



CHAPTER 4: PARK DEMAND AND NEED ASSESSMENT

The Park Demand and Need Assessment of the *PROS Plan* focuses on research, discovery and analysis of the current and future needs of Shoreline citizens. This chapter analyzes park needs by reviewing input from citizen participation and assessing level of service based on a system of classification.

Community participation establishes residents' desires for park and recreational facilities and programs. Through this planning process, community participation was gathered in a variety of ways including a statistically valid citizen's survey, community-wide meetings, focus groups, and stakeholder interviews. The citizen survey also gathered input from residents who are not active users of Shoreline's park and recreation system, which provides information on why people don't use the system.

This assessment included an extensive inventory of all park sites and facilities in the City of Shoreline. The inventory gathered information on each park such as the type and condition of each amenity, a list of the type and quantity of site furnishings, and long term site recommendations. The inventory sheets, listed by park, are located in Appendix I. Upon completion of the inventory the parks were classified. Classification defines types of parks and attributes common to them. Park classifications are regional parks, large urban parks, community parks, neighborhood parks, and natural/special use parks. This classification system assists in the identification of service gaps.

A key element of this assessment was identifying the current level of service in Shoreline. The level of service analyzes the service that is currently provided by the existing parks in Shoreline based on the parks' classification, and also identifies deficiencies. The target level of service develops long term strategies for improving service.

This chapter covers the following:

- Community Participation
- Classification
- Level of Service (organized by park classification)
- Target Level of Service (organized by park classification)

Recreation Programs are addressed in Chapter 7: Recreation Programs.

This provides community input on recreation programs, an inventory of existing recreation programs, alternative recreation providers, and programming assessment.



COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Additional information Community Participation can be found in Appendices C, D, E, and F.

The formation of this plan was shaped by citizen participation. The process included one focus group meeting, stakeholder interviews and meetings, a public joint City Council and PRCS Board meeting to present the survey findings, two community-wide open houses, and a statistically valid, randomly mailed citizen survey.

Public meetings were also held as part of six PRCS Board regular and special meetings from June 2003-March 2004 in addition to a joint meeting with the City Council. This joint meeting was formed to review the preliminary findings of the community needs assessment survey. Two Comprehensive Plan Community Forums were held in September 2003. At their meetings, the PRCS Board discussed park policies, park classifications, target levels of service, and long term recommendations for the capital improvements in each park. The PRCS Board also held special meetings to discuss levels of services for the park system, review six conceptual plans and the 20-year Capital Facilities Projects List developed as part of the *Shoreline Comprehensive Plan* Update effort. In addition, the Planning Commission reviewed the *PROS Plan* elements for inclusion in the *Shoreline Comprehensive Plan*. The final draft of the *PROS Plan* was presented to the PRCS Board, Planning Commission and City Council.

Public involvement in identifying citizen needs and developing the *PROS Plan* involved several elements, which included:

1. Stakeholder interviews with the City Manager, Deputy City Manager, PRCS Board, Department staff, as well as representatives from Shoreline Community College and the Shoreline School District;
2. One focus group meeting in May 2003;
3. Joint City Council and PRCS Board meeting in July 2003;
4. Two community-wide Comprehensive Plan Open Houses in September 2003;
5. Six PRCS Board Regular and Special Meetings from June 2003 to March 2004; and three Comprehensive Plan Open Houses; and
6. A statistically valid citizen needs assessment survey.





In addition, the needs assessment and *PROS Plan* were developed in conjunction with development of a comprehensive package of parks, trails, recreation and sidewalk improvements analysis involving a Bond Advisory Committee made up of over 20 citizen volunteers. A “Capital Improvements Project Citizen Survey” was also completed.

The key findings of the public outreach are summarized below, with more detailed information included in the appendices. Chapter 8: Implementation and Recommendations provides more specific information as to how the Department can accomplish these tasks.

STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS

Additional information on the Stakeholder Interviews can be found in Appendix C.

Community Participation: Stakeholder Interviews

In mid-May 2003, stakeholder interviews were conducted with the City Manager, Deputy City Manager, PRCS Board, PRCS Department staff, as well as representatives from Shoreline Community College and the Shoreline School District. During these meetings, stakeholders were asked a series of questions regarding parks, recreation and cultural services needs including programs and facilities, improvements and changes, priorities, and willingness to pay. Summaries of the meeting outcomes are listed below and the actual questions are included in the appendices. Key findings included:

- Focus on improving existing facilities;
- Take advantage of unique acquisition opportunities that may arise;
- Utilize a geographic based level of service for parks rather than population based methodology;
- Continue proactive partnerships with the other local service and facility providers, and expand them further;
- Improve maintenance levels at parks;
- Existing Shoreline PRCS fields are overscheduled based on current field conditions;
- Improve development and construction of new facilities to avoid maintenance issues; and
- City recreation does not currently have a high profile/ name recognition in the community.



**Community Participation:
Focus Groups**

FOCUS GROUPS

Additional information on the Focus Groups can be found in Appendix D.

Also in mid-May 2003, a variety of stakeholder representatives met as a focus group to provide input on parks, recreation and cultural services. A general discussion and overview of the Department was provided, and the participants were then divided into smaller discussion groups. Key findings included:

- Focus on improving existing facilities;
- Believe there is adequate amount of park land for a community of Shoreline's size, but need to improve maintenance and upgrade amenities;
- Need more paths and trails especially connectors;
- Outdoor theater could serve the broad community;
- Balance needs for overall park system; even, geographic distribution is not necessary;
- Additional indoor pool is needed;
- Leave more parks in a natural state ;
- Increase playing hours for existing sports fields through upgrades; and
- Refine program offerings including both expansion and reduction in specific areas.

**Community Participation:
Community Workshops**

COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS

Additional information on Community Workshops can be found in Appendix E.

In September 2003, two community forums were held as part of the Comprehensive Plan Update process. Transportation, Surface Water and Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan information was displayed and public comment was taken. Comments ranged from desired improvements at specific parks to general comments on street trees, natural areas and funding. Detailed information is included in the appendix.



SURVEYS

The City conducted two Citizen Surveys to gain citizen input on parks and recreation programs: 1) Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Community Attitude and Interest Citizen Survey and 2) Capital Improvement Projects Citizen Survey. These two surveys are described below.

Community Participation: Surveys

Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Community Attitude and Interest Citizen Survey

The City of Shoreline conducted a Community Attitude and Interest Survey during May and June of 2003 to help establish priorities for the future development of parks and recreation facilities, programs and services within the community. The survey was designed to obtain statistically valid results from households throughout the City of Shoreline, and was administered by a combination of mail and phone interviews.

Leisure Vision worked extensively with the City of Shoreline Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department officials and staff as well as members of the GreenPlay, LLC, project team in the development of the survey questionnaire. This work allowed the survey to be tailored to issues of strategic importance, and provide insight for effective planning of the future system.

The goal was to obtain at least 500 completed surveys, including a minimum of 100 in each of the three geographic areas in the City of Shoreline. This goal was far exceeded, with 576 surveys being completed, including over 140 in each of the three geographic areas. The results of the random sample of 576 households have a 95% level of confidence with a precision of $\pm 4.1\%$.

A summary of key findings from the Community Attitude and Interest Survey is provided below, and a detailed report outlining and analyzing the survey results is available through the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department.

Capital Improvement Projects Citizen Survey

A Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) Survey was administered in Shoreline during September and October of 2003 to help decide whether or not the time is right to ask



voters to approve a bond issue, and if so, what should be included in that bond package. The survey was designed to obtain statistically valid results from households throughout the City of Shoreline, and was administered by a combination of mail and phone interviews.

Leisure Vision worked extensively with the City of Shoreline Bond Advisory Committee and staff in the development of the survey questionnaire. This work allowed the survey to be tailored to issues of strategic importance to effectively test a potential capital improvement program. The goal was to obtain at least 500 completed surveys, which was accomplished with 500 surveys being completed. The results of the random sample of 500 households have a 95% level of confidence with a precision of +/-4.4%.

Survey Results: Parks

SURVEY RESULTS

Parks

As part of the Community Attitude and Interest Survey, households were asked to provide insight regarding their visitation to parks, perceived quality of the parks, needs and priorities, and potential improvements to existing parks.

Visitation

A large number of respondents, 71%, indicated visiting City of Shoreline parks within the last year with Hamlin Park, Richmond Beach Saltwater Park and Paramount School Park being visited by the highest number of respondents. Of those respondents that visited parks, 40% visited 20 or more times.

Visitation in Shoreline compares similarly to the national benchmark where 72% indicated visiting a park within the last year.

Physical Conditions

Generally, the physical condition of parks was highly regarded by survey respondents with 26% rating them as excellent, 61% good, 12% fair, and only 1% poor. This compares to national benchmark data where 27% rated park maintenance as excellent 52% good, 15% fair, 2% poor, and 4% don't know.



Facility Needs and Priorities

According to the results of the Community Attitude and Interest Survey, four of the 26 recreational facilities had over half of respondent households indicate they have a need for the facility — small neighborhood parks (67%); paved walking/biking trails (62%); natural areas/nature trails (61%); and large community parks (51%).

Survey Results: Parks Continued

Three of these 26 recreational facilities had over 50% of respondents indicate that the facility completely meets the needs of their household. The facilities with the highest percentage of respondents indicating their needs are completely met include meeting space/conference center (55%), large community parks (53%), and small neighborhood parks (52%). It should also be noted that 20 of the 26 facilities had over 60% of respondents indicate that the facility either completely or partially meets their needs.

By translating the Community Attitude and Interest Survey results in relation to the 21,210 households in Shoreline, unmet need for several facilities is identified. The facilities that do not or only partially meet needs include paved walking/biking trails (8,359 households), natural areas/nature trails (7,837 households), small neighborhood parks (6,352 households), picnic shelters/areas (5,909 households), indoor swimming pools (5,523 households), and cultural facilities (5,344 households).

Paved walking/biking trails (35%) and small neighborhood parks (33%) had the highest percentage of respondents rate them as one of the four most important facilities to their household. The three other facilities that over 20% of respondents rated as one of the four most important were natural areas/nature trails (28%), large community parks (24%), and indoor swimming pools (22%). It should also be noted that large community parks had the highest percentage of respondents rate them as the number one most important facility.

Park Improvements

By far, restrooms (40%) were the park improvement most popular with Community Attitude and Interest Survey respondents. Additional key park improvements respondents would most like to see include walking trails



Survey Results: Parks
Continued

(24%), drinking fountains (20%), benches/picnic tables (19%), park lighting (18%), better maintenance (16%), and picnic shelters (15%), as shown in the following table.

Table 4.1: Potential Improvements to the Parks Visited Most Often

Potential Improvements to the Parks Most Often Visited	Shoreline
Restrooms	40%
Walking Trails	24%
Drinking Fountains	20%
Benches/Picnic Tables	19%
Park Lighting	18%
Better Maintenance	16%
Picnic Shelters	15%
Landscaping	11%
Parking	10%
Upgrading Playground Equipment	10%
Upgraded Ballfields	9%
Better Signage in Parks	6%
Outdoor Basketball Courts	5%
Outdoor Volleyball Courts	3%
Bike Racks	3%
Outdoor Tennis Courts	2%
Other	12%

Survey Results: Programs

SURVEY RESULTS
Programs

Survey respondents were also asked about their participation in Shoreline Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services programs and activities, the quality of those programs, and how they learned about them.

Participation and Quality of Shoreline Programs and Activities

According to results of the Community Attitude and Interest Survey, about one quarter of respondents, 23%, indicated participation in City of Shoreline Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services programs in the previous 12 months. Shoreline participation is slightly lower than the national benchmark of 29% participation in the past year.

Quality ratings for programs were generally high with 49% rating them as excellent, 45% as good, 5% as fair, and only 1% as poor. These ratings compare favorably to national averages where only 30% rated programs as excellent, 55% as good, and 11% as fair.



Promotions

Respondents to the Community Attitude and Interest Survey mentioned newspaper (44%) most frequently as the way they learned about parks, recreation, and cultural programs and activities. Three other popular ways to learn about services include word of mouth (37%), City of Shoreline "Currents" Newsletter (35%), and program fliers (34%). A smaller percentage of respondents, 26%, learned about parks, recreation and cultural programs and activities through the Recreation Guide published by the Department.

Participation in Programs and Activities

Recreation program participation data was also collected from respondent households as part of the Community Attitude and Interest Survey. The programs/activities that the highest percentage of respondent households have participated in include running or walking (69%), going to the beach/Puget Sound (67%), and visiting nature areas/spending time outdoors (63%).

Similarly, going to the beach/Puget Sound is the program/activity currently being used by the highest number of people per household, with an average of 2.38 persons per household participating. The two other programs/activities being used by more than two people per household are visiting nature areas/spending time outdoors (2.18 persons) and running or walking (2.03 persons).

Ninety-five percent (95%) of respondent households indicated participation in running or walking at least once a month. Five other programs/activities with at least 80% of respondent households participating at least once a month include visiting nature areas/spending time outdoors (88%), youth soccer (83%), youth baseball or softball (82%), adult fitness/aerobics classes, weight training (81%), and bicycling (80%). By a wide margin, running or walking (58%) had the highest percentage of respondent households indicate they would participate several times per week.

Running or walking (38%) was selected as the number one program respondents would participate in more often if more programming were available. Two other programs/activities had over one-fourth of respondents select them as one of the four they would participate in more often including visit-



Survey Results: Programs
Continued

ing nature areas/spending time outdoors (30%) and going to the beach/Puget Sound (26%).

Key Leisure Services Providers

The results of the Community Attitude and Interest Survey indicated that the highest percentage of respondent households, 41%, use the City of Shoreline Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services Department. Four other organizations used by over one-fourth of respondent households are Shoreline School District (30%), King County (28%), the City of Seattle (27%), and churches (27%).

The survey asked the respondents to identify the two organizations they used the most for their leisure services and the City of Shoreline Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services Department (25%) had the highest percentage selected. The Shoreline School District (17%) and churches (15%) were also identified as one of the two organizations households use the most for their leisure services.

Barriers to Participation

“We are too busy or not interested” (54%) was the key reason cited for not using City of Shoreline programs and facilities more often. Other reasons that prevented a high percentage of respondent households from using programs and facilities more often include “I do not know what is being offered” (19%) and “use facilities/programs of other agencies” (17%). It should also be noted that only 2% of respondents indicated “poor customer service by staff” as a reason that prevents them from using City of Shoreline programs and facilities more often.

According to the national benchmark data, 34% of respondents are “too busy or not interested,” and 23% indicated “do not know what is being offered.”



SURVEY RESULTS

Support for Improvements and Expansions

General System Improvements and Expansions

When asked in the Community Attitude and Interest Survey to indicate their level of support for 15 actions to improve and expand parks and recreation facilities, three actions had over half of respondents indicate being very supportive including upgrade natural areas and nature trails (57%), upgrade existing neighborhood parks and playgrounds (55%), and improved shoreline and beach access (53%). Of the 15 possible actions, 12 of them had over 60% of respondents indicate being either very supportive or somewhat supportive of them.

When asked to prioritize these same 15 actions, upgrade existing neighborhood parks, playgrounds (38%) had the highest percentage of respondent households select it as one of the four most important actions. Over one-fourth of respondent households also selected upgrade Richmond Beach Saltwater Park on Puget Sound (31%), upgrade natural areas and nature trails (30%), and improve shoreline and beach access (29%) as one of the four most important actions. Upgrade existing neighborhood parks and playgrounds had the highest percentage of respondents select it as the number one most important action.

Improvements to Richmond Beach Saltwater Park

As part of the Capital Improvement Projects Survey, respondents were asked to select the top three improvements (from a list of 11) that could be made to Richmond Beach Saltwater Park that they and members of their household would most support being funded with their tax dollars. The highest number of respondents selected walking trails (39%), with additional improvements supported including erosion control (36%) and native plant restoration (27%). Erosion control had the highest percentage of respondents select it as their first choice as the improvement they would support most.

Fifty-seven percent (57%) of respondents indicated they would be either very supportive (21%) or somewhat supportive (36%) of spending up to \$4 million in tax dollars

**Survey Results:
Improvements and
Expansions**



**Survey Results:
Improvements and
Expansions Continued**

to fund improvements to Richmond Beach Saltwater Park. Twenty-five percent (25%) of respondents indicated they would not be supportive, and the remaining 18% indicated “not sure.”

Improvements to Community and Neighborhood Parks

In the Capital Improvement Projects Survey, respondents selected the top three improvements (from a list of 11) that could be made to neighborhood and community parks that they and members of their household would most support being funded with their tax dollars. Replacing/building new restrooms (37%) was selected by the highest percentage of respondents, with a number of respondents also selecting walking trails (36%) and upgrading playgrounds (25%). Replacing/building new restrooms had the highest percentage of respondents select it as their first choice as the improvement they would support most.

Additionally, approximately two-thirds (67%) of respondents indicated they would be either very supportive (31%) or somewhat supportive (36%) of spending up to \$2 million in tax dollars to fund improvements to neighborhood and community parks. Twenty percent (20%) of respondents indicated they would not be supportive, and the remaining 13% indicated “not sure.”

Off-Leash Dog Park

Within the Capital Improvement Projects Survey, Forty-eight percent (48%) of respondents indicated they would be either very supportive (23%) or somewhat supportive (25%) of spending up to \$75,000 in tax dollars to fund the development of an off-leash dog park. Forty-three percent (43%) of respondents indicated they would not be supportive, and the remaining 9% indicated “not sure.”

Trail Connections

When asked about walking, biking and nature trails in the Capital Improvement Projects Survey, connect the Interurban Trail to Burke Gilman Trail (41%) had the highest percentage of respondents select it as one of the three improvements they would most support being funded with tax dollars. Other improvements with high percentage of support included add walking and biking trails in parks (35%)



and add bike lanes along streets (34%). It should also be noted that add walking and biking trails in parks had the highest percentage of respondents select it as their first choice as the improvement they would support most.

**Survey Results:
Improvements and
Expansions Continued**

Over two-thirds (68%) of respondents indicated they would be either very supportive (30%) or somewhat supportive (38%) of spending up to \$2 million in tax dollars to fund improvements to walking and biking trails, nature trails, bicycle lanes, and other improvements. Twenty-two percent (22%) of respondents indicated they would not be supportive, and the remaining 10% indicated “not sure.”

Hamlin Park

Opinions relative to Hamlin Park were sought as part of the Capital Improvement Projects Survey. Over half (56%) of respondents indicated they would be either very supportive (32%) or somewhat supportive (24%) of spending up to \$2 million in tax dollars to fund the acquisition of undeveloped wooded land for the expansion of Hamlin Park. Twenty-nine percent (29%) of respondents indicated they would not be supportive, and the remaining 15% indicated “not sure.”

Parkland Acquisition

Opinion toward parkland acquisition was explored as part of the Capital Improvement Projects Survey. From a list of six priorities for acquiring additional parkland, respondents were asked to select the top three priorities they and members of their household would most support being funded with their tax dollars. Protect and preserve natural areas (47%) had the highest percentage of respondents select it as one of the three priorities they would most support being funded with tax dollars. There are two other priorities that over 40% of respondents selected as one of the three they would most support, including: develop additional walking/biking trails (43%) and improve shoreline/beach access (41%). The highest percentage of respondents selected protecting and preserving natural areas as their first choice as the priority they would support most.

Over half (55%) of respondents indicated they would be either very supportive (31%) or somewhat supportive (24%) of spending up to \$2.5 million in tax dollars to fund the



**Survey Results:
Improvements and
Expansions Continued**

acquisition of additional parkland and open space throughout the community. Twenty-one percent (21%) of respondents indicated they would not be supportive, and the remaining 24% indicated “not sure.”

Improvements to Youth and Adult Sports Fields

When Capital Improvement Projects Survey respondents were asked about improvements to youth and adult sports fields, improve lighting on soccer fields at Shoreline Park (47%) had the highest percentage of respondents select it as one of the three improvements they would most support being funded with tax dollars. Two other key improvements included upgrade lighting baseball/softball fields at Hamlin Park, and develop new unlit soccer fields in Shoreline (26%). It should also be noted that artificial turf on two soccer fields at Shoreline Park had the highest percentage of respondents select it as their first choice as the priority they would support most.

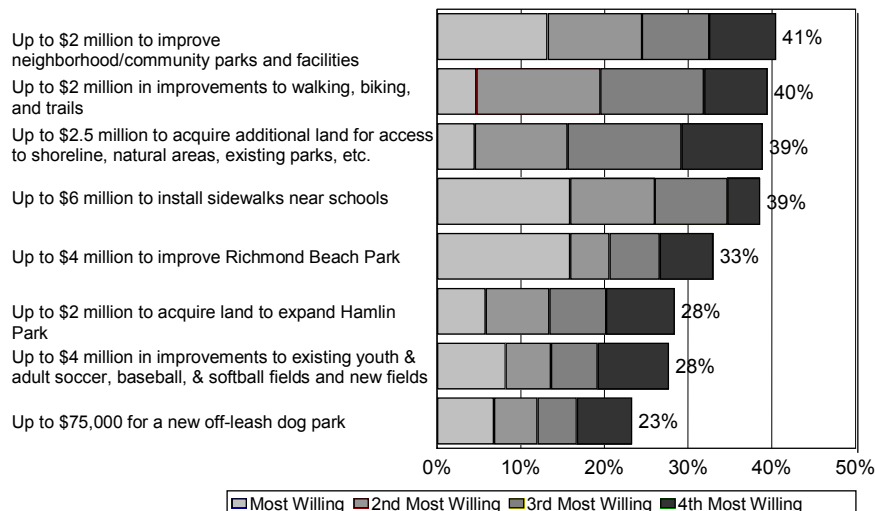
Over half (52%) of respondents indicated they would be either very supportive (18%) or somewhat supportive (34%) of spending up to \$4 million in tax dollars to fund the improvements to existing youth and adult sports fields and develop new unlit soccer and baseball fields. Thirty-one percent (31%) of respondents indicated they would not be supportive, and the remaining 17% indicated “not sure.”

As shown in Figure 4.1 below, the highest percentage of respondents selected up to \$2 million to improve neighborhood and community parks (41%) as one of the four projects they would be most willing to support with their tax dollars. Other projects that a high percentage of respondents selected as one of the four they would be most willing to support include: up to \$2 million in improvements to walking, biking and nature trails (40%); up to \$2.5 million to acquire additional land for access to shoreline, natural areas, existing parks, etc. (39%); and up to \$6 million to install sidewalks near schools (39%). It should also be noted that up to \$6 million to install sidewalks near schools and up to \$4 million to improve Richmond Beach Saltwater Park had the highest percentage of respondents select them as their first choice as the project they would be most willing to support.



Q16. Parks, Recreation and Sidewalk Projects Respondents Would be Most Willing to Support With Tax Dollars

by percentage of respondents (four choices could be made)



Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute (October, 2003)

Figure 4.1: Projects Most Willing to Support with Tax Dollars

Allocation of Spending

Respondents to the Community Attitude and Interest Survey were also asked to indicate how they would allocate \$100 among various parks and recreation categories. The largest portion, \$36, was allocated to improvements/ maintenance of existing parks, playgrounds, and recreation facilities. The remaining \$64 were allocated as follows: improvements/ maintenance of specialty parks (\$19); acquisition & development of walking and biking trails, greenways (\$17); construction of new recreation and aquatic facilities (\$9); construction of new cultural facilities (\$9); and construction of new sports fields (\$7). The remaining \$3 was allocated to "other."

In the Capital Improvement Projects Survey, five of eight projects had at least 50% of respondents indicate that the amount of funding being considered is either a little high or way too high. The projects that had the highest percentage of respondents rate their funding as being a little high or way too high include: up to \$4 million to improve Richmond Beach Saltwater Park (66%); up to \$4 million in improvements to existing youth and adult soccer, baseball, and softball fields and develop new fields (66%); up to

**Survey Results:
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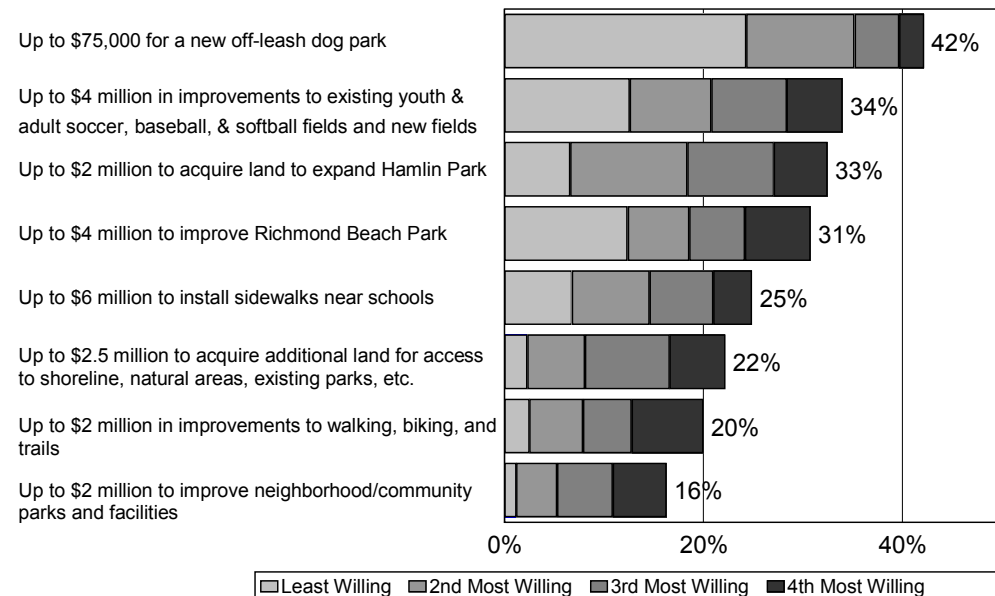
**Survey Results:
Improvements and
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\$75,000 for a new off-leash dog park (60%); up to \$6 million to install sidewalks near schools (59%); and up to \$2 million to fund the acquisition of undeveloped land to expand Hamlin Park (50%).

Opinions toward funding several capital projects were examined as part of the Capital Improvement Projects Survey. Up to \$75,000 for a new off-leash dog park (42%) had the highest percentage of respondents select it as one of the four projects they would be least willing to support with their tax dollars. Other projects that a high percentage of respondents selected as one of the four they would be least willing to support include: up to \$4 million in improvements to existing youth and adult soccer, baseball, and softball fields and develop new fields (34%); up to \$2 million to fund the acquisition of undeveloped land to expand Hamlin Park (33%); and up to \$4 million to improve Richmond Beach Saltwater Park (31%). It should also be noted that up to \$75,000 for a new off-leash dog park had the highest percentage of respondents select it as their first choice as the project they would be least willing to support. See Figure 4.2 below.

**Q17. Parks, Recreation and Sidewalk Projects Respondents
Would be Least Willing to Support With Tax Dollars**

by percentage of respondents (four choices could be made)



Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute (October, 2003)

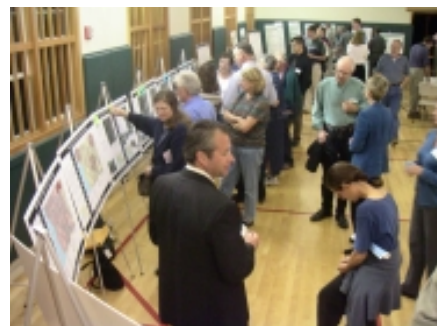
Figure 4.2: Projects Least Willing to Support with Tax Dollars



Demographics of Survey Respondents

In general, the demographics of the survey respondents correspond to those of Shoreline residents. The largest share of households (38%) consisted of two persons. Respondents were typically 45 to 54 years (25%), 55 to 64 years (23%) or 35 to 44 years (20%), and had lived in Shoreline for 31 or more years (20%) or 6 to 10 years (18%). Slightly more females (52%) responded in comparison to males. The largest portion of respondents (25%) had income between \$50,000 and \$74,999; however, many respondents (22%) refused to provide income information.

Survey Respondents





NATIONAL PARTICIPATION AND TRENDS

Additional information on Secondary Demographic Data – Participation and Trends can be found in Appendix B.

The next step in analyzing the results from the public participation processes is to compare the responses with national trends. This was done by reviewing secondary data collected from the National Sporting Goods Association Survey, the Survey of Public Participation in the Arts (SPPA), and the Outdoor Industry Association. Details regarding national trends can be found in the appendices.

The following points summarize major findings of the three surveys that apply most directly to Shoreline:

- Exercise walking, swimming, aerobic exercise, martial arts, running/jogging, and exercising with equipment are very popular and are growing in popularity.
- Exercise walking continues to be the number one sport Americans participate in, and is also the activity with the most frequent participation (over 100 days per year).
- Skate boarding has seen a major increase in participation between 1997-2002.
- Outdoor recreation continues to be relied on for recreation, repose, and reflection.
- The most universally appealing outdoor activity is freshwater fishing that ranked high in participation among American men, women, children and seniors.
- People participating in art activities through classes or lessons are doing so during leisure time, which results in the arts competing with other activities for available leisure time.



COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION CONCLUSION

The findings of the statistically valid Community Attitude and Interest Survey, Capital Improvement Projects, public meetings, and stakeholder interviews were examined in conjunction with Shoreline demographics and national trends in parks and recreation. Several key issues and citizen needs were identified through this process:

- The citizen survey and other community input findings as well as national trends support additional walking and biking trails and trail connections. Exercise walking was the most popular sport in the 2002 National Sporting Goods Association survey, and 69% of respondents to the Shoreline Community Attitude and Interest Survey noted participation in running or walking. Furthermore, Shoreline survey respondents also specified paved walking/biking trails (62%) and natural areas/nature trails (61%) as high priorities. Finally, when Community Interest and Attitude Survey respondents allocated \$100, the third largest portion, \$17 was allocated to acquisition and development of walking and biking trails and greenways.
- Importance of both small neighborhood and community parks requires attention according to respondents of the Shoreline Community Attitude and Interest Survey who expressed a need for small neighborhood parks (67%) and large community parks (51%). Additionally, when prioritizing potential facility improvements, the highest percentage of respondent households (38%) selected upgrade existing neighborhood parks and playgrounds as one of four most important actions.
- Importance of indoor swimming pools is supported by national and local data. Swimming was the third most popular activity in 2002 with participation of almost 55 million, and general industry trends suggest that as baby boomers age, pools will be better utilized for various programs and fitness swimming. The Shoreline Community Interest and Attitude Survey also indicated a need for indoor swimming pools, as it was the fifth facility specified as not or only partially meeting respondents needs. Finally, when Community Interest and Attitude Survey respondents allocated \$100, the fourth largest portion, \$9, was allocated to construction of new recreation and aquatic facilities.



Community Participation:
Conclusion Continued

- Notable park improvements identified through the Shoreline Community Interest and Attitude Survey include “comfort amenities” such as restrooms, drinking fountains, benches/picnic tables, park lighting, and picnic shelters. Walking trails, improved maintenance, and upgrading playgrounds are also important. These key park improvements are generally similar to the national averages where restrooms, drinking fountains, park lighting, picnic shelters, benches/picnic tables, and playground equipment upgrades top the list.
- Protection and preservation of natural areas is important based on comments from focus group participants as well as survey findings, which supported upgrades to natural areas and nature trails (57%). Strong support was also specified in the Capital Improvement Projects Survey where the largest share of respondents, 47%, selected protect and preserve natural areas as one of three priorities they would support funding with tax dollars. General national trends, as previously discussed, also indicate an increased interest in outdoor recreation and maintaining parks and open space. Finally, responses to the Community Interest and Attitude Survey indicated preserving the environment and providing open space (76%) as a very important Departmental function.
- Need for upgrading parks and playgrounds was selected most often as the number one most important improvement action by respondents to the Shoreline Community Interest and Attitude Survey. Likewise, focus group participants and stakeholders saw maintaining and improving existing facilities as one of the key priorities. Additionally, in the Capital Improvement Projects survey the highest percentage of respondents (41%) selected improve neighborhood and community parks as one of the four projects they would be most willing to support. Finally, when Community Interest and Attitude Survey respondents allocated \$100, the largest portion, \$36, was allocated to improvements/maintenance of existing parks, playgrounds and recreation facilities.
- Upgrade of Richmond Beach Saltwater Park was supported generally in that it was the second most visited park according to the Community Interest and Attitude Survey. As previously noted, both surveys indicated support for upgrades to existing facilities as did discussions in focus groups, community meetings and



stakeholder interviews. The Capital Improvements Project survey noted that 68% of respondents considered up to \$4 million to improve Richmond Beach Saltwater Park as a little high or way too high.

- Interest in an off-leash dog park was indicated by respondents to the Capital Improvement Projects survey where 48% specified they would be either very supportive or somewhat supportive of spending up to \$75,000 in tax dollars to fund development. Conversely, 42% selected spending \$75,000 in tax dollars as one of four projects they would be least willing to support.
- Focus group participants, stakeholders, community meeting participants and survey respondents generally supported importance of improvements and maintenance to existing parks. Respondents to the Community Interest and Attitude Survey respondents were asked to allocate \$100 to various needs. The largest portion, \$36, was allocated to improvements/maintenance of existing parks, playgrounds and recreation facilities.
- Support for funding the projects specified in the Capital Improvement Projects Survey is generally for amounts lower than those suggested.

Community Participation:
Conclusion Continued



PARKS CLASSIFICATIONS AND LEVEL OF SERVICE

Parks and Recreation classifications are often used as a guideline depicting how various types of facilities are used and the common amenities included within. The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) classifications/definitions as well as the definitions from the *1998 Parks, Open Space and Recreation Services Plan* were used as a foundation for the following definitions. Such classifications are not concrete, but rather give direction and insight when planning for and managing facilities.

These classifications set the stage for analyzing need, also described as level of service. Level of service is a term that describes the amount, type, or quality of facilities that are needed in order to serve the community at a desired and measurable standard. This standard varies, depending not only by the type of service that is being provided, but also by the quality of service that is desired by the community. A community can decide to lower, raise, or maintain the existing levels of service for each type of capital facility and service. This decision will affect both the quality of service provided, as well as the amount of new investment or facilities that are, or will be, needed in the future to serve the community. Level of service standards state the quality of service that the community desires and for which service providers should plan.

Determining level of service is a way to quantify the need for parks and services. The accepted national practice in the past has been to adopt a uniform national standard measurement either in total park land per 1,000 population or on geographic service areas. However there are many variables that impact standardized measurements of service such as topography, available natural resources, climate, political commitment and funding. Current thinking of NRPA encourages more emphasis on a local analysis of need. To establish a base of reference, this *PROS Plan* analyzed level of service based on NRPA geographic service area standards.

NRPA SERVICE AREA STANDARDS

Levels of service for parks and recreation were not established as part of the *1998 Park, Open Space and Recreation Services Plan*. However, a geographic service area was utilized to analyze the existing service level in



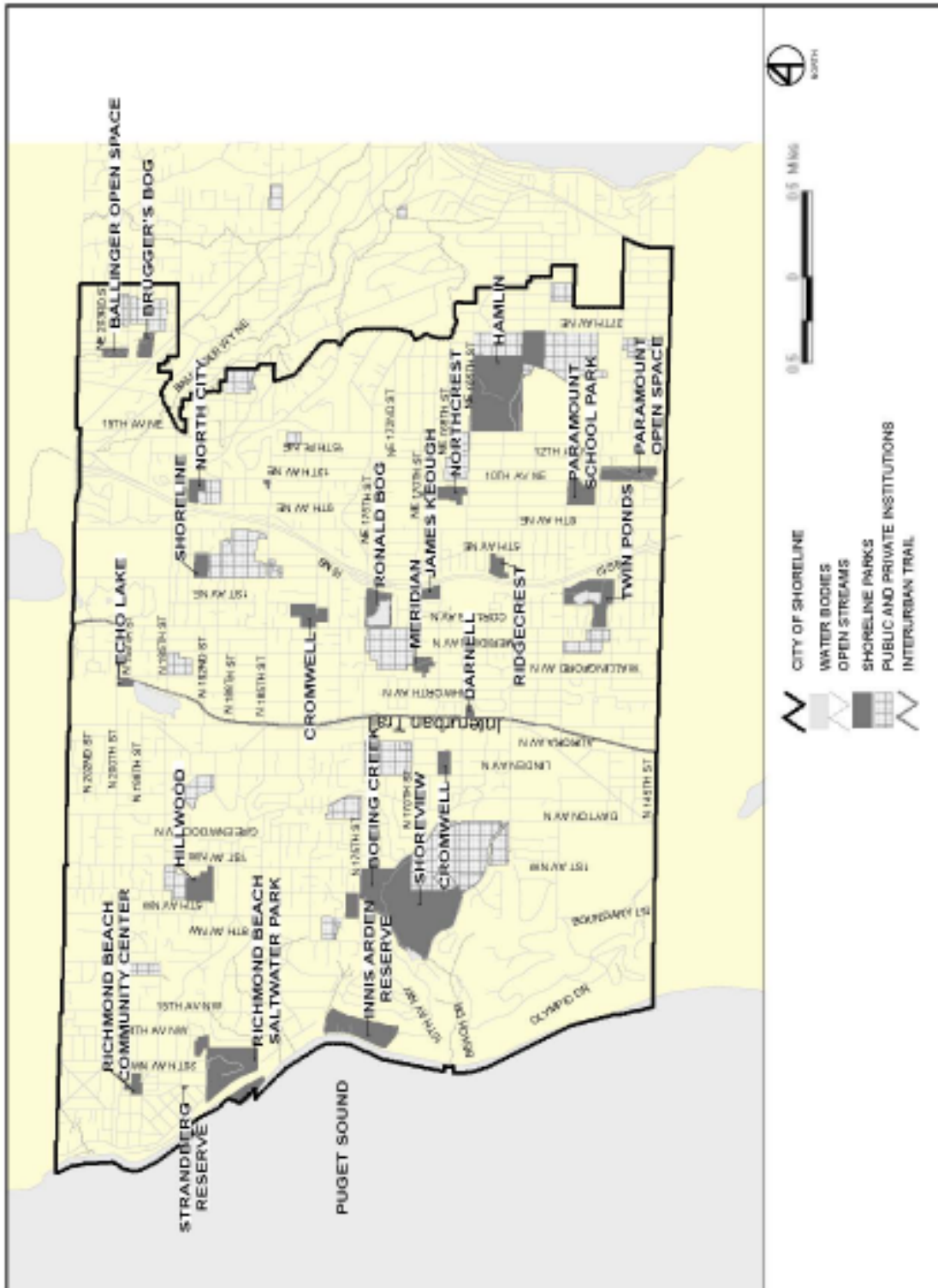
Shoreline. Geographic levels of service are used to determine where deficiencies in park and open space facilities occur. This method involves defining various types of parks/facilities (e.g., neighborhood park, community park, etc.), determining the classification for city facilities, and developing a geographic radii service area around each type of park/facility. Most of Shoreline's park classifications serve the city as a whole, however, the neighborhood park and the community park classifications serve smaller geographic areas ranging from 1/2 mile to 3 miles.

The following section looks at each type of park classification in Shoreline. Each classification type is defined. Parks that fall under the classification type are listed. The geographic service area, as applicable, is noted and analyzed. Finally, where deficiencies arise, target levels of service and recommendations on how to address deficiencies are noted. The five park classifications are regional park, large urban park, community park, neighborhood park, and natural/special use park.

Shoreline's parks are shown on Figure 4.3 on the following page.



PARKS and OPEN SPACE



City of Shoreline PARKS RECREATION and OPEN SPACE

Figure 4.3: Regional and Large Urban Parks



REGIONAL PARKS

Regional parks serve the city and beyond. They are often large and include a specific use or feature that makes them unique. Typically, regional park use focuses on a mixture of active and passive activities, and sometimes offers a wider range of amenities and activities. The geographic service area for a regional park is citywide. The target level of service will remain citywide. Richmond Beach Saltwater Park, consisting of 42 acres, serves as a regional park due to its functionality in providing the only public water access to Puget Sound. The map below shows the location of Richmond Beach Saltwater Park and large urban parks.

Table 4.2 Regional Parks

Regional Park	Service Area	Amenities
Richmond Beach Saltwater Park	Citywide	Picnic shelters (2), restrooms, playground, Puget Sound/water access, beach, paths/trails, fishing, wildlife
Total Area: 42 acres		

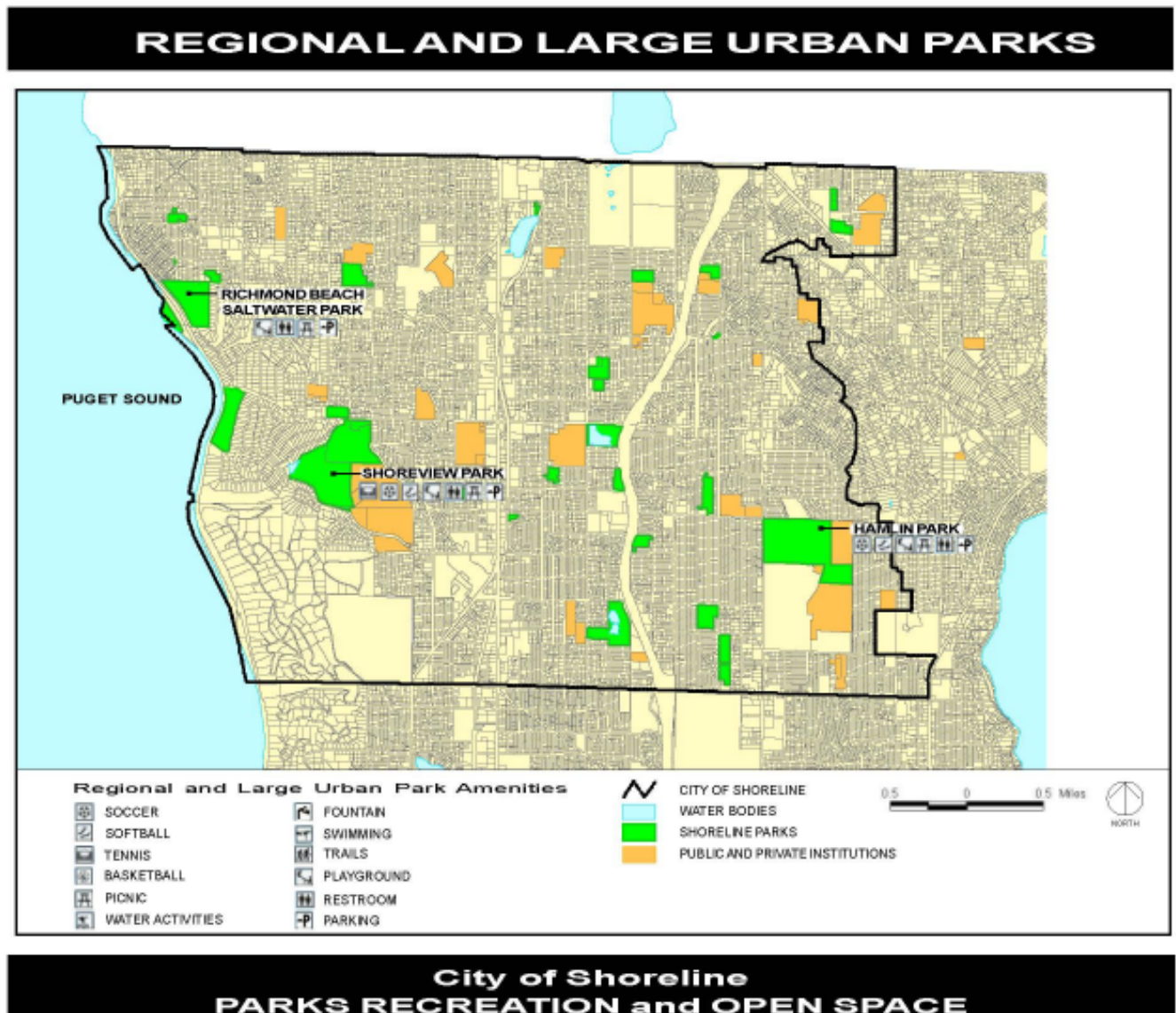


Figure 4.4: Park Sites in Shoreline



LARGE URBAN PARK

Large urban parks serve a broad purpose and population, but also often serve neighborhood and community park functions. Their focus is on providing a mixture of active and passive recreation opportunities and serving a diversity of interests.

Generally, large urban parks provide a wide variety of specialized facilities such as sports fields, large picnic areas, etc. Due to their size and the amenities offered, they require more support facilities such as parking and restrooms. They usually exceed 50 acres, and are designed to accommodate large numbers of people within the entire community. Shoreline has two large urban parks with total acreage over 156.

Table 4.3 Large Urban Parks

Park	Acres	Service Area	Amenities
Hamlin Park	73.00	Citywide	Soccer, baseball, picnic, restrooms, playground, football, trails, horseshoe pits
Shoreview Park	47.5	Citywide	Tennis, soccer, baseball, picnic tables, restroom, playground, trails, wildlife
Total Area	120.5		

Hamlin Park and Shoreview Park are shown in Figure 4.4, the previous page. The service area for large urban parks is citywide, and there are currently no service area deficiencies. However, many of the facilities and uses at a large urban park also meet the definitions of community and neighborhood parks. As noted below, Shoreline has deficiency in both neighborhood and community parks.



COMMUNITY PARK

The purpose of a community park is to meet community-based active, structured recreation needs as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces. The design is for organized activities and sports, although individual and family activities are also encouraged. Generally, the size of a community park ranges between approximately ten to 50 acres.

Community parks serve an area up to three miles, and are often accessed by vehicle, bicycle, public transit, or other means so the walking distance requirement is not critical. Adequate capacity to meet community needs is critical, and requires more support facilities such as parking and restrooms. Typical amenities might include sports fields for competition, picnic facilities for larger groups, skate parks and inline rinks, large destination-style playgrounds, arboretum or nature preserves, space for special events, recreational trails, water-based recreation features, and outdoor education areas. Shoreline has six community parks totaling just over 62 acres.

Table 4.4 Community Parks

Community Park	Acres	Service area	Amenities
Cromwell Park	9.00	1 1/2 mile	Soccer, baseball, and basketball; picnic tables, playground
Hillwood Park	10.00	1 1/2 mile	Tennis, soccer, baseball; picnic tables, restroom, playground, horseshoe pits
Paramount School Park w/skate park	8.60	2 mile	Soccer, baseball; picnic tables/shelter, playground, restroom, skate facility, path
Richmond Highlands Park	4.2	2 mile	Soccer, baseball; picnic tables, restroom, playground
Shoreline Park	9.00	3 mile	Tennis, soccer, picnic tables, restroom, playground, pool, paths
Twin Ponds Park	21.6	1 1/2 mile	Tennis, soccer, picnic tables, restroom, playground, pond/dock, trails
Richmond Highlands Recreation Center	Incl.	NA	Kitchen, game room, gym/basketball court, stage, restrooms
Shoreline Pool	Incl.	NA	Indoor swimming pool, restrooms, shower facility, meeting room
Spartan Gym	Incl.	NA	Fitness center: weight/fitness room, gym, multipurpose rooms, kitchen
Total Area	62.4		



Figure 4.5 illustrates the service areas of the parks classified as community parks. Service area varies per park, as noted in Table 4.4. Physical barriers, such as Interstate-5 are taken into account. Based on NRPA service area standards, most of Shoreline is served by a community park. One area not served by a community park is noted with an asterisk on the map and is located in the northeastern part of the City. While this area is served by a neighborhood park and an open space/special use park it is deficient in recreational amenities typically found in a community park or a recreation center.

Large urban parks meet many of the same needs as a community park. Large urban parks are not evaluated in terms of NRPA standards. Hamlin Park and Shoreview Park offer structured recreation, as well as individual and family activities. While these parks are not located in the areas under-served by community parks they address community park needs citywide.

TARGET LEVEL OF SERVICE FOR COMMUNITY PARKS

- Maintain existing geographic service areas for community parks. However, as future development occurs at Hamlin Park, Shoreview Park, Ballinger Open Space, and Bruggers Bog Park look for appropriate opportunities to address community park deficiencies including amenities such as sports fields, picnic facilities, playgrounds, nature preserves, recreational trails, and outdoor education areas.
- Explore opportunities for an additional recreational facility in the eastern portion of Shoreline.

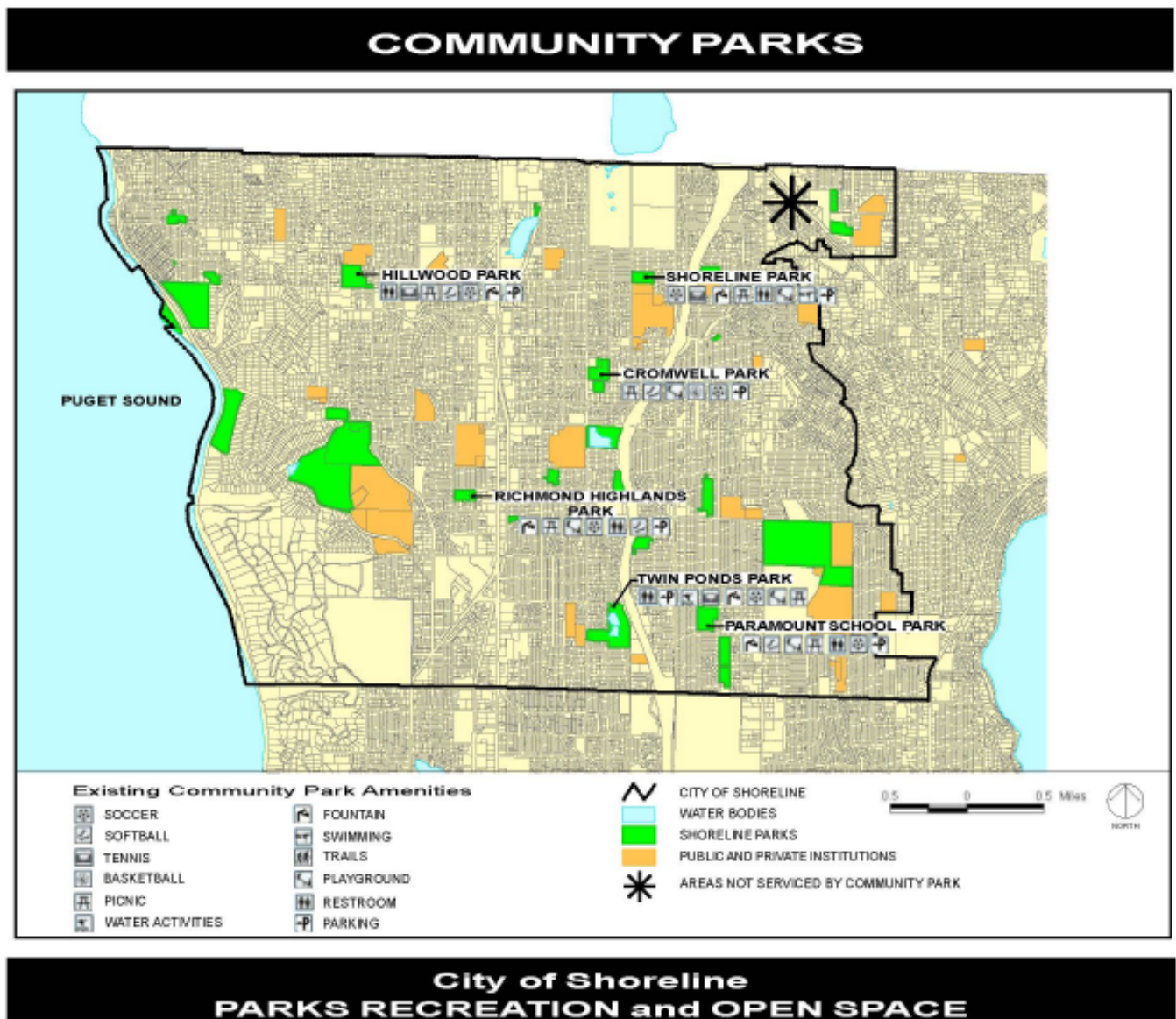


Figure 4.5: Community Parks Level of Service (Variable Service Area)



NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

A neighborhood park is the basic unit of the park system and serves as the recreational and social focus of the neighborhood within approximately 15 minute walking time. The overall space is designed for impromptu, informal, unsupervised active and passive recreation as well as intense recreational activities. These parks are generally small, less than ten acres, and serve the neighborhood within a one-half mile 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 residents.

Typically, amenities found in a neighborhood park include a children's playground, picnic areas, trails, and open grass areas for active and passive uses. Neighborhood parks may also include amenities such as tennis courts, outdoor basketball courts, and multi-use sport fields for soccer, baseball, etc. as determined by neighborhood need. Shoreline has five neighborhood parks totaling 21.9 acres.

Table 4.5 Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood Park	Acres	Service Area	Amenities
Brugger's Bog	4.30	1/2 mile	Picnic tables, playground
James Keough Park	3.10		Slide, soccer, basketball; picnic tables
Northcrest Park	7.30		Picnic tables, playground, trail
Richmond Beach Community Park	3.0		Tennis, picnic tables, playground, path, library
Ridgecrest Park	3.5		Baseball, handball, playground
Total area	21.2		



Figure 4.6 illustrates the service areas of the five parks classified as neighborhood parks. Service area for these parks is ½ mile. However physical barriers such as the Interstate-5 reduced the area serviced by parks located adjacent to the freeway. It is not likely that people will cross the freeway, especially on foot, to access a neighborhood park and its amenities. Based exclusively on NRPA service area standards, much of Shoreline is deficient in neighborhood parks as noted in Figure 4.6.

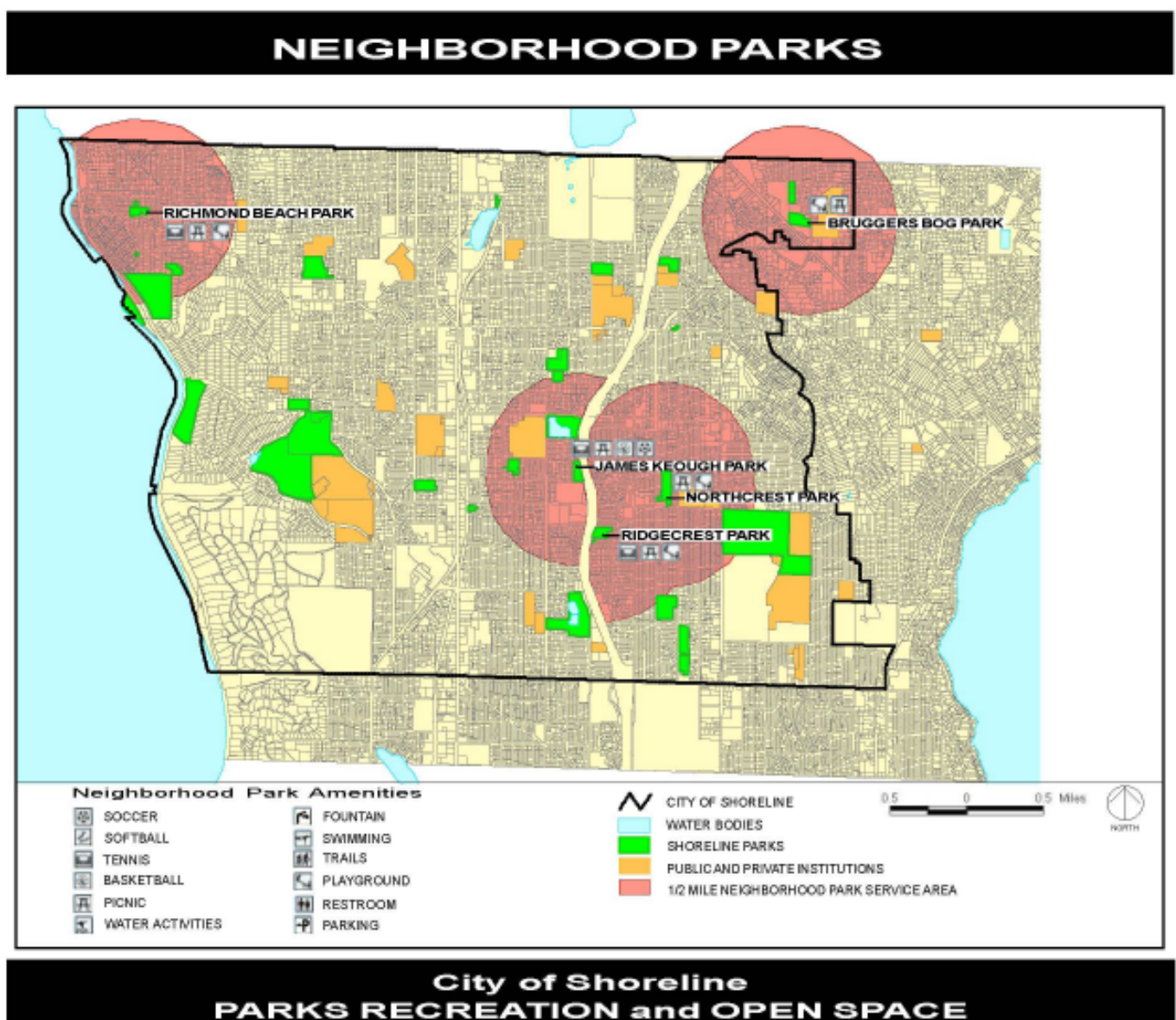


Figure 4.6: Neighborhood Parks Level of Service (Variable Service Area)



TARGET LEVEL OF SERVICE FOR NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS:

Addressing geographic service gaps will be challenging for the City of Shoreline as it is nearly built out with limited areas available for land acquisition for park/facility development. There are a number of reasons that the geographic service area method may not be appropriate for determining a target level of service for neighborhood parks:

- It is only efficient if all park amenities within the park draw patrons from the same distance geographically.
- It does not take into consideration all accessibility barriers such as major streets, topography, and perception issues.
- Parks rarely meet all of the characteristics within each standard category.
- The standards don't account for differences in local values or participation patterns.
- It is not adjusted for differences in recreation interests and demands, weather patterns, or other variables in different geographic areas of the country.
- It does not address the quality or mix of park amenities.
- It does not account for other service providers such as schools.

The community will face a number of issues over the coming years which will determine if facilities need to be refurbished, expanded or developed and then when, where and how this will occur. Many capital projects will be competing for development because not all facilities can be funded and built at the same time. Not only will funding need to be prioritized but also construction resources and land will need to be carefully allocated. Financial constraints will also limit the ability to successfully meet target levels of service utilizing a geographic level of service standard. Specifically, utilization of this method could result in the City focusing its resources on acquisition of land at the expense of other strategic methods of service delivery that would be less expensive and provide more service in the long term.

Developing a new, target level of service is an integral piece of this *PROS Plan, 2004*. To more effectively address citizen needs and desires, a new level of service was developed for Shoreline based on the quality and mix of park amenities.



This method is a more typical approach utilized by communities. It is a departure from the geographic service area method in that this approach looks at the types of amenities provided in a given park, and establishes long term goals based on community input and on the amenities available to the surrounding community.

This method, called the amenity driven approach, establishes an interconnected relationship between individual park facilities within the overall park system. The amenity driven approach allows greater flexibility in strategically planning for amenities. Additionally, this approach addresses the quality and mix of park facilities within the park system as a whole. For example, if patrons are looking for a neighborhood park amenity such as a playground, it may exist or can be created in a “community park” and serve the public need much more cost effectively and efficiently than creating a new neighborhood park in an area where there is no land available. Accessibility to existing parks with needed amenities might be a key long-term goal versus land acquisition, design and building a new park.

Another consideration for meeting neighborhood park deficiency is reviewing and assessing the proximity of school sites. While school sites don’t fully address a neighborhood park need due to limitations on public use during the school day, public school sites offer many amenities similar to those in a neighborhood park. Table 4.6 lists school sites and pertinent amenities.

Figure 4.7 illustrates how level of service for neighborhood parks could be expanded by adding/upgrading amenities at existing parks of various classifications and utilizing school sites. The following sites were identified by staff and the PRCS Board as having potential to serve a neighborhood park function: Echo Lake Park, Shoreline Park, Hillwood Park, Richmond Beach Community Park, Boeing Creek Park, Shoreview Park, Richmond Highlands Park, Cromwell Park, Twin Ponds Park, Hamlin Park, and Paramount Park. This analysis assumes that school sites have the same service area as a neighborhood park, ½ mile. Based on this evaluation of service, the deficiency in neighborhood park amenities is greatly reduced.



Table 4.6: School Sites

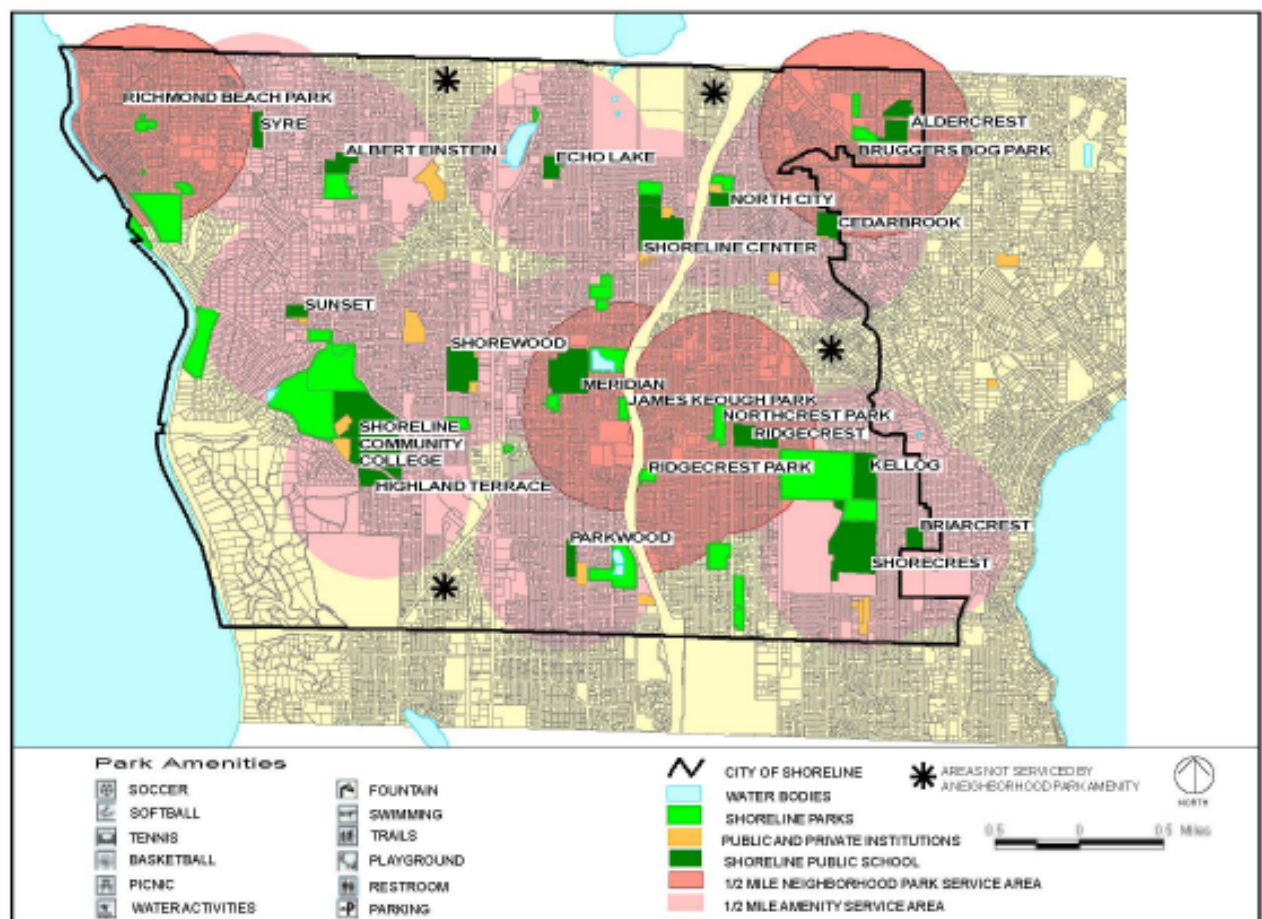
School	Address	Amenities
Albert Einstein Middle School	19343 3RD AVE NW SHORELINE, WA 98177	Gymnasium, weight room, outdoor basketball, football/soccer, track
Aldercrest Annex KG-08 School	2545 NE 200TH ST SHORELINE, WA 98155	Football/soccer, baseball, track
Briarcrest Elementary School	2715 NE 158TH ST SEATTLE, WA 98155	Playground, gymnasium
Brookside Elementary School	17447 37TH AVE NE LAKE FOREST PA, WA 98155	Playground, gymnasium
Shoreline Community College	16101 GREENWOOD AVE N SHORELINE, WA 98133	Gymnasium, track, soccer/football
Echo Lake Elementary School	19345 WALLINGFORD AVE N SHORELINE, WA 98133	Playground, gymnasium
Highland Terrace Elementary School	100 N 160TH ST SHORELINE, WA 98133	Playground, gymnasium
Kellogg Middle School	16045 25TH AVE NE SHORELINE, WA 98155	Gymnasium, weight room, football/soccer, track
Lake Forest Park Elementary School	18500 37TH AVE NE LAKE FOREST PA, WA 98155	Tennis courts, playground, gymnasium
Melvin G. Syre Elementary School	19545 12TH AVE NW SHORELINE, WA 98177	Playground, gymnasium
Meridian Park Elementary School	17077 MERIDIAN AVE N SHORELINE, WA 98133	Track, soccer/football, tennis, baseball, basketball
North City Elementary School	816 NE 190TH ST SHORELINE, WA 98155	Playground, gymnasium
Parkwood Elementary School	1815 N 155TH ST SHORELINE, WA 98133	Playground, gymnasium
Ridgecrest Elementary School	16516 10TH AVE NE SHORELINE, WA 98155	Playground, gymnasium, walking path
Shorecrest High School	15343 25TH AVE NE SHORELINE, WA 98155	Football/soccer, track, tennis, softball, baseball, gymnasium, weight room, theater
Shoreline's Children's Center	17011 MERIDIAN AVE N SHORELINE, WA 98133	Playground
Shorewood High School	17300 FREMONT AVE N SHORELINE, WA 98133	Football/soccer, track, tennis, softball, baseball, gymnasium, weight room, theater
Sunset Elementary School	17800 10TH AVE NW SHORELINE, WA 98177	Playground, gymnasium



Target level of service for neighborhood parks should address the following:

- Maintain existing geographic service area for neighborhood parks but add additional neighborhood park amenities, as desired by the community, to the following sites: Echo Lake Park, Shoreline Park, Hillwood Park, Richmond Beach Community Park, Boeing Creek Park, Shoreview Park, Richmond Highlands Park, Cromwell Park, Twin Ponds Park, Hamlin Park, and Paramount Park.
- Partner with appropriate school sites to provide neighborhood park amenities to adjacent community.
- Continue exploring opportunities for new neighborhood parks in areas not serviced by a neighborhood park amenity.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK AMENITIES



City of Shoreline PARKS RECREATION and OPEN SPACE

Figure 4.7: Target Level of Service Neighborhood Park Amenities (1/2 mile Service Area)



NATURAL/SPECIAL USE AREA

This category includes areas developed to provide aesthetic relief and physical buffers from the impacts of urban development, and to offer access to natural areas for urban residents. These areas may also preserve significant natural resources, native landscapes, and open space. Furthermore, natural/special use areas may serve one or several specific purposes such as community gardens, waterfront access, sports fields, or a variety of others.

The service area for natural/special use spaces varies depending upon amenities and usage. Shoreline has 11 areas categorized as natural/special use, which total slightly more than 100 acres.

As the need arises for a special use areas work with the PRCS Board, citizens and community groups to develop criteria and evaluate opportunities for development and operation. Example: Dog off leash area.

Natural/special use parks are shown in Table 4.7 below. There are no specified geographic service areas for natural/special use parks. The location and availability of natural/special use parks is dependent on the resource opportunities. However, through the citizen participation component of the needs assessment, residents identified a strong desire for additional access to water bodies including the Puget Sound and Echo Lake, additional natural areas, and walking/biking trails.

Table 4.7: Natural/Special Use Park

Natural/Special Use Park	Acres	Service Area	Amenities
Ballinger Open Space	3.20	NA	Trail
Boeing Creek	40.42		Picnic tables, trail, waterfront
Darnell Park	0.84		None
Echo Lake	0.76		Picnic, restrooms, Interurban Trail, fishing, waterfront
Innis Arden Reserve	23.00		Trail
Meridian	3.20		Picnic tables, trail
North City	3.80		Paths
Paramount Open Space	9.2		Picnic tables, trails, wildlife
Richmond Reserve	0.25		None
Ronald Bog	13.70		Picnic, waterfront
Strandberg Preserve	2.60		Path
Total Area	100.55		



TARGET LEVEL OF SERVICE FOR NATURAL/SPECIAL USE PARKS:

While a target level of service does not specifically apply to the natural/special use parks future opportunities should be taken to acquire sites with water access and walking/biking trail potential, as noted as a high priority through citizen participation.

The following map shows natural/special use sites within the City of Shoreline.

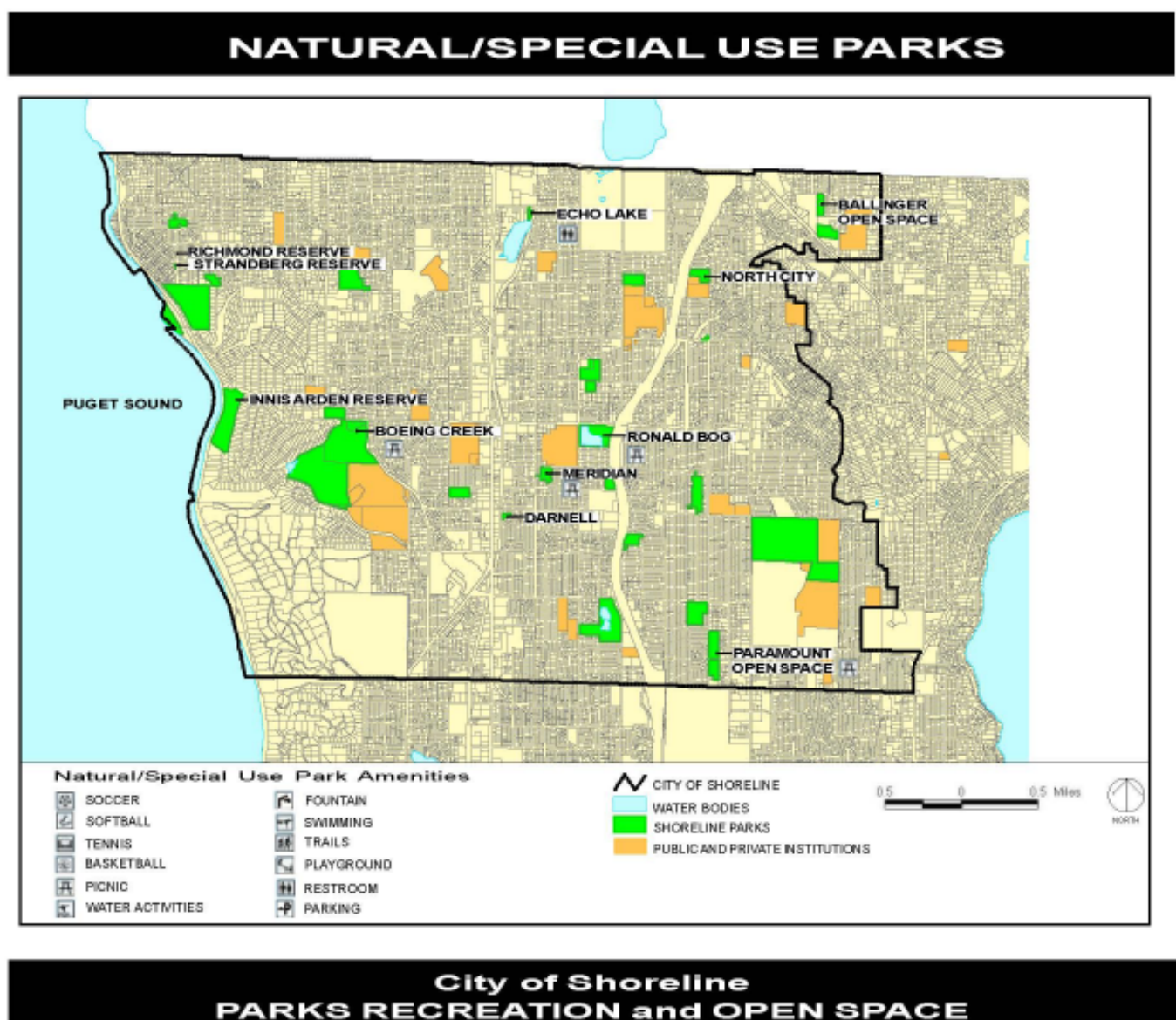


Figure 4.8: Natural/Special Use Parks



PARK DEMAND AND NEED ASSESSMENT CONCLUSION

This demand and need assessment was shaped by the community's participation in a variety of opportunities which included: a focus group meeting, stakeholder interviews and meetings, a public joint City Council and PRCS Board meeting, two community-wide open houses, and a statistically valid citizen survey.

This outreach showed that usage of the park and recreation system is high. Additional restrooms and walking trails are the most desired park improvements. There is a wide range of park and recreation needs, and not all of the needs are currently being met. Areas identified as the least met needs are paved walking and biking trails, natural areas, neighborhood park amenities (such as restrooms, picnic shelters, drinking fountains, playground, and walking trails), indoor swimming pool and a cultural facility. In addition, community participants believe future focus should be on improving and maintaining existing facilities and developing proactive partnerships.

Shoreline's 347 acres of park and recreational land are classified by the following typology: regional park, large urban park, community park, neighborhood park, and natural/open space park. The community and neighborhood park classifications are subject to geographic service area standards, and based on these standards Shoreline is deficient in both. Deficiencies in sites with water access, specifically, the Puget Sound and Echo Lake, natural areas, and trails for walking and biking were also revealed. Due to limited land supply, financial constraints, and development regulations it is not likely that the City of Shoreline will be able to meet all of these deficiencies through acquisitions of new sites. Other opportunities must be explored. These opportunities include the dispersal of neighborhood and community park amenities amongst various park classifications, partnerships with other providers, and acquisition when feasible.