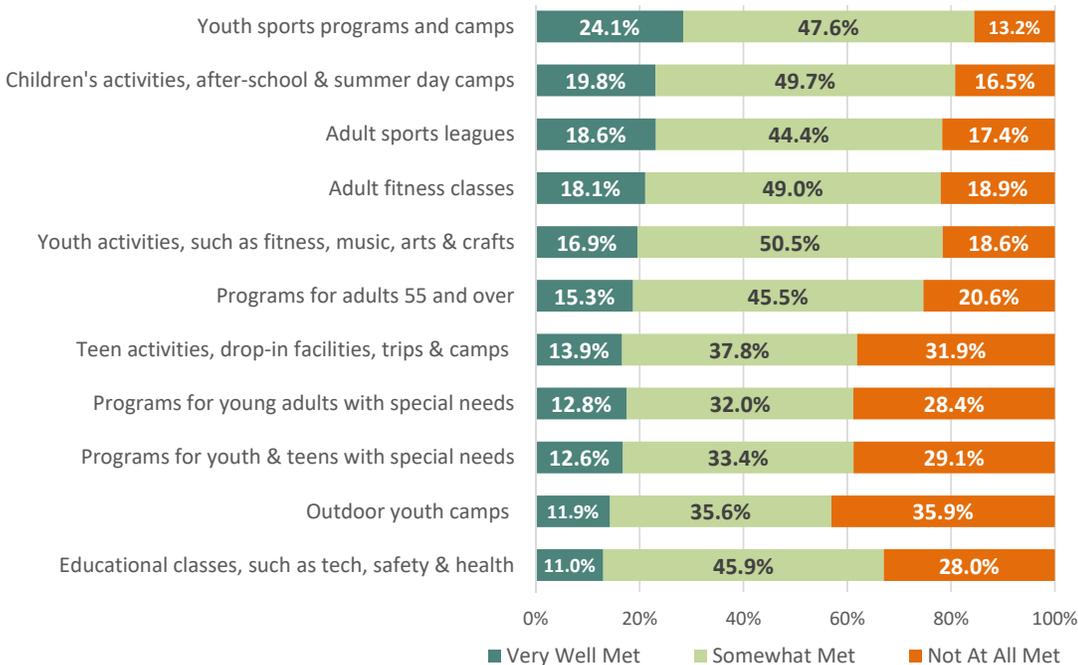


Figure 19. Relative Need for Various Recreation Offerings



Local Recreation Facilities

Lake Wilderness Lodge

The Lake Wilderness Lodge, built in the 1950s, is owned and operated by the City of Maple Valley. The Lodge is a multi-purpose facility that is used for special events, meetings and certain recreation classes. The Lodge can be rented for weddings, receptions, conferences or other events, and it offers a spectacular view of the lake from all three floors. Originally designed as a resort lodge, the building has been remodeled over the years to expand its use and improve accessibility under the Americans with Disabilities Act. The open interior design is well suited for conferences and gatherings, but the Lodge offers limited space and lacks sufficient acoustic dampening for the building to be more heavily programmed for indoor recreation or classes.

Greater Maple Valley Community Center

The Greater Maple Valley Community Center (GMVCC) was started in 1976 as a senior center, through the efforts of area residents. The physical building was constructed in 1979 on 2 acres of land within the King County-owned Lake Wilderness Park. The GMVCC now contains a 3,000 square foot hall and full service kitchen providing up to a 200-person occupancy capacity with additional smaller rooms (for 5 to 15 people) for added programming or rental uses. The Den Youth Center accommodates up to 175 guests with a game room, café area, and common dance floor area. The GMVCC serves the areas of Maple Valley, Hobart, Ravensdale and unincorporated King County within the Tahoma school district (90 square miles).

The Center provides general community services, events and referral information as well as specific services for youth, teens and seniors. Senior services include a senior center, health & fitness programming, mental health counseling and referrals, nutritional lunch and meals on wheels, and social activities and events. Youth and Teen services include outreach counseling, teen drop-in center, summer trips, and special events. The GMVCC also partners with other community services and organizations to provide home school support, an autism support group, alcoholics anonymous, foster parent connections, and similar social services.

Private Fitness

Several private fitness clubs are located in or near Maple Valley. These facilities vary in their offerings and clientele, and their strength in the marketplace is an indicator that the greater Maple Valley community seeks out and has a need for fitness-related activities and programs.

Future Recreation Center Needs

Interest and participation in the City's recreation programs remains strong and many indoor sport programs (e.g., basketball) fill up very quickly. However, the number and types of activities the City can offer in its facilities are limited by a broader lack of facility capacity. Although school facilities provide gymnasium space and while existing private fitness gyms should be taken into consideration, additional recreation, fitness and community space is needed at affordable rates to promote wellness, active recreation and social engagement.

Traditional standards for service demand for recreation centers are based on a population benchmark, with the idea that one recreation center could be supported by a population of 40,000. With the City's current population and projected growth, a community recreation center should be planned and constructed in coming ten years.

To meet this need, the City should pursue a multi-use indoor facility to enable comprehensive recreation programs for Maple Valley residents. The facility should include gymnasiums, classrooms and multi-functional rooms, fitness rooms, and possibly aquatics. The facility may also include civic space (i.e., library, city service center/offices, senior center, etc.) or other leasable office space depending on the potential to secure funding partners with interest in co-locating at the facility. 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.

Partnerships will be necessary to offset development and operational costs. The Department

should take the lead role in soliciting assistance from other agencies and organizations, as needed. Potential partners may include the school district, Covington, Black Diamond and the Greater Maple Valley Community Center.

Recreation Programming

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.

The City began offering recreation programs in 2003, and the number of program options has increased substantially since inception. However, the City has reached its limit in its ability to offer new programs due to facility and staffing limitations. The primary obstacle regarding the provision of recreation programming is the lack of centralized, indoor facility space. Programs and classes are offered at existing, available locations, which include school gymnasiums, the Community Center and the Lake Wilderness Lodge, among others.

As noted above, the City must secure additional indoor recreational space to be in a position to expand its offerings. In the meantime, the City should continue to maintain partnerships with the school district, community-based providers, private fitness clubs and local businesses to provide recreation services.

Youth Programming

Youth programs provide opportunities for recreation, socialization, community involvement, leadership development and education for youth 18 years and younger. These programs include fitness, school break day camps, sports, dance, art and enrichment programs. These program offerings are focused to meet the diverse needs of youth in the Maple Valley community.

As shown in the community survey conducted as part of this Plan, the Maple Valley community considers youth programs to be a high priority for City recreation services. Majorities of survey respondents noted an interest for youth activities (62%), outdoor youth camps (59%), and youth sports programs and camps (58%).

To address community needs and demand, the City should provide adequate resources to expand and diversify its popular youth programs to meet the growing need for engaging, affordable, safe options for children and teens. The City should continue to work with the school district, community partners, recreation providers, and sports organizations to explore facility options and availability.

As with recreation programs in general, youth programs are especially limited by a lack of recreation facilities, available program space and staffing. If this program area remains structured as a center-driven approach, the City will need to continue to explore opportunities for expanded indoor program space to accommodate program expansion. In utilizing existing parks and outdoor resources during the summer months, the City should continue to explore specialized outdoor youth camps focusing on hiking, climbing or archery, as well as expand and strengthen its Wilderness Adventure Camp for teens.

To complement existing City programs or those offered by other organizations, the City should consider expanding teen programming to include additional individual athletics, fitness, and

alternative sports programs provided additional staff resources are available. In particular, skate, parkour, bouldering, and BMX or mountain biking classes may appeal to teens and take advantage of proposed alternative sports amenities.

Adult Programming

Maple Valley offers a variety of adult recreational programs, including sports, fitness and enrichment classes (e.g., music, art). The Department has expanded offerings to make use of and promote newer facilities, such as pickleball and disc golf, but the City continues to be limited by available facilities. For example, adult volleyball, basketball and softball could be bigger if additional facilities were available.

If opportunities are created for additional indoor or classroom space, the Department should consider whether to expand the quantity and breadth of adult programs offered. In particular, the City should consider health and fitness classes, additional team sports programs, classes in alternative sports, art and music classes; and educational programs, such as language, and personal and home improvement. Because recreational programming can be influenced by national and regional trends, staff must stay abreast of current trends and continue to evaluate program offerings.

Special Needs

It is often difficult for recreation agencies to have significant special needs programs. As a result, recreation departments often offer these programs in partnership with local or regional jurisdictions and service agencies in order to provide high-quality, cost-effective programs.

The City's current programs offering inclusive recreation include dance, art and music, but the City's direct programming for the local special needs population remains limited. The Department should continue to strive to provide a robust number of programming, events and activities that are inclusive and accessible to all residents.

One area of special attention should be toward special needs adults. Existing programs are geared toward youth. The Tahoma School District operates two sport programs, but the participants age out at 21 years. Over the past several years, local programs for the adult special needs community have been parent-run and parent-coached out of necessity, and these activities include sports, arts and social events. Through its ongoing conversations with the local leaders of these activities, the City should explore options to facilitate program registration and coordination.

Senior Programs

The Greater Maple Valley Community Center is the primary provider of programming specifically targeted toward adults over 50 and seniors, and the City offers additional programs to adults of all ages, ranging from sports to fitness to music. The Center offers a lunch program, Meal on Wheels, trips, events, exercise and activities, among others.

In all, the depth and breadth of programming for seniors may need to increase or be adjusted as the overall population ages, with a greater emphasis on the wide-ranging needs and expectations of the Baby Boomer generation. Today's seniors are generally more active than previous generations and would benefit from a diverse array of recreational and educational programs that promote active, healthy lifestyles. The Community Center and the City will likely see an increased demand for programs offered in evenings and weekends, as older community members maintain employment or volunteer activities later in life.

Program Development & Assessment

The Parks and Recreation Department has demonstrated its commitment to excellence and continuous improvement. Staff should periodically review data from the following sources to determine community needs for programs and services:

- Historical registration trends/success of current programs and services
- Surveys and questionnaires
- Washington SCORP and national trend data
- Suggestions provided by current instructors and current employees
- Suggestions submitted by prospective instructors/employees

Staff should continue to evaluate and assess the City's program offerings and prioritize future programs based on a mix of criteria that include:

- Current or potential importance for community-wide or broad individual benefit,
- Community needs or deficiencies,
- Potential for increased participation, and
- Revenue potential, affordability and accessibility.

Also, the City should create a Recreation Program Plan and realign program offerings as necessary to meet the needs of the community and optimize facility usage. The Program Plan should be updated periodically, with major reassessments on a 5-year window. The program plan should identify the priorities for program development, the responsible staff member and the required resources for each major program area. This plan needs to take into consideration the needs of the community, the role of City, and the expectations and role of other organizations and recreation providers in the area. There should be clearly identified areas of programmatic responsibility to ensure that there is not overlap in resource allocation or that gaps in services are not present.

Additionally, the following are recommendations for the Parks and Recreation Department in the delivery of recreation programs and services:

- Continue to act as a "clearinghouse" for recreation programs and services provided by others and collaborate with non-profits. This may involve promotion of their activities, coordinating of some programs, and scheduling of facilities.
- Develop and monitor a cost recovery plan and establish initial cost recovery targets by major program area that is linked to periodic fee adjustments.
- Determine and track actual costs and revenues generated by each special event that is offered by the Department; Determine total number of attendees when possible.
- Match recreation programming efforts with staff and financial resources. Recognize that increasing the role of the City in providing programs will require an increase in staff and other resources. As a result, the program plan should be developed incrementally with small steps being taken at a time that does not require significant staff or budgetary resources to accomplish.

PUBLIC ART & CULTURE

Public Art

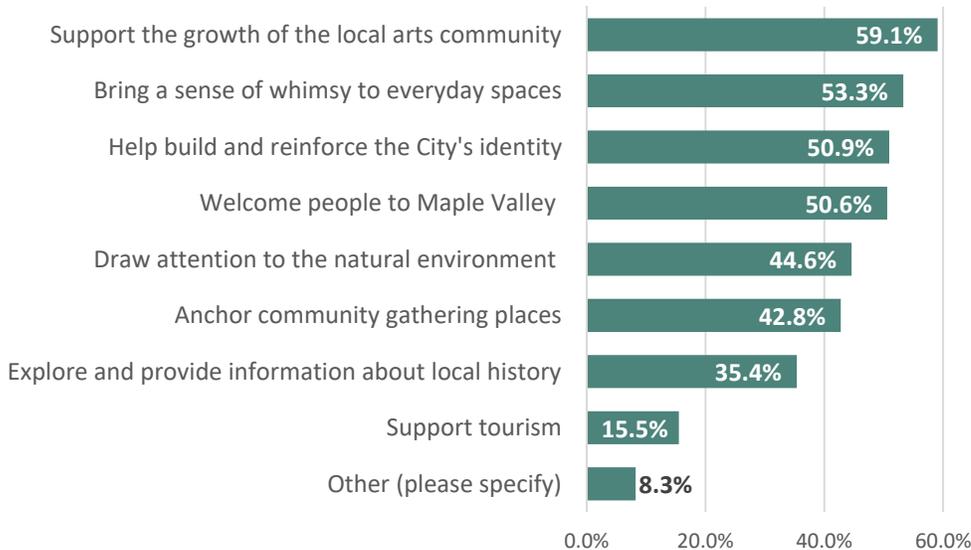
Many successful cities have used public art to define their public spaces, promote tourism and encourage civic pride and identity. Recently installed and existing public art is helping to create a sense of local identity and distinguish public spaces. The public art collection is one example of the close ties between the infrastructure and programming of parks and recreation and cultural arts. The City, through its Public Arts Commission, partners and volunteers, should continue planning and implementation of public art in public spaces throughout Maple Valley as a place-making strategy that contributes to the city's unique character.

In 2013, the City of Maple Valley formed the Maple Valley Public Arts Commission for the purpose of providing leadership to foster cultural opportunities and arts education, to improve the quality of life and enhance the aesthetic environment through public art, to promote Maple Valley as a creative center for arts experiences, activities and commissions, and to provide recommendations to the City Council on matters of the arts in the Maple Valley community. Commissioners are appointed by the Mayor, with confirmation by the City Council.

The Commission aims to promote cultural opportunities and experiential arts immersion throughout the community. In recent years, the Commission has led several notable projects, including the installation of Papa Bear, the Big Wall (169th), electrical box wraps, and the Paint My Tunnel project. The Commission also is compiling an inventory and map of existing art installments, with the end goal of having information to support a walking tour map. A more detailed Public Arts Plan is being prepared concurrently with this PRAOS to help guide the goals and direction of public art experiences in Maple Valley.

The survey provided additional direction from the community regarding the range of public art opportunities in Maple Valley. A majority of respondents see the role of public art in the community as supporting the growth of the local arts community (59%). Slight majorities of respondents see it as bringing whimsy to everyday spaces (53%), building or reinforcing community identity (51%) and as a welcome to Maple Valley (51%).

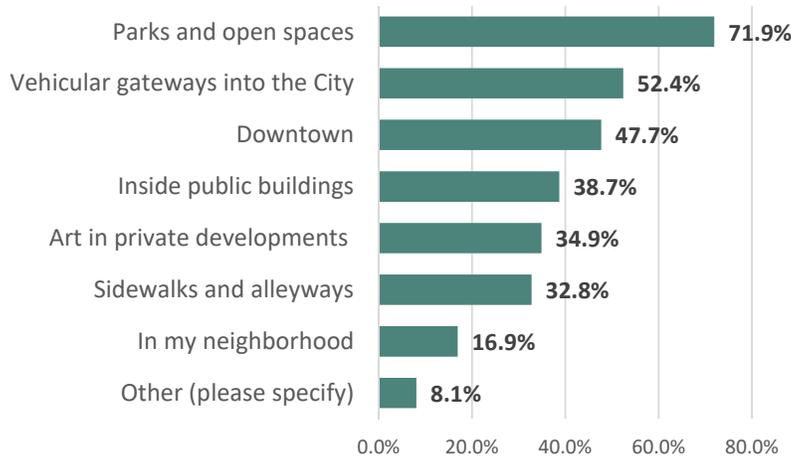
Figure 20. Exploring the Role of Public Art in Maple Valley



Strong majorities of respondents prefer to have public art displays and installations (63%) and opportunities for local artists to show their works (61%). A slight majority of respondents have interest in hands-on community art experiences (53%). Trainings, lectures and temporary projects were less supported.

A strong majority of respondents (72%) prefer to see public art located in parks and open spaces. Approximately half of respondents support public art at vehicular gateways (52%) and in downtown (48%).

Figure 21. Locations/Venues for Seeing Public Art



The Maple Valley community also benefits from its Creative Arts Council, a local non-profit organization, that is dedicated to the promotion and appreciation of the Arts in the community and schools and to being a source of inspiration and education to enhance quality of life. The Arts Council’s immediate goal is to cultivate stronger partnerships with our schools, businesses and greater community, specific to our youth and citizens in the areas of visual and performing arts. The Arts Council holds an annual Arts Festival during Maple Valley Days, as well as supports other programs like Maple Valley Idol, Jr. and Theater for All.

The Creative Arts Center hosts a variety of arts events such as visual art rotations, classes, workshops, critique group, lectures, writing group, as well as hands on children’s activities. The facility is equipped for staging performances, including theatrical plays, open mics, recitals, and film showings.

Community Events

The City of Maple Valley, along with community sponsors, host a number of significant community events each year. These family-friendly events attract residents to Lake Wilderness Park to experience the City’s arts, culture and heritage, and provide unique opportunities to spend time with family, friends and neighbors. The following represents the major events hosted in the city.

- Annual Fishing Derby at Lake Wilderness
- Bike Challenge & Bike Safety Rodeo
- Maple Valley Days

- Fourth of July Celebration
- Homemade Pie Baking Contest
- Kids' Festival
- Music in the Park
- Shakespeare in the Park
- Make A Difference Day
- Family Night: Concert & Movie Under the Stars
- Maple Valley Hometown Holidays

These community events rely on the support of community businesses and organizations, which provide significant financial contributions.

Community and special events should continue to be an area of emphasis. Special events draw communities together, attract visitors from outside the community and are popular with residents. However, due to resource requirements of coordinating special events, the overall growth in the number of events should be carefully managed. This will ensure the City can adequately invest in its overall recreational offerings and maintain high-quality special events. If the City decides to offer more events, it should obtain sponsorships to offset costs and develop a series of seasonal activities.

Cultural & Heritage

The Maple Valley Historical Society, is a non-profit and all volunteer organization. The goals of the organization are to teach people about the history of the Greater Maple Valley area, provide a means for people to do research on their heritage, and to showcase the history of the area. The Historical Society was formed over 40 years ago and maintains two museums with displays of the past:

- The Gibbon-Mezzavilla General Store, which is the restored original store of the Greater Maple Valley area.
- The Fire Engine museum houses the restored 1926 Howard Cooper Fire Engine which was the original Fire Engine used by Fire District 43 Volunteers. In addition to the Howard Cooper, there are displays depicting the early years of the Fire District.

The Society also provides a History Treasure Box curriculum for third graders in the Tahoma School District; free public programs five times each year at various locations in the Greater Maple Valley area; and publishes periodicals and books about local history.

The Society has developed a great working relationship with the City of Maple Valley. Since the City's incorporation in 1997, the City has strived to keep the area's Historical roots in perspective while still growing and changing. The City's vision statement specifically states that "maintaining historic connections with the area's rural past" is necessary. To that end, the City has provided financial support for the Gibbon-Mezzavilla General Store and the Fire Engine museum that reside on their property.

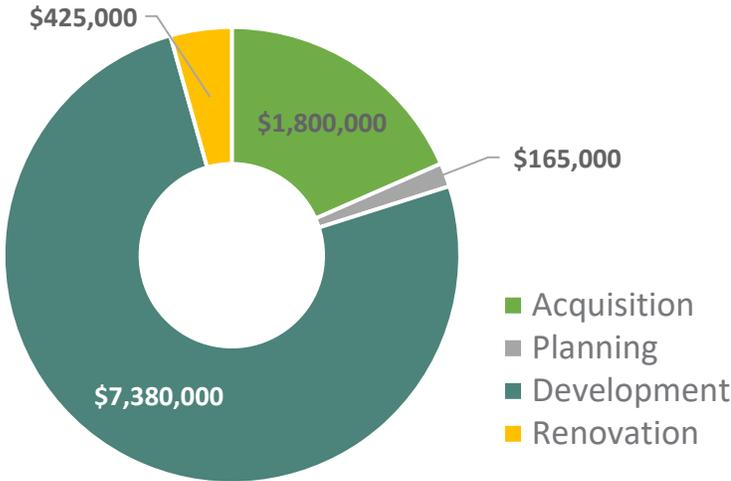
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CHAPTER 7 CAPITAL PLANNING

The following Capital Facilities Plan (CFP) lists all park and facility projects considered for the next six years. The majority of these projects entail the acquisition and development of parks, renovating or repairing existing facilities and expanding trail connections. The following table summarizes the aggregate capital estimates by park types for the next six years.

Figure 22. Capital Facilities Plan Expenditures Summary



The following CFP project list provides brief project descriptions and priority ranking to assist staff in preparing future capital budget requests.

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**Maple Valley PRAOS Plan
6-Year Capital Facilities Plan
2020-2026**

Project Name - Site	Project Description	Activity	Priority	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026-2030	Sum
Lake Wilderness Park	Trail Access Improvements - adjacent to Legacy site	D	2	\$ 35,000							\$ 35,000
	Picnic shelter replacements	R	3							\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000
	LW Lodge repairs	R	1	\$ 60,000							\$ 60,000
Lake Wilderness Arboretum	Additional paved pathways to connect amenities (ADA access improvement)	D	1		\$ 75,000						\$ 75,000
	Education/visitor center: design	P	3					\$ 35,000			\$ 35,000
	Education/visitor center: development	D	3							\$ 450,000	\$ 450,000
	Trailhead development - Green-to-Cedar Rivers Trail	D	2				\$45,000				\$ 45,000
Elk Run Park	Design/ Phase 1 development - trails	D	1			\$ 1,200,000					\$ 1,200,000
	Phase 2 development - shelter, exercise stations, water	D	2					\$ 350,000			\$ 350,000
Take-A-Break Park	Park enhancements	D	2				\$ 300,000				\$ 300,000
Henry's Switch Park	Park Development w/ GCRT trailhead	D	3						\$ 475,000		\$ 475,000
Summit Park	Playground shade structure	D	2				\$ 15,000				\$ 15,000
Lake Wilderness Golf Course	Replace clubhouse	D	1	\$ 500,000	\$ 3,500,000						\$ 4,000,000
Neighborhood Park Acquisition	Acquire 1-3 acres	A	1				\$ 800,000				\$ 800,000
Neighborhood Park Acquisition	Acquire 1-3 acres	A	1						\$ 1,000,000		\$ 1,000,000
Legacy Site	Master plan	P	1	\$ 90,000							\$ 90,000
	Phase 1 development - Access & trail system	D	2				\$ 350,000				\$ 350,000
Fernwood Natural Area	Shelter/overlook & environmental interpretive panels	D	3		\$ 45,000						\$ 45,000
Park System Wayfinding	Signage & Branding Graphics Plan	P	1		\$ 40,000						\$ 40,000
System wide	ADA Enhancements: benches, ramps, picnic tables, barrier removal, etc.	R	1	\$ 15,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000		\$ 65,000
	Public Art installations (support)	D	1	\$ 15,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000		\$ 40,000
				\$ 715,000	\$ 3,675,000	\$ 1,215,000	\$ 1,525,000	\$ 400,000	\$ 1,490,000	\$ 750,000	\$ 9,770,000

NOTE:

This list identifies planning-level cost estimates and does not assume the value of volunteer or other non-City contributions.

Detailed costing may be necessary for projects noted.

This list is not an official budget and intended as a guiding document for City staff in the preparation of departmental budgets.

Code

- A Acquisition
- P Planning
- D Development
- R Repair/Renovate

Code Priority

- 1 High Priority
- 2 Med
- 3 Low

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CHAPTER 8 IMPLEMENTATION

KEY PROJECT RECOMMENDATIONS

The following is a summary of key project recommendations which will require commitment from the City and its residents for the continued support of a healthy park and recreation system that preserves and enhances the safety, livability and character of the community.

Trail Connections and Linkages

Residents are actively using the existing trails within Maple Valley and continue to advocate for additional connections and linkages to expand the network of trails, pathways and walkability. The importance for more connectivity for walking and biking has been expressed during the planning process and is endorsed in existing City's planning documents. The extension of the Green to Cedar Rivers Trail should be promoted through King County as a priority for their trail plan implementation.

The City's continuing efforts to plan for and improve the Elk Run Natural Area is a good example of its commitment to providing more connections and enhancements for the community of walkers, runners, and cyclists who are looking for safe and enjoyable routes to explore. As the community grows, additional trail planning and implementation projects should continue to enable connections along greenways, parks and other public and private lands.

New Park Design & Development

As the City prepares for additional park development at Elk Run, the Legacy site or others, a site-based design and development process will help envision and articulate concepts for park amenities and opportunities for placemaking to draw out the uniqueness of each site. While park development standards can ensure unified site furnishings across the park system, each park site should be designed and developed to create its own special character. Master planning

for new park facilities should undergo a public engagement process to ensure the identification of any specialized local needs and to solidify support for pursuing development funding. The future Elk Run Natural Area should be developed in the near future to help provide outdoor trail opportunities and natural area experiences for adjacent neighborhoods and the entire community. Site furnishings can have some unique character reminiscent of the former golf course or follow an adopted park standard for benches, picnic tables, shelter, hydration stations and signage. Henry's Switch Park and the Legacy site should also have a combination of standard park furnishings and unique characteristics that add strong identity to the place.

Considering both the national trends and local needs for types of park facilities, future park designs should include some of the following amenities, in addition to always supporting walking trails:

- Splash pad/water play
- Fitness trail/exercise stations
- Playgrounds
- Picnic shelters

Providing facilities for alternative or emerging sports can offer residents a more diverse range of recreational experiences, while creating destinations that attract and engage park users. Opportunities and facilities for other alternative sports could be expanded in the city. Fitness amenities, natural play, splash pads, BMX facilities and more creative play equipment can provide more outdoor opportunities for physical health, fun and social interaction.

Park Upkeep and Upgrades

Taking care of the existing park system always ranks highly in public priorities for park and recreation providers. Repairing and replacing damaged or aging facilities should be an ongoing practice. The capital facilities plan cites some specific replacements for the near future and includes a line item for capturing the smaller repairs and upgrades, such as removing ADA barriers and pavement management.

Opportunities may exist to enhance existing parks to increase their recreation and environmental value by adding unique play or exercise equipment, naturalizing stormwater basins and connecting paved pathway systems.

Land Acquisition To Meet Growing Needs & Fill Gaps

The City should continue to explore options to acquire additional parkland to serve its growing population and provide more accessible and equitably-distributed outdoor recreation for the community. As growth continues, opportunities to acquire large park sites will be more difficult and may require Maple Valley to follow an intentional acquisition program, as well as think creatively and foster partnerships to provide desired public parkland with sufficient room for park amenities. To implement a successful acquisition program, the City may need to actively search out potential locations and property owners to secure future park sites ahead of, or concurrent with, anticipated new development. The capital facilities plan proposes the acquisition of two neighborhood parks within the next six years.

As with Summit Park, coordination with the school district could provide further opportunities to improve school facilities in ways that may help meet community recreation facility needs. The other public land management agencies, such as King County, should always be considered as a potential partner in acquiring mutually beneficial public parklands and building out the trail network.

Sport Fields: Continued Enhancement

Sport fields will continue to be in demand as families continue to locate in Maple Valley. The new all-weather turf fields at Summit Park, Ravensdale Park and Tahoma High School have greatly enhanced the field capacity for accommodating local sport leagues. Existing natural grass fields in other school facilities could be upgraded or converted to artificial turf to meet the needs of community sports programs. Also, continued coordination with the school district for field usage and improvements may provide added capacity for growth of the sports leagues' needs for practice and game play.

Additionally, the new all-weather turf fields will need replacement within a decade or so. The need for replacement should be planned as part of the parks capital facilities program and budget allocated in the coming years to ensure continued safe and functional sport field infrastructure.

Recreation Programming

Expanded recreational and community programming has been an identified need through this planning process. The City will continue to focus on programs that are in high demand or serve a range of users, while continuing to monitor local and regional recreation trends to ensure local needs and interests are addressed by program offerings. The City should continue to foster agreements or partnerships with programming partners as it considers its role in providing the infrastructure for a variety of recreation services. The City will initiate a feasibility study to examine the potential for a new indoor recreation center to enable growth in indoor classes and programs and accommodate the projected population growth. The City also will explore the potential to accommodate additional outreach recreation programs with the future development of the Legacy site and Henry's Switch to focus on alternative sports, including ziplines, aerial challenges, bike skills, bouldering walls or outdoor parkour features.

The City also will continue its provision of special events that offer both residents and visitors the opportunity to engage in a variety of activities, fun and exploration of Maple Valley and its unique character. Community events are an important element for local identity, economic activity and social engagement that contribute to quality of life in Maple Valley.

ADA & Park Enhancements

Minor improvements to access, such as providing ramped entrances for site furnishings are necessary to conform to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and ensure universal accessibility. Also, the City should evaluate the play equipment and its signage for code compliance and replace outdated equipment as appropriate. The capital facilities plan includes a line item for covering small upgrades and improvements to remove barriers and improve universal access. In general, the City should make improvements to existing parks as needed to ensure proper maintenance, usability and quality of park features and grounds.

Tree plantings to expand and increase the shade tree canopy in active use areas, such as picnic and playground spaces, as well as natural edges and park boundaries, is recommended to improve natural habitat, human comfort and better stormwater management in parks and open spaces where tree cover may be limited or can accommodate enhancement.

The Lake Wilderness Arboretum was identified during the public process for its need to provide an education and visitor center. The existing arboretum facility is underutilized when it cannot accommodate school field trips and group outings by providing a multi-purpose room, interpretive displays and support accommodations (restrooms, information desk, etc.). The design and development of a hub for arboretum activities could expand its role in the community. Additionally, the arboretum could provide an improved trailhead facility for the Green to Cedar Rivers Trail that would expose more people to its plant collections and educational value.

Public art has become a driving force in Maple Valley and the placement of outdoor sculpture, utility box wraps and wall murals will predictably raise the awareness of Maple Valley as a community that supports the arts and enhances the quality of life for its residents. As park and trail sites are designed and developed, intentional consideration should be given as to how some public art installation could be incorporated and add sense of place identity to each site.

Wayfinding & Signage

Parks, trails and other public open spaces are the primary targets for unifying an urban environment into a cohesive, accessible and connected community through an identifiable wayfinding program. The need for design standards for a unifying wayfinding system have been identified in this Plan at large. Maple Valley should pursue a comprehensive wayfinding program that includes both visual graphic standards and site furnishing standards. Colors, sign types, and information can help park and trail users navigate the outdoor recreation experiences offered by the City.

Park Amenity Upgrades

The City should also consider adding the following recreation features (in both existing and new parks) as funding allows to expand recreational opportunities beyond the identified capital project noted in the CFP:

- Shade structures for playgrounds
- Spray parks / splash pads
- Nature playgrounds
- Playgrounds with unique features
- All-inclusive playgrounds
- Gathering spaces (picnic shelters, etc.)
- Outdoor fitness & challenge areas
- Multi-sports courts
- Public art

A general consideration for the public is to create a park system that provides year-round facilities for all ages and all abilities to gather and recreate in a diverse range of safe, clean and well-maintained park facilities.

Long Term Projects and Planning

As Maple Valley grows, additional park and recreation facilities will be needed to maintain or improve the quality of life desired and expected by its residents. Additional trails, parks, public art and special facilities, like a community center, bike skills amenities or Parkour/adventure parks, should be planned for future implementation. The City should continue to recognize that outdoor recreation contributes to a strong economy and is a public investment like other public services and infrastructure. The community survey reported that the majority of residents recognize that parks, art and open spaces are essential to the quality of life in Maple Valley.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

A number of strategies exist to enhance and expand park and recreation service delivery for the City of Maple Valley; however, clear decisions must be made in an environment of competing interests and limited resources. A strong community willingness to offer financial support is necessary to bring many of the projects listed in this Plan to life.

The recommendations for park and recreation services noted in this Plan may trigger the need for funding beyond current allocations and for additional staffing, operations and maintenance responsibilities. Given that the operating and capital budget of the Parks and Recreation Department is finite, additional resources may be needed to leverage, supplement and support the implementation of proposed objectives, programs and projects. While grants and other efficiencies may help, these alone will not be enough to realize many ideas and projects noted in this Plan. The following recommendations and strategies are presented to offer near-term direction to realize these projects and as a means to continue dialogue between City leadership, local residents and partners.

Additionally, a review of potential implementation tools is included as Appendix E, which addresses local financing, federal and state grant and conservation programs, acquisition methods and others.

Inter-Departmental Coordination

Internal coordination with the Public Works and Community Development Departments can increase the potential of discrete actions toward the implementation of the proposed recreational trail network, which relies in part on street right-of-way enhancements, and in the review of development applications with consideration toward potential parkland acquisition areas, planned trail corridors and the need for easement or set-aside requests.

Volunteer & Community-based Action

Volunteers and community groups already contribute to the improvement of parks and recreation services in Maple Valley. Volunteer projects include tree planting and community event support, among others. Maple Valley should maintain and update a revolving list of potential small works or volunteer-appropriate projects for the website, while also reaching out to the high schools to encourage student projects. While supporting organized groups and community-minded individuals continues to add value to the Maple Valley parks and recreation system,

volunteer coordination requires a substantial amount of staff time, and additional resources may be necessary to more fully take advantage of the community's willingness to support park and recreation efforts.

Enhanced Local Funding

According to the City budget, Maple Valley maintains reserve debt capacity for councilmanic bonds and voter approved debt. Community conversations regarding the need for a community recreation center and the potential to bundle several projects from the capital facilities plan warrant a review of debt implications for the City, along with the need to conduct polling of voter support for such projects.

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. The City should prioritize the usage of PIF to secure additional neighborhood 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 park amenities.

Grants

Several state and federal grant programs are available on a competitive basis, including WWRP, ALEA, USDA, FAST-Act. Pursuing grants is not a panacea for park system funding, since grants are both competitive and often require a significant percentage of local funds to match the request to the granting agency, which depending on the grant program can be as much as 50% of the total project budget. Maple Valley should continue to leverage its local resources to the greatest extent by pursuing grants independently and in cooperation with other local partners.

APPENDIX A

SURVEY SUMMARY



To: Dave Johnson, Parks & Recreation Director
From: Steve Duh, Conservation Technix, Inc.
Date: August 27, 2019
Re: **City of Maple Valley Parks, Recreation, Arts & Open Space (PRAOS) Plan**
Community Survey Summary Results

Conservation Technix is pleased to present the results of a survey of the general population of the City of Maple Valley that assesses residents' recreational needs, preferences and priorities.

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

In close collaboration with City staff and the Maple Valley Parks and Recreation Commission, Conservation Technix developed the 17-question survey that was estimated to take approximately ten minutes to complete.

The survey was mailed to a random sample of 2,500 households within the City of Maple Valley on June 6, 2019. An online version of the survey was posted to the City's website at the same time. Reminder postcards were mailed to the 2,500 households on June 24th. Information about the survey was provided on the City's website home page and on the PRAOS Plan subpage, and it was promoted via social media. The survey was also promoted during the Maple Valley Days event on June 8th, 2019 that served as the first public venue for the PRAOS Plan. The survey was closed on August 2nd, and data were compiled and reviewed. In all, 1,105 surveys were completed. There were 437 responses completed from the print version mail survey, and 668 responses were generated via the online link published on the City's website.

This report includes findings on general community opinions. Data are aggregated and summarized for the mail and online surveys to highlight overall community preferences, with clarifying remarks on response differences between the two datasets. The data for the mail and online versions were kept separated. Percentages in the report may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

The main survey data were cross tabulated with the demographic data (e.g., age, location, number of children in household) to examine if differences existed between the different respondent subgroups. The summary below identifies variations in responses per question, if such variations existed and were significant between subgroups.

KEY FINDINGS

Maple Valley residents strongly value their parks and recreation facilities.

Nearly all respondents (95%) think parks and recreation are important to quality of life in Maple Valley.

Residents visit parks frequently.

More than nine in ten (96%) respondents have visited Lake Wilderness Park, and more than 60% have visited the Lake Wilderness Park Arboretum and Lodge. The most popular activities include trails, relaxation, playgrounds, and participating in festivals or celebrations.

Residents are generally satisfied with existing parks and recreation facilities.

A large majority of respondents (79%) are somewhat to very satisfied with the value they receive from the City of Maple Valley for parks and recreation amenities. Approximately nine in ten gave a condition rating of excellent or good for Lake Wilderness Park (90%), Arboretum (91%), Lodge (88%) and the Gaffney Grove Disc Golf Course (91%).

Residents would like to see improvements made to the parks & recreation system.

A majority of survey respondents (52%) think that Maple Valley does not have enough parks. Respondents were somewhat split on the adequacy of the remainder of recreation opportunities, with pluralities feeling there are not enough picnic areas, playgrounds and sport fields and courts. Notably, a large majority of respondents (80% or more) were supportive of expanding and improving multi-use walking and biking trails, all-inclusive accessible playgrounds, and picnic areas or shelters for group gatherings.

Residents are somewhat willing to fund improvements for parks and recreation facilities.

When asked about general willingness to pay for system improvements, approximately 34% of respondents would be willing to pay up to \$5 per month, and another 24% would pay between \$6 and \$10 monthly. About 28% of residents would be willing to pay \$10 or more per month for improved park services. Respondents prefer to use non-resident fees, rental fees or user fees to support improving parks and recreation opportunities in Maple Valley.

DIFFERENCES BY DEMOGRAPHIC GROUPS

The table below summarizes key differences between respondents of different demographic groups.

Note: The survey did not include a representative sample of residents. Results are for informational purposes only.

Age	
<p>20 to 55</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most frequent users of parks & recreation facilities • More likely to have children in the home • Tend to be less satisfied with the value provided by Maple Valley’s parks • More likely than older residents to prioritize developing an indoor community • More supportive of adding the active use activities listed, such sports courts/fields, splash pads, indoor fitness equipment, and outdoor basketball 	<p>Over 55</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tend to be less frequent users of parks • Tend to be more satisfied with the value provided by Maple Valley’s parks • More likely than younger residents to prioritize baseball and softball fields • Less willing to support additional taxes for system improvements
Children in Household	
<p>0 kids</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More likely to be older adults • More likely to support maintaining existing parks over other services • Less frequent users of parks • Greater interest in trails and fitness as reasons to visit parks • Greater interest in programs for adults 55 and over • Less willing to support additional taxes for system improvements 	<p>1 – 3 kids</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More likely to be frequent visitors of parks • Most likely to visit parks to use playgrounds and sport fields or attend family gatherings • More likely to support active-use improvements than those without children at home • More likely to support hands-on community arts projects
Location	
<p>Northeast - east of Cedar to Green Trail</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Higher level of satisfaction for overall value provided by City parks and recreation • More likely to fund system improvements at \$10 or more per month 	
<p>South - south of SE 272nd St / Kent Kangley</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More likely to feel that there are not enough sport fields and courts or parks • More likely to see the role of public art as supporting the growth of the local arts community • Place a higher priority on off-leash dog opportunities and nature/wildlife viewing opportunities 	
<p>Central - west of Cedar to Green Trail</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More likely to support maintaining existing parks over other services • Place a higher priority on off-leash dog opportunities and nature/wildlife viewing opportunities 	

FULL RESULTS

How much do residents value parks and recreation?

Nearly all respondents (95%) feel that local parks and recreation opportunities are important or essential to the quality of life in Maple Valley. More than seven in ten feel that they are essential; while an additional 18% believe that they are important to quality of life, but not essential. Less than 4% of respondents believe parks are “more of a luxury that we don’t need”.

Respondents between 20 and 64 are more likely than older age groups to use parks and recreation facilities on a regular basis and to feel that they are essential to the quality of life in Maple Valley.

1. When you think about the things that contribute to the quality of life in Maple Valley, would you say that public parks and recreation opportunities are...

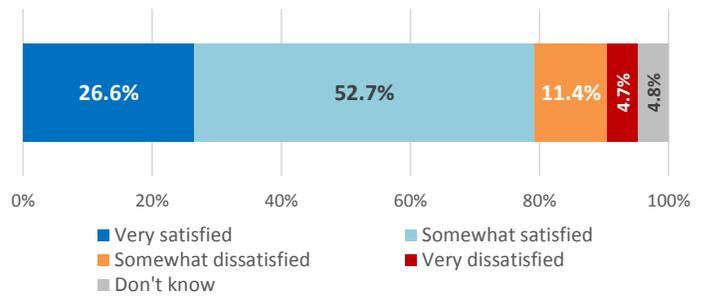
Response options	Percent	
Essential to the quality of life here	76.1%	95%
Important, but not really necessary	18.8%	
More of a luxury that we don't need	3.6%	
Don't know	1.5%	

Are residents satisfied with the value they receive from the City of Maple Valley?

A large majority of respondents (79%) are somewhat to very satisfied with the value they receive from the City of Maple Valley for parks and recreation amenities. However, a small share of respondents (16%) are either somewhat or very dissatisfied.

Respondents between 35 and 64 tend to be less satisfied with the value provided by Maple Valley’s parks than older residents.

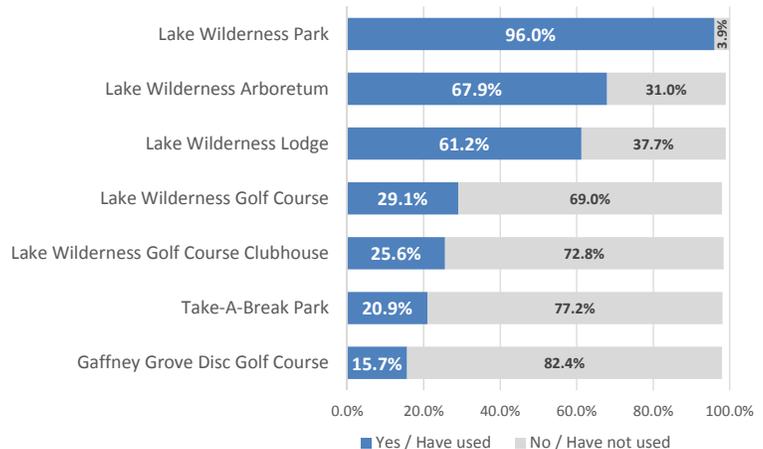
2. Please rate your satisfaction with the overall value your household receives from the City of Maple Valley for parks and recreation amenities.



Which parks & recreation facilities do residents visit?

The City asked respondents which developed parks and recreation facilities they, or members of their household, have visited. More than nine in ten (96%) respondents have visited Lake Wilderness Park, and more than 60% have visited the Lake Wilderness Park Arboretum and Lodge. The golf course and Take-A-Break Park were visited less often.

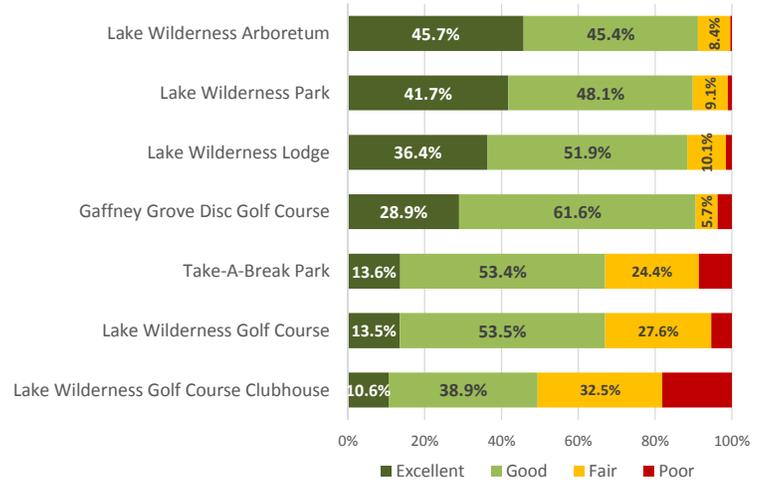
- 4a. Please indicate if you or any member of your household has used any of the following parks listed below.



How would residents rate the condition of parks and facilities they have visited?

Of the respondents who have visited city parks, approximately nine in ten gave a condition rating of excellent or good for Lake Wilderness Park (90%), Arboretum (91%), Lodge (88%) and the Gaffney Grove Disc Golf Course (91%). Respondents rated the conditions of Take-A-Break Park and the Lake Wilderness Golf Course and Clubhouse less favorably, with only about one in seven rating these sites as being in excellent condition.

4b. For those you marked with a YES... please indicate how you would rate the condition of the park or recreation facility.



Why do residents visit parks?

Maple Valley respondents visit local parks and recreation facilities for a variety of reasons. The most popular activities include trails (77%), relaxation (58%), playgrounds (51%) and participating in festivals or celebrations (55%). Fewer visited to use a tennis court (9%), skatepark (7%), or volleyball court (4%). In addition, the most common write-in responses included fishing, walking the dog and swimming.

Respondents aged 20 to 44, who were also the most likely to have children in their household, were the most likely to visit for playgrounds, family gatherings, and sport fields.

5. What would you say are the main reasons you visited Maple Valley parks and open spaces in the last year?

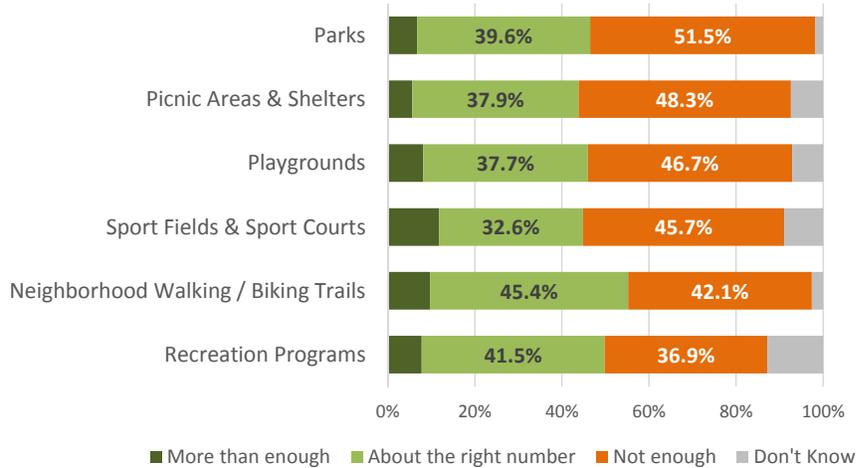
Reason	Percent
Trails (walk / run / bike)	76.8%
Relaxation	58.2%
Festivals / celebrations / music concerts	54.6%
Playgrounds	51.2%
Family gatherings / picnics	49.3%
Fitness	39.2%
Sport fields	31.5%
Organized program or activity	29.4%
Wildlife viewing	26.4%
Golf	13.0%
Tennis court	9.1%
Skate park	6.5%
Volleyball	3.9%
<i>Note: Write-in "Other" responses which fit clearly into defined answer categories were included in those categories.</i>	

Do residents think Maple Valley needs more parks and recreation opportunities?

A majority of survey respondents think that Maple Valley does not have enough parks (52%). Respondents were somewhat split on the adequacy of the remainder of recreation opportunities, with pluralities feeling there are not enough picnic areas, playgrounds and sport fields and courts.

Respondents with two or more children are more likely than others to think there are not enough playgrounds or recreation programs. Respondents who live in the southern area were more likely than others to think there are not enough parks or sport fields/courts. Respondents between 20 and 44 are more likely to think there are not enough playgrounds and sport fields/courts.

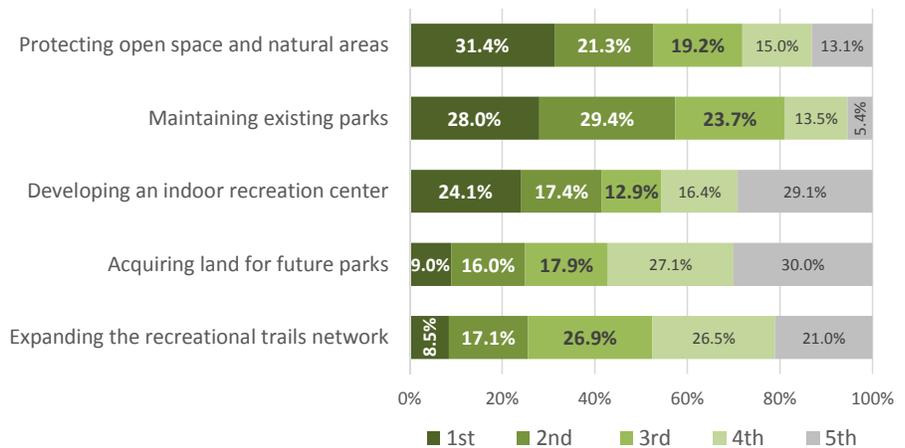
3. When it comes to meeting the needs of the community, would you say there are...



What park and facility improvements would residents prioritize?

When asked which park and recreation improvements they would like to see the City focus on, eight in ten respondents identified maintaining existing parks as one of their top three priorities, with over 28% saying it should be the highest priority. Protecting open space and natural areas ranked as the single highest priority, with 31% of respondents ranking it as their highest priority. In looking at the sum of the top three priorities, majorities gave a high priority to expanding the recreational trail network (52%) and developing an indoor recreation center (54%).

6. For the following list, indicate how you would rank the priority for each (1st priority is highest and 5th priority is lowest).



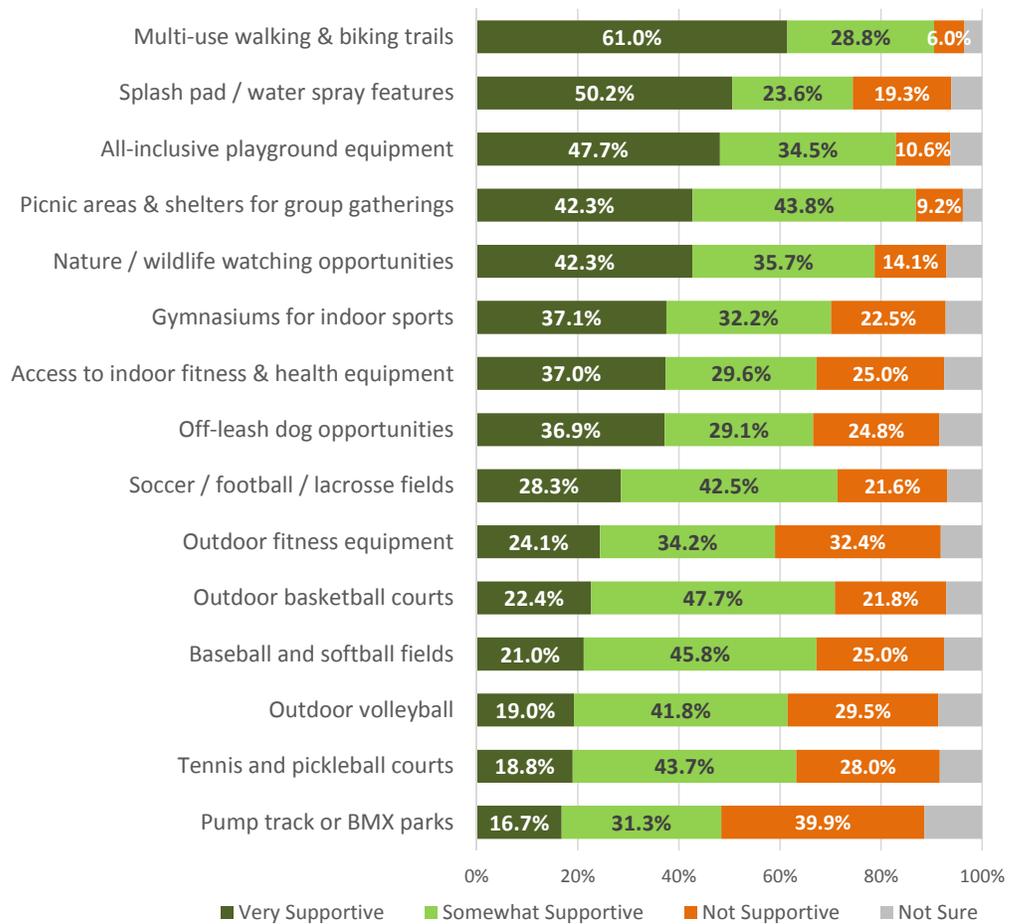
Respondents under 20 and those who live in the northeastern area of the city are more favorable than other subgroups to protect open space and natural areas. Respondents between 20 and 44, those with two or more kids and those who live in the southern area of the city place a higher priority on an indoor recreation center. Respondents without kids, who are over 65 and those who live in the central area of the city place greater priority on maintaining existing parks.

The survey also asked about residents’ support for park and recreational improvements. A majority of respondents were very or somewhat supportive of expanding or improving nearly all of the facilities listed.

A large majority of respondents (80% or more) were supportive of expanding and improving multi-use walking and biking trails, all-inclusive accessible playgrounds, and picnic areas or shelters for group gatherings. More than half of respondents were very or somewhat supportive of all other improvements listed, except for a pump track or BMX park, which only garnered 48% support.

Younger respondents were more supportive than older respondents of all active use activities listed, including sports courts and fields, splash pads, indoor fitness equipment, pickleball, and gymnasiums, with the exception of baseball and softball fields. Respondents over 65 and those without children were very supportive of baseball and softball fields. Similarly, respondents with children in their home were more likely to support active-use improvements than those without children at home. Multi-use trails, wildlife viewing and community events areas appealed to respondents of all ages and family sizes.

7. The following list includes park amenities that the City of Maple Valley could consider adding to the park system. Please indicate for each whether you would be very supportive, somewhat supportive, not sure, or not supportive.



What recreation programs or activities do residents have interest in or feel their needs are being met?

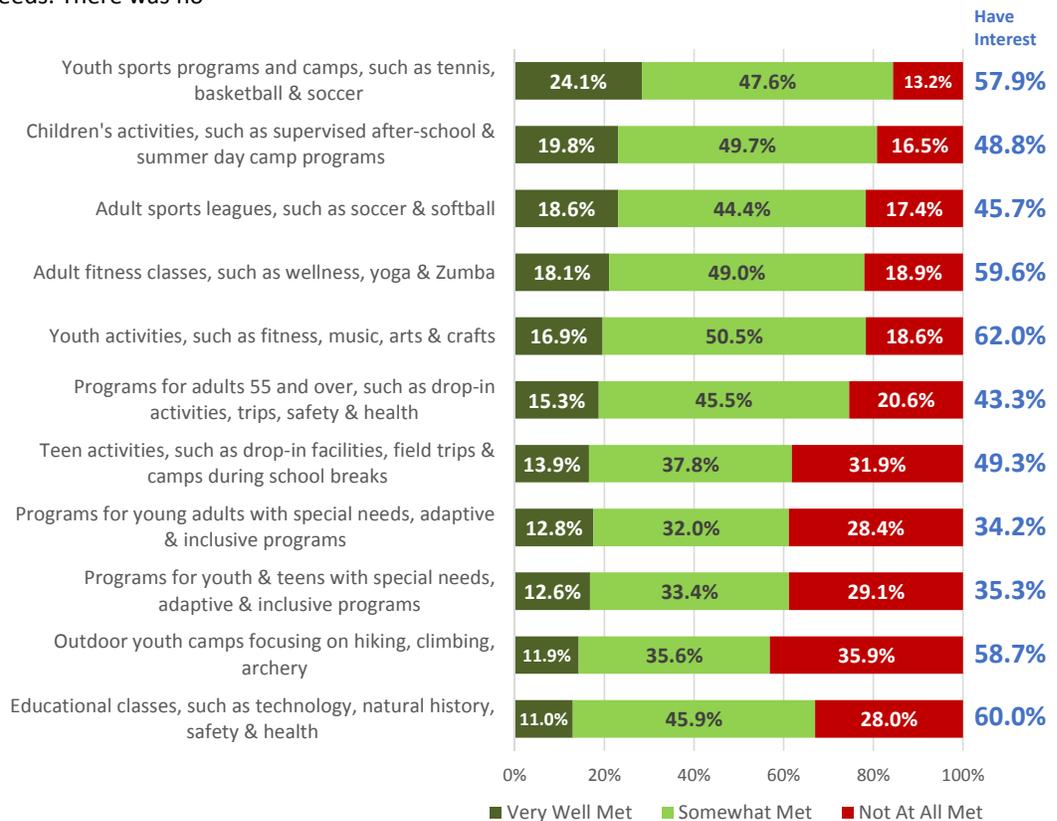
Respondents were asked about their overall interest for each recreational program or amenity type, as well as how well met their need is being met locally. A majority of respondents noted an interest for youth activities (62%), educational classes (60%), adult fitness classes (60%), outdoor youth camps (59%), and youth sports programs and camps (58%). A second tier set of programming interests included teen activities (49%), children's activities (49%), adult sports leagues (46%), and programs for adults 55 and over (43%).

Regarding needs for recreation programs and amenities being met, respondents identified that nearly all items listed were very well met in terms of need less than one-quarter of the time. One area showing a large gap in need (36%) is for specialized outdoor youth camps focusing on hiking, climbing, or archery. Other program types with the highest level of unmet needs include educational classes (28%), programs for youth & teens with special needs (29%), programs for young adults with special needs (28%), teen activities (32%).

Respondents with children in the household and those younger than 45 were more likely than other subgroups to indicate a stronger interest in all of the program options, except programs for people with special needs. There was no subgroup

variation for the general level of interest for those programs. Also, respondents without children and those 55 or older were more likely to indicate an interest in programs for adults over 55.

8. Please indicate if your household has an interest in each the programs or activities below, and indicate how well your needs are met locally for each.



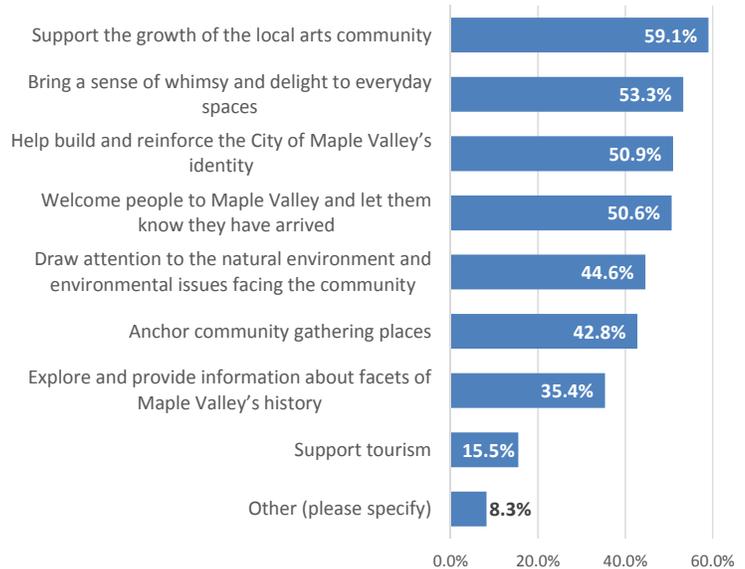
How do residents see the role of public art in the Maple Valley?

The survey asked residents about their perspectives on public art opportunities in Maple Valley. A majority of respondents see the role of public art in the community as supporting the growth of the local arts community (59%). Slight majorities of respondents see it as bringing whimsy to everyday spaces (53%), building or reinforcing community identity (51%) and as a welcome to Maple Valley (51%).

Respondents under 20 were more likely than others to place higher importance on the role of public art as supporting the growth of the local arts community and welcoming people to Maple Valley. No other significant differences were noted between the other subgroups.

Approximately 8% of respondents provided written comments, and those are listed in Attachment 2 at the end of this report.

10. What do you think is the role of public art in Maple Valley?



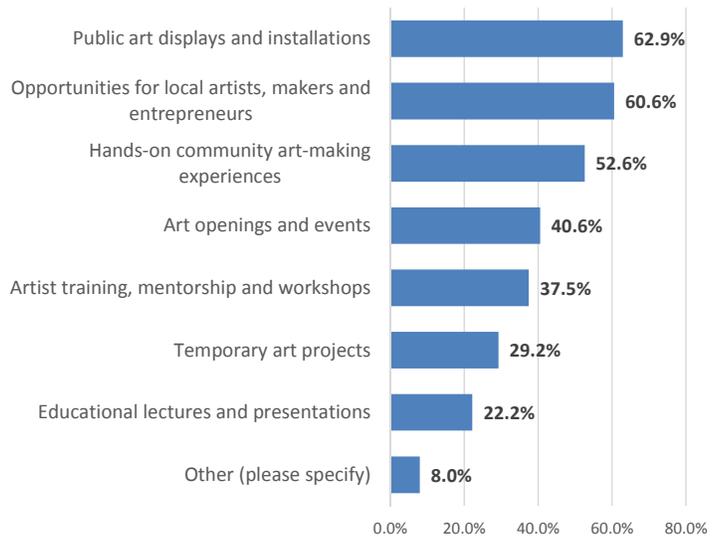
What types of public art opportunities are important?

Strong majorities of respondents prefer to have public art displays and installations (63%) and opportunities for local artists to show their works (61%). A slight majority of respondents have interest in hands-on community art experiences (53%). Trainings, lectures and temporary projects were less supported.

Approximately 8% of respondents provided written comments, which included comments about not spending public dollars on the arts or not seeing public art as important.

Respondents with two or more children were more likely than household types to place higher importance on opportunities for hands-on community art-making. Respondents between 45 and 54 were more likely to support art opening and event opportunities.

11. What public art opportunities are important for Maple Valley?



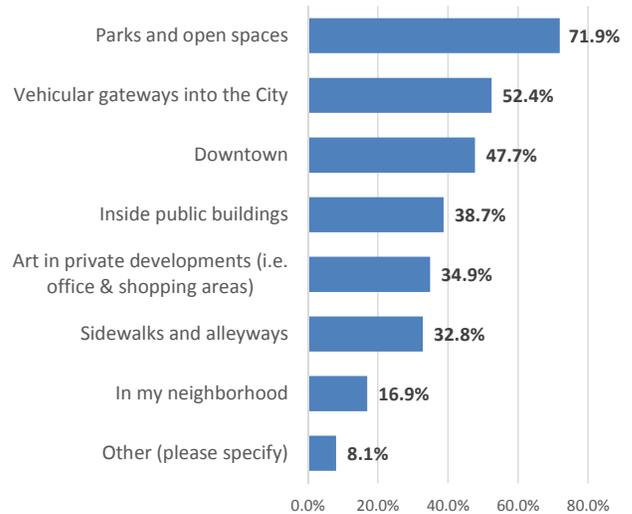
Where should public art be located?

A strong majority of respondents (72%) prefer to see public art located in parks and open spaces. Approximately half of respondents support public art at vehicular gateways (52%) and in downtown (48%). Approximately one in three respondents would like to see public art in public buildings (39%), in private developments (35%), and along sidewalks and alleys (33%).

Approximately 8% of respondents provided written comments, which were similar in tone to those offered in the previous two public art questions.

No significant differences were noted based on age, location or household.

12. Where would you like to see art in Maple Valley?

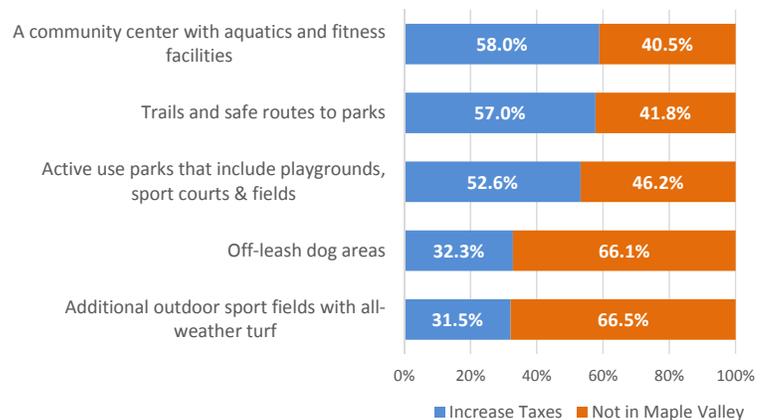


How do residents rate tax support for certain park and recreation experiences?

Respondents were asked to consider their level of support for certain amenities if an increase in local taxes were required to support each. Majorities of respondents noted a preference to support the following amenities, even if it meant increasing local taxes: community center (58%), trails (57%), and active use parks (53%). Respondents do not support off-leash dog areas or additional sport fields if local taxes were to increase to finance those projects.

Respondents between 20 and 54 and those with children were more likely than others to support a tax increase for an indoor community center. Respondents between 20 and 54 were also more likely than other to support taxes for active-use parks.

9. There may be some park and recreation experiences that are limited or not available in Maple Valley, but are available in neighboring communities. If it came down to a choice between increasing taxes to develop that facility in Maple Valley versus not having that in Maple Valley, which would you choose?



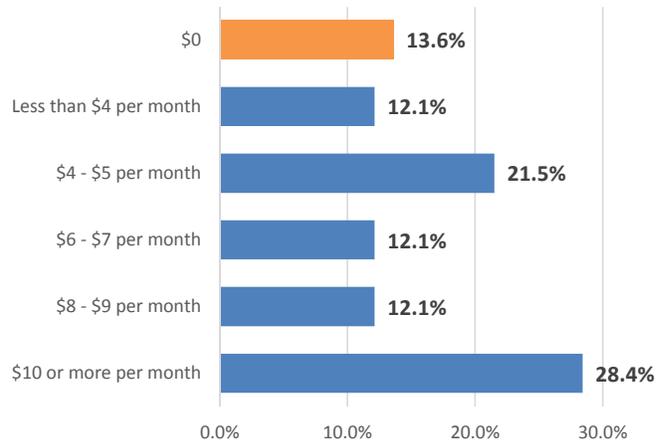
Are residents willing to pay additional taxes or fees to fund improvements to parks and recreation?

The survey asked residents what additional amount they would be willing to pay to develop and operate the types of parks and recreation programs most important to their household. Approximately 14% of residents would not be willing to pay any additional taxes to support improvements to parks and recreation.

However, 34% would be willing to pay up to \$5 per month and another 24% would pay between \$6 and \$10 monthly. About 28% of residents would be willing to pay \$10 or more per month for improved park services.

Respondents over 65 were more likely than other age groups to pay no additional amount for park and recreation services. No other significant differences were noted between the other subgroups

13. Maple Valley is working to find better ways to give you services, using your tax dollars for the greatest benefit. While no new property taxes or fees are currently being proposed, the costs to improve and develop parks, trails and recreation amenities may increase as the community grows and new amenities are added. Knowing this, what is the approximate additional amount you would be willing to pay to develop and operate the types of parks, trails and facilities that are most important to your household?.



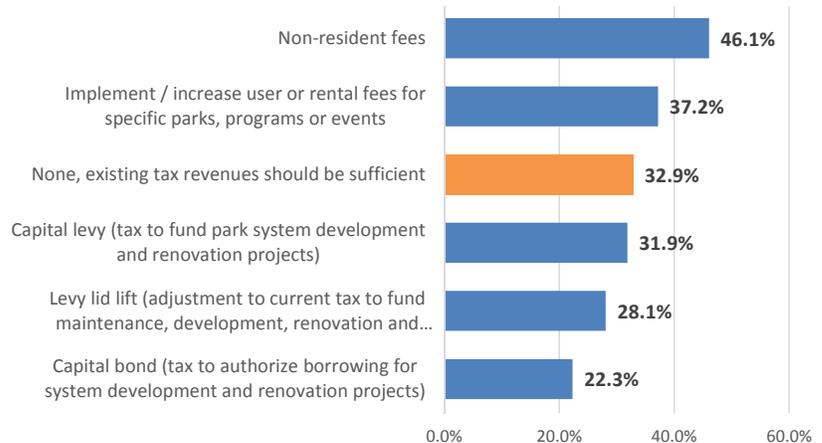
What funding sources would be supported to expand services?

A plurality of respondents prefer to use non-resident fees to support improving parks and recreation opportunities in Maple Valley. Respondents also support the use of rental fees or user fees (37%) as a means to fund specific parks, programs or events. Approximately one-third of respondents feel that existing revenues should be sufficient and do not support additional revenue sources.

Fewer than one in three respondents support broad-based funding options requiring community-wide support, such as a capital levy (32%), levy lid lift (28%) or capital bond (22%).

No significant differences were noted based on age, location or household.

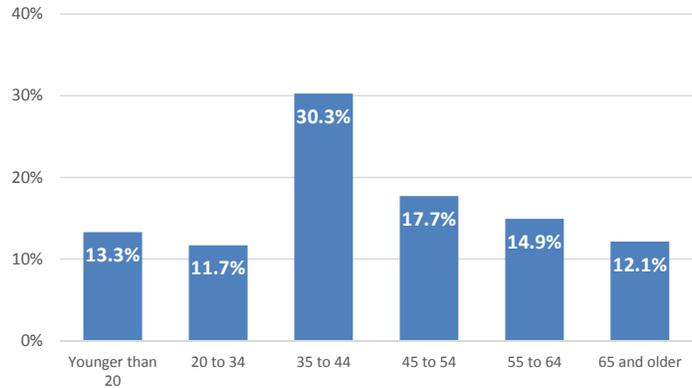
14. Based on you answer above, what additional funding sources would you support to improve parks and recreation opportunities in Maple Valley?



Demographics

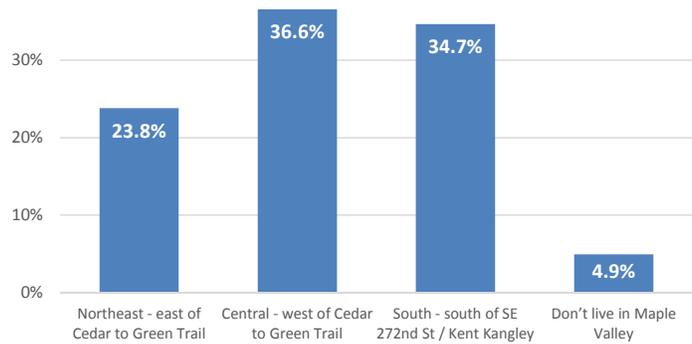
Age

The largest age group who responded to the survey were between 35 and 44 (30%). Respondents were roughly split between those over age 65 (27%) and those under 35 years of age (25%). More than 120 respondents were under the age of 20.



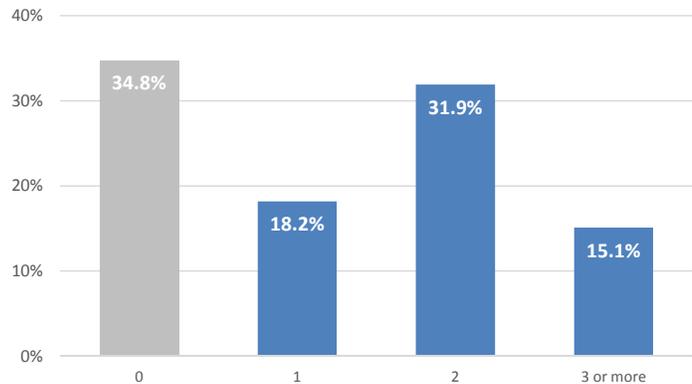
Location of Residence

Survey respondents were fairly evenly split between the three areas of the city. Roughly equal numbers of respondents live in the central area (37% - west of Cedar to Green Trail) of Maple Valley and in the south area (35% - south of 272nd / Kent Kangley). Approximately 24% live in the northeastern portion of the city (east of Cedar to Green Trail). Less than five percent of respondents do not live in Maple Valley.



Number of Children in Household

Approximately one-third of respondents (35%) have no children in their household. These households tended to include older adults (over age 55). The remaining 65% of households have one (18%), two (32%), or three (15%) children in the home.



ATTACHMENT 1. SURVEY INSTRUMENT



Community Survey on Park, Recreation & Open Space Preferences

Dear Maple Valley Community Member:

The City of Maple Valley is conducting a short survey to assess the recreational needs of community members to update its citywide Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan. The new Plan will establish a path forward for providing high quality, community-driven parks and recreation amenities throughout the city. The Plan will establish goals and recommend specific projects for the city's park facilities for the next 5-10 years. Final review of the Plan tentatively is targeted for January 2020.

Your participation is crucial to the success of this project. The survey consists of 17 questions regarding current use of facilities, preferred activities and support for future improvements. It takes on average about 8 minutes to complete, and residents of all ages are encouraged to participate.

Save a stamp. Take the survey now online at maplevalleywa.gov Thank you in advance for participating!

1. When you think about the things that contribute to the quality of life in Maple Valley, would you say that public parks and recreation opportunities are... (CHECK ONE)

- Essential to the quality of life here
- Important, but not really essential
- More of a luxury that we don't need
- Don't know

2. Please rate your satisfaction with the overall value your household receives from the City of Maple Valley for parks and outdoor recreation amenities.

- Very satisfied
- Somewhat satisfied
- Somewhat dissatisfied
- Very dissatisfied
- Don't know

3. When it comes to meeting the needs for parks, trails and recreation facilities, would you say there are... (CHECK ONLY ONE BOX IN EACH ROW)

	More than Enough	About the Right Amount	Not Enough	Don't Know
Parks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Neighborhood Walking / Biking Trails	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sport Fields & Sport Courts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Picnic Areas & Shelters	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Recreation Programs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Playgrounds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. Please indicate if you or any member of your household has used any of the following parks and recreation facilities listed below. If YES, please indicate how you would rate the condition of the park or recreation facility.

Site Name	Have you visited in the past year?		If YES, how would you rate the condition of the park?			
	Yes	No	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
Lake Wilderness Park	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lake Wilderness Lodge	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lake Wilderness Arboretum	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gaffney Grove Dist. Golf Course	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lake Wilderness Golf Course	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lake Wilderness Golf Course Clubhouse	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Take-A-Break Park	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Save a stamp! Take this survey [online](#) at the City's website:

maplevalleywa.gov

Or send it back in the self-addressed envelope provided.
Thank you in advance for participating!



5. What would you say are the main reasons you visited Maple Valley parks and open spaces in the LAST YEAR? CHECK ALL THAT APPLY.

- Fitness
- Playgrounds
- Sport fields
- Tennis court
- Volleyball
- Skate park
- Golf
- Trails (walk / run / bike)
- Family gatherings / picnics
- Festivals / celebrations / music concerts
- Relaxation
- Wildlife viewing
- Organized program or activity, such as club, camp or league activity
- I didn't go to any Maple Valley park or open spaces last year
- Other: _____

6. For the following list, indicate how you would rank the priority for each (1st priority is highest and 5th priority is lowest). Circle each ranking number only once.

	1 - High Priority	2 nd Priority	3 - Medium Priority	4 th Priority	5 - Low Priority
Maintaining existing parks	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th
Developing an indoor recreation center	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th
Expanding the recreational trails network	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th
Acquiring land for future parks	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th
Protecting open space and natural areas	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th

7. The following list includes park amenities that the City of Maple Valley could consider adding to the park system. Please indicate for each whether you would be very supportive, somewhat supportive, not sure or not supportive.

	Very Supportive	Somewhat Supportive	Not Supportive	Not Sure
Multi-use walking & biking trails	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Baseball and softball fields	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Soccer / football / lacrosse fields	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tennis and pickleball courts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Outdoor basketball courts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Outdoor volleyball	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Splash pad / water spray features	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Picnic areas & shelters for group gatherings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pump track or BMX parks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Outdoor fitness equipment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
All-inclusive playground equipment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nature / wildlife watching opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gymnasiums for indoor sports, like basketball or volleyball	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Access to indoor fitness & health equipment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Off-leash dog opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Community Survey on Park, Recreation & Open Space Preferences

8. Please indicate if your household has an interest in each the programs or activities below AND for each, please indicate how well your needs are met locally.

Type of Program / Activity	Do you have interest?		How well met are your needs for this type of activity?		
	Yes	No	Very Well Met	Somewhat Met	Not At All Met
Children's activities, such as supervised after-school & summer day camp programs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teen activities, such as drop-in facilities, field trips & camps during school breaks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Youth activities, such as fitness, music, arts & crafts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Youth sports programs and camps, such as tennis, basketball & soccer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Outdoor youth camps focusing on hiking, climbing, archery	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Programs for youth & teens with special needs, adaptive & inclusive programs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Programs for young adults with special needs, adaptive & inclusive programs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Programs for adults 55 and over, such as drop-in activities, trips, safety & health	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Educational classes, such as technology, natural history, safety & health	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Adult sports leagues, such as soccer & softball	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Adult fitness classes, such as wellness, yoga & Zumba	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

9. There may be some park and recreation experiences that are limited or not available in Maple Valley, but are available in neighboring communities. If it came down to a choice between increasing taxes to develop that facility in Maple Valley versus not having that in Maple Valley, which would you choose?

	Increase Taxes	Not in Maple Valley
Trails and safe routes to parks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A community center with aquatic and fitness facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Additional outdoor sport fields with all-weather turf	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Active use parks that include playgrounds, sport courts & fields	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Off-leash dog areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

10. What do you think is the role of public art in Maple Valley? (CHOOSE UP TO FIVE)

- Welcome people to Maple Valley and let them know they have arrived
- Help build and reinforce the City of Maple Valley's identity
- Support tourism
- Support the growth of the local arts community
- Anchor community gathering places
- Explore and provide information about facets of Maple Valley's history
- Draw attention to the natural environment and environmental issues facing the community
- Bring a sense of whimsy and delight to everyday spaces
- Other: _____

11. What public art opportunities are important for Maple Valley? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- Hands-on community art-making experiences
- Educational lectures and presentations
- Art openings and events
- Public art displays and installations
- Temporary art projects
- Artist training, mentorship and workshops
- Opportunities for local artists, makers and entrepreneurs
- Other: _____

12. Where would you like to see art in Maple Valley? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vehicular gateways into the City | <input type="checkbox"/> Downtown |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art in private developments (i.e. office & shopping areas) | <input type="checkbox"/> In my neighborhood |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parks and open spaces | <input type="checkbox"/> Sidewalks and alleyways |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Inside public buildings | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

13. Maple Valley is working to find better ways to give you services, using your tax dollars for the greatest benefit. While no new property taxes or fees are currently being proposed, the costs to improve and develop parks, trails and recreation amenities may increase as the community grows and new amenities are added. Knowing this, what is the approximate additional amount you would be willing to pay to develop and operate the types of parks, trails and facilities that are most important to your household?

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 or more per month | <input type="checkbox"/> \$4 - \$5 per month |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$8 - \$9 per month | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than \$4 per month |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$6 - \$7 per month | <input type="checkbox"/> \$0 |

14. Based on you answer above, what additional funding sources would you support to improve parks and recreation opportunities in Maple Valley? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- None, existing tax revenues should be sufficient
- Implement / increase user or rental fees for specific parks, programs or events
- Capital levy (tax to fund park system development and renovation projects)
- Capital bond (tax to authorize borrowing for system development and renovation projects)
- Levy lid lift (adjustment to current tax to fund maintenance, development, renovation and programming projects)
- Non-resident fees

These last questions help us understand whether we have a cross section of the community. It's important that you provide a response to each question. Your answers are confidential.

15. How many children under age 18 live in your household?

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 0 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 or more |

16. What is your age?

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Younger than 20 | <input type="checkbox"/> 45 to 54 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 20 to 34 | <input type="checkbox"/> 55 to 64 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 35 to 44 | <input type="checkbox"/> 65 and older |

17. Using the map, in which section of Maple Valley do you live?

- (A) Northeast - east of Cedar to Green Trail
- (B) Central - west of Cedar to Green Trail
- (C) South - south of SE 272nd St / Kent Kangley
- Don't live in Maple Valley



Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey!

Your input and insights will be used to help guide the development of the Maple Valley Parks, Recreation, Arts & Open Space Plan.

Save a stamp! Take this survey online - use the QR code or weblink:

maplevalleywa.gov

Check the City's website for more information about the citywide Parks, Recreation, Arts & Open Space Plan.

The City of Maple Valley is utilizing the services of a consultant team who specializes in park and recreation planning.

Please return your completed survey in the enclosed return-reply envelope addressed to:

Conservation Technix Inc.
PO Box 12736
Portland, OR 97212

ATTACHMENT 2. OPEN-ENDED SURVEY RESPONSES

Q5: Open-ended – The main reasons you visited Maple Valley parks and open spaces?

- fishing
- walk dog
- None apply
- Dog walking
- Swimming
- basketball court
- Transportation -- walking and biking access to/from maple valley's businesses
- Yoga
- Walking dog
- birthday party at picnic shelter
- Spur of the moment picnic. Seahawk picnic.
- Enjoy the company of family and friends
- Too many gangs- no supervision. Old drug needles in bushes
- Walking dog
- fishing
- Story Time in the Park (KCLS)
- no new taxes
- had niece
- Volunteer
- To see how shitty everything looked
- Take client with special needs
- Fishing
- taking young children to parks to play on swings, slides and other fixtures
- Painted Rock hunting
- POOR Parking
- Disc Golf
- Great Northwest Martial arts potluck at the lake wilderness park
- Many golf outings
- We use the trails A LOT, but I believe those are King County Parks trails. Where are the City-maintained trails???
- Dog walking
- walking group at the community center
- We've used KING COUNTY Trails a ton. What are the MV trails?
- Disc golf
- just stuff

- Swimming
- Meetings
- Fishing
- Walking dog
- Need a dog park
- Fishing
- walk dogs on trails
- Love it
- Fishing
- Team pictures
- parties
- Paddle boarding
- Being on the water!
- Connecting with Nature
- To Exercise our dogs
- Tahoma High School awards night
- friends
- swimming
- Basketball, we need more courts. I was looking for courts.
- We take pictures in some of the parks
- fishing
- Hanging out with friends
- Taking my little sisters to the park.
- 4th of July fireworks extravaganza
- To hang out with my friends
- forced to
- need less house they took down my favorite trail and now I can't walk it with my family and my dog. There are way too many house. We don't need them we already have enough home. if we keep building more hose there is going to be more traffic and We people of maple valley don't want to deal with that
- I live within walking distance so my family walks my brother over there to play
- WE need more famous people like juiceworld
- maple valley days
- lakes
- swimming
- maple valley days
- Graduation Parties
- pokemon go
- my parents told me to
- riding my bike

- Family pictures
- interactive with people and socialize
- Open Space (yard too small and no neighborhood park), Swimming, Fishing, Canoeing, Running
- For the fitness part of this I would like to say a few things. I'm disabled with chronic lower back pain accompanied with drop foot requiring me to walk with a leg brace and a cane. The one thing that makes it very difficult for me is not enough benches. On the trail by Arcadia I struggle to make it to the picnic table and then to the bridge. Also my leg brace doesn't let my foot move as normal ankles. I take my dog to the off leash dog park in Renton it's extremely difficult to walk on the rocky ground there. A nice big off leash dog park is extremely needed with the growth we have. A few shade trees and benches in it would be nice too.
- Fishing
- Fishing
- Swimming
- swim in the lake
- hangout with friends
- fishing
- Friends
- FISHING
- swimming
- Story time
- Get out of the house/nothing else to do in town
- Disc golf, swimming, music in the park
- Fishing
- Community events and places for children to play together
- Pickleball on tennis courts
- Peace and quiet
- Walk my dog
- Kayak
- Disc golf

Q10: Open-ended - What do you think is the role of public art in Maple Valley?

- quit building apartments/condos - we have enough now
- shouldn't even be considered
- I support very little public art. Not a priority.
- Allow student art to be show cased
- Not a priority for me
- Frivolous use of public resources
- Don't spend my tax dollars on public art!
- We don't care about art
- not high on my budgetary priority list
- Honestly, I think art is a waste of time and more expensive than the value it adds.
- Art that is creative and useful- could even be a spot where someone stops to take a family photo because the art sends a message.
- wasting taxpayer money
- Save on green spaces
- Not the role of the city government
- Provide growth and learning to young/local artists
- Raise taxes
- Waste of tax money
- creativity, awe, thought-provoking, wonder, etc.
- Very low priority
- Do not support raising taxes for art. Paid for by those who want it only!
- What has been put up is horrible and an eyesore.
- there are far more important things
- no new taxes
- Do not like most of the art work that has been put in place so far.
- Nature is its own art, no need to buy art...don't need it
- not important
- Public art isn't important
- public art \$ should be a development requirement for all future development (a percentage)
- I don't like or support public art for the most part. It's usually kind of lame.
- I'm not sure what public art you are referring to
- Public art \$ (%) should be a requirement for all future development.
- entertainment
- There isn't a focus.
- None
- We like art & music! But there are plenty of options for music lessons & arts & crafts that are not through the city of maple valley parks & Rec. 😊☐
- no role

- if we don't have \$\$ to provide recreation for DD teens/adults, we certainly can't afford to pay for "art"
- Nothing
- Not necessary
- A way to spend unnecessary money
- Retain as much natural open space as possible
- Do not like the art on the electrical boxes
- I don't think anything needs to attract more people like art or activities. There is enough people moving in to the area as it is.
- Art? No kidding. Expand roads and bring more businesses.
- Generally, would rather see the funds used for facilities & programs, rather than statues & fancy signs
- To give ideas to young ones and inspire.
- a painted mural on a big wall near the entrances
- Graffiti
- It degrades maple valley
- Less houses in maple valley
- build a mall or clothes store!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
- to show off peoples art
- being safe
- we don't have public art
- MOVIE THEATER
- Just... for people who like art? I mean, I'm one of those people, and I like looking at the artwork in Maple Valley.
- Art is more important than most people think to making a community memorable.
- family oriented, ready for growth, but celebrating the area's history.
- Also wanted to ask if you know the park in Enumclaw call Nolte state park. I walked it for the first time earlier this year. Just as I was hurting and thinking how nice would it be to have a bench right about now, and I would round a bend in the trail and there would be on. I think for disabled the spacing there would be greatly appreciate on our trails. They are so difficult for me that on a bad back or foot day I cannot take myself or me do walking
- This is a ridiculous question. I don't believe in using tax dollars for forced art subsidy.
- Not to develop the City too much, it's the urban and nature feelings that make maple valley what it is
- No thanks
- Make a space for new local talented artists be known
- Don't pay for it, but allow someone to put it on display.
- A huge waste of the limited resources you have
- reinforce Maple Valley's vision whenever that is decided
- Don't care
- Don't see the need to spend tax dollars to support public art. Waste of money.
- no real opinion
- Promoting a sense of place

- waste of money
- Wasted funds so far
- No role

Q11: Open-ended – What public art opportunities are important for Maple Valley?

- performing arts
- A Parks & Rec gallery that features Maple Valley's artists and rotates often!
- none - shouldn't be considered
- None
- An occasional piece of public art
- Not sure
- Peace and quiet
- Minimal tax payer expense
- Not a priority
- Don't spend my tax dollars on public art opportunities!
- We don't care about art
- no
- wasting time & money
- More music
- Not the role at the city
- Raise taxes
- None
- Art is up to individual
- Very low priority
- I like the wall murals down in Kent and other cities, makes spaces beautiful and inviting. Real artists work, not computerized graphics stuck on things.
- As long as I'm not supporting w/ taxes, I don't care
- None of the above.
- no new taxes
- None
- none needed
- I enjoy the Halloween decorations at the community center
- Public art isn't important
- None
- none
- None
- Unknown
- Not important through maple valley parks & Rec. There are plenty of options her for music & Art!

- Live music
- All abilities art events
- Donation only concerts by Maple Valley Youth Symphony Orchestra - not all public art is visual art!
- no role
- Ceramics!
- Nothing
- High School Showcases
- Classes for arts. Research "Twispworks" in the town of Twisp.
- There is enough
- None.
- Basketball we have a great young group of players and we need a place to walk to and go play some ball and make everyone better.
- nothing
- Less house in maple valley because we don't need it we already have house we don't need them.
- us maple valley kids want a place to go and hangout with friends to spend our money Mall!!!!!!
- art classes
- MOVIE THEATER
- celebrating the area's children's art at Puyallup fair, and at community days events.
- Youth music opportunities
- None, this is silly
- flag football
- Art activities for kids
- None that costs tax payers money
- None
- Teen art groups, teen& youth drama opportunities.... School is so competitive and there are many many talented kids who would love to participate
- Do not waste tax dollars on public art
- How about full size elk sculptures at key gathering places in support of our environment
- None
- Not important, don't clutter our city
- none, build a park
- None
- Public school and community concerts

Q12: Open-ended - Do you have other comments or suggestions for Maple Valley's parks?

- waste of money!
- Schools
- Downtown if we had one
- Everywhere that's feasible
- I don't know
- Not a priority
- On power junction enclosures
- Don't spend my tax dollars on any public art related stuff!
- No public funded art!
- Trail tunnels
- just keep the trees we have left - thanks
- I consider nice parks and sports fields art
- low on budgetary priority list
- nature not art
- Why is it more important than education
- Very low priority
- Wall murals and private and public buildings
- No preference
- If Maple Valley had a downtown, but it doesn't.
- none
- don't care
- Where is downtown
- Public art isn't important
- Note - I feel there is no 'downtown' in Maple Valley. Additionally, I want to add that in regards to art in private developments, this should also be a requirement during the permitting process.
- Anywhere, if it is nice looking and/or interesting
- None
- don't care
- Should be required during permit process. Is there a downtown Maple Valley?
- no where
- Where is "downtown"??
- Unknown
- It does not matter to me at all if there is even art on display. Save your money for an aquatics center at the high school!!!!
- nowhere
- Along 169
- private art-- paid for by private funds
- Downtown? Where is downtown?
- Nowhere

- Depends on the art
- Maybe where buildings or places were tagged with graffiti could benefit with actual art
- The tunnels on the trails
- None.
- The place to the left of Maple Valley
- fences and walls
- never
- idk
- Lake Wilderness Lodge
- none I don't really care about srt
- A Mall or clothes store to spend our money at
- MOVIE THEATER
- Maybe schools? It's kinda dull, so maybe a bit of artwork (other than the ones the students turn in) would help with the decoration.
- Intersections / street corners
- None if it means giving up sport facilities for my kids!
- library, school, community days festival, and Puyallup
- None, this is silly
- No where
- None
- In new commercial and residential developments
- Where is "downtown"???? We don't have a downtown, to our detriment
- Hanging from the lamp posts through four corners in the public garden spaces at the Arboretum and at the parks
- Do not waste tax dollars on public art
- No
- None
- While art is important, the city has many more pressing needs to fund first
- Where is downtown? Like 4 corners?
- Nowhere, don't clutter our city
- nowhere, build a park
- Ymca
- No Where
- Don't get fancy. No more birds nest. Stick to electrical box covers
- Lodge

APPENDIX B

MEETING NOTES



MEETING NOTES

PROJECT NUMBER: # 19-120PLN ISSUE DATE: October 4, 2019
 PROJECT NAME: Maple Valley PRAOS Plan

RECORDED BY: Steve Duh
 TO: FILE
 PRESENT: Members of the public
 Members of Parks & Recreation Commission
 Members of City Council
 City Staff
 Project team members from Conservation Technix

SUBJECT: Maple Valley PRAOS Plan: Open House #1 Notes (October 2nd)

Community members were invited to an open house for the Maple Valley Parks, Recreation, Arts and Open Space Plan on Wednesday, October 2, 2019 from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. at Lake Wilderness Lodge. The project team prepared informational displays covering the major themes of the PRAOS Plan. These displays included Project Overview, Parks & Trails, Public Arts, Recreation Programs, and concept plans for three city park properties.

Following a brief presentation to review the purpose of the PROAS Plan and highlights from the community survey, attendees were encouraged to talk to project team members, record their comments and complete a written comment card. City staff and project team staff engaged with participants to identify general needs and interests for park and recreation in Maple Valley. Approximately 20 people attended the meeting to review materials and provide comment.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The following represents a summary of the comments received during the evening meeting.

Public Art Ideas

- Displays & Installations – what about art in the Arboretum? Electrical box art look like graffiti.
- Community art-making project – Utilize Tahoma School District in making art installations for new city developments/buildings. Provide opportunities for Tahoma School District students to display their work. Provide incentives (\$\$) for students to pursue art careers or mentorship programs. Don't use donated paint.
- Openings & events – Art and The Arts are very important
- Other ideas – Yes, an arts festival would be great!

Recreation Programs

- Youth/teen camps – Work-training programs for teens that include high school credit
- Adult activities – I'm retiring soon, so will be looking for daytime activities!
- Other – A rec center with an indoor pool is needed

Maple Valley PRAOS Plan: Open House #1 Notes (October 2nd)

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Elk Run Concept Plan

- Community garden/pea patch for personal use (separate from Elk Run Farm)

Henry's Switch Concept Plans

- I would use a trail more than a BMX track, but not opposed to bikes
- Would it be possible to combine the zip line from "B" with the BMX from "A"?

Take-A-Break Concept Plan

- Does anyone actually use this park – in 10 years I've only seen people there 2 times

Responses on Recreation Investments (dot exercise)

- 6 – Recreational trail connections (\$\$\$+)
- 6 – Adventure play (climbing/ropes) (\$\$\$)
- 5 – Additional picnic shelters (\$\$)
- 5 – Indoor recreation center & pool (\$\$\$+)
- 4 – Land acquisition for future parks (\$\$\$+)
- 2 – Playground upgrade at Take-A-Break Park (\$)
- 1 – ADA access renovations (\$)
- 0 – Sport court resurfacing (\$)

Other Comments

- Summit Park playground area needs shade
- For the Arboretum, consider a center for environmental education and classes, trail signage and improvements, clear parking access, and support from City for maintenance/operations
- Consider facilities/amenities for older kids (i.e., skatepark)
- We have lots for younger kids. Would love something for teens
- Rec center with an indoor pool would be nice. Or put in a pool at the Golf Course

City Map Comments

- Improve signage, wayfinding and parking for trailheads. Identify on maps the existing parking areas (i.e., Lake Wilderness Elementary, area west of Elk Run on 216th)
- Connect Take-A-Break Park to the Cedar to Green Trail
- Extend Cedar to Green Trail south and connect Henry's Switch site
- Create walking/biking connections along 216th to cross Kent Kanglely
- Connect Elk Run with Summit Park with Cedar to Green Trail
- Connect Henry's Switch to Elk Run via power line corridor
- Connect Legacy site to SR 169 and Cedar to Green Trail
- Link downtown area to Cedar River Trail
- Incorporate Arboretum formally into Parks Department with paid staff to manage

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Written Comments from Comment Cards

- When you are talking about “Arts”, you are only talking about visual art, not arts (plural). What are your plans for integrating other art forms such as music, dance, drama, etc.? How does the City plan to partner with local arts (plural) non-profits to help bring more arts opportunities to the public?

Every effort has been made to accurately record this meeting. If any errors or omissions are noted, please provide written response within five days of receipt.

cc: Dave Johnson
File

APPENDIX C

STAKEHOLDER SUMMARIES



MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Project Name: Maple Valley PRAOS Plan Update **Project No.:** Proj-# 19-120PLN
Location: Lake Wilderness Lodge **Meeting Date:** September 19, 2019 **Time:** 6:30 pm
Minutes by: Steve Duh
Attendees: Chris Tallman, Parks & Recreation Commission
Rick Heinz
Cathy Hilde
Belinda Cummins
Terry Higashiyama
Ty Pendergraft
Noel Paterson
Steve Duh – Conservation Technix
Subject: **Group Stakeholder Session**

Following brief introductions and an overview of the project scope and timeline, the group discussion generally followed a series of questions to gather perspectives regarding park, program and facility needs for the City of Maple Valley.

What do you value about Maple Valley’s parks and open spaces?

- This space... the lake, lodge, arboretum, park – it’s unique and a great central park for Maple Valley
- The combination of park, trails, lake – a central hub and focal point for the community
- The Arboretum can be made a greater part of the site
- Since city incorporation, it has been a challenge to balance growth, define priorities and allocate dollars; what will people pay for and vote for
- LWP is a regional park, and people from all over the area use it; it’s diverse in the use of park space (activities, events, races, fishing derby, civic club use/support)
- Community-oriented – getting people together in our park space
- Maple Valley can be branded as having “Parks for All” – the space at LWP can be used for so many activities

In 10 years, what improvements would you like to see implemented?

- Shelters at LWP won’t last much longer; consider replacement. Also consider a larger (100+ person) shelter
- Indoor recreation center with a pool, meeting spaces, and programming; would need to look at option for public/private partnership; need to pay attention to maintenance and operating demands (if it is built, how will the city pay to maintain and operate it)
- Legacy Site – interested in its future

Meeting Minutes (continued)

- Main Street or downtown, like Issaquah, along 169
- Arboretum – do more to get kids in nature, climbing trees, etc.
- Tout the message of health and wellness opportunities (senior center, teen center, parks, trails, farmers market) and protect what we have
- Expand the Cedar to Green Trail – maybe pave it and add low-level lighting for safety; considering to pave or not pave the trail has been a long-standing discussion in Maple Valley; Coordinate with King County to expand the trail further south

Considerations for the Adult Special Needs Population

- The City hasn't offered programs for adults with special needs; out of necessity, local parents of people with special needs have organized and run their own programs to fill the void. This include sports activities, as well as arts and social events.
- Parents do not have the time and bandwidth for program registration, transportation and leading programs. These programs have been parent run and parent coached. Parents are not able to advertise, expand or do more than what they are doing today
- Would like to see the City run and administer these programs for local adults with special needs
- TSD runs two sport programs, but the participants age out at 21. There are no other options in this community for special needs adults.

Other opportunities

- Sand volleyball – it's a low impact summer activity that might work well at LWP or Summit Park. Gig Harbor did a feasibility study, and they are already considering expanding their offerings due to popularity.
- Seasonal outdoor skating rink with skate rentals – could be in an area that is used as a splash pad in the summer
- Want something unique that people will come to Maple Valley for (i.e., Shakespeare in the Park, beer fest, etc.)
- Maple Valley youth sports recreation has great intention and willingness to provide activities, but the programs fill up too fast; need more field space, more staff and more classes; TSD has very limited gym space resulting in basketball programs filling too fast
- A rec center could include additional gym space and courts, but such a facility would need to be multi-use with spaces and venues that help pay for the operations
- The 'peninsula' space at LWP could be looked at as a site for a recreation center. That land has restrictions from the transfer from King County that would trigger conversion requirements.
- Sport trends include lacrosse, rugby, pickleball, cricket and climbing; the City needs multi-use fields and spaces to accommodate different sports and be convertible

Meeting Minutes (continued)

Where should the City focus its energy and resources in the next 5 years?

- Protect land and have space for the future
- Special needs programming that is city-run – to expand and manage it
- Have fiscal responsibility – if the city builds something, they should have the resources for long-term maintenance
- Utilize and develop the land in front of Lake Wilderness Elementary School for soccer, lacrosse, etc.

Other Comments

- Appreciate the art on the electrical boxes, and the other arts efforts, like the salmon painted steps at the Lodge, the tunnels; maybe consider an event like Bellevue's Artists in Action
- Arboretum needs a visitor center like Bellevue
- Bring the Christmas lights back to the Arboretum – not at Four Corners

Question

- What is the linkage with the school district? The City and Tahoma School District have a relationship, but the ILA hasn't worked all that well over the years. Need to work with TSD more and deeper for the maximum use of indoor and outdoor recreation spaces. Maple Valley has limited options for parkland, and the school district should be a partner

-- End of Notes --

Stakeholder Interview Notes (continued)

Current activities include installing street art such as dance steps on the sidewalk, managing the display gallery at Lake Wilderness Lodge, and directing the painting/wrapping of utility boxes.

High school students are being engaged to participate in public art creations through ideas, concepts and implementation.

The Arts Commission is funded through a capital projects (up to one percent) set-aside for city-funded projects and a per capita tax (\$0.25/resident) to provide a budget for public art installations.

Current Arts Commission promoting parks and recreation led art-related classes in dance, art, etc.

Tahoma School District used to have a Tahoma Learning Community (TLC) that provided local continuing education (non-credit) classes. TSD dropped the program and intended to hand-off to City P&R.

The City provides a staff liaison to help facilitate planning and implementation of public art.

The Future:

An art map is being developed to provide locations and descriptions of local public art. An eventual walking tour could evolve from the art map and the corridors of public art being created along Witte Road and Route 169.

Roundabouts are being considered as future locations for artistic installations to create unique identities along transportation routes.

The opportunity for public/private partnerships may be explored with local studios to expand the variety and quantity of public art and cultural activities in Maple Valley.

The Arts Commission would like to see public art distributed throughout the City to enliven the public spaces, create unique identities and engage residents and visitors in the appreciation of the arts.

The Arts Commission would like to develop a set of guidelines for selecting locations for different public art installations to encourage more implementation and direct available resources to the most appropriate places.

Requests for proposals have been issued for a mural at Summit Park and a potential art work along the 1,000-foot retaining wall along route 169.

Enrichment classes should continue as part of Rec/Arts programming and programs could be expanded to provide a variety of options.

Continue to use partnership arrangements with other providers

Example: Voice in the Valley – music non-profit with Jesse Jumper, founder, doing very well and illustrates that the arts are important in the community.

Arts are bursting in school system and growth/demand continues. Drama program has a “no-cut” policy demanding lots of play and cast capacity. Huge demand for dramatic arts.

Development in Black Diamond may bring more demand for facilities and programs, etc.

Stakeholder Interview Notes (continued)

Keep good communication and relationships between all the groups and representatives. Currently, relationships are good.

Effective marketing and communication will always be needed. People saying “Don’t email me – put info on social media”. Local papers are getting thinner – can’t be relied on as primary message dissemination.

City needs to continue to promote visibility of Arts and programming.

Recreation Facility Infrastructure and Coordination

Today:

The Tahoma School District has a good working relationship with the City and provides a wide variety of educational and recreational facilities and spaces for use by the public when not being occupied for school programming.

The High School Athletic Director meets regularly with the Parks and Recreation Director to coordinate facility uses and programming and ensure effective ongoing communication between the District and the City.

The District has a facility scheduler who coordinates the calendar of facility reservations for community use and meets annually with community sports groups to provide scheduling information and orientation to the District’s reservation system. Youth programs are given preferential scheduling for space and adult sports programming has been increasing in its need for space.

The District also provides for community use of stage and performance spaces, classrooms, and weight and mat rooms within their facility reservation system.

Sports fields are provided at the two middle schools, the new high school and Summit Park for school team and community-based league games and practices.

Ballfields are good (from long-term resident perspective). Keep expanding as the demand grows.

The Future:

As the community is growing, the demand for indoor gym space has reached its capacity, particularly in the winter months. The TSD gym spaces are not enough to meet the demand for recreational programming.

When exploring additional ways that District and City coordination can improve Maple Valley, the Associate Principal suggested that ensuring safe routes to schools is an important element for both public safety and effective functioning of the school system within the community.

A “cornerstone idea” would be to better maximize the value and assets of Lake Wilderness Park. Seems like the Park is a quality asset that is underutilized and could expand its services. Better trail connections. Perhaps, a rowing club for youth and adults. A natural-themed area at the end of the lake.

Improve the trail system through connections to regional trails and expansion of regional trails. Continue to build on the existing system. Expansion of the Cedar to Green River Trail southward (in the “top 5” priority) should be pursued as the demand grows for more trail use and connectivity.

Stakeholder Interview Notes (continued)

If the community is willing to pay for an aquatic/recreation community center, it would be an amazing asset. Perhaps in partnership with the school district. Maybe a spray park for little kids could be a way to get started with water-based recreation.

The senior population will continue to grow and seems to be staying in the community as they move into retirement. Look to providing adequate senior services as this population segment expands.

If funding and infrastructure become available, it would be wonderful to have a dedicated community arts center to accommodate classes and particularly pottery with kilns, wheels, etc.

(check out “Claytopia” for example)

The community arts center has a potential role for either City or non-profit or combination of both. The historic high school (now vacant) that sits outside the City borders could provide a valuable facility. MV Creative Arts Council could run the community arts center (in former HS) as a partnership with the City, County and others. The Arts Council would have to be restructured to be able to run it.

A big, bold idea would be to have a performing arts center.

More activities for kids, adults and families are needed.

Role of Parks, Trails, Programs & Arts in the City

Today:

A comprehensive provision of parks and recreation facilities and programming is extremely critical to the health and success of the City. Beyond supporting both physical and mental health, parks and recreation support the livability and economic health of Maple Valley.

Parks, trails, recreation programming and the arts are part of the draw for community growth. While the School District’s reputation is important, the proximity to great outdoor recreational experiences defines Maple Valley as a desirable place to live. However, the existing local parks and recreation system is often an afterthought, discovered as valuable after the attraction of schools and larger natural areas.

Park and recreation services are a big component of the quality of life in the Maple Valley community. The Chamber of Commerce is a big advocate of recreation and is aware of the contribution that parks and recreation make to Maple Valley’s quality of life and local economy. Parks and recreation are a good investment.

Maple Valley is doing a great job with its parks. Dave is the right person for the job and the City Council is strong so support for parks should continue to allow for growth and enhancement.

Some type of community liaison position(s) could help with connecting people to the facilities and programming that are available. Existing parks & rec staff can’t do everything. Could an “ombudsman” position be created to provide better outreach?

The Chamber is already a partner with the City and lines of communication are open. The Chamber is supportive of anything that can/will enhance the livability and quality of life in the community. Their website is being rebuilt to help better connect people to services, events, etc. in the City.

Stakeholder Interview Notes (continued)

Current Projects:

“Paint by Tunnel” program/contest “for the love of Maple Valley” was initiated by the City. 1st tunnel starting now: October 26th completion. Project requires community participation. Rotary supported. Part of Make A Difference Day. Annual effort to get all 5 tunnels completed: one per year.

New community involvement & partnerships are having positive results.

Utility box wrap art program on-going.

Music in the Park continues (good).

Pocket Park one of first public art installation by Arts Council in alley between QFC and Starbucks. Some initial controversy. Many years ago. Concern about city/county involvement on private land. Funded by Arts Council with City/County \$\$ - \$65K. Positive support generated and suggest value for more of these artistic gathering places.

Bear sculpture dedication on October 21st in roundabout. Public Art development. Council initiated. City paid. Positive, wonderful comments.

People want more!

The Future:

Maple Valley could benefit from higher visibility and more overt marketing of its offerings of parks and recreation as well as other community events and activities.

A cohesive wayfinding system could be designed to not only help navigate to the special places throughout the City but also to create a sense of identity, the “look and feel” of Maple Valley’s available spaces and places.

Activating the Legacy Site should have a strong emphasis on getting outdoor recreation integrated into the site design. An active challenge ropes course or similar highly visible outdoor venue should be incorporated within the development to enliven the space. Multi-use land development integrated with civic and recreational spaces, including a farmer’s market should be pursued.

An ongoing dialogue should be conducted across City departments to ensure the design and installation of public art into all public projects. The incorporation of public art can help Maple Valley develop its own unique sense of place and should be an integral consideration in all future development.

Start marketing the “park” messages and how Maple Valley is the place to be.

-- End of Notes --

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APPENDIX D

RECREATION TRENDS

The following summaries from recognized park and recreation resources provide background on national, state and local trends that may reflect potential recreational activities and facilities for future consideration in Maple Valley's park system. Examining current recreation trends can help inform potential park and recreation improvements and opportunities that may enhance the community and create a more vibrant parks system as it moves into the future.

2019 NRPA Agency Performance Review

The 2019 NRPA report summarizes the key findings from the National Recreation and Park Association's NRPA Park Metrics, their benchmarking tool that assists park and recreation professionals in the effective management and planning of their operating resources and capital facilities. The report offers a comprehensive collection of park- and recreation-related benchmarks and insights to inform professionals, key stakeholders and the public about the state of the park and recreation industry. The 2019 NRPA Agency Performance Review contains data from 1,075 unique park and recreation agencies across the United States as reported between 2016 and 2018.

Key Findings and Characteristics:

Park Facilities

- There is typically one park for every 2,181 residents.
- The typical park and recreation agency has 10.0 acres of park land for every 1,000 residents in its jurisdiction.
- An overwhelming majority of park and recreation agencies has playgrounds (94.4%) and basketball courts (86.1%) in their portfolio of outdoor assets.
- A majority of agencies offers community centers and recreation centers; two in five agencies offer senior centers.

Programming

- Key programming activities include team sports, social recreation events, fitness enhancement classes and health and wellness education.
- 82.4% of agencies offer summer camp for their community's younger residents.

Staffing

- The typical park and recreation agency has a payroll of 38.2 full-time equivalent staff (FTE's).
- The typical park and recreation agency has 8.3 FTEs on staff for each 10,000 residents in its jurisdiction.
- Operations and maintenance, programming and administration are the main responsibilities of park and recreation workers.

Budget/Finance

- The typical park agency has annual operating expenditures of \$3,834,500.
- The typical park and recreation agency has annual operating expenses of \$78.69 on a per capita basis.
- The median level of operating expenditures is \$6,750 per acre of park and non-park sites managed by the agency.
- The typical park and recreation agency spends \$93,230 in annual operating expenditures for each employee.
- At the typical park and recreation agency, personnel services account for 54.9% of the operating budget.
- The typical park and recreation agency dedicates 44.3% of its operating budget to park management and maintenance and 41.8% to recreation.

Agency Funding

- Park and recreation agencies derive 59.3% of their operating expenditures from general fund tax support.
- The typical park and recreation agency generates \$20.11 in revenue annually for each resident in the jurisdiction.
- The typical park and recreation agency recovers 27.3% of its operating expenditures from non-tax revenues.
- Park and recreation agencies spend a median of \$4,007,250 million in capital expenditures over the next five years.
- On average, just over half of the capital budget is designated for renovation, while 30.9% is aimed at new development.

Park facilities differ greatly across the local and regional park and recreation agencies in America. The typical agency participating in the NRPA park metric survey serves a jurisdiction of 39,183 people but population size can vary widely. The typical park and recreation agency has jurisdiction over 19 parks comprising a total of 432.5 acres. Park facilities also have a range of service levels in terms of acres of parkland per population and residents per park. These metrics are categorized by the agency's population size.

Figure D1. Median Residents per park based on Population Size

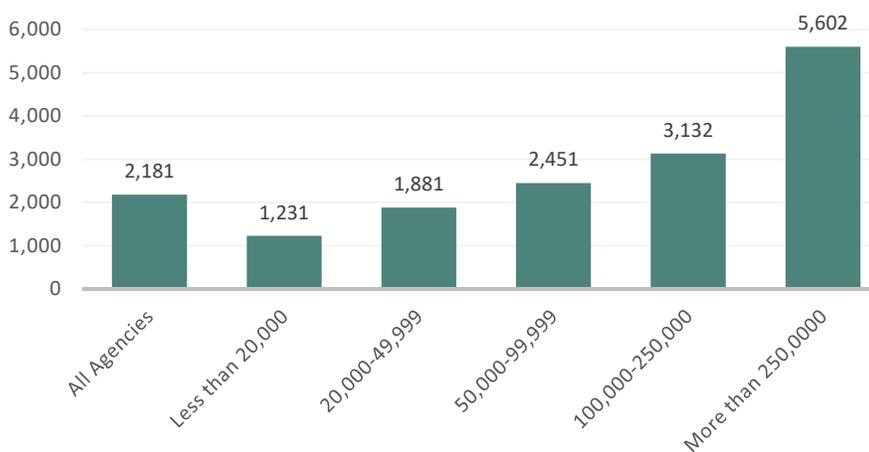
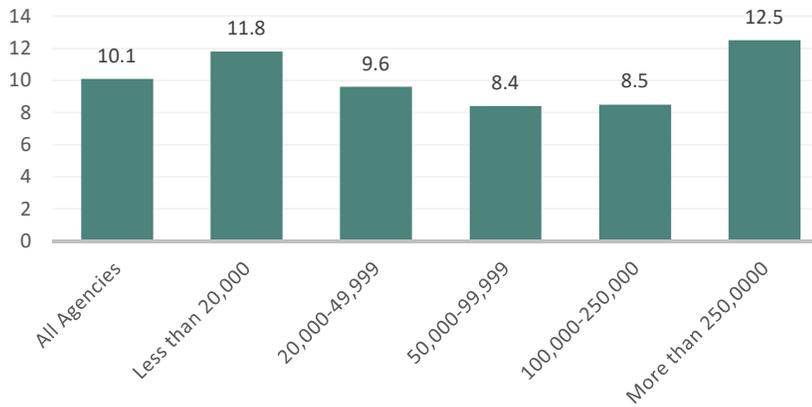


Figure D2. Acres of Parkland per 1,000 Residents based on Population Size



The typical park and recreation agency that manages or maintains trails for walking, hiking, running and/or biking has 11.0 miles of trails. Agencies serving more than 250,000 residents have a median of 82.0 miles of trails under their care.

Park and recreation agencies take on many responsibilities beyond their traditional roles of operating parks and related facilities (96%) and providing recreation programming and services (93%). In addition to those two core functions, the key responsibilities for park and recreation agencies are listed in the table below, based on percent of agencies.

Figure D3. Key Responsibilities of park and Recreation Agencies

Key P&R Responsibilities	Percent of Agencies
Operate and maintain indoor facilities	87%
Operate, maintain or manage trails, greenways and/or blueways	78%
Conduct major jurisdiction-wide special events	76%
Operate, maintain or manage special purpose parks and open spaces	71%
Include in its operating budget the funding for planning and development functions	67%
Operate and maintain non-park sites	65%
Operate, maintain or contract outdoor swim facilities/water parks	59%
Administer or manage tournament/event quality outdoor sports complexes	57%
Operate, maintain or contract tennis center facilities	51%
Administer community gardens	40%

Other responsibilities of park and recreation agencies can include golf courses, tourist attractions, outdoor amphitheaters, indoor swim facilities, farmer’s markets, indoor sports complexes, campgrounds, performing arts center, stadium/arena/racetrack, and/or fairgrounds.

Beyond the comparative metrics of park and recreation agencies, the NRPA performance report also noted trends that have significant impact on agency performance. The report

predicts that investments in park infrastructure will rise in 2019-2020 thanks to increased revenues from local tax receipts. As a result, park and recreation agencies - regardless of size, location, population served or budget - will likely be able to plan for and construct more recreation facilities. The growth of new recreation facilities and capital improvements will result in positive impacts on local, regional and state economies.

Technology will continue to have influence on parks from monitoring systems and beacon counters to biometric identification systems. Questions of data security will remain paramount as these technologies become less expensive and more prevalent. Recreational and commercial scale drones are more prevalent and both the advantage for imaging, mapping and monitoring and the potential for disruptive uses will become factors in application and management.

The consolidation of public services continues to affect park and recreation agencies. The potential opportunity to reduce costs and allow for greater efficiencies may pressure governments to combine park facilities with public schools or consolidate with public works. This trend can present both opportunities and threats to the efficient and effective functioning of park and recreation services.

Emerging trends will continue to encourage park and recreation providers to become more nimble and more adaptable to the ever changing conditions and public expectations for sustained high-level performance. Agencies must be proactive in assessing their position and be fully grounded in reliable data about their investments, operations and tangible results.

The State of the Industry Report

Recreation Management magazine's 2017 State of the Industry Report summarizes the opinions and information Recreation Management magazine's 2018 State of the Managed Recreation Industry report summarizes the opinions and information provided by a wide range of professionals (with an average 21.3 years of experience) working in the recreation, sports and fitness facilities. The 2018 report indicated that many (86.6%) recreation, sports and fitness facility owners form partnerships with other organizations, as a means of expanding their reach, offering additional programming opportunities or as a way to share resources and increase funding. Local schools are shown as the most common partner (61.3%) for all facility types. Parks and recreation organizations (95.8%) were the most likely to report that they had partnered with outside organizations.

Survey respondents from urban communities are more optimistic about positive changes to revenues, while rural respondents are not. In 2018, 41 percent of respondents said that revenues increased from 2016 to 2017, while 11.1% reported a decrease. Looking forward from 2018 to 2019, 50 percent of urban respondents expect revenues to increase, and just 4.3 percent project a decrease.

In last year's report, parks respondents had reported increases in their average operating expenditures with operating costs that grew by 58% between fiscal 2013 and fiscal 2016. After a significant increase in operating expenditures in fiscal 2016, costs have fallen again in 2017, and are expected to rise more steadily over the next two years, though not to the high reported last year. From 2017 to 2018, respondents said they expect their operating expenses to increase by 1.7 percent, followed by a further increase of 4.9 percent projected in fiscal 2019. The greatest decrease (16.8%) in average operating costs from 2016 to 2017 was reported by parks and recreation respondents.

Relative to costs and revenues, few facilities covered by the survey reported that they cover more than 90 percent of their operating costs via revenue. The percentage recovered varied with type of organization with the average percentage of costs recovered for all respondents hovering near 50%. For parks, the cost recovery rate increased from 43.4 % to 43.9 % from 2017 to 2018.

Over the past decades, public parks and recreation departments and districts have faced a growing expectation that facilities can be run like businesses. Many local facilities are expected to recover much of their operating costs via revenues. While this is the business model for for-profit facilities like health clubs, it's a relatively recent development for publicly owned facilities, which have typically been subsidized via tax dollars and other funding sources. Most recreation providers (80.5%) have been taking actions to reduce expenditures. Cost recovery actions typically involve reduction in expenses with improving energy efficiency as the most common action (48.3% of respondents). Increased fees and staffing cost reductions and putting off construction or renovation plans were reported as other common methods for reducing operating costs.

Utilization of recreation facilities has shown steady increases by the majority of respondents. Looking forward, more than half of respondents expect to see further increases in the number of people using their facilities. The expectation is that this trend will continue in the next two years.

This year saw a fairly significant drop in the average number of people employed at the organizations covered by the survey. After several years of steady growth, to a high of 147.6 employees in 2017, the average number of employees dropped by 21.7% in the past year. On average, this year's survey respondents employ 28.2 full-time workers, 39.8 part-time employees, 44.8 seasonal workers, 43.2 volunteers, and 9.1 employees of some other designation. In 2018, more than three-quarters (77.7%) of respondents said they plan to maintain existing staff levels, up from 57% in 2017.

A majority of respondents (83.2%) require certifications for some of their staff members to help measure and verify specific types of professional knowledge and skill. Of those respondents that require certification, the most common types of certification required included CPR/AED/First Aid (required by 90.3% of those who said they require some staff members to be certified), background checks (83.4%), and lifeguard certification (56.3%).

Over the past five years, the percentage of respondents who indicate that they have plans for construction, whether new facilities or additions or renovations to their existing facilities, has grown steadily, from 62.7 percent in 2013 to 69.5 percent in 2018. Construction plans of all kinds are most common among camps and parks. For camp respondents, 47.1 percent are planning new facilities, 45.9 percent are planning additions, and 60 percent are planning renovations. They were followed by parks, 33.9 percent of whom have plans for new construction, 32.6 percent for additions, and 57.7 percent for renovations.

Parks saw modest increases to their construction budgets from 2016 to 2018, with respondents expecting to see increases of 13.5%. Public organizations saw the sharpest increase to their construction budgets from 2016 to 2018, with an increase of 28.7 percent, from \$3,877,000 in 2016 to \$4,990,000 in 2018.

Parks respondents were more likely than other facility types to include: playgrounds (86.7% of parks respondents had playgrounds); park shelters (80%); park restroom structures (75.6%); outdoor sports courts (74.4%); community and multipurpose centers (58.4%); bike trails

(46.4%); skate parks (41.1%); dog parks (38.8%); community gardens (33.7%); disc golf courses (32.9%); fitness trails and outdoor fitness equipment (32.6%); splash play areas (30.7%); golf courses (19.9%); ice rinks (17.6%); waterparks (16.8%); and bike/BMX parks (11.4%).

Park respondents (56.2%) reported plans to add features at their facilities. The top 10 planned features for all facility types include:

1. Splash play areas (23.6%)
2. Synthetic turf sports fields (17%)
3. Fitness trails and/or outdoor fitness equipment (16.4%)
4. Fitness centers (16.3%)
5. Walking/hiking trails (15.5%)
6. Playgrounds (15.2%)
7. Park shelters (13.6%)
8. Dog parks (13.5%)
9. Exercise studios (12.9%)
10. Disc golf courses (12.9%)

Respondents from community centers, parks and health clubs were the most likely to report that they had plans to add programs at their facilities over the next few years. The 10 most commonly planned program additions in 2018 include:

1. Fitness programs (planned by 25.9% of those who will be adding programs)
2. Educational programs (25.7%)
3. Mind-body balance programs (23.3%)
4. Teen programs (22.7%)
5. Environmental education (20.7%)
6. Day camps and summer camps (20.3%)
7. Special needs programs (18.9%)
8. Adult sports teams (18.5%)
9. Holidays and other special events (18.3%)
10. Individual sports activities (17.5%)

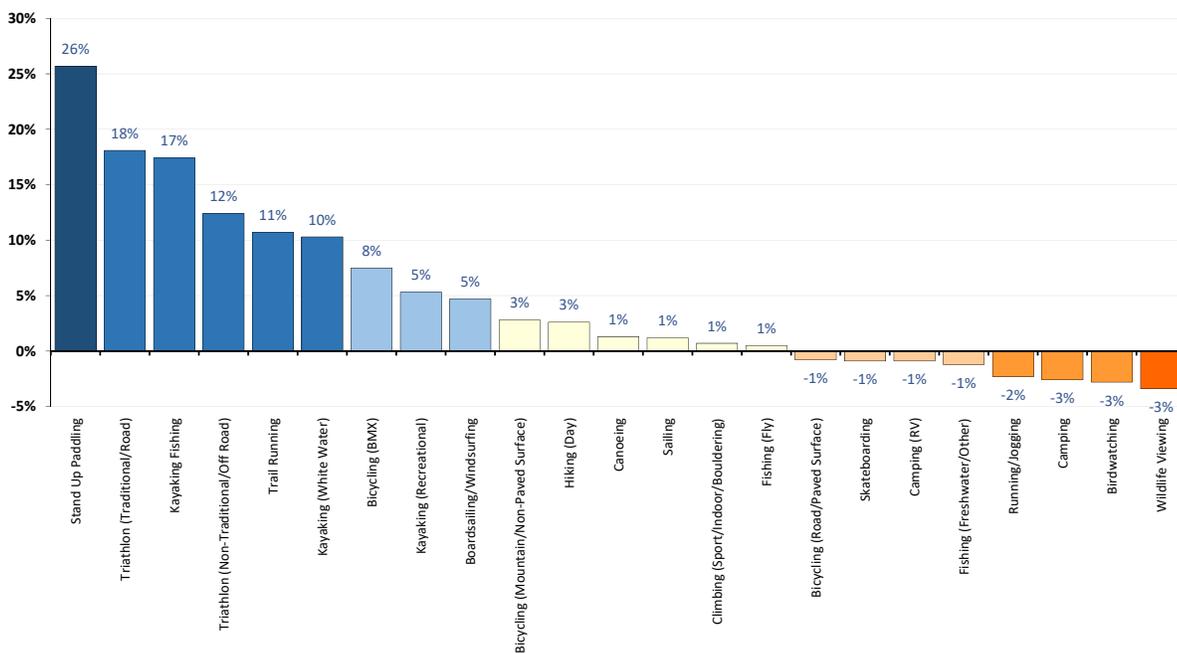
While in general, overall budgets are the top concern for most respondents, equipment and facility maintenance lead the issues of budgetary challenges with staffing as the second most common concern. Marketing, safety/risk management, and creating new and innovative programming are continuing challenges for facility managers. Current concerns on the rise in 2018 include older adult fitness and wellness, legislative issues, environmental and conservation issues and social equity and access.

The Outdoor Participation Report

According to 2018 Outdoor Participation Report, published by the Outdoor Foundation in Boulder, Colorado, more than 146.1 million Americans (49%) participated in an outdoor activity at least once in 2017. These outdoor participants went on a total of 10.9 billion outdoor outings, a decrease from 11.0 billion in 2016. Participation in outdoor recreation, team sports and indoor fitness activities vary by an individual's age. Recent trend highlights include the following:

- Twenty percent (20%) of outdoor enthusiasts participated in outdoor activities at least twice per week.
- Running, including jogging and trail running, was the most popular activity among Americans when measured by number of participants and by number of total annual outings.
- Nineteen percent (19%) outdoor participants lived in the South Atlantic region of the US, making its population the most active in outdoor activities.
- Walking for fitness was the most popular crossover activity where 45.8% of all outdoor participants also walked.
- Data shows that adults who were introduced to the outdoors as children were more likely to participate in outdoor activities during adulthood than those who were not exposed to the outdoors as children.
- The biggest motivator for outdoor participation was getting exercise.

Figure D4. 3-Year Change in Outdoor Recreation Participation of Youth (6-24)



Favorite activities and participation rates range with demographics. In 2017, the average participant had 15 years of experience enjoying outdoor recreation. The data shows, as would be expected, that the amount of experience increased as the participant aged. Those ages 45 and up averaged 25 years as outdoor participants.

Sports, Fitness & Leisure Activities Topline Participation Report

Prepared by a partnership of the Sports and Fitness Industry Association (SFIA) and the Physical Activity Council (PAC), this 2018 participation report establishes levels of activity and identifies key trends in sports, fitness, and recreation in the US. The largest focus of activities continues to be toward fitness sports. Winter sports gained the most of all categories, increasing 2% over the last year. The interest in activities has started moving toward outdoor recreation. The top aspirational activity for all age segments was outside, ranging from camping to biking to birdwatching.

Fitness sports/activities continues to have the highest participation rates; having 64% of the US population ages 6 and over engaging in activities like running/jogging, high intensity/impact training, row machines, and swimming. Outdoor activities remained second but was flat from 2016; seeing a increase in day hiking and backpacking, but lost participants in canoeing and adventure racing.

While age clearly affects how often someone participates, what they do can also be age dependent. Young kids, ages 6 to 17, who tend to be more active overall, focus on team sports and outdoor activities. While Boomers prefer fitness activities, especially low impact such as aquatic exercise, cycling, and walking. Millennials are more likely than the other generations to participate in water sports, such as stand up paddling, boardsailing, and surfing.

Inactivity rates remain higher than 10 years ago despite the promotion of the benefits of an active lifestyle. Over a quarter of the US population (ages 6 and over) did not participate in even the lowest caloric activity in 2017. Trends continue to show how income affects inactivity. Generally, the affluent are getting more active while the less affluent are becoming more inactive.

Despite aspirations to become more active, the biggest influence on engaging more participants is having a friend or family member to take part in the physical activity. First time participation depends on who you are doing it with more than if you have the time.

National Survey on Recreation and the Environment

The National Survey on Recreation and the Environment (NSRE) is a comprehensive survey that has been collecting data and producing reports about the recreation activities, environmental attitudes and natural resource values of Americans since the 1980s. The NSRE core focus is on outdoor activity participation and personal demographics. The most recent 2012 NSRE reports the total number of people participating in outdoor activities between 2000 and 2007 grew by 4.4% while the number of days of participation increased by approximately 25 percent. Walking for pleasure grew by 14% and continues to lead as the top favorite outdoor activity.

Nature-based activities, those associated with wildlife and natural settings, showed a discernible growth in the number of people (an increase in 3.1% participation rate) and the number of days of participation. American's participation in nature-based outdoor recreation is increasing with viewing, photographing, or otherwise observing nature clearly measured as the fastest growing type of nature-based recreation activity.

Americans Engagement with Parks Survey (from NRPA)

The vast offerings of the local park and recreation agency improve the lives of people throughout our nation. From the fact that Americans on average visit their local park and recreation facilities approximately 29 times a year to the majority of Americans identifying parks and recreation as an important service provided by their local government, the general public is an untapped advocate to spread the public park and recreation story.

This annual study probes Americans' usage of parks, the key reasons that drive their use and the greatest challenges preventing greater usage. Each year, the study probes the importance of public parks in Americans' lives, including how parks compare to other services and offerings of local governments. The survey of 1,000 American adults looks at frequency and drivers of parks/recreation facilities visits and the barriers to that prevent greater enjoyment. Survey respondents

also indicate the importance of park and recreation plays in their decisions at the voting booth and their level of support for greater funding.

Key Findings:

- Americans on average visit their local park and recreation facilities approximately 29 times a year, with 3 in 5 saying their most recent visit was within the past month.
- Three in four Americans agree that the NRPA Three Pillars of Conservation, Health and Wellness, and Social Equity represent what they see as the priorities for their local park and recreation agency.
- Nine in 10 Americans agree that parks and recreation are important services delivered by their local government.
- Seven in 10 Americans say they are more likely to vote for local politicians who make park and recreation funding a priority.
- Three-quarters of Americans support increased local government spending for park and recreation agencies with solid support for a nearly 30 percent increase in funding for local park and recreation agencies.

Washington Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

The 2018-2022 Recreation and Conservation Plan for Washington State provides a strategic direction to help assure the effective and adequate provision of outdoor recreation and conservation to meet the needs of Washington State residents. The plan identified near and long-term priorities with specific actions within each priority to help meet the outdoor recreation and conservation needs within the state. Five priority areas:

1. Sustain and Grow the Legacy of Parks, Trails, and Conservation Lands
2. Improve Equity of Parks, Trails, and Conservation Lands
3. Meet the Needs of Youth
4. Plan for Culturally Relevant Parks and Trails to Meet Changing Demographics
5. Assert Recreation and Conservation as a Vital Public Service

Sustain & Grow the Legacy

A wealth of existing recreation and conservation areas and facilities should be kept open, safe and enjoyable for all. Some modification to meet the interests of today's population may be needed at some facilities. Sustaining existing areas while expanding and building new facilities to keep up with a growing population is one of the five priority goals.

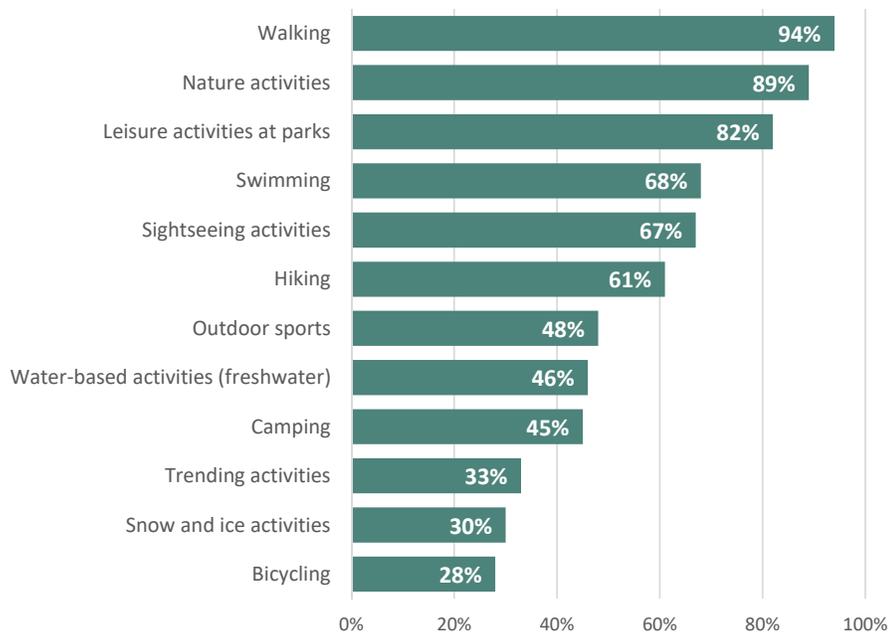
Improve Equity

The National Recreation and Park Association's position on social equity states:

“Our nation's public parks and recreation services should be equally accessible and available to all people regardless of income level, ethnicity, gender, ability, or age. Public parks, recreation services and recreation programs including the maintenance, safety, and accessibility of parks and facilities, should be provided on an equitable basis to all citizens of communities served by public agencies.”

The Washington plan restates that equity goal for all its citizens. Improving equity is also a strategy for improving a community's health. Current statewide participation rates in outdoor activities were surveyed as part of the plan.

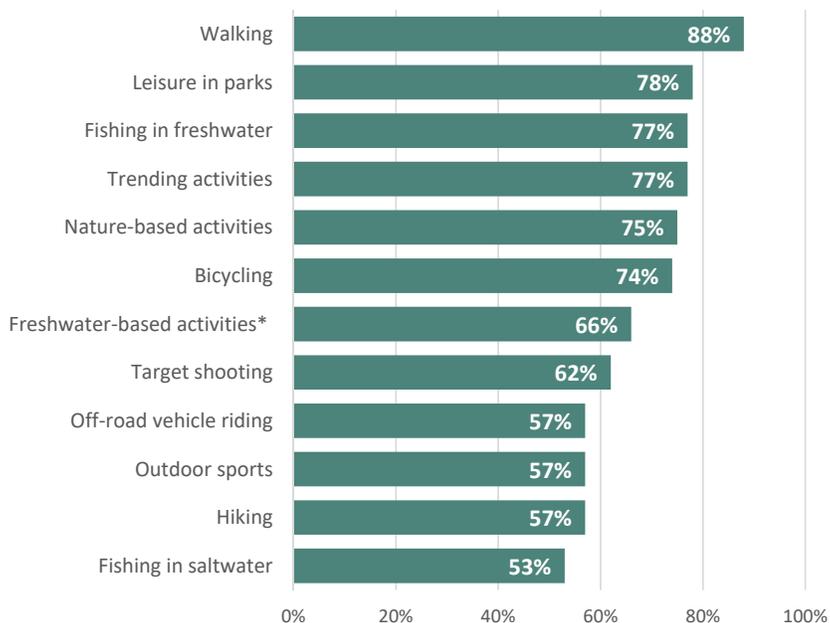
Figure D5. Participation Rates for Washington Residents in Outdoor Activities



Get Youth Outside

Washington State youth participate in outdoor activities to a greater extent than those found nationally. Park and recreation providers are urged to offer a variety of outdoor activities for youth and to support youth programs. Most youth are walking, playing at a park, trying new or trending activities, fishing in freshwater, exploring nature, and riding bikes. Other activities of interest to youth are activities in freshwater such as boating and paddling, fishing in saltwater, and target shooting, hiking, outdoor sports, and riding off-road vehicles.

Figure D6. Youth Participation Rates for Washington Residents in Outdoor Activities



Plan for Culturally Relevant parks and Trails to Meet Changing Demographics

Washington's population is expected to grow by 2 million people by 2040 leading to more congestion and competition for recreation resources. Between 2010-2040, the percent of people of color are expected to increase from 27 percent to 44 percent. With the cultural change in the population, preferred recreational activities also will change. By 2030, more than one of every five Washingtonians will be 65 years old or older. By 2040, there will be more seniors than youth. Park and recreation providers should be prepared to create new and diverse opportunities and accommodate the active senior population.

Assert Recreation and Conservation as a Vital Public Service

The 2018-2022 Washington SCORP recognizes that outdoor recreation contributes to a strong economy and is a public investment like other public services and infrastructure. The report cites the Outdoor Industry Association and other economic studies that reinforce the importance of park and recreation services locally, regionally and statewide.

APPENDIX E

IMPLEMENTATION TOOLS & TACTICS

LOCAL FUNDING OPTIONS

The City of Maple Valley possesses a range of local funding tools that could be accessed for the benefit of growing, developing and maintaining its parks and recreation program. The sources listed below represent likely potential sources, but some also may be dedicated for numerous other local purposes which limit applicability and usage. Therefore, discussions with City leadership are critical to assess the political landscape to modify or expand the use of existing City revenue sources in favor of park and recreation programs.

Councilmanic Bonds

Councilmanic bonds may be sold by cities without public vote. The bonds, both principal and interest, are retired with payments from existing city revenue or new general tax revenue, such as additional sales tax or real estate excise tax. The state constitution has set a maximum debt limit for councilmanic bonds of 1½% of the value of taxable property in the city.

General Obligation Bond

For the purposes of funding capital projects, such as land acquisitions or facility construction, cities and counties have the authority to borrow money by selling bonds. Voter-approved general obligation bonds may be sold only after receiving a 60 percent majority vote at a general or special election. If approved, an excess property tax is levied each year for the life of the bond to pay both principal and interest. The state constitution (Article VIII, Section 6) limits total debt to 5% of the total assessed value of property in the jurisdiction.

Excess Levy – One Year Only

Cities and counties that are levying their statutory maximum rate can ask the voters, at any special election date, to raise their rate for one year (RCW 84.52.052). As this action increases revenue for one-year at a time it is wise to request this type of funding for one-time uses only.

Regular Property Tax - Lid Lift

Cities are authorized to impose ad valorem taxes upon real and personal property. A city's maximum levy rate for general purposes is \$3.375 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. Limitations on annual increases in tax collections, coupled with changes in property value, causes levy rates to rise or fall; however, in no case may they rise above statutory limits. Once the rate is established each year, it may not be raised without the approval of a majority of the voters. Receiving voter approval is known as a lid lift. A lid lift may be permanent, or may be for a specific purpose and time period.

A levy lid lift is an instrument for increasing property tax levies for operating and/or capital purposes. Taxing districts with a tax rate that is less than their statutory maximum rate may ask the voters to “lift” the levy lid by increasing the tax rate to some amount equal to or less than their statutory maximum rate. A simple majority vote of citizenry is required.

Cities and counties have two “lift” options available to them: Single-year/basic or Multi-year.

Single-year: The single-year lift does not mean that the lift goes away after one year; it can be for any amount of time, including permanently, unless the proceeds will be used for debt service on bonds, in which case the maximum time period is nine years. Districts may permanently increase the levy but must use language in the ballot title expressly stating that future levies will increase as allowed by chapter 84.55 RCW. After the initial “lift” in the first year, the district’s levy in future years is subject to the 101 percent lid in chapter 84.55 RCW. This is the maximum amount it can increase without returning to the voters for another lid lift.

The election to implement a single-year lift may take place on any election date listed in RCW 29A.04.321.

Multi-year: The multi-year lift allows the levy lid to be “bumped up” each year for up to a maximum of six years. At the end of the specified period, the levy in the final period may be designated as the basis for the calculation of all future levy increases (in other words, be made permanent) if expressly stated in the ballot title. The levy in future years would then be subject to the 101 percent lid in chapter 84.55 RCW.

In a multi-year lift, the lift for the first year must state the new tax rate for that year. For the ensuing years, the lift may be a dollar amount, a percentage increase tied to an index, or a percentage amount set by some other method. The amounts do not need to be the same for each year. If the amount of the increase for a particular year would require a tax rate that is above the maximum tax rate, the assessor will levy only the maximum amount allowed by law.

The election to implement a multi-year lift must be either the August primary or the November general election.

The single-year lift allows supplanting of expenditures within the lift period; the multi-year lift does not, and the purpose for the lift must be specifically identified in the election materials. For both single- and multi-year lifts, when the lift expires the base for future levies will revert to what the dollar amount would have been if no lift had ever been done.

The total regular levy rate of senior taxing districts (counties and cities) and junior taxing districts (fire districts, library districts, etc.) may not exceed \$5.90/\$1,000 AV. If this limit is exceeded, levies are reduced or eliminated in the following order until the total tax rate is at \$5.90.

1. Parks & Recreation Districts (up to \$0.60)
Parks & Recreation Service Areas (up to \$0.60)
Cultural Arts, Stadiums & Convention Districts (up to \$0.25)
2. Flood Control Zone Districts (up to \$0.50)
3. Hospital Districts (up to \$0.25)
Metropolitan Parks Districts (up to \$0.25)
All other districts not otherwise mentioned

4. Metropolitan Park Districts formed after January 1, 2002 or after (up to \$0.50)
5. Fire Districts (up to \$0.25)
6. Fire Districts (remaining \$0.50)
 - Regional Fire Protection Service Authorities (up to \$0.50)
 - Library Districts (up to \$0.50)
 - Hospital Districts (up to \$0.50)
 - Metropolitan Parks Districts formed before January 1, 2002 (up to \$0.50)

Sales Tax

Paid by the consumer, sales tax is a percentage of the retail price paid for specific classifications of goods and services within the State of Washington.

Governing bodies of cities and counties may impose sales taxes within their boundaries at a rate set by state statute and local ordinances, subject to referendum.

Until the 1990 Legislative Session, the maximum possible total sales tax rate paid by purchasers in cities was 8.1 percent. This broke down as follows: state, 6.5 cents on the dollar; counties, 0.15 cents; cities, 0.85 cents; and transit districts, a maximum of 0.6 cents (raised to 0.9 cents in 2000). Since then multiple sales options were authorized. Those applicable to Parks and Recreation include: counties may ask voters to approve a sales tax of up to 0.3 percent, which is shared with cities. At least one-third of the revenue must be used for criminal justice purposes.

Counties and cities may also form public facilities districts, and these districts may ask the voters to approve a sales tax of up to 0.2 percent. The proceeds may be used for financing, designing, acquisition, construction, equipping, operating, maintaining, remodeling, repairing, and reequipping its public facilities.

Revenue may be used to fund any essential county and municipal service.

If a jurisdiction is going to change a sales tax rate or levy a new sales tax, it must pass an ordinance to that effect and submit it to the Department of Revenue at least 75 days before the effective date. The effective date must be the first day of a quarter: January 1, April 1, July 1 or October 1.

Business and Occupation Tax

Business and occupation (B&O) taxes are excise taxes levied on different classes of business to raise revenue. Taxes are levied as a percentage of the gross receipts of a business, less some deductions. Businesses are put in different classes such as manufacturing, wholesaling, retailing, and services. Within each class, the rate must be the same, but it may differ among classes.

Cities can impose this tax for the first time or raise rates following referendum procedure.

B&O taxes are limited to a maximum tax rate that can be imposed by a city's legislative body at 0.2 percent (0.002), but grandfathered in any higher rates that existed on January 1, 1982. Any city may levy a rate higher than 0.2 percent, if it is approved by a majority of voters (RCW 35.21.711). Beginning January 1, 2008, cities that levy the B&O tax must allow for allocation and apportionment, as set out in RCW 35.102.130.

Admissions Tax

An admissions tax is a use tax for entertainment. Both cities and counties may impose this tax through legislative action.

Cities and/or counties may levy an admission tax in an amount no greater than five percent of the admission charge, as is authorized by statute (cities: RCW 35.21.280; counties: RCW 35.57.100). This tax can be levied on admission charges (including season tickets) to places such as theaters, dance halls, circuses, clubs that have cover charges, observation towers, stadiums, and any other activity where an admission charge is made to enter the facility.

If a city imposes an admissions tax, the county may not levy a tax within city boundaries.

The statutes provide an exception for admission to elementary or secondary school activities. Generally, certain events sponsored by non-profits are exempted from the tax; however, this is not a requirement. Counties also exempt any public facility of a public facility district for which admission is imposed. There are no statutory restrictions on the use of revenue.

Impact Fees

Development impact fees are charges placed on new development in unimproved areas to help pay for various public facilities that serve new development or for other impacts associated with such development.

Both cities and counties may impose this tax through legislative action.

Counties that plan under the GMA, and cities, may impose impact fees on residential and commercial development activity to help pay for certain public facility improvements, including parks, open space, and recreation facilities identified in the county's capital facilities plan. The improvements financed from impact fees must be reasonably related to the new development and must reasonably benefit the new development. The fees must be spent or encumbered within ten years of collection.

Real Estate Excise Tax

Excise tax levied on all sales of real estate, measured by the full selling price, including the amount of any liens, mortgages, and other debts given to secure the purchase. Both cities and counties may impose this tax through legislative action.

REET 2 must be approved by majority vote if the county chooses to fully plan under the Growth Management act (GMA); it may be approved by legislative action if the county is required to plan under the GMA.

The state levies this tax at the rate of 1.28 percent; a locally-imposed tax is also authorized. Counties and cities may levy a quarter percent tax (REET 1); a second quarter percent tax (REET 2) is authorized. First quarter percent REET (REET 1) must be spent on capital projects listed in the city's capital facilities plan element of their comprehensive plan. Capital projects include planning, acquisition, construction, reconstruction, repair, replacement, rehabilitation, or improvement of parks, recreational facilities, and trails.

The second quarter percent REET (REET 2) must also be spent on capital projects, which includes planning, construction, reconstruction, repair, rehabilitation, or improvement of parts.

Acquisition of land for parks is not a permitted use of REET 2. Both REET 1 and REET 2 may be used to make loan and debt service payments on projects that are a permitted use of these funds.

Lodging Tax

The lodging tax is a user fee for hotel/motel occupation. Both cities and counties may impose this tax through legislative action.

Cities and/or counties may impose a “basic” two percent tax under RCW 67.28.180 on all charges for furnishing lodging at hotels, motels and similar establishments for a continuous period of less than one month.

This tax is taken as a credit against the 6.5% state sales tax, so that the total tax that a patron pays in retail sales tax and hotel-motel tax combined is equal to the retail sales tax in the jurisdiction. In addition, jurisdictions may levy an additional tax of up to two percent, or a total rate of four percent, under RCW 67.28.181(1). This is not credited against the state sales tax. Therefore, if this tax is levied, the total tax on the lodging bill will increase by two percent.

If both a city and the county are levying this tax, the county must allow a credit for any tax levied by a city so that no two taxes are levied on the same taxable event. These revenues must be used solely for paying for tourism promotion and for the acquisition and/or operating of tourism-related facilities. “Tourism” is defined as economic activity resulting from tourists, which may include sales of overnight lodging, meals, tours, gifts, or souvenirs; there is no requirement that a tourist must stay overnight.

Real Estate Excise Tax - Local Conservation Areas (King County)

Boards of County Commissioners may impose, with majority voter approval, an excise tax on each sale of real property in the county at rate not to exceed 1% of the selling price for the purpose of acquiring and maintaining conservation areas. The authorizing legislation defines conservation areas as “land and water that has environmental, agricultural, aesthetic, cultural, scientific, historic, scenic, or low-intensity recreational value for existing and future generations...” These areas include “open spaces, wetlands, marshes, aquifer recharge areas, shoreline areas, natural areas, and other lands and waters that are important to preserve flora and fauna.” King County does not currently assess a Conservation REET.

Conservation Futures Tax (King County)

The Conservation Futures Tax (CFT) is provided for in Chapter 84.34 of the Revised Code of Washington. King County imposes a Conservation Futures levy at a rate of \$0.0625 per \$1,000 assessed value for the purpose of acquiring open space lands, including green spaces, greenbelts, wildlife habitat and trail rights-of-way proposed for preservation for public use by either the county or the cities within the county. Funds are allocated annually, and cities within the county, citizen groups and citizens may apply for funds through the county’s process. The CFT program provides grants to cities to support open space priorities in local plans and requires a 100% match from other sources.

FEDERAL & STATE GRANTS AND CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program

The Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program, also known as the Rivers & Trails Program or RTCA, is a technical assistance resource for communities administered by the National Park Service and federal government agencies so they can conserve rivers, preserve open space and develop trails and greenways. The RTCA program implements the natural resource conservation and outdoor recreation mission of NPS in communities across America.

Community Development Block Grants

These funds are intended to develop viable urban communities by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment, and by expanding economic opportunities, principally for low and moderate income persons. Snohomish County, in partnership with 18 cities and towns within the county through an interlocal agreement, receives CDBG funds on an entitlement basis as an Urban County Consortium. The county administers this funding on behalf of the consortium through the Snohomish County Office of Housing and Community Development (OHCD). CDBG funds can be used for a wide variety of projects, services, facilities and infrastructure.

North American Wetlands Conservation Act Grants Program

The North American Wetlands Conservation Act of 1989 provides matching grants to organizations and individuals who have developed partnerships to carry out wetland conservation projects in the United States, Canada, and Mexico for the benefit of wetlands-associated migratory birds and other wildlife. Two competitive grants programs exist (Standard and a Small Grants Program) and require that grant requests be matched by partner contributions at no less than a 1-to-1 ratio. Funds from U.S. Federal sources may contribute toward a project, but are not eligible as match.

The Standard Grants Program supports projects in Canada, the United States, and Mexico that involve long-term protection, restoration, and/or enhancement of wetlands and associated uplands habitats.

The Small Grants Program operates only in the United States; it supports the same type of projects and adheres to the same selection criteria and administrative guidelines as the U.S. Standard Grants Program. However, project activities are usually smaller in scope and involve fewer project dollars. Grant requests may not exceed \$75,000, and funding priority is given to grantees or partners new to the Act's Grants Program.

Recreation and Conservation Office Grant Programs

The Recreation and Conservation Office was created in 1964 as part of the Marine Recreation Land Act. The RCO grants money to state and local agencies, generally on a matching basis, to acquire, develop, and enhance wildlife habitat and outdoor recreation properties. Some money is also distributed for planning grants. RCO grant programs utilize funds from various sources. Historically, these have included the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund, state bonds,

Initiative 215 monies (derived from unreclaimed marine fuel taxes), off-road vehicle funds, Youth Athletic Facilities Account and the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program.

Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA)

This program, managed through the RCO, provides matching grants to state and local agencies to protect and enhance salmon habitat and to provide public access and recreation opportunities on aquatic lands. In 1998, DNR refocused the ALEA program to emphasize salmon habitat preservation and enhancement. However, the program is still open to traditional water access proposals. Any project must be located on navigable portions of waterways. ALEA funds are derived from the leasing of state-owned aquatic lands and from the sale of harvest rights for shellfish and other aquatic resources.

Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP)

The RCO is a state office that allocates funds to local and state agencies for the acquisition and development of wildlife habitat and outdoor recreation properties. Funding sources managed by the RCO include the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program. The WWRP is divided into Habitat Conservation and Outdoor Recreation Accounts; these are further divided into several project categories. Cities, counties and other local sponsors may apply for funding in urban wildlife habitat, local parks, trails and water access categories. Funds for local agencies are awarded on a matching basis. Grant applications are evaluated once each year, and the State Legislature must authorize funding for the WWRP project lists.

Land and Water Conservation Fund

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) provides grants to buy land and develop public outdoor facilities, including parks, trails and wildlife lands. Grant recipients must provide at least 50% matching funds in either cash or in-kind contributions. Grant program revenue is from a portion of Federal revenue derived from sale or lease of off-shore oil and gas resources.

National Recreational Trails Program

The National Recreational Trails Program (NRTP) provides funds to maintain trails and facilities that provide a backcountry experience for a range of activities including hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, motorcycling, and snowmobiling. Eligible projects include the maintenance and re-routing of recreational trails, development of trail-side and trail-head facilities, and operation of environmental education and trail safety programs. A local match of 20% is required. This program is funded through Federal gasoline taxes attributed to recreational non-highway uses.

Youth Athletic Facilities (YAF) Program

The YAF provides grants to develop, equip, maintain, and improve youth and community athletic facilities. Cities, counties, and qualified non-profit organizations may apply for funding, and grant recipients must provide at least 50% matching funds in either cash or in-kind contributions.

Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration Fund

Grants are awarded by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board for acquisition or restoration of lands directly correlating to salmon habitat protection or recovery. Projects must

demonstrate a direct benefit to fish habitat. There is no match requirement for design-only projects; acquisition and restoration projects require a 15% match. The funding source includes the sale of state general obligation bonds, the federal Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund and the state Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration Fund.

STP/CMAQ Regional Competition - Puget Sound Regional Council

Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds are considered the most “flexible” funding source provided through the federal Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient, Transportation Equity Act (SAFETEA-LU). Many types of projects are eligible, including transit, carpool/vanpool, bicycle/pedestrian, safety, traffic monitoring/management, and planning projects, along with the more traditional road and bridge projects. The purpose of the Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) program is to fund transportation projects or programs that will contribute to attainment or maintenance of the national ambient air quality standards for ozone, carbon monoxide and particulate matter. The two goals of improving air quality and relieving congestion were strengthened under SAFETEA-LU by a new provision establishing priority consideration for cost-effective emission reduction and congestion mitigation activities when using CMAQ funding. The King County Growth Management Planning Council serves as the countywide board in the allocation of some federal transportation grant funds to projects within King County, through the Puget Sound Regional Council.

King County Grant Exchange

The Grant Exchange is a clearinghouse of grant and technical assistance programs offered by the King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks with the goals of protecting and enhancing the environment, increasing community stewardship, and providing expertise and consultation to projects. Grants and technical support are an important way in which King County increases opportunities for community stewardship of natural resources. These funds are leveraged by developing and strengthening partnerships with community organizations and local governments. On average, every dollar invested through grants is matched by three dollars in cash and in-kind contributions.

Wild Places in City Spaces

Wild Places in City Spaces provides grants up to \$10,000 to volunteer organizations, community groups and government agencies for projects reforesting urban areas and restoring habitat within the urban growth area of King County. Funds are available under the Urban Reforestation and Habitat Restoration Grants Program. Grants support projects to reforest urban areas, remove invasive non-native plant species or provide wildlife habitats.

Natural Resource Stewardship Network

The Natural Resource Stewardship Network assists urban forestry and watershed stewardship projects and provides grants and technical assistance to projects that involve communities and youth in improving neighborhood green spaces and forests. Grants of up to \$20,000 are available for projects within the urban growth area of King County that enhance, protect and manage urban forest, soil and water resources and will reimburse up to 50% of labor and materials costs. Inner-city and low income communities receive priority for support. Funds are provided by the King County Forestry Program and the King Conservation District.

WaterWorks Grants

Individual grants up to \$50,000 are available for community projects that protect or improve watersheds, streams, rivers, lakes, wetlands and tidewater. Projects must have a demonstrable positive impact on the waters of King County and provide opportunities for stewardship. A minimum of 10 percent cash match is required for awards more than \$2,500.

King County Youth Sports Facilities Grant (YSFG)

The Youth Sports Facilities Grant Program is intended to facilitate new athletic opportunities for youth in King County by providing matching grant funds to rehabilitate or develop sports fields and facilities. The maximum award is \$75,000 and projects should be located on public land or have public access for the proposed youth sports use.

King County Cultural Heritage Grants through 4Culture

As the cultural funding agency for King County, 4Culture offers grants and cultural support in four program areas – arts, heritage, historic preservation and public art. Funding is provided from lodging tax and 1% for Art funds. The City of Maple Valley should continue to support the Maple Valley Heritage Society and other community partners in cultural grant funding efforts.

Other Methods & Funding Sources

Metropolitan Park District

Metropolitan park districts may be formed for the purposes of management, control, improvement, maintenance and acquisition of parks, parkways and boulevards. In addition to acquiring and managing their own lands, metropolitan districts may accept and manage park and recreation lands and equipment turned over by any city within the district or by the county. Formation of a metropolitan park district may be initiated in cities of five thousand population or more by city council ordinance, or by petition, and requires majority approval by voters for creation.

Park and Recreation District

Park and recreation districts may be formed for the purposes of providing leisure-time activities and recreation facilities (parks, playgrounds, pools, golf courses, paths, community centers, arboretums, campgrounds, boat launches, etc.) and must be initiated by petition of at least 15% percent of the registered voters within the proposed district. Upon completion of the petition process and review by county commissioners, a proposition for district formation and election of five district commissioners is submitted to the voters of the proposed district at the next general election. Once formed, park and recreation districts retain the authority to propose a regular property tax levy, annual excess property tax levies and general obligation bonds. All three of these funding types require 60% percent voter approval and 40% percent voter turnout. With voter approval, the district may levy a regular property tax not to exceed sixty cents per thousand dollars of assessed value for up to six consecutive years.

Park and Recreation Service Area (PRSA)

Purpose to finance, acquire, construct, improve, maintain or operate any park, senior citizen activities center, zoo, aquarium and/or recreation facilities; and to provide higher level of park service.

Business Sponsorships/Donations

Business sponsorships for programs may be available throughout the year. In-kind contributions are often received, including food, door prizes and equipment/material.

Interagency Agreements

State law provides for interagency cooperative efforts between units of government. Joint acquisition, development and/or use of park and open space facilities may be provided between Parks, Public Works and utility providers.

Private Grants, Donations & Gifts

Many trusts and private foundations provide funding for park, recreation and open space projects. Grants from these sources are typically allocated through a competitive application process and vary dramatically in size based on the financial resources and funding criteria of the organization. Philanthropic giving is another source of project funding. Efforts in this area may involve cash gifts and include donations through other mechanisms such as wills or insurance policies. Community fundraising efforts can also support park, recreation or open space facilities and projects. The Community Foundation of Snohomish County also offers small grants (\$500 - \$5,000) to qualified non-profit organizations (501(c)(3)) or public agencies such as local government, schools, libraries or parks.

ACQUISITION TOOLS & METHODS

Direct Purchase Methods

Market Value Purchase

Through a written purchase and sale agreement, the city purchases land at the present market value based on an independent appraisal. Timing, payment of real estate taxes and other contingencies are negotiable.

Partial Value Purchase (or Bargain Sale)

In a bargain sale, the landowner agrees to sell for less than the property's fair market value. A landowner's decision to proceed with a bargain sale is unique and personal; landowners with a strong sense of civic pride, long community history or concerns about capital gains are possible candidates for this approach. In addition to cash proceeds upon closing, the landowner may be entitled to a charitable income tax deduction based on the difference between the land's fair market value and its sale price.

Life Estates & Bequests

In the event a landowner wishes to remain on the property for a long period of time or until death, several variations on a sale agreement exist. In a life estate agreement, the landowner may continue to live on the land by donating a remainder interest and retaining a "reserved life estate." Specifically, the landowner donates or sells the property to the city, but reserves the right for the seller or any other named person to continue to live on and use the property. When the owner or other specified person dies or releases his/her life interest, full title and control over the property will be transferred to the city. By donating a remainder interest, the landowner may be eligible

for a tax deduction when the gift is made. In a bequest, the landowner designates in a will or trust document that the property is to be transferred to the city upon death. While a life estate offers the city some degree of title control during the life of the landowner, a bequest does not. Unless the intent to bequest is disclosed to and known by the city in advance, no guarantees exist with regard to the condition of the property upon transfer or to any liabilities that may exist.

Gift Deed

When a landowner wishes to bequeath their property to a public or private entity upon their death, they can record a gift deed with the county assessors office to insure their stated desire to transfer their property to the targeted beneficiary as part of their estate. The recording of the gift deed usually involves the tacit agreement of the receiving party.

Option to Purchase Agreement

This is a binding contract between a landowner and the city that would only apply according to the conditions of the option and limits the seller's power to revoke an offer. Once in place and signed, the Option Agreement may be triggered at a future, specified date or upon the completion of designated conditions. Option Agreements can be made for any time duration and can include all of the language pertinent to closing a property sale.

Right of First Refusal

In this agreement, the landowner grants the city the first chance to purchase the property once the landowner wishes to sell. The agreement does not establish the sale price for the property, and the landowner is free to refuse to sell it for the price offered by the city. This is the weakest form of agreement between an owner and a prospective buyer.

Conservation and/or Access Easements

Through a conservation easement, a landowner voluntarily agrees to sell or donate certain rights associated with his or her property (often the right to subdivide or develop), and a private organization or public agency agrees to hold the right to enforce the landowner's promise not to exercise those rights. In essence, the rights are forfeited and no longer exist. This is a legal agreement between the landowner and the city that permanently limits uses of the land in order to conserve a portion of the property for public use or protection. The landowner still owns the property, but the use of the land is restricted. Conservation easements may result in an income tax deduction and reduced property taxes and estate taxes. Typically, this approach is used to provide trail corridors where only a small portion of the land is needed or for the strategic protection of natural resources and habitat. Through a written purchase and sale agreement, the city purchases land at the present market value based on an independent appraisal. Timing, payment of real estate taxes and other contingencies are negotiable.

Park or Open Space Dedication Requirements

Local governments have the option to require developers to dedicate land for parks under the State Subdivision Law (Ch. 58.17 RCW) and the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) (Ch. 43.21C RCW). Under the subdivision law developers can be required to provide the parks/recreation improvements or pay a fee in lieu of the dedicated land and its improvements. Under the SEPA requirements, land dedication may occur as part of mitigation for a proposed development's impact.

Landowner Incentive Measures

Density Bonuses

Density bonuses are a planning tool used to encourage a variety of public land use objectives, usually in urban areas. They offer the incentive of being able to develop at densities beyond current regulations in one area, in return for concessions in another. Density bonuses are applied to a single parcel or development. An example is allowing developers of multi-family units to build at higher densities if they provide a certain number of low-income units or public open space. For density bonuses to work, market forces must support densities at a higher level than current regulations.

Transfer of Development Rights

The transfer of development rights (TDR) is an incentive-based planning tool that allows land owners to trade the right to develop property to its fullest extent in one area for the right to develop beyond existing regulations in another area. Local governments may establish the specific areas in which development may be limited or restricted and the areas in which development beyond regulation may be allowed. Usually, but not always, the “sending” and “receiving” property are under common ownership. Some programs allow for different ownership, which, in effect, establishes a market for development rights to be bought and sold.

IRC 1031 Exchange

If the landowner owns business or investment property, an IRC Section 1031 Exchange can facilitate the exchange of like-kind property solely for business or investment purposes. No capital gain or loss is recognized under Internal Revenue Code Section 1031 (see www.irc.gov for more details). This option may be a useful tool in negotiations with an owner of investment property, especially if the tax savings offset to the owner can translate to a sale price discount for the City.

Current (Open Space) Use Taxation Programs

Property owners whose current lands are in open space, agricultural, and/or timber uses may have that land valued at their current use rather than their “highest and best” use assessment. This differential assessed value, allowed under the Washington Open Space Taxation Act (Ch.84.34 RCW) helps to preserve private properties as open space, farm or timber lands. If land is converted to other non-open space uses, the land owner is required to pay the difference between the current use annual taxes and highest/best taxes for the previous seven years. When properties are sold to a local government or conservation organization for land conservation/preservation purposes, the required payment of seven years worth of differential tax rates is waived. The amount of this tax liability can be part of the negotiated land acquisition from private to public or quasi-public conservation purposes. Snohomish County has four current use taxation programs that offer this property tax reduction as an incentive to landowners to voluntarily preserve open space, farmland or timber land on their property. More information is available at:

Other Land Protection Options

Land Trusts & Conservancies

Land trusts are private non-profit organizations that acquire and protect special open spaces and are traditionally not associated with any government agency. Forterra (formerly called the Cascade Land Conservancy) is the regional land trust serving the Maple Valley area, and their efforts have led to the conservation of more than 234,000 acres of forests, farms, shorelines, parks and natural areas in the region (www.forterra.org). Other national organizations with local representation include the Nature Conservancy, Trust for Public Land and the Wetlands Conservancy.

Regulatory Measures

A variety of regulatory measures are available to local agencies and jurisdictions. Available programs and regulations include: Critical Areas Ordinance, Maple Valley; State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA); Shorelines Management Program; and Hydraulic Code, Washington State Department of Fisheries and Department of Wildlife.

Public/Private Utility Corridors

Utility corridors can be managed to maximize protection or enhancement of open space lands. Utilities maintain corridors for provision of services such as electricity, gas, oil, and rail travel. Some utility companies have cooperated with local governments for development of public programs such as parks and trails within utility corridors.



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