

PARKS, OPEN SPACE, AND RECREATION

Draft-Parks, Open Space and Recreation Element

The Parks, Open Space and Recreation Element emphasizes the following Framework Goals:

FRAMEWORK GOALS

- FG1:** Accommodate anticipated levels of growth and enhance the quality of life within the City of Shoreline.
- FG2:** Promote quality building and development that is compatible with the surrounding environment.
- FG3:** Support diverse and affordable housing opportunities which provide for Shoreline's population growth.
- FG4:** Pursue a strong and diverse economy and assure economic development that complements neighborhood character.
- FG5:** Protect the natural environment and preserve environmentally sensitive areas.
- FG6:** Promote improvements to human services.
- FG7:** Assure effective and efficient public investment for quality public services, facilities, and utilities.
- FG8:** Improve multi-modal transportation systems which provide for Shoreline's present and future population.
- FG9:** Provide for wide involvement in community planning decisions.

Intent

The intent of the Parks, Open Space and Recreation Element is to meet the community's parks, open space and recreation goals. To meet these goals, the City will steward a coordinated system of public and private open spaces that preserves the City's natural character, sustains its resources, and protects its natural systems, vegetation, and wildlife habitat as a legacy for future generations.

The City will develop and implement guidelines to protect significant environmental features, preserve habitat, and develop public and private partnerships to provide the needed park related facilities and activities. For example, lands characterized by steep slopes or wetlands, and areas functioning as important wildlife habitat would be retained in their natural state with development limited primarily to trails. Other areas, which are less environmentally sensitive, are considered suitable for a wider variety of recreation activities.

Background and Context

The goals and policies contained in this element recognize and address the natural setting of Shoreline and the parks, open space and recreation opportunities associated with these natural features. In addition, Shoreline residents desire a broad range of high quality parks, open spaces and recreation opportunities that are responsive to community needs and interests.

The Parks, Open Space and Recreation Element contains goals and policies to encourage:

- the maintenance of existing parks, public and private open spaces and community recreation programs and services;
- increased opportunities for enjoyment of existing parks, open spaces and recreation areas/programs;
- the pursuit of opportunities for new parks, public and private open spaces; and recreation areas/programs based on the Land Use Element, community interests, and resources.

To implement the goals and policies of the Comprehensive Plan, the City has developed and will periodically update its "Parks, Open Space and Recreation Plan." The Parks Plan will contain the same goals and policies as the Comprehensive Plan. The Plan will also provide an inventory of park, open space and recreation resources and go into further detail about recreation programs, development ideas and options for each park, and funding sources. The Plan also provides an analysis of community needs/issues and offers both short-term and long-term strategies for addressing these issues.

The Parks, Open Space and Recreation Plan will be an appendix to the Comprehensive Plan, consistent with the Comprehensive Plan's overall direction and goals. These goals are the foundation upon which the City will develop its parks, open space and recreation programs.

Park Lands

In order to address specific land needs, parks, open space, and recreational areas have been divided into categories. Each category provides a distinct type of recreational opportunity. The ideal park system for a community is one made up of several different types or classifications of areas. The classification system proposed for Shoreline is as follows:

Neighborhood Parks: A Neighborhood park is a combination playground and park designed primarily for non-supervised, non-organized recreation activities. Neighborhood parks are generally small in size (about 3-7 acres) and serve an area approximately one half-mile in radius. Since these parks are located within walking and bicycling distance of most users, the activities they offer become a daily pastime for the neighborhood children. Typically, facilities found in a neighborhood park include a children's playground, picnic areas, trails, open grass areas for passive use, outdoor basketball courts, and multi-use sport fields for soccer, Little League baseball, etc.

Community Parks: A community park is planned primarily to provide a mixture of active and structured recreation opportunities for young people and adults. In general, community park facilities are designed for organized activities and sports, although individual and family activities are also encouraged. Community parks serve a much larger area and offer more facilities such as parking, restrooms, covered play areas, etc. Community parks usually have sport fields or similar facilities as the central focus of the park. Their service area is roughly one half-mile in radius.

Large Urban Parks: Large urban parks are parks that are designed to provide a mixture of active and passive recreational opportunities and serve a diversity of interests. Generally, they provide a wide variety of specialized facilities such as sports fields and large picnic areas. Because of their size and the facilities offered, they require more in terms of support facilities such as parking, restrooms, play areas, etc. They usually exceed 50 acres in size and should be designed to accommodate large numbers of people.

Regional Parks: Regional parks are recreational areas that serve the City and beyond. They are usually large in size and often include one specific use or feature that makes them unique. Typically, uses focus on a mixture of active and passive types of recreational activities. Those regional parks located within urban areas sometimes offer a wider range of facilities and activities.

Special Use Areas: Special use areas are miscellaneous public recreation areas or lands occupied by a specialized facility. Some of the uses that fall into this classification include special purpose areas, waterfront parks, community gardens, single purpose sites used for field sports, or sites occupied by buildings.

Mini Parks: Mini parks, sometimes referred to as Tot Lots, are single purpose playlots of less than one acre in size. Their primary focus is a piece of playground equipment supplemented with a small open grass area and several picnic benches.

On a square foot basis this type of park is very expensive to construct and maintain and generally the amount of use is very low. Consequently, this type of park is developed only where there is a void of park space or insufficient land to meet Neighborhood Park needs. No mini parks are planned in the City at this time.

Natural Open Space/Greenways: Natural open space is defined as undeveloped land primarily left in its natural environment with recreation uses as a secondary objective. It is usually owned or managed by a governmental agency and 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 open space and can include wildlife habitats, stream and creek corridors, or unique and/or endangered plant species.

Beautification Areas: Beautification areas are landscaped areas that are located along street right-of-ways and intersections, entry features, and plazas. These types of facilities usually consist of landscaping, fountains, and entrance signage.

Undeveloped Park Land: This is park land that is undeveloped and has not been designated for a specific use at this time.

Existing Conditions

The City of Shoreline has a wide variety of parks, recreation facilities, programs and services, including land owned by the City of Shoreline, King County, the State of Washington, and several other public and private agencies (~~see Figure PR-1 at the end of this element~~).

Summary of City Parks, Open Space Areas, and Trails

Area	Acres	Facilities
Boeing Creek Park	4.40	Natural area
Cromwell Park	9.04	Softball field, youth baseball/softball, playground areas (2), basketball court, picnic area, parking area
Darnell Park	0.80	None
Echo Lake Park	0.90	Restroom, fishing area, picnic area
Hamlin Park	73.00	Regulation baseball field, youth baseball fields (4), softball fields (2), football field, (all fields are lighted) picnic area, shelter building, playground area, natural area, pathways/trails, parking areas (3), restrooms (2)
Hillwood Park	10.00	Softball field, tennis courts (2), playground area, parking area, restroom, soccer field
Innis Arden Reserve M	23.00	Natural area, trails
James Keough Park	3.10	Tennis courts (2), playground area, basketball court, open play area
Meridian Park	3.20	Tennis courts (2)
North City Park	3.80	Pathways/trails
Northcrest Park	7.30	Playground area, trails
Paramount Park and Open Space	9.10	Picnic area, trails, parking area
Paramount School Park	7.00	Youth baseball/softball fields (4), soccer field, playground area, pathways, parking area
Richmond Beach Center Park	3.80	Tennis courts (2), playground area, picnic area, open grass area, pathways, parking area
Richmond Beach Saltwater Park	40.00	Picnic areas (4), shelter buildings (2), playground area, observation areas (2), restroom building (2), beach, trails
Richmond Highlands Park	4.30	Youth baseball/softball field (2), playground area, community center, parking area
Richmond Reserve	0.10	None
Ridgecrest Park	3.80	Youth baseball/softball field (2), playground area, handball courts (2), parking area
Ronald Bog Park	13.70	Parking area, shelter building, open play area, seating area, public art
Shoreline Park	8.90 5.00	Tennis courts (4), lighted soccer fields (2), playground area, pathways, restrooms
Shoreline Pool	0.50	Swimming pool, parking area, public art
Shoreview Park	82.00	Tennis courts (6), soccer field, softball field, hitting wall, parking area, playground, trails
Twin Ponds Park	21.80	Tennis court, soccer field, playground area, paved court, picnic area, viewing area, parking area (2), restrooms, trails
Total	328.64 333.54	

Summary of City Parks by Type

Park Area	Acres	Status
Neighborhood Parks		
Cromwell Park	9.04	Developed
James Keogh Park	3.10	Developed
Northcrest Park	7.30	Partially Developed
Paramount School Park	7.00	Developed
Richmond Beach Center Park	3.80	Developed
Ridgecrest Park	3.80	Developed
Total	34.04	
Community Parks		
Hillwood	10.00	Developed
Richmond Highlands park	4.30	Developed
Shoreline Park	8.905-00	Developed
Twin Ponds Park	21.80	Developed
Total	45.0041-10	
Large Urban Parks		
Hamlin Park	73.00	Developed
Shoreview Park	82.00	Developed
Total	155.00	
Regional Parks		
Richmond Beach Saltwater Park	40.00	Developed
Total	40.00	
Special Use Area		
Echo Lake Park	0.90	Partially Developed
Ronald Bog Park	13.70	Partially Developed
Shoreline Pool	0.50	Developed
Total	15.10	
Natural Open Space Areas/Greenways		
Boeing Creek Park	4.40	Undeveloped
Innis Arden Reserve	23.00	Undeveloped
Meridian Park	3.20	Partially Developed
North City Park	3.80	Partially Developed
Paramount Park and Open Space	9.10	Partially Developed
Total	43.50	
Beautification Areas		
Richmond Reserve	0.10	Undeveloped
Total	0.10	
Undeveloped Park land		
Darnell Park	0.80	Undeveloped
Total	0.80	

Parks and Recreation Programs and Services

The Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services Department offers over 125 classes, camps, "drop-in" programs, workshops, leagues, and special events for infant through senior adult aged participants. These programs are focused in cultural, performing, visual, and literary arts; aquatics; sports and athletics; outdoor and environmental interests; health and fitness; and other areas. Specialized programs are also offered for children who are disabled and for children with English as a Second Language. Year-round programs are determined by both participant trends and suggestions made to staff by the community.

Specialized disabled programs include a daytime program for adults, Special Olympics practices and meets, and weekend trips. The Shoreline Pool offers extensive swim lessons, "drop-in" public and family swims, water exercise programs, and rentals to groups (including the Shoreline School District's high school swim teams).

The City operates one small recreation center at ~~the Richmond Highlands Center Park~~. It is currently used by the Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services department for a teen drop-in center, recreation classes, an adult developmentally disabled program and community event rentals, ~~which is currently utilized by both the Human Services Department (for teen programs) and the Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services Department (for recreation programs and community rentals).~~ The majority of Department indoor recreation programs are held at both Shoreline School District and Shoreline Community College facilities, with occasional use at the Shoreline Library and Shoreline Historical Museum.

In a changing urban environment, each person needs the opportunity to experience a sense of belonging to the community, to develop friendships and to interact with people having similar interests. Shoreline's community programs and services will respond to social concerns by focusing on intervention, prevention and protection.

Shoreline will emphasize a variety of basic education, recreation and social service programs intended to help all community members to have access to opportunities that contribute to a healthy and productive life-style.

Goals and Policies

The goals and policies of this element are the same as the Parks Plan goals and policies.

Goal PR 1: Enrich the quality of life for all Shoreline residents by ensuring that a broad range of high quality parks, recreation and cultural opportunities are readily available, by preserving open spaces and maintaining a quality parks and recreation system.

Policies

- PR1:** Ensure that the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department continually strives to meet the goals for both existing and planned population growth.
- PR2:** Preserve, protect and enhance areas (where practical) with critical or unique natural features -- such as stream corridors, wildlife habitats, shorelines and wetlands -- especially if endangered by development.
- PR3:** Address, when practical, inadequacies of existing parks.
- PR4:** Look for opportunities to preserve and protect current open space.
- PR5:** Place emphasis on maintaining parks and recreational facilities in a safe, attractive manner utilizing the most cost efficient and effective management practices.
- PR6:** Seek outside funding, when possible, as an alternative for acquisition or renovation of current park properties.
- PR7:** Investigate alternative methods for the financing of facility development, maintenance and operating needs to reduce costs.
- PR8:** Coordinate park planning and land acquisitions with those of other agencies providing similar services and with City plans for streets, utilities, and development in order to maximize the benefits from public lands for parks and programs.
- PR9:** Ensure that water bodies in park settings are protected from degradation of water quality and that water quality remains a priority.
- PR10:** Retain and develop underdeveloped public rights of way for public access and passive recreation where appropriate.
- PR11:** As far as practical, distribute park facilities evenly throughout the City.

Goal PR II: Seek to increased opportunities for Shoreline citizens to enjoy parks, and recreation, and cultural resources through improving accessibility and usability of existing facilities and pursue opportunities and partnerships for new indoor and outdoor facilities for year round programming.

Policies

- PR12:** Develop a park system that provides a variety of recreation opportunities serving a wide range of interest and age groups.

- PR13:** Work to improve the accessibility of park and recreation facilities to all individuals and groups of all physical capabilities, skill levels, age, income and activity interest and seek compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act standards.
- PR14:** Maintain a high profile in the community to help ensure that parks and recreation programs reflect the needs and desires of the community.
- PR15:** Seek to balance indoor and outdoor recreation opportunities.
- PR16:** Seek to balance passive and active recreation opportunities.
- PR17:** Provide, where appropriate, educational exhibits, displays and information to educate visitors about natural habitats and unique features.

Goal PR III: Seek partnerships and coordination with existing facility and program providers to strive for the efficient and equitable distribution of community and regional resources, and to maximize the usability of parks and recreation resources to Shoreline residents.

Policies

- PR18:** Continue to develop and coordinate, with both public and private school districts, the use of school facilities for park and recreational purposes after school hours in order to maximize the public benefit from existing resources.
- PR19:** Develop partnerships with other public and private agencies and organizations in order to provide new or more efficient programming opportunities.
- PR20:** Actively involve special interest groups in the development and management of recreation services.
- PR21:** Coordinate maintenance operations with other agencies; such as the Shoreline School District, Shoreline Community College, private schools, churches and athletic field users
- PR22:** Become the primary coordinating agency for leisure services in the Shoreline area.
- PR23:** Coordinate with public and private resources to avoid duplication and reduce costs through joint planning and development efforts.

Goal PR IV: Seek to develop a diverse City-wide trail system that provides linkages between parks, greenways, open spaces, regional trail systems, residential neighborhoods, and community businesses.

Policies

- PR24:** Seek opportunities to develop pedestrian and bicycle connections in and around the City to connect neighborhoods with parks.
- PR25:** Develop trail systems within parks such as Shoreview and Hamlin and in the Interurban right-of-way.
- PR26:** Coordinate with Planning and Public Works to develop links to regional trail systems.
- PR27:** Implement the City "green street program," which would provide a network of pedestrian and bicycle trails that would create access between parks and other public facilities.

Goal PR V: Encourage regular and effective public involvement in the park planning process

Policies

- PR28:** Encourage, record, and track citizen responses to specific programs, facilities, and policies.
- PR29:** Monitor park and recreation service preferences, needs and trends through questionnaires, surveys and public hearings.
- PR30:** Provide public review stages in planning decisions which affect the public interest.
- PR31:** Establish public relations and publicity efforts to inform citizens of the recreation opportunities available city-wide and in local neighborhoods.
- PR32:** Encourage citizen involvement and participation in assuring the quality of park development and maintenance with programs such as adopt-a-park, volunteer programs and clean-up events.
- PR33:** Implement strategies to meet the recreation and cultural needs and preferences of the citizens of Shoreline based on user trends, surveys and public meetings.

Goal PR VI: Seek to provide a broad, diverse, flexible and challenging program of recreation and cultural services to meet the leisure needs of diverse populations, age groups and interests.

Policies

- PR34:** Be a catalyst in the process of working with other organizations to satisfy the recreation needs of Shoreline residents. (This does not mean that the City needs to offer all of the services.)
- PR35:** Be innovative with new program and service offerings.

- PR36:** Evaluate recreation classes on a regular basis in terms of cost and participation levels.
- PR37:** Offer children's and family programs during times that meet the growing needs of working parents.
- PR38:** Provide a diversity of program options for middle and high school youth.
- PR39:** Investigate opportunities to provide specialized recreation programs for City residents with developmental disabilities, recognizing that few (if any) other options exist for post-high school-age individuals.
- PR40:** Assure the Shoreline Pool's program services are available to infant through senior adult-aged participants at times that meet the needs of all individuals.
- PR41:** Coordinate with public and private resources to avoid duplication and reduce costs through joint planning of recreation and cultural services.
- PR42:** Support the provision of senior adult, arts, and cultural history programs.
- PR43:** Respect and celebrate through recreation programs that serve the diversity of cultures represented in our City.

Note to reader: Please see the Park, Open Space and Recreation Services Plan (Appendix II), the Capital Improvement Plan (Appendix I), and the Capital Facilities Plan Element for additional information. The Parks, Recreation and Open Space map is found at the end of the Capital Facilities Element chapter.