

**APPENDIX C: STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS (SCHOOL DISTRICT, COMMUNITY COLLEGE, PARKS MAINTENANCE)**



### **Purpose of Stakeholder Interviews**

- Meet with key stakeholders to provide insight regarding the needs assessment and Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan for the Shoreline Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department.
- Meet with key stakeholders to discuss important issues relative to the Shoreline Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department.
- Utilize information gathered from stakeholders to help formulate additional community involvement processes, and develop an overview of community needs.

### **1. What is your role in the parks, recreation and cultural services system planning process (e.g., Advisory Board member, staff, Commission, etc.)?**

#### **School District**

- School interaction began several years ago with County system, and natural partnership when City incorporated; seems good use of taxpayers dollars
  - Accomplished numerous things; more out there
- Consider access versus assets – how best use assets is important rather than who owns them

#### **Community College**

- Theater, some fields that City uses, strong continuing education available in two Shoreline high schools, mutual agreement relative to tennis courts (separate agreement), continuing interest in swapping use of fields or theaters

### **2. From your perspective, what are the key issues/priorities for the Shoreline Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department?**

#### **School District**

- High School has performing arts theater at Shorecrest
- 600 seat auditorium at Shoreline Center
- Two dirt soccer fields at Shoreline Parks need re-surfacing
  - Majority of fields lie on School District property with approximately 1/3 on PRCS property; fields originally constructed by King County
  - HIGH - Change lighting and add synthetic turf (major improvement in neighborhood)
  - HIGH – Pretty good swim programs; leisure pool is a new component; will need to continue maintaining the pool (built approximately 1962)
  - HIGH – School District has some large spaces (i.e., HS converted to MS at Meridian) with potential to be high quality spaces
  - HIGH – Potential partnering growth with PRCS especially at Meridian Park
- YMCA is considering building a pool

### **Community College**

- Implementation of the Master Plan
  - Improved gravel parking lot (“pit”)
  - Community group interested in building an amphitheater for outdoor concerts, events, etc. – see this as a shared project with joint use
    - Perhaps include in Bond election where City raises part of funds with local monies, and community college raise federal, state, etc. funds
  - Would require relocation of the soccer and baseball fields
    - Synthetic turf on soccer field, possibly baseball
    - Considering sports lighting
  - EIS included
  - Short number of fields, advocate women’s field for athletics
  - Rent baseball fields for games – don’t really need anything of own if can share spaces
  - Informal motorcross in woods near college – would like to restore habitat and develop interpretive center
  - Anticipate work in 2007 to 2009
  - Relative to competitive fields and adult fields, anticipate being able to self support dollars for maintenance and operations
- College has approximately 12,000 unduplicated headcount, 5,200 FTEs
- Parking and traffic always major issues for Community College
- Community College has capital dollars – will seek off campus classroom space to accommodate on campus building projects resulting in temporary shortage of classrooms
- If improve facilities at Shoreline Center, will have issues with parking
- Could consider converting 4 tennis courts to parking, but would need to replace elsewhere in town

### **PRCS Staff - Parks Maintenance**

- HIGH – Have identified preferred staffing and maintenance standard; currently operating below standard
  - Need to improve to standard identified
  - City has been extremely aggressive relative to capital funding; need M&O dollars for future which would include additional staff
- HIGH – Athletic fields
  - Turf in poor condition
  - Fields gone downhill in last few years due to overuse and aging facilities
  - Most fields are multi-use with only January off
  - More people are using the parks
  - Majority of maintenance time spent on athletics
- Total budget \$899,000 with approximately \$370,000 paid to landscape contractor
  - Responsible for mowing, weeds, aeration, ball field prep, etc.
- Janitorial contract managed by Facilities group in Public Works Department

- PRCS responsible for lighter maintenance, trees and shrubs, playground installation, trash pick-up, etc.

### 3. What do you see as the challenges facing the Shoreline Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department?

#### **PRCS Staff - Parks Maintenance**

- Ensuring parks and amenities built right
  - Public Works provides project manager for capital projects
  - Construction issues
    - Past CIP Projects had cost overruns with variable performance by contractors
- Lowest bid, best product – PROBLEM – little to no history as a City to determine “best”
- Fields have high volume of use combined with aging facilities is a challenge
- 2 basketball court in entire City (Cromwell) and James Keough
- Sand soccer fields are at end of lifespan; require extensive maintenance
- Major user groups who rent fields complain, but don’t hear much from general public
- King County allowed people to do so much for so long, and now the City has to correct some of the problems as they have become issues; partnerships with County have created a legacy of ownership sometimes involving various “deals”

#### **SOLUTIONS - Parks Maintenance**

- Schedulers examine fields and solutions closely and work through options involving Parks Maintenance

#### **PRCS Staff - Recreation**

- Presented with dilapidated park system that would not be acceptable in another community; could improve tremendously
- Parents of teens don’t know that program and facility operated by City; had bad reputation previously (especially after school program)
- Geographic division between eastern and western part of community
  - Participation in City parade by citizens in west when moved event east
- Financial projections for overall City indicate lower revenues; may have to bring in more revenue as Department; creates concern for low income citizens
- Spartan Gym expansion slated
  - Phase II will increase rental opportunities and revenue
  - Programs will be fee based
- Programs currently cover direct costs plus a percentage (not indirect costs)
- PRCS could serve needs of neighboring communities
  - Similar to current situation with pool and some programs
  - Traditionally have not charged nonresident fees
  - Charges are typically about one year below market

- Athletics spaces meeting needs of Shoreline residents, but also Snohomish County residents

#### 4. Unfulfilled dreams of School District and Community College?

##### School District

- Work together to maintain existing sports fields and outdoor facilities perhaps with one crew responsible for all School District and PRCS spaces; might result in savings

##### Community College

- Implementation of the Master Plan – has caught the interest and support of Foundation, trustees, etc.

#### 5. The City has partnered with the School District and Community College on various projects. How could these collaborative efforts be expanded? Are there concerns relative to the existing relationship between the City, School District and Community College? How could this relationship be improved?

##### School District

- PRCS and City as leader; School District is always looking to partner (need time and money to create buy-in)
- PRCS a work in progress especially since fairly new

##### Community College

- See highest priority as partnerships; community has high expectations of partnerships and alliances

#### 6. PARKS - Level of Service and Accessibility - Same relative amount of facilities, more per person, fewer per person; Basic park amenities evenly, new or better community-wide facilities, improving existing rather than acquiring new?

##### School District

- Need more athletic fields rather than “dog walking” parks
- Not necessarily more spaces but greater access which could be obtained by adding synthetic turf
- Improve what have so get more use from existing spaces
- Space for teenagers – could use more “indoor” facilities (i.e., roof structure)
- Remodeled teen center has been great for activities and events – the Annex and Richmond are safe havens

**PRCS Staff - Parks Maintenance**

- Improve existing
- Install synthetic turf at sand fields to increase usage opportunities
  - Additional time, but may need lights to substantially increase supply
  - Not convinced of need for synthetic turf for baseball or softball fields
- Take advantage of unique acquisition opportunities that may arise
- Use existing spaces to greater potential
  - Flowers, pruning, add restrooms, etc.
- Off leash dog park may provide place for activity enabling greater enforcement in other park spaces
  - Animal control needs to be more proactive

**7. Parks and Sports Facilities: Since funds are limited for building new parks and sports facilities, and improving existing ones, what should the priorities be for developing and maintaining parks?**

**School District**

- Need additional 5 to 6 soccer fields

**PRCS Staff - Parks Maintenance**

- Tennis courts are a maintenance challenge
- County had 1 full-time and 3 seasonals maintaining and prepping fields
- More shelters throughout system
- More restrooms, parking, playgrounds
- Small amphitheater might be an addition

**8. TRAILS AND OPEN SPACE: HOW important are trails? What types of trails are needed? How many trails (and lengths) are needed?**

**Community College**

- Bev's personal experience: trails seem to be used continually
- Really important to community
- Like the nature trails
- Interurban trail is a positive addition; will need more and connections to other regional trails
- Paramount Park is an example of a recent great project
- Rotary Club – Has identified several areas around City; will focus on beautification of spaces with some active recreation use

**PRCS Staff - Parks Maintenance**

- Large number of non-maintained, social trails exist

- Areas need to be thinned for undergrowth to clear some spaces for forest and natural vegetation
- Tremendous potential for great hike in beautiful areas (i.e., Innis Arden, etc.); “wilderness” experience
- Trail work not currently much of a Division priority
- City has had incredible success in improving open spaces

#### 9. WATER AND SOUND ACCESS

**Current assets include Echo Lake, Twin Ponds Park, Ronald Bog, and Puget Sound (1 access to Puget Sound)**

##### **School District**

- Boat ramp parking for 200 cars; would pay up to \$10 per launch
- Tough sell environmentally

##### **Community College**

- Like more natural qualities

#### 10. INDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES (Richmond Highlands Recreation Center, Spartan Gym, Shoreline Pool)

**Indoor recreation facilities have been refurbished and expanded in recent years**

##### **School District**

- PRCS makes their expertise useful in running Spartan Gym
- Offer great variety of programs

#### 11. RECREATION PROGRAMS

##### **PRCS Staff - Recreation**

##### **Should Offer, Are Not**

- 11-14 year old summer day camps
- Greater integration of Arts Council, Sr. Center, Museum, etc.
- Sr. programming
  - Stigma affiliated with Sr. Center
  - Citizens using City programs different than those involved at Sr. Center
- Disabled population
  - Approximately 600 developmentally disabled in community
  - Tremendous need – low ability to pay
  - School District provides programs for those up to 21 years



- Greater number and better scheduling for upper level swimmers
  - Current joint use agreement gives school access in fall and winter between 3 – 6 PM, and Swim Club from 6 – 7:30 PM
- Child care at Spartan Gym for those using facilities
- Interpretive/outdoor education programs (i.e., birding, etc.) – have some OE, but not consistent throughout seasons
- More preschool programs
- Open Spartan Gym at 6:30 am, add more personal trainers, increase available opportunities for drop-in use of gym (limited now due to organized activities)
- Redevelopment of Aldercrest site
- Broader focus for youth programs (i.e., assets, etc.)
- Have at least one of everything but no depth

## 12. RECREATION PROGRAM FUNDING

### PRCS Staff - Recreation

- Higher fees for swim lessons and pool rentals
- Resident/nonresident fees
  - May discourage too many users
  - Market to School District of which some residents are outside City limits
  - Classes not yet maxed out so no need to add R/NR rates
- As staff, feeling pressure to charge more for programs
- Financial disparity between eastern and western residents
- General recreation programs at market rates with little leeway to raise prices
- Athletics could increase fees
  - Expect LOS question to arise from public (what are we getting for the increase in fees?)

## 13. What is your vision for the Parks Recreation and Cultural Services Department? Should the City focus on providing “signature” facilities and programs? If so, what might they include?

### School District and Community College

- Best practices = partnerships
  - Partnerships take time in the public system
  - Working for community and not against them
  - Important to formally ask public what they want rather than think already know

### PRCS Staff - Parks Maintenance

- To be known as user friendly
  - Clean, well-maintained
  - Safe
  - Everyone uses!
  - Available for residential community for use on spur of the moment
- Using our potential and space wisely

