



## CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION THE PLANNING CONTEXT

The City of Shoreline developed its first *Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Services Plan* in 1998 not long after the City assumed responsibility from King County of the parks and recreation programs within the city limits. This *Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan (PROS)* updates the plan adopted in 1998. Effective park planning is a dynamic process that should be revised regularly to address necessary improvements, and changes in population, community needs, and recreation demands. This plan also addresses changes to the inventory of resources, funding eligibility, and provisions of the Washington State Growth Management Act including the update of the *Shoreline Comprehensive Plan*.

The intent of this chapter is to set the groundwork for a *PROS Plan* by describing what it is, why it must be done, and who administers it. These topics are covered in detail in the following sections:

- Purpose of the Plan
- City Vision and Values
- History of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services
- Department Mission
- Related and Guiding Planning Efforts



## PURPOSE OF THE PLAN

The intent of the *Shoreline Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Plan* is to build the framework for the future maintenance and development of Shoreline's parks and recreation programs as populations grow, demographics change, and financial situations evolve.

The Shoreline *PROS Plan* will serve as a companion document to the *Shoreline Comprehensive Plan*. The *Shoreline Comprehensive Plan* discusses the City's present parks, recreation and cultural services program in very general terms. The *PROS Plan* is a planning guide that discusses in very specific terms: community resources, recreation goals and policies, needs concerning parks, recreation, and open space, and strategies and action steps for implementing the plan. The *PROS Plan* will enhance the park system and program offerings to meet the needs of the community through continued City action.

The *PROS Plan* will include an action plan recommended by the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Board and City of Shoreline Planning Commission, and adopted by the City Council. This *PROS Plan* utilizes information from previous studies and planning efforts, and incorporates an in-depth analysis of existing and changing conditions. Elements of this plan will fold into the *Shoreline Comprehensive Plan* and Capital Improvement Projects.

This plan should be reviewed annually and updated periodically based on implementation accomplishments, and additional information gathered through surveys, community meetings, planning studies and data analysis. Furthermore, the *PROS Plan* is utilized as a foundational guide for the provision of parks, recreation and cultural services rather than as a set of inflexible recommendations.

## PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The following objectives shaped the development of this *PROS Plan*:

- Discover and assess the current and future needs of the citizens of Shoreline;
- Develop an inventory of physical as well as programmatic resources, and identify the service gaps;
- Prepare and analyze the lifecycle costs associated with



- maintaining existing facilities;
- Gather meaningful community input through various outreach methods;
- Identify existing levels of service within Shoreline;
- Establish target levels of service for facilities, programs and services;
- Develop a feasible, six-year action plan;
- Develop a six-year capital improvement action plan that coincides with the implementation plan;
- Ensure that the plan is internally and externally consistent with other local, regional, and state-wide planning documents;
- Coordinate development of the *PROS Plan* as well as the associated public outreach with the *Shoreline Comprehensive Plan* process and community involvement;
- Promote Shoreline's eligibility for Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation (IAC) and other grant funds; and
- Provide general direction for the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department for the full 20-year comprehensive plan period.

## PLANNING PROCESS

The planning process for the *PROS Plan* consists of several key steps including:

- Collect and analyze background information about the City and Department including existing parks and recreation facilities and programs, lifecycle costs and replacement schedule, and existing level of service;
- Assess and prioritize the parks, recreation and cultural services needs, desires, and levels of service through stakeholder interviews, focus groups, community meetings, and citizen survey;
- Develop an action plan and implementation strategies;
- Develop a capital improvement plan coupled with funding opportunities for implementation; and
- Integrate the *PROS Plan* with the *Shoreline Comprehensive Plan*.

## PLANNING AREA

The *PROS Plan* study area consists of all incorporated land within the City of Shoreline.



## CITY VISION AND VALUES

The City vision and values are important to the *PROS* planning process. The *PROS Plan* is one tool for implementing these community-wide aspirations and conversely the citywide vision and values guide the development of the *PROS Plan*.

The vision for the City as set forth by the City Council is:

*Shoreline! The best place to live, learn, work and play. A place to live your dream.*

Coupled with the City Vision, the Values directed the formation of the City's Work Plan:

*In Shoreline, we value:  
Our respect for each other  
Safe places to live and work  
Quality learning opportunities for all ages  
Pride in our neighborhoods and community  
Our outdoor and recreational opportunities  
Volunteers and community participation  
Social and economic diversity  
Our town-oriented, personalized customer service*



The Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services Department will administer the *PROS Plan* for the duration of the plan. How the department evolved and its long-term mission statement will drive the implementation of this plan.

The City of Shoreline was incorporated in 1995, becoming a codified city with a Council-Manager form of government. With this incorporation, citizens “expected enhanced safety, a revitalized parks system, improvement of the public works infrastructure, and local taxes going to local projects”(City Council, 2002). Approximately two years later in the summer of 1997, the City assumed all responsibility for the parks and recreation programs from King County. This transfer consisted of 330 acres of parklands, and facilities including neighborhood and community parks, a regional facility at Richmond Beach Saltwater Park, open space, sports fields, and a 25-meter indoor pool.

This transfer enabled formation of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services and the department itself. The Shoreline School District was an important partner in providing property for the City system based on its initial relationship and interlocal agreements with King County allowing certain District-owned properties to be used as parklands and County property to be used for school purposes. The District and County worked closely together on the maintenance, construction, and programming of these properties. It was critical at this time to forge a strong relationship with the School District.

In August 2000, the Shoreline School District and City of Shoreline entered into a Joint Use Agreement. A primary goal of the agreement is to maximize public use of public facilities while maintaining them as sustainable assets. The key elements of this agreement include making facilities available to one another; distributing City brochures within the schools; including appropriate District information in City publications; displaying District publications at City facilities; joint and cooperative facility scheduling; maintaining a fee structure; replacing materials/equipment; managing improvements, maintenance, operation and refurbishment; and coordinating legal specifications. Addendums to the Joint Use Agreement are more detailed and address specific facilities.

## HISTORY AND MISSION

Additional information on the Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services Department can be found in Appendix A: Overview of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services Department.



In addition, the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department was formed with the purpose of providing long term planning and capital project oversight, maintaining the park system, and developing and implementing comprehensive recreation programs, services, and events. The Shoreline Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department not only acts as stewards of the City's parks through maintenance and planning, but provides recreation, aquatic and cultural experiences to the community through a wide range of programs. The Department will administer this *PROS Plan*.

The existing Mission Statement for the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services (PRCS) Department provides a foundation and serves as a broad guiding force:

*To provide life-enhancing experiences and promote a healthy community.*

*This is achieved through:*

*Stewardship of our parks, facilities and open spaces*

*Recreational programs for all ages and abilities*



There are numerous planning efforts, studies, and committees that provide ongoing guidance to park and recreation services within the City of Shoreline. These efforts influence the need and locations for facilities; funding of services; maintenance, replacement, and development of facilities.

## RELATED AND GUIDING PLANNING EFFORTS

### WASHINGTON STATE GROWTH MANAGEMENT ACT (GMA)

The Growth Management Act requires state and local governments to manage Washington's growth by identifying and protecting critical areas and natural resource lands, designating urban growth areas, preparing comprehensive plans and implementing them through capital investments and development regulations. The GMA established state goals, set deadlines for compliance, offered direction on how to prepare local comprehensive plans and regulations and set forth requirements for early and continuous public participation.

This Act requires all counties and their cities with a certain growth rate to comprehensively and jointly plan for the future. Policies from the *PROS Plan* will be integrated into the *Shoreline Comprehensive Plan*. The *PROS Plan* and the associated *Shoreline Comprehensive Plan* address the GMA requirements.

### WASHINGTON STATE INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE FOR OUTDOOR RECREATION (IAC)

The IAC has improved the state's quality of life through its investment of public funds in parks, trails, beaches, boating facilities, wildlife habitat, and natural areas. Established in 1964, IAC helps finance recreation and conservation projects throughout the state. This *PROS Plan* also meets the six-year update requirement for the City of Shoreline in applying for various grants available through the IAC. Quality short and long-term planning is seen as fundamental requirements for the IAC as well as various other funding agencies. This *PROS Plan* will serve as a key mechanism for the City of Shoreline.



## **SHORELINE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**

A comprehensive plan is a land use document that provides the framework and policy direction for land use decisions. Under Washington State's Growth Management Act (discussed above), comprehensive plans contain the following chapters: land use, transportation, housing, capital facilities, utilities, shorelines, and rural (for counties). Chapters addressing economic development and parks and recreation also are required, if state funding is provided.

The *Shoreline Comprehensive Plan* is a guide for the City's physical, economic and social development over the next 20 years. The GMA requires cities and counties to create comprehensive plans and to update them at least every seven years to ensure compliance with the GMA. Shoreline adopted its comprehensive plan in 1998 and the deadline for updating it is December 2004. The *Shoreline Comprehensive Plan* will guide the redevelopment and growth of the City while establishing cooperative planning and coordination with various city departments.

Master plans, such as this *PROS Plan*, are addendums to the *Shoreline Comprehensive Plan* that take a closer look at a specific system – to plan for future needs. Master plans identify problems, prioritize needs and develop long-term solutions that are in line with community priorities and what the City can financially afford.

The research, analysis and development of the *Shoreline Comprehensive Plan* are occurring in tandem with the development of this *PROS Plan*. As the *PROS Plan* progresses, several crossover points will be addressed including:

- Bike and pedestrian trails;
- Use of parks for surface water detention;
- Use of parks for habitat;
- Traffic generated by parks and community facilities;
- Economic development including potential redevelopment sites such as Aurora Square, Shoreline Community College, and Fircrest;
- Internet access (such as traffic cams, online reservations, public info);
- Shoreline management and parks shoreline management;





- Watercourses for drainage and habitat;
- Water trail;
- Pedestrian/bike trail and commuter rail line; and
- Municipal Art.

## **KING COUNTY: COUNTYWIDE PLANNING POLICIES AND VISION 2020**

King County is also required to maintain a comprehensive plan known as the *Countywide Planning Policies*. These policies were developed by King County and its cities to help address growth management in a coordinated manner. These policies were adopted by the King County Council and subsequently ratified by cities, including the City of Shoreline.

Taken together, the *Countywide Planning Policies* try to balance issues related to growth, economics, land use and the environment. Specific objectives of the *Countywide Planning Policies* include:

Implementation of Urban Growth Areas;  
Promotion of contiguous and orderly development;  
Siting of public capital facilities;  
Establishing transportation facilities and strategies;  
Creating affordable housing plans and criteria; and  
Ensuring favorable employment and economic conditions in the County.

## **CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS (CIP) PROCESS**

The CIP process is a multi-year plan for capital expenditures necessary to restore, improve and expand the City of Shoreline's infrastructure, which includes roads, sidewalks, trails, drainage, parks, and buildings owned and/or maintained by the City. The plan identifies projects and funding for improvements over the next six years and is updated annually to reflect on-going changes and additions. It also details the work to be done for each project and an expected time frame for completion.



## CITY COUNCIL ANNUAL WORK PLAN

City Council develops an Annual Work Plan guided by the City Vision and Values. This work plan includes implementing projects, developing programs and establishing advisory committees. The work plan addresses aspects of the parks, recreation and open space planning directly, using the *PROS Plan* as a resource to determine facility needs and priorities.

## PARKS, OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION SERVICES PLAN, 1998

The *Parks, Open Space and Recreation Services Plan* developed in 1998 was utilized as a reference and foundational piece for the research and analysis for this *PROS Plan*. In particular, the Parks, Open Space and Facility Goals and Recommendations provided insight as to the core needs and desires of the community. While expanding on the 1998 research and analysis, this plan set out to reassess citizen needs and priorities for the future.

Since the *1998 Parks, Open Space and Recreation Services Plan*, the Department has made extensive efforts toward implementing the policies and goals as well as completing the various actions identified. Key accomplishments from the 1998 plan include:

- Shoreline Pool and Parking Master Plan, Expansion and Renovation;
- Richmond Highlands Recreation Center Master Plan and Renovation;
- Shoreview Park Master Plan, Improvements and Renovation;
- Paramount School Park Master Plan and Improvements;
- Skate Park Master Plan and Construction at Paramount School Park ;
- Richmond Beach Saltwater Park Bluff Trail Renovation;
- Construction of Interurban Trail South, South Central, and North segments including Echo Lake improvements;
- Upgraded Neighborhood Parks utilizing newly adopted maintenance standards for typical park amenities including regulatory and directional signs, picnic tables, benches and litter receptacles, and fencing;
- Replaced playgrounds at Brugger's Bog, Twin Ponds Park, Richmond Highlands Park and Shoreview Park;



- Purchased Richmond Beach Saltwater Park Conservancy Area addition;
- Upgraded Hamlin Park Maintenance yard;
- Purchased and implemented new business management software for recreation class registration and facility scheduling and rentals to track revenues and attendance as well as enhance customer service;
- Minor improvements included:
  - Brugger's Bog invasive plant removal and playground installation;
  - Innis Arden Reserve hazard tree removal, signs and trail improvements;
  - Boeing Creek trail improvements;
  - Richmond Reserve invasive plant removal and landscaping; and
  - Richmond Beach Community Park view corridor enhancement.
- Began contracting services to Lake Forest Park for summer tennis program and the Aldercrest Annex Teen Program;
- Continued contracting services with the Shoreline-Lake Forest Park Arts Council and the Shoreline Historical Museum to provide cultural services in the community;
- Established a scholarship program to ensure access to recreation programs; and
- Several general recreation and teen programs were developed to offer a balance of recreation as well as competitive sport league programs.



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