



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan (Chapter 1)
Parks, recreation, cultural services, and open space are key elements of a community's quality of life. This Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Plan will assist in prioritizing City investments in these facilities and programs for all incorporated land within the City of Shoreline. The intent of this PROS Plan is to build the framework for the future maintenance and development of Shoreline's parks, recreation and cultural programs. It discusses community resources, recreation goals and policies, needs concerning parks, recreation, and open space, and strategies for implementing the plan.

The City of Shoreline developed its first PROS Plan in 1998 not long after the City assumed responsibility from King County of the parks and recreation programs within the city limits. This Plan updates the plan adopted in 1998.

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

1. Analysis of background information, population data and regional characteristics that guide parks, open space and recreation in Shoreline;
2. Assessment and prioritization of the parks, recreation and cultural services' needs, desires, and levels of service through stakeholder interviews, focus groups, community meetings, and citizen survey;
3. Development of an action plan and implementation strategies; and
4. Integration of PROS Plan elements with the *Shoreline Comprehensive Plan*.

The PROS Plan will serve as a companion document to the Shoreline Comprehensive Plan. A comprehensive plan is a land use document, required by the State of Washington's Growth Management Act that provides policy direction for citywide land use decisions. The Shoreline Comprehensive Plan is a guide for the City's physical, economic and social development over the next 20 years. Goals and policies identified through this PROS Plan will fold into the Shoreline Comprehensive Plan. Goals are the City's aspirations, and are intended to remain constant over time. The PROS Plan identifies the long term goals, listed on the right, for Shoreline's parks, recreation, cultural services, and open spaces.

GOALS

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

Monitor and evaluate maintenance of parks and recreational facilities and develop measurable standards for enhancing maintenance efficiency and effectiveness.

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

Seek alliances and coordination with facility and program providers to strive for the efficient and equitable distribution of community and regional resources, and to maximize the use of parks, recreation and cultural resources by Shoreline residents.

Seek to develop a diverse Citywide trail system linking key community elements such as parks, greenways, open spaces, regional trail systems, transportation nodes, neighborhoods, churches, and community businesses.

Encourage consistent and effective public involvement in the short and long-range park, recreation and cultural services planning process.

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



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Community Profile (Chapter 2)

Shoreline is located in Western Washington about 15 miles north of the City of Seattle. It is located between the Puget Sound and Lake Washington. Shoreline is approximately 12 square miles. It is considered a desirable place to live due to its proximity to Seattle, accessibility, moderate climate, and quality of schools, neighborhoods, and outdoor resources.

The following characteristics of Shoreline and its citizens will drive the need for future parks, park amenities, and recreation programs:

- Shoreline is largely developed offering few opportunities for new parkland.
- A high percentage (74%) of housing units in Shoreline are single family homes. Single family homes are more likely to have yards and provide some level of private open space. As sites redevelop and smaller lots are created more parks and open space will be needed for the loss of private open space.
- Population in Shoreline will continue to grow and the demand on existing park facilities and programs will increase.
- A high percentage of Shoreline residents are 35 and older, white, and of middle income. Shoreline is an aging community and will have need for recreation programming and services that meet these residents' needs.



Public Involvement (Chapter 4)

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 – PRCS Board meeting, two community-wide open houses, and a statistically valid citizen survey.

These outreach efforts were examined in conjunction with Shoreline demographics and national trends in parks and recreation. These findings identified the following:

- Support for additional walking paths, biking trails and trail connections;
- Importance of both small neighborhood and community parks;





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- A need for an indoor swimming pool and a cultural facility;
- Improvements such as restrooms, drinking fountains, benches/picnic tables, park lighting, picnic shelters, and playgrounds;
- Protection and preservation of natural areas;
- A need for upgrading improvements and maintenance at existing parks, playgrounds, and recreational facilities.

Level of Service (Chapter 4 and 6)

Common amenities and various types of facilities guide the classification of parks and recreation. The National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) classifications as well as the definitions from the 1998 Parks, Open Space and Recreation Services Plan were used as a foundation for the classification found in this Plan.

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. 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 measure 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.

Shoreline's 347 acres of park and recreational land are classified in the following table. To establish a base of reference, this PROS Plan analyzed level of service based on NRPA geographic service area standards for community and neighborhood park classifications. As noted below neighborhood parks have a ½-mile service area and community parks have a variable service area ranging from 1&1/2 mile to 3 miles.





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Table 1: Shoreline’s Parks and Recreation Facilities(Organized by Classification)

Name of Park	Acres	Classification	Service Radius
Cromwell	9.00	Community	1 1/2 mile
Hillwood	10.00	Community	1 1/2 mile
Paramount School Park w/Skate Park	8.60	Community	2 mile
Richmond Highlands	4.20	Community	2 mile
Shoreline	9.00	Community	3 mile
Twin Ponds	21.60	Community	1 1/2 mile
Richmond Highlands Community Center	Inc.	Indoor Community	NA
Shoreline Pool	Inc.	Indoor Community	NA
Spartan Gym	Inc.	Indoor Community	NA
Hamlin	73.00	Large Urban	NA
Shoreview	47.52	Large Urban	NA
Brugger's Bog	4.30	Neighborhood	1/2 mile
James Keough	3.10	Neighborhood	1/2 mile
Northcrest	7.30	Neighborhood	1/2 mile
Richmond Beach Community Park	3.00	Neighborhood	1/2 mile
Ridgecrest	3.50	Neighborhood	1/2 mile
Ballinger Open Space	3.20	Natural/Special Use	NA
Boeing Creek	40.42	Natural/Special Use	NA
Darnell Park	0.84	Natural/Special Use	NA
Echo Lake	0.76	Natural/Special Use	NA
Innis Arden Reserve	23.00	Natural/Special Use	NA
Meridian	3.20	Natural/Special Use	NA
North City	3.80	Natural/Special Use	NA
Paramount Open Space	9.20	Natural/Special Use	NA
Richmond Reserve	0.25	Natural/Special Use	NA
Ronald Bog	13.70	Natural/Special Use	NA
Strandberg Preserve	2.60	Natural/Special Use	NA
Richmond Beach Saltwater	42.20	Regional Park	Regional
TOTAL	347.29		



Based on these service area standards Shoreline is deficient in both community and neighborhood parks. 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.

Life Cycle Costs (Chapter 5)

Based on an extensive park inventory, the 10-year life cycle and maintenance costs to maintain the City of Shorelines current structural facilities over a 10-year period are approximately \$4,239,000.

Recreation (Chapter 7)

Based on the insight gathered through community outreach, identification of comparable providers, review of recreation trends, and the program pyramid exercise, a tool that helps determine benefits and perceived obligation to the service area, Shoreline has opportunities in several recreational areas summarized below.

- Fitness programs for all age groups but particularly those targeting seniors;
- Adult athletics particularly for activities not provided by nonprofits;
- Environmental education;
- Walking for fitness especially for seniors;
- Swimming for exercise and water fitness classes;
- Swim lessons and recreational swim;
- Instructional classes;
- Theater and concert performances; and
- Programs for youth and families.



Implementation Plan (Chapter 8)

This PROS Plan concludes with a list of recommended facility improvements and acquisitions, and a series of actions that pool all recommendations into a plan for implementation.



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