



City of Lynnwood  
2016-2035 Parks, Arts, Recreation  
& Conservation Plan 2022 Update



A young girl with dark hair, wearing a pink ruffled swimsuit, is playing in a park water fountain. She is standing on a blue base, holding onto a silver vertical pole. Water is spraying out from the top of the pole in a large, circular arc, creating a misty spray around her. The background shows green foliage and a paved area.

## MISSION

Lynnwood Parks, Recreation & Cultural Arts - creating a healthy community through people, parks, programs and partnerships.



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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*Update Adopted: Resolution 2022-XX passed by City Council on TBD*

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**ECONorthwest**  
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February 16, 2016

Dear Community Members:

For over 50 years, the residents of Lynnwood have wisely invested in a public parks and recreation system. For only the second time since Wilcox Park (formerly City Park) was created in 1962, this organization has now developed a 10-year Park, Arts, Recreation and Conservation (PARC) Comprehensive Plan to help guide the department's implementation of its mission, which is to create a healthy community through people, parks, programs and partnerships.

The PARC Plan represents a collaborative effort of our residents, staff and other partners who together believe in a strategic direction and principles that will help achieve our goals, while anticipating future challenges and changing community needs and interests. The Plan aims to provide a sustainable and balanced system that is accessible and inclusive for each and every one of our residents to enjoy. We also believe this plan will continue our commitment to shape the character of the City and enhance the quality of life for our residents.

As the Plan clearly articulates, many of the needs and ideas found within this document mirror emerging needs that our citizens believe are important. Our collective challenge is to use this plan as a foundation to build upon to ensure future generations will have an opportunity to enjoy an outstanding park and recreation system. It is our responsibility to strategically evaluate our facilities, services and operations to continue to meet our future commitments. This plan will allow us to focus on maintaining and improving our community assets, and to be better equipped to meet the new challenges of the future.

We are especially grateful to our residents who have voiced their opinions and attended our public meetings. Our promise to the community is to use this plan to continue our efforts to **create a healthy community through people, parks, programs and partnerships.**

Sincerely,

Lynn D. Sordel  
Director, Parks, Recreation & Cultural Arts  
City of Lynnwood









# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Parks, Arts, Recreation and Conservation Plan is a ten-year guide and strategic plan for managing and enhancing park and recreation services in Lynnwood. It establishes a path forward for providing high quality, community-driven parks, trails, open spaces and recreational opportunities. The Plan reinforces the City's vision for its park and recreation system, proposes updates to service standards for parks and trails and addresses departmental goals, objectives and other management considerations toward the continuation of quality recreation opportunities to benefit the residents of Lynnwood.

This Plan was developed with the input and direction of Lynnwood residents for initial adoption in 2016 and again for an update in 2021. The Plan inventories and evaluates existing park and recreation areas, assesses the needs for acquisition, site development and operations and offers specific policies and recommendations to achieve the community's goals.

## VISION FOR THE FUTURE

Effort toward the development of this Plan began in 2013 with a pair of "visioning" exercises at a joint board and commission meeting and Lynnwood University. Outreach continued with a series of community open houses and stakeholder meetings in fall 2013. From these public sessions, comments about park facilities, programming and core interests in parks and recreation services surfaced and informed the planning effort. The mission of the Parks, Recreation & Cultural Arts Department was used as a guiding direction for the Plan:

*Lynnwood Parks, Recreation & Cultural Arts - creating a healthy community through people, parks, programs and partnerships.*

This mission provided the foundation for the goals, objectives, recommendations and guidelines found throughout this Plan.



# LYNNWOOD'S RECREATION SYSTEM

The City of Lynnwood currently provides nearly 420 acres of public parkland and recreation facilities distributed among 23 park sites and numerous open space parcels. This system of parks supports a range of active and passive recreation experiences. In addition, the City provides athletic fields for soccer and baseball, a skate park and approximately 14 miles of trails. Lynnwood residents also can access additional parks, trails, open spaces and recreational facilities provided by Snohomish County and the Edmonds School District.

Lynnwood's shining star is its Recreation Center. Each month the Lynnwood Recreation Center hosts more than 40,000 visits – that's equivalent to the entire population of Lynnwood! Residents and visitors from around the region enjoy the recreation pool, lap pool and sauna, weight room, fitness studio and racquetball courts that are offered. The City operates an extensive recreation program from this facility and connects with residents of all abilities. Lynnwood also provides a robust suite of activities and programs for older adults. The Lynnwood Senior Center offers a warm, friendly place for adults 62+ to gather, socialize and recreate five days a week.

Lynnwood is preparing for rapid growth tied to the planned extension of light rail service. As the City grows, new investments in parks and recreation will be necessary to meet the needs of the community, support youth development, provide options for residents to lead healthy, active lives and foster greater social and community connections.

## STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS AND GOALS

This Plan includes goals and objectives intended to guide City decision-making to ensure the parks, arts, trails and recreation system meets the needs of the Lynnwood community for years to come. These goals and objectives were based on community input and technical analysis. They include:

### ***Strategic Direction 1: Foster a Healthy, Active Community***

- **Recreation & Healthy Choices:** Facilitate and promote a varied and inclusive suite of recreation programs that accommodate a spectrum of ages, interests and abilities.
- **Arts, Culture & Heritage:** Reflect the City's identity by incorporating art, history and culture into the park and recreation system.

### ***Strategic Direction 2: Create Great Parks & Public Spaces***

- **Park Design & Development:** Provide high-quality play structures and surfaces and maintenance of trails, parks and recreation facilities throughout the City.
- **Special Use Facilities:** Establish and operate specialized recreational facilities to respond to identified public needs.
- **Open Space & Natural Area Conservation:** Provide a system of open space to preserve and protect the area's remaining native forests, wetlands, streams and wildlife habitats, and to provide natural buffers to the built environment.

### **Strategic Direction 3: Ensure Sound Management & Maintenance**

- **Administration:** Provide leadership that supports and promotes the Department to the community, stakeholders, partners, Parks and Recreation Board and City Council.
- **Maintenance & Asset Management:** Provide a parks and recreation system that is efficient to maintain and operate, provides a high level of user comfort, safety, and aesthetic quality and protects capital investments.
- **Partnerships:** Maximize opportunities for public enjoyment of local and regional resources through partnerships and agreements.
- **Funding:** Use traditional and new funding sources to adequately and cost-effectively maintain and enhance the quality of Lynnwood's park and recreation system.

### **Strategic Direction 4: Prepare for the Future**

- **Park & Open Space Acquisition:** Strategically acquire additional parklands to ensure a diversified system of parks and open space that provides equitable access to all residents.
- **MUGA Planning:** Pursue cooperative planning efforts with Snohomish County in the MUGA to meet the recreational needs of Lynnwood's annexation areas.

### **Strategic Direction 5: Encourage Connectedness**

- **Trails & Linkages:** Develop a network of trails and corridors to enable connectivity between parks, neighborhoods and public amenities.
- **Community Involvement:** Encourage and support public involvement to enhance social interactions and cohesiveness.
- **Interagency Coordination:** Coordinate planning and development with neighboring jurisdictions and agencies to create mutually-beneficial partnerships.

## **SERVICE STANDARDS FOR PARKS, OPEN SPACE AND TRAILS**

This Plan re-evaluated the current service standards for parks, open space and trails and proposes adjustments to the City's standards to achieve community goals within projected resources. In 2016, Lynnwood evaluated the LOS to refine the benchmark and align the adopted standard to the community's particular needs and demands. As part of this update, LOS evaluation continues with an assessment of the existing park system and what contributes to LOS performance. It also includes recommendations for other performance metrics that provide more complex goals for parks and facilities than just acres per capita.

- **Parkland Inventory Update:** An update of the existing inventory includes improved accuracy of acreage through the use of GIS, addition of a new parcel, addition of ESD owned portion of Lynndale Park, reduction of Civic Campus to landscaped areas, and the addition of "non-park" sites that are part of the open space inventory.
- **Parkland Classification Update:** Current classifications and inventory were reviewed with a focus on function and how existing parkland contributes to LOS performance. The purpose of this is to include active parkland that is not necessarily within the design guidelines of Community, Neighborhood, or Mini but is providing valued outdoor open space and recreation services. This review led to three recommendations:



1. Add a classification for Trail Corridor. Similar to linear parks, Lynnwood has parkland along community trails that can also provide neighborhood park type functions. This also further updates the parkland inventory with the addition of the Interurban Trail Corridor.
  2. Recognize function within the inventory by designating whether parkland is publicly accessible.
  3. Evaluate LOS performance by using acreage of publicly accessible parkland.
- **Performance Goals:** The adopted LOS standard is useful as a benchmark to measure capacity of the general park system. A thorough assessment should include additional performance goals to measure how well the system serves more complex needs of the community. Using the four guiding principles of **Condition, Distribution, Experience, and Demand**, the plan recommends 10 performance goals based on these guiding principles that provide additional metrics for LOS evaluation.

## FUTURE IMPROVEMENTS

The City of Lynnwood is anticipated to grow to approximately 54,000 residents by 2035 based on a growth forecast completed as part of this planning effort. Serving existing and future residents will require improvements to existing parks and expansion of the park, trail and recreation system. The 10-year Capital Facilities Plan proposes approximately \$100 million of investment in acquisition, development and renovation of the parks system over the next ten years and identifies additional investment priorities for the future.

To ensure existing parks provide desired recreational amenities and offer safe and accessible opportunities to play and gather, the Plan includes investments in the development and improvement of parks. For example, renovations at Lynndale Park and Scriber Lake Park will prepare these popular parks for enjoyment for decades to come. The Plan also proposes smaller improvements throughout the park system to enhance accessibility, safety and usability of park features. The Plan includes a significant land acquisition program to ensure sufficient land for outdoor recreation as population grows and as the City considers annexation into the MUGA. It identifies target acquisition areas to secure community parkland, gain access rights along key trail corridors and fill gaps in park access.

To connect Lynnwood's residents to destinations throughout the city and provide healthy and safe options for walking and bicycling, the Plan proposes development of 6.8 miles of trails, and many of these trail connections follow the city's creeks to connect residents to nature and wildlife.

# FUNDING

Although a variety of approaches exist to support individual projects or programs, the broader assessment of community needs suggests that additional, dedicated system-wide funding is needed to finance upgrades to and grow the parks system. The inventory and assessment of the park system identified a significant backlog of deferred maintenance that must be addressed to ensure the provision of a safe, secure and accessible park system.

An analysis of a Metropolitan Park District option shows it is inadequate to meet the operational needs of the Department's current level of service, but it may offer some revenue potential for capital improvements. Additionally, the selective use of GO bond capacity or the pursuit of a voter-approved levy lid lift for park and recreation system enhancements should be discussed and considered in parallel with other needs for citywide expenditures. The implementation of such funding mechanisms would require both political and public support. State and federal grant programs offer additional potential opportunities to leverage available local revenues to fund specific development projects.

This Plan recommended exploring the establishment of a Park Impact Fee (PIF) program to support and grow Lynnwood's parks, trails, and open space systems. A Rate Study was conducted and an ordinance to establish PIF fees was enacted in 2018. The Rate Study estimates generating revenues of approximately \$2 million annually based on current development projections. These funds can be used to support capacity expansion projects throughout the City and should be leveraged to gain private donations and grant development to support as wide an array of acquisition and development projects as possible.

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A photograph of three young boys playing at a park fountain. They are crouched around a central vertical pipe with a large, umbrella-shaped water spray at the top. Water is splashing everywhere. The boys are wearing blue shorts. In the background, there is a red circular sign on a pole and a concrete path.

# INTRODUCTION 1

## PURPOSE OF THE PLAN

This 2016-2035 Parks, Arts, Recreation and Conservation (PARC) Plan is a document that will guide City elected and appointed officials, management and staff when making decisions or taking actions regarding planning, acquiring, developing or implementing parks, open space, recreation programs or recreational facilities. The Plan is intended to be updated every six years to remain current with the community's recreational interests and maintain eligibility for state-based grants and reflects updated community outreach and updates for this 2022 update.

The City of Lynnwood has a vision to “be a regional model for a sustainable, vibrant community with engaged citizens and an accountable government.” This PARC Plan helps define the role of recreational and cultural programming and parks in helping to achieve this vision for the future of Lynnwood. The Plan creates a vision for an innovative, inclusive and interconnected system of parks, trails and open spaces that promotes outdoor recreation, health and environmental conservation as integral elements of a livable community. The PARC Plan will establish a path forward to guide the City's efforts to invest in preserving and expanding parks, recreation and community programs and become a more welcoming city that builds a healthy and sustainable environment as expressed in the City's Community Vision..

The 2016-2035 PARC Plan considers the park and recreation needs of residents citywide. It provides updated inventories, demographic conditions, growth projections, community needs analyses, revenue forecasts and capital project phasing. The Plan establishes specific goals, objectives, recommendations and actions for developing, conserving and maintaining high-quality parks, trails, facilities and programs across the city.

# OVERVIEW OF THE PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURAL ARTS DEPARTMENT

The Parks, Recreation & Cultural Arts (PRCA) Department provides a comprehensive system of facilities and programs to meet the parks and recreation needs of the community. The Department acquires, plans and develops parks and recreation facilities, operates and maintains parks and facilities, and provides a wide variety of affordable recreation activities and programs for all age groups.

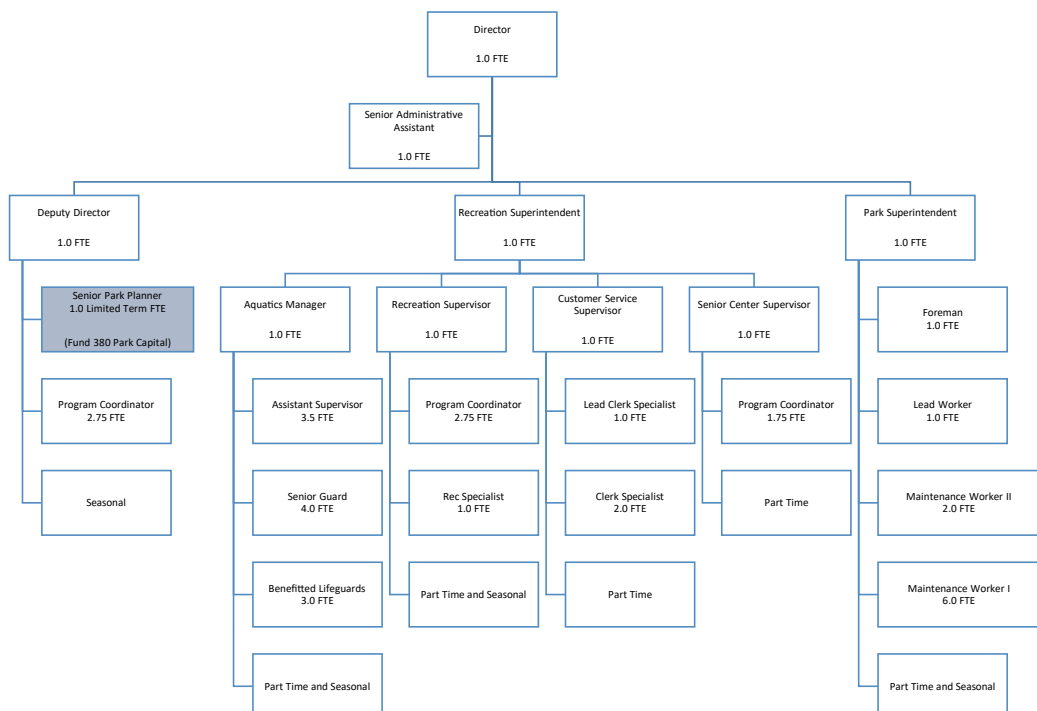
## Budget & Staffing

The Department is comprised of four General Fund divisions and one Enterprise division.

- Administrative
- Parks Operations
- Recreation
- Healthy Communities
- Golf (Enterprise)

In total, the Department has a general fund biennium budget of \$16.7 million (FY21/22). The majority of this budget, \$12.1 million (73%), is attributed labor. Operations accounts for \$4.6 million (27%) of the total budget. The Department has a total of 240 labor positions of which 42 are full-time positions, 6 are benefited part-time positions and 192 part-time staff members. The department is currently organized as follows:

Figure 1. PRCA Department Organizational Chart





## Divisions

### Administrative Division

This division is responsible for the leadership, development and operation of a comprehensive Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts system. This includes administrative functions, strategic planning, outreach, long-range capital and program planning, community engagement with boards and commissions, development of partnerships with other agencies and non-profits, acquisition and development of properties, grant writing and monitoring for compliance, development of the biennial budget, and establishment of performance measures and goals.

#### Primary Service Lines

- Planning
- Budget
- Capital Projects
- Grants
- Community and Human Services

### Park Operations

This division administers and is responsible for the effective operations and maintenance of over 418 acres of City parks, athletic fields, trails and other civic lands and open space. Staff work to preserve, maintain and enhance the community's investment in parks, while providing quality facilities for leisure and athletic experiences.

#### Primary Service Lines

- Facility Maintenance
- Turf Management
- Landscape Management
- Irrigation
- New Construction (Replacement/Renewal)
- Vandalism

**Facility Maintenance** - Daily visits to each facility with janitorial and trash service of 13 park restrooms, as well as routine inspection and repair as needed. Other responsibilities include upkeep and repair of sport courts, pathways and athletic field preparation. This service line includes the quarterly inspections and maintenance of 17 playgrounds.

**Turf Management** - Care and maintenance of 60 acres of manicured turf, which includes six natural turf sports fields and six synthetic turf fields. Turf management includes mowing, thatching, aeration, edging and fertilization. Turf restoration projects are needed at many locations due to heavy seasonal use; the recent drought has only compounded this need. The natural settling of soils creates sinkholes that need to be filled on an annual basis. Currently, there is a backlog of areas in need of turf restoration. The synthetic turf sports fields require weekly sweeping and monthly grooming. The estimated life of the turf is 12-14 years with good maintenance practices.

**Landscape Management** - Service and maintenance of landscapes not only within parks, but at all of the City's facilities and municipal buildings. Formal plantings require monthly maintenance, which includes pruning and extensive weed control. Informal or native plantings require quarterly visits and are located in less visible areas. This service line reflects tree care within formal landscapes, in addition to 150 acres of maintained urban forest. These responsibilities consist of annual pruning, tree planting, hazard tree removal, restoration plantings and invasive plant removal.

**Irrigation** - Operate and maintain 30 individual irrigation systems throughout the city to include routine repairs, winterization, system design and installation. Water conservation is a priority for the Department, and the best tool for conservation is a well-maintained and monitored irrigation system. The current system is over 25 years old and obsolete with no replacement parts available; a replacement program for irrigation controls is planned for 2021.

**New Construction** - Address major renovations or renewal projects within City facilities, including replacement or additions of amenities, such as picnic tables, benches and park signs. With an aging park system, it is necessary to have resources available to renew and refresh facilities within City parks. Many of Lynnwood's parks were constructed in the 1970s and are in need of updating to comply with current ADA standards. South Lynnwood Park renovation will be completed in 2021 and address all accessibility barriers at the site. It is the Department's goal to annually address the ADA barriers identified in the City of Lynnwood ADA Facility Assessment Report. An annual

**Vandalism** - Repair and replacement of any asset damaged or defaced within the park system. Graffiti continues to become more prevalent and is requiring additional labor hours. It is the Department's goal to remove graffiti immediately or within 24 hours of a report. Our current service level is removal of graffiti within 3-5 days of the incident.

**Other Maintenance Responsibilities** - Examples of other responsibilities include special events, seasonal lighting and coordination of volunteer projects. Other services include ongoing equipment maintenance, storm or disaster clean-up, biannual floral plantings and the continued maintenance and management needs of the City's park open space areas.

## **Recreation Division**

This division provides recreation programs for all ages and manages recreation facilities including the Recreation Center, Senior Center, Cedar Valley Gym, Meadowdale Middle Gym and Meadowdale Playfields, so the community can participate in safe, fun and quality activities resulting in opportunities for fitness, social interaction, life-long learning, creativity and healthier living. **Primary Programs & Services**

- Aquatics
- Adult 62+ Programs
- Customer Service / Memberships
- Athletics / Sports
- Fitness & Recreation
- Youth Programs



**Aquatics** - The Aquatics Program can be defined with three words: “Safety, Fun, and Learning.” Offering over 300 hours per week of programming and 103 hours of facility use weekly, this program area sees the heaviest demand in the Recreation Center. Comprised of over 20,000 square feet of leisure space, the Recreation Center features a 25-yard, 6-lane lap pool with diving board, a warm-water wellness pool with ramp, four play pools including a beach, river, lake and whirlpool, two waterslides, two hot tubs and a sauna. With a focus on safety first, Aquatics puts its highest priority on swim lessons and participates in offering free swim lessons to all third graders in the Edmonds School District, as well as offers a robust health and safety program of emergency preparedness, CPR, lifeguarding and water safety classes. Aquatics staff maintain a number of the sanitation systems for our pools, and these responsibilities include daily chemicals checks, maintaining the gas chlorine system, pool filter maintenance, daily chemical adds and general natatorium custodial.

**Adults 62+** - Programs that serve older adults are offered mainly through the 4,200 square foot Senior Center, which offers over 130 hours of programming per week and operates 37.5 hours per week. The Senior Center’s mission is to provide a safe, comfortable and friendly atmosphere for older adults (over 62 years of age) and to encourage their participation in recreational, educational, social, health and wellness and community activities. The Center provides these services through classes, special events, social gatherings, trips, health screenings and programs, social service programs and numerous volunteer opportunities. Many of these programs are conducted off-site and rely on a cadre of buses, vans and drivers.

**Athletics / Sports** - These programs provide opportunities for participation in quality adult athletic leagues and youth sports camps including operating and scheduling two indoor gymnasiums and an outdoor athletic complex that consists of 3 softball fields and 2 multi-purpose soccer fields that are used for leagues, school district athletics and rentals by community athletic organizations. Youth sports camps including football, soccer, and baseball are offered for children ages 5 - 13 provided by third-party contractors.

**Fitness & Recreation** - These programs provide for all the recreation programming at the Recreation Center. Offered as a combination of staff-led and contractor-led, these programs provide opportunities for participants of all ages in a variety of recreational classes from special interest, dance and fitness. The Fitness and Recreation Program is responsible for programming in the weight room, fitness studio, classrooms and conference room for a total of 250 weekly programming hours.

**Youth Programs** - Youth Programs provide opportunities for recreation, socialization, community involvement, leadership development and education for youth 18 years and younger. Programs include Kids Klub preschool, summer day camps, after school health programming for middle schoolers, family events, junior counselor training and enrichment programs, which are all focused to meet the diverse needs of the youth in our community.

## **Healthy Communities Division**

This division includes healthy communities initiatives and programs, arts programming, heritage programming, sponsorship development, community events, development of partnerships with other agencies and non-profits and grant development.

### **Primary Programs & Services**

- Arts & Culture Program
- Employee Wellness
- Healthy Communities
- Heritage Program

This Division supports a suite of initiatives and programs working to establish policy, program and environmental change to create a healthier community to live, work and play. The Healthy Communities initiative is focused on improving access to physical activity and healthy foods as well as creating and supporting strong, social networks. Additionally, the ongoing work of an internal employee wellness program aims to be a model in health and wellness by creating a culture that's sustainable and supports positive health practices, individual fitness goals and healthy choices.

The Arts Program supports universal access to diverse arts that enrich Lynnwood's quality of life and economic vitality by advocating for lifelong learning in creativity and the arts, promoting artists and arts opportunities, encouraging openness and inclusion, and building a sense of place. Programs include maintenance and care of an extensive public art collection, curation of visual art exhibits, hosting outdoor performances, and arts education. The arts are supported by a seven-person, Council-appointed Commission.

The Heritage Program serves to protect, preserve and interpret Lynnwood's heritage for its residents and visitors. Much of the area's history is interpreted at Heritage Park, which houses five significant historic structures including a fully-restored Interurban Rail trolley car. Heritage Park is home to several community non-profit organizations including a genealogical library and resource center, veterans museum, and a heritage museum. These programs are supported by the History and Heritage Board, an advisory body to the City.

## **Golf Division**

Lynnwood's 76-acre, 18-hole Golf Course is operated for year-round play and is maintained at a high level to ensure safe playing conditions at all times and encourage a high volume of users. The Pro Shop provides clothing and equipment sales, lessons and clinics, and tournament play. The City has a lease agreement with Edmonds College to use the acres housing the back nine holes. The City and Edmonds College executed a 10-year Land Lease which began in January 2018 and expires in December 2028 with three 10-year renewal options.

The Golf Course is an Enterprise Fund within the PRCA Department and includes the operation and maintenance of the Golf Course and the Pro Shop by a third-party operator. In 2014, the City turned over the day-to-day management of the course operations



(maintenance and pro shop responsibilities) to Premier Golf Centers, LLC of Seattle. Premier and the City have a management agreement in place which runs through 2023.

### Primary Service Lines

- Rounds
- Food & Beverage
- Tournaments & Special Events
- Golf cart rentals

The map on the following page highlights existing parks, trails and open spaces in the City.

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## Map 1: Existing Parks, Open Space & Trails

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# VISION, MISSION, VALUES

## Vision

***Parks, Recreation & Cultural Arts is part of Lynnwood's daily life and we shape the character of the community by:***

- Providing stewardship of our resources
- Providing recreation opportunities for all ages
- Contributing to the City's economic vitality
- Promoting health and wellness
- Fostering social connections
- Embracing innovation
- Supporting staff professional development and excellence
- Engaging and responding to the changing needs of our community
- Creating a connected community
- Providing premier customer service
- Leaving a legacy for future generations

## Mission

***Lynnwood Parks, Recreation & Cultural Arts- creating a healthy community through people, parks, programs and partnerships.***

## Guiding Values

The Department has displayed a set of values through its policies, programs and practices that guide its decisions and commitment to enhancing the quality of life for Lynnwood residents. These values, listed below, constitute the service philosophy that guides the Department's efforts to creating a healthy community and shape the character of the community.

- Stewardship of our resources: Physical facilities and natural resources together form the infrastructure of the community and the Department will continue to manage and protect those resources in its operation's efficiencies and careful management.
- Recreation opportunities for all ages: Parks and recreation provide its citizens a diversity of open space, parks and recreation facilities, and recreation programming to meet the needs of different age groups, abilities and interests.
- City's economic vitality: Parks and recreation contribute to economic health of the community by increasing its livability and enhancing its quality of life.
- Health and wellness: City parks and recreation services contribute significantly to the health and wellness of the community by providing opportunities for physical and mental health.
- Social connections: Public parks, community centers and recreation programming engage people and enhance their opportunities to foster and develop social connections and sustain a sense of belonging to community.



- **Innovation:** The Department continually seeks to find new solutions and effective methods for providing park and recreation services.
- **Staff professional development and excellence:** In order to provide services that can be innovative and responsive, the need to support professional development is critical to sustain the department's staffing resources.
- **Responsive to the changing needs of our community:** Park and recreation provision engages citizen participation in decisions that involve facilities and programs to reflect community needs.
- **A connected community:** The Department pursues a level of premier customer service by providing high quality parks and recreation as a core value and a lasting legacy for future generations.

The values listed above underlie the motivation of the Department's contribution to the City's social well-being, economic vitality and environmental sustainability. The recent re-organization and strategic approaches to greater efficiencies and the Department's efforts to forge new partnerships and relationships to sustain programs and services are further demonstrations of those inherent values.

Lynnwood's Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts Department's values are in alignment with the National Recreation and Park Association's (NRPA) Three Pillars, which are foundational concepts adopted by the national organization in 2012. The NRPA core values (below) are crucial to improving the quality of life for all Americans by inspiring the protection of natural resources, increasing opportunities for physical activity and healthy eating and empowering citizens to improve the livability of their communities.

- **Conservation** – Public parks are critical to preserving communities' natural resources and wildlife habitats, which offer significant social and economic benefits. Local park and recreation agencies are leaders in protecting open space, connecting children to nature and providing education and programs that engage communities in conservation.
- **Health and Wellness** – Park and recreation departments lead the nation in improving the overall health and wellness of citizens, and fighting obesity. From fitness programs, to well-maintained, accessible, walking paths and trails, to nutrition programs for under-served youth and adults, that work is at the forefront of providing solutions to these challenges.
- **Social Equity** – Universal access to public parks and recreation is fundamental to all, not just a privilege for a few. All people should have access to resources and programs that connect citizens, and in turn, make communities more livable and desirable.

## Equity Commitment

The City of Lynnwood is on a journey to ensure Lynnwood is a safe and welcoming community for all. In the first edition of this Plan, we explored geographic demographics of our community and more clearly understand where there are disparities within our community but there is more work to do.

### **Why equity and inclusion matter**

Creating spaces and programs that serve everyone is a commitment we all share for our community. That is why we lift up equity and inclusion practices and strive to imagine a world where everyone knows the city's Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts team exemplifies service to its community members.

Parks and our recreation programs represent fairness, access, inclusion and social equity- no matter race, color, creed, age, ability or disability. Our organization will continue on its journey by asking questions like “What are we doing to support equitable practices?” and “What are we doing that perpetuates barriers to greater equity?”

Because we believe in fostering a learning culture in our organization, we look forward to creating greater access to quality parks and recreation for everyone. Most importantly, our work is truly driven by our strategic vision that parks and recreation is a positive catalyst for equity.

### **Our Commitment**

Lynnwood Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts is committed to providing equitable access to parks and recreation services, programs and facilities which are inclusive to all. We strive for equity by examining policies and procedures to remove barriers to participation, foster an inclusive culture, and offer programs that celebrate Lynnwood’s diverse population.

## CURRENT TRENDS & ISSUES

A myriad of issues and challenges face Lynnwood, the PRCA Department and community members, ranging from national health trends to localized equity issues. The following are anticipated to be the most important priority issues over the next decade.

### Obesity Epidemic

The nation is facing an obesity epidemic that has prompted the U.S. Surgeon General to issue a call to action to the parks and recreation profession. His call is to “reclaim the culture of physical activity” in our country. Scientific research now indicates that walking a minimum of 22 minutes a day can greatly decrease one’s chances of acquiring diabetes or heart disease. These two health issues cause 70% of deaths in the U.S. and account for over \$1 trillion in costs.

This call to action is now re-emphasizing the preventative side of health where the costs are much lower. However, in Lynnwood, many barriers still exist which prevent residents from reaching these goals. The PARC Plan and the Healthy Communities Action Plan will make specific recommendations on how the City can eliminate barriers within the City’s infrastructure and reinforce the need to have safe and accessible places to walk and ride a bicycle.

### Creating A Sense of Community

Lynnwood residents consistently have voiced their concern and dissatisfaction about the lack of gathering places and spaces to celebrate the City’s heritage, arts and diversity. A solution lies in the creation of Town Square Park in the proposed City Center. This park would serve as Lynnwood’s “living room” and be the prime location for a farmers market and other celebration activities and events. The proposed park also could serve as an economic catalyst for other development.

### Social Equity

Much has been written lately about this subject. Maintaining social equity across programs and facilities can be difficult enough in communities with stable demographics. In Lynnwood, the City is experiencing dramatic shifts in its population and diversity, and the challenge will be to keep up. The PRCA Department must continue to find ways to provide complete and safe access to its parks and facilities and strive to be a facilitator for ensuring that all of the City’s residents have equal access to its resources, services and programs.

### Increased Capitalization of a Creative Class

Lynnwood is already in the midst of attracting a creative class. Staff have witnessed a surge of new residents who are moving here because of economic conditions and a more affordable housing market. The proof is found in the applications received to be involved in City boards and commissions. The talent pool of applicants has been impressive, and this likely will not change. The challenge will be for the City to find opportunities for them



to be engaged and involved. The PRCA Department should be strategically involved in the interaction with this class and create an environment where their ideas can be processed and supported as much as possible.

## Embracing New Technology & Business Practices

The PRCA Department has embraced new technology and embodies many business principles. The Department has increased cost recovery and established solid revenue goals. It will need to continue to improve in this critical area and look for alternatives to create more efficiencies in service delivery and pricing strategies. As the City continues to move forward in a budgeting for outcomes (BFO) process, it will be important for the Department to create data driven analytics and cost/benefit type calculations to justify operational expenditures and capital investments.

## Aging Population

The challenges of planning for an aging population have been on the Department's radar for some time. Today's active seniors are looking at retirement age differently, as many are retooling for a new career, finding ways to engage with their community and focusing on their health and fitness. It will be critical for the Department to take a comprehensive approach to its aging population's needs. Accessibility and barrier-free parking and paths, walkability and connectivity will be paramount to future planning. Providing programming for today's older adults includes not only active and passive recreation, but also the type of equipment needed to engage in certain activities. The existing physical space on the Civic Campus is too small and needs to be expanded for older adult services.

## Park Facilities & Park Conditions

While park settings tend to have a wide range of facilities to encourage physical activity, research has revealed there are specific amenities that promote higher levels of activity. Park users engage in higher levels of physical activity in parks that have playgrounds, sports facilities and trails.

The condition of the park and its facilities also determines its use. Park aesthetics and amenities are important to use patterns. Also, perceived safety in how safe one feels in and around parks is a determining factor.

In Lynnwood, it has been documented there are some facilities and equipment that require attention. Accessibility to parks and equipment will also merit a stronger focus and consideration. Evidence from research informs staff that park distribution, park proximity, park facilities and conditions have an impact on people's desire to engage in physical activity. It will be necessary to re-evaluate current park designs and maintenance policies. Investing in amenity and access improvements to counteract disparities has the potential to provide long-term solutions in addressing the obesity epidemic. The PRCA Department must play a key role in enabling healthy lifestyles for its citizens by modifying and altering its parks and trail system and recreation programming.

## Responding to Homelessness

The homeless and unsheltered population in Lynnwood has grown, and many are taking advantage of the public nature of City parks to establish makeshift shelters in what is intended to be shared community space. Sometimes their belongings or behaviors cause a nuisance and often their presence dissuades park patrons from using or even entering a public park. These situations cause frustration for park employees who work hard to maintain inviting spaces. The Department has been involved in conversations with the City's Homeless Task Force, and it will continue to be part of a solution-oriented process to help alleviate some of the issues faced in City parks. It will be imperative for the Department to continue to be engaged in finding solutions that will work for this City.

## Changes Caused By The Pandemic-Are They Here To Stay?

COVID-19 has impacted nearly everything we do in our daily work. The effects will reverberate for a long time after the virus is defeated. Changes to work programs, such as working remotely as a standard practice; participating in virtual learning and contactless transactions will continue post pandemic. Our parks and trails will continue to be the safest places to recreate. Our community members desperately needed places for distanced daily physical activity and our parks and trails became high-priority destinations. We will need to continue to be prepared for unanticipated and unplanned public use if additional shutdowns occur.

Perhaps no public sector operation demonstrated as much ingenuity and adaptability as parks and recreation. We adapted and changed our delivery of programs with more focus on the technology available. We have found if our community can connect virtually, they can participate from anywhere.

## A Stronger Orientation Toward Health and Human Services

During this unprecedented time, parks and recreation has stepped up and leveraged our role as accessible, trusted partners, and supported efforts to ensure our community members had access to services, resources and programs they have needed. We have proven to be a valued partner and a solution for service delivery, ensuring all people have access to important resources.

The skyrocketing rates of social isolation and loneliness has called for a more holistic focus on well-being and outreach. We will continue to be partners and create even more cross-sector partnerships with public health departments, the school system and social service organizations.

Our recent involvement and leadership with the community's human services issues will likely dominate future discussions. The parks and recreation team will be positioned to do more to address social human service needs. Inevitably, this will also accelerate a transformation of our workforce with the hiring of health and social service community engagement specialists.

## Engaging the Next Generation of Stewards

Community involvement is crucial to the success of our parks. We will need to continue to provide outlets for all of our community members to explore or find meaningful volunteer work in our great outdoor spaces.

To ensure the sustainability and success of these types of programs in parks, we need to ensure we are intentional of how we work with and within all of our communities which will broaden our support base and build on the next generation of stewards.



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## HISTORY & DEMOGRAPHICS

Lynnwood, comprising about 8 square miles, is located in southwestern Snohomish County and is within the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) planning area. East of Puget Sound and situated between Seattle and Everett, Lynnwood is known as a “hub city” due to its extensive retail shopping. Lynnwood developed a regional identity with the construction of the Alderwood Mall and is known for its wealth of shopping and services. Lynnwood straddles the junction of Interstate 5 and the north end of Interstate 405. Bordered by the cities of Edmonds, Mountlake Terrace and Brier, and Snohomish County, Lynnwood plays a central role in regional planning, particularly related to transportation planning such as Link Light Rail and Bike2Health projects. The City is home to the Edmonds Community College and the location for the administrative and support functions of the Edmonds School District.

Lynnwood is a diverse and growing city. It is home to many families with children and a growing population of older adults. Lynnwood’s residents are well educated, though they generally have lower incomes than other County residents. While the city is predominately white, the population of communities of color has increased significantly over the past decade.

All of Lynnwood and the urban growth area is served by the Edmonds School District. The City and District have several interlocal agreements for joint or shared use operations for athletic fields, gymnasiums and swim facilities. The City/District relationship is an important partnership in serving the community’s youth and family population.

### History

The area now known as Lynnwood used to be a remote part of south Snohomish County where access to Seattle took two days by horse-drawn wagon. The Puget Mill Company

harvested most of the timber and sold off five-acre “stump farms” in the early twentieth century. The area next to the Interurban railway was known as Alderwood Manor. With the opening of State Route 99, a business district emerged along the highway corridor, complementing the streetcar railway connection to the developing area. By the end of World War II, local growth had spurred the need for municipal services and the eventual incorporation of Lynnwood. Named for the wife of realtor Karl O’Beim, the City was incorporated in 1959 and began as a suburban community along the interurban streetcar between Seattle and Everett. Lynnwood developed over time, first as a residential community with much of the city’s housing built during the 1960s and 1970s, then as the site of a regional shopping mecca with the construction of the Alderwood Mall.

## Population

The City of Lynnwood, incorporated in 1959, has grown significantly over the past fifty years – from 7,207 people in 1960 to 36,420 in 2015, see Figure 2.

Lynnwood experienced rapid growth during its first decade, but growth has slowed gradually in the decades that followed. The city’s population has been increasing by approximately 0.6% per year since 2000, roughly one-third of the pace of growth in Snohomish County. By comparison, Snohomish County grew by 1.7% annually between 2000 and 2010, to a population of 713,335.

Lynnwood’s Comprehensive Plan projects a higher rate of growth (1.8% annually) over the next decade, potentially bringing the city’s population to 54,404 in 2035. This projection is based on allocations made by Snohomish County Tomorrow and the Puget Sound Regional Council, which allocates forecasted regional population growth to cities and other areas.

Figure 2. Population Change - Actual and Projected: 1960 - 2025

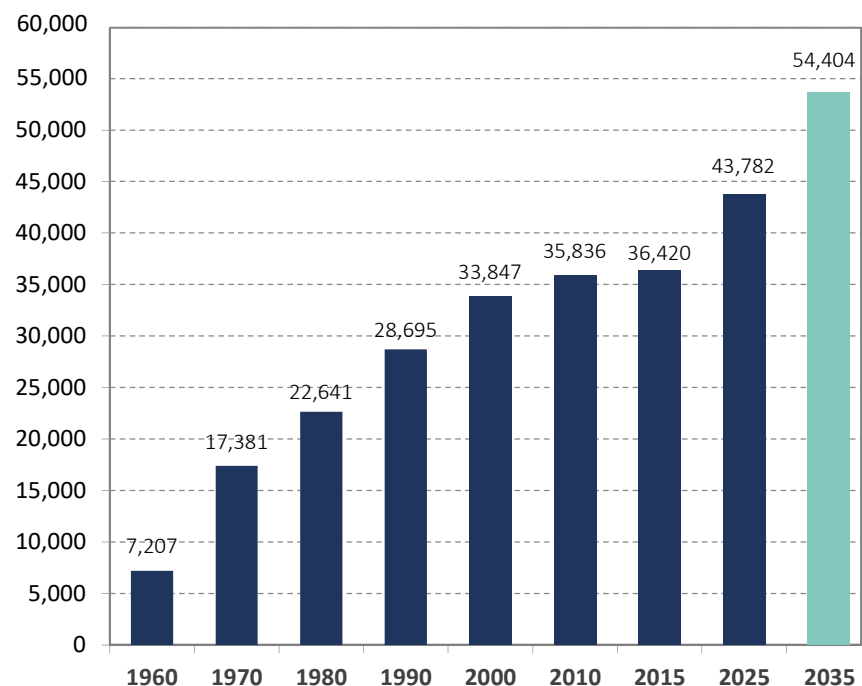




Table 1. Population Characteristics: Lynnwood, Snohomish County &amp; Washington (ACS 2013, except as noted)

Demographics	Lynnwood	Snohomish County	Washington
<b>Population Characteristics</b>			
Population (2000)	<b>33,847</b>	606,024	5,894,121
Population (2010)	<b>35,836</b>	713,335	6,724,540
Population (2013) (ACS)	<b>36,107</b>	724,627	6,819,579
Population (2015) (OFM)	<b>36,420</b>	757,600	7,061,410
Percent Change (2010-15)	<b>1.6%</b>	5.8%	4.8%
Communities of Color	<b>34.7%</b>	20.1%	21.5%
Persons w/ Disabilities	<b>4,775</b>	80,504	819,251
Persons w/ Disabilities (%)	<b>13.3%</b>	11.3%	12.2%
<b>Household Characteristics</b>			
Households	<b>13,874</b>	268,722	2,629,126
Percent with children under 18	<b>26.4%</b>	31.8%	29.1%
Median Income	<b>\$49,931</b>	\$68,381	\$59,478
Average Household Size	<b>2.55</b>	2.66	2.45
Average Family Size	<b>3.19</b>	3.18	3.11
Home Ownership Rate	<b>52.1%</b>	66.8%	63.2%
<b>Age Groups</b>			
Median Age	<b>37.5</b>	37.3	37.3
Population < 5 years of age	<b>4.4%</b>	6.5%	6.5%
Population < 18 years of age	<b>16.5%</b>	17.5%	16.8%
Population > 65 years of age	<b>14.2%</b>	10.8%	12.8%

## Age Group Distribution

The median age of Lynnwood residents is 37.5 – nearly identical to that of Snohomish County (37.3), the State of Washington (37.3) and the nation (37.2). Approximately 17% of Lynnwood residents are youth up to 18 years of age, 50% are 20 to 55 year olds, and 26% are 55 and older. The population has aged since 2000, when the median age was 34.9 and 24% of the population was under 18 years of age.

The City's largest "20-year" population group is comprised of 20- to 39-year-olds, representing 30.5% of the population in 2013.

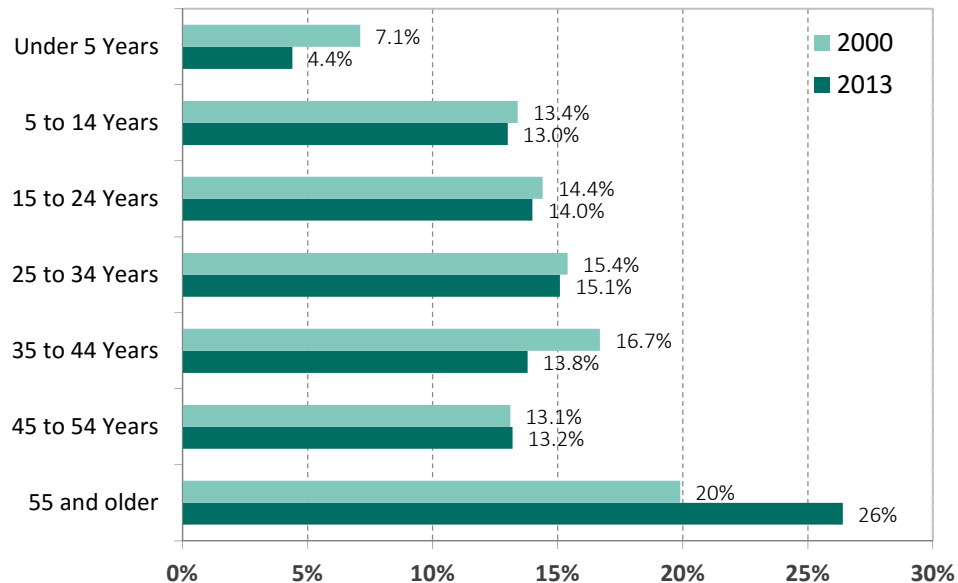
The following breakdown is used to separate the population into age-sensitive user groups.

- Under 5 years: This group represents users of preschool and tot programs and facilities, and as trails and open space users, are often in strollers. These individuals are the future participants in youth activities.
- 5 to 14 years: This group represents current youth program participants.
- 15 to 24 years: This group represents teen/young adult program participants moving out of the youth programs and into adult programs. Members of this age group are often seasonal employment seekers.
- 25 to 34 years: This group represents involvement in adult programs with characteristics of beginning long-term relationships and establishing families.
- 35 to 54 years: This group represents users of a wide range of adult programs and park facilities. Their characteristics extend from having children using preschool and youth programs to becoming empty nesters.

- 55 years plus: This group represents users of older adult programs exhibiting the characteristics of approaching retirement or already retired and typically enjoying grandchildren. This group generally also ranges from very healthy, active older adults to more physically inactive seniors.

Figure 3 illustrates the age distribution characteristics of these cohorts and provides a comparison to 2000 Census data.

Figure 3. Age Group Distributions: 2000 & 2013



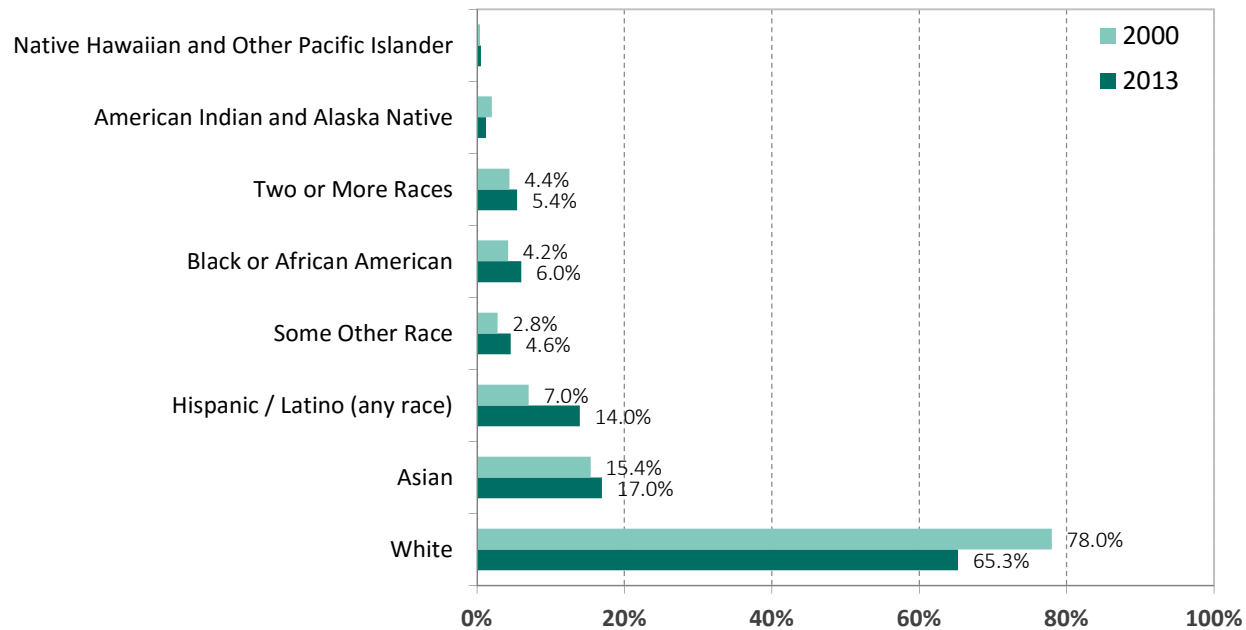
Lynnwood has a large and growing cohort of older adults and seniors. Sometimes termed the Silver Tsunami, this group of older adults will place additional pressure on Lynnwood's parks and programs. According to the report *Creating an Aging-Friendly Snohomish County* prepared by the Snohomish Health District, this age group is predicted to increase approximately 160% by 2030, and represent approximately one-fifth of the county's population. As noted above, Lynnwood currently exceeds that countywide percentage.

## Race & Ethnicity

As Lynnwood has grown, the population has increasingly diversified with nearly 35% of today's population representing non-white races and ethnicities. In 2013, Lynnwood was 65.3% White, 17% Asian, 6% African American, 1.2% American Indian or Alaskan Native, 0.5% Pacific Islander, 4.6% other race, and 5.4% from two or more races, see Figure 4. Approximately 14% of people identified as Hispanic or Latino of any race. This was an increase (36%) in the percentage of communities of color since 2000.

According to the 2013 American Community Survey, approximately 17.5% of Lynnwood's population speaks a language other than English at home, and 10% speak English less than very well. While the percentage is significant, the percentage of people who speak a language other than English at home is lower than that of Snohomish County (18.7%) and Washington as a whole (18.5%).

Figure 4. Racial and Ethnic Group Distributions: 2000 &amp; 2013



## Household Characteristics

The 2013 average household size in Lynnwood was 2.55 people, slightly higher than the state (2.45) average but on par with the national (2.51) average. The average household size has remained nearly the same since 2000. The average family size in Lynnwood is larger, at 3.19 people. Of the 13,374 households in the city, 26.5% have children under 18, 41.7% were married couples living together, 12% had a single head of household, and 40% were non-families.

### Income & Poverty

In 2013, the median household income in Lynnwood was \$49,931. This income level was \$18,450 (37%) lower than the median income for Snohomish County residents and \$9,547 (19%) lower than residents of Washington. The median household income in Lynnwood has increased by 17% (\$7,117) since 2000.

At the lower end of the household income scale, approximately 23.9% percent of Lynnwood households earn less than \$25,000 annually, relatively more than households in Snohomish County (15%), the State of Washington (20.1%), and across the United States (23%). On the other end of the income scale, 19% of households have household incomes in the higher income brackets (\$100,000 and greater), lower than in the County (27.5%), Washington (24%) and across the nation (22%).

In 2013, 16.4% of Lynnwood's families were living below the poverty level. The 2013 poverty threshold (100% Federal poverty level) was an income of \$23,550 for a family of four. This percentage is more than one and a half times the rate countywide (10.4%) and higher than statewide (13.4%) and national (15.4%) levels. Poverty affects 21.6% of youth under 18 and 13% of those 65 and older, which are higher than statewide and national figures. The percentage of local families accessing food stamp or SNAP benefits (20%) is almost twice state and national averages (13.6% and 12.4%, respectively).



## **Employment & Education**

The 2010 work force population (16 years and over) of Lynnwood is 28,683 (80%). Of this population, over two-thirds (68%) are in the labor force, 8.5% are unemployed, and 32% are not in the labor force. The primary industry of the working population is educational services, and health care and social assistance at 19.5%, while retail, arts, recreation and professional, scientific, and management service industries combine to comprise an additional 38.3% of the workforce.

According to the 2013 American Community Survey, approximately 21% of Lynnwood residents have a Bachelor's degree, and another 6.8% have completed a graduate degree or higher. This level of education attainment is generally lower than residents of Snohomish County (21% and 9%, respectively) and Washington (20% and 12%, respectively) as a whole. Additionally, 88% of City residents have a high school degree or higher, which is 2% lower than the statewide average.

## **Persons with Disabilities**

The 2013 American Community Survey reported 13.3% (4,775 persons) of Lynnwood's population 5 years and older as having a disability that interferes with life activities. This is higher than state and national averages (both 12%). Among residents 65 and older, the percentage rises to 38.4%, or 4,992 persons, which is on par with percentages found in the general senior population of Washington State.

## **Health Status**

Information on the health of Lynnwood residents is not readily available. However, according to the County Health Rankings, Snohomish County residents rank in the upper tier among Washington counties (7th out of 39 counties), despite approximately 28% of Snohomish County adults being overweight or obese, which is nearly on par with the state average.

According to the County Health Rankings, Snohomish County also ranks in the top third compared to all Washington counties for health outcomes, including length and quality of life, and health factors (such as health behaviors, clinical care, social and economic factors, and the physical environment).

Approximately 18% of Snohomish County adults age 20 and older report getting no leisure-time physical activity – on par with the statewide average of 18%. This may be due, in part, to the large number of places to participate in physical activity, including parks and public or private community centers, gyms or other recreational facilities. In Snohomish County, 95% of residents have access to adequate physical activity opportunities, which is higher than the 89% average for all Washington residents.

According to the Washington State Healthy Youth Survey, obesity is affecting the County's youth as well. Approximately 21% of 12th graders and 26% of 8th graders are either obese or overweight. These percentages are also in line with those of statewide averages for both age groups. Between 2002 and 2012, the trend line has remained flat for students who are reported as obese or overweight. The same survey highlighted that a significant percentage of students were not participating in daily physical activities. Approximately 53% of 12th graders and 47% of 8th graders did not meet the recommendation for 60 minutes of physical activity daily.

## EQUITY CHARACTERISTICS

Aside from the numerics highlighting the City's demographics, a series of equity maps were prepared to illustrate the geographic distribution of a variety of economic and social characteristics of Lynnwood's population. The use of geographic information systems (GIS) and census data to show equity data has been growing in recent years, and numerous jurisdictions utilize data of this type for community engagement, program planning, and equity analyses.

The intent for using equity mapping for this PARC Plan is to help provide visualization of park and open space access (or lack of access) as it relates to existing socioeconomic disparities in the community. As noted in a 2009 article by the Trust for Public Land, living a long way from safe and well-designed parks, trails, and public open spaces is now considered a contributing factor in the alarming rates of chronic disease related to physical inactivity in the United States.<sup>1</sup> The series of maps will help PRCA Department staff identify potential access disparities and gaps for parks, trails and programs and facilitate future conversations with City leadership and program partners on options to help address or close the gaps via targeted acquisitions, park development or recreation programming to these areas.

The map series that follows illustrates specific demographic data across Lynnwood. The maps use data at the Census block group, which provides the greatest granularity of data available. The series highlights the following datasets.

- Map 2: Household Median Income - This map illustrates household median income by block group. The data is from the 2013 American Community Survey (ACS), and the scale on the map indicates the income ranges. Dark red color represents those areas where household income is 35% or more below the median income (\$49,931).
- Map 3: Poverty Threshold - This is a binary map that highlights those areas where the average of the household incomes in the block group are at or below 200% of the federal poverty threshold. The poverty threshold for a family of four was \$23,707 according to the 2013 ACS. The areas highlighted in red represent block groups with household income at or below \$47,414.
- Map 4: Communities of Color - This is a scaled map illustrating the concentration of non-white households as a percentage of the population of the block group. The darker red tones represent higher percentages of communities of color.
- Map 5: Language - This map illustrates the distribution of households where English is spoken less than well, as reported by 2013 ACS data.

<sup>1</sup> Park Equity Mapping Supports Advocacy for Parks and Healthier Communities, Foong, H.L., et al, Trust for Public Land, <http://www.esri.com/news/arcnews/spring09articles/trust-for-public-land.html>

- Map 6: Gini Index - The Gini Index is a commonly used measure of inequality developed by the Italian statistician and sociologist Corrado Gini. Data has been applied as a statistical measure of income inequality ranging from 0 to 1 by block group. A measure of 1 indicates perfect inequality (i.e. one household having all the income and the rest having none). A measure of 0 indicates perfect equality (i.e. all households having an equal share of income). Data compiled by mySidewalk.com.
- Map 7: Composite Heat Map - This map represents a stacked composite of the above maps to illustrate, in aggregate, those areas of the city that demonstrate the highest concentrations of socioeconomic disparity. For this map, the darker the shade of red, the higher the aggregate concentration of equity characteristics.

The composite heat map is referenced later in this Plan in discussions about physical park and trail access gaps (see Chapter 4.5).

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## Map 2: Equity Map – Household Median Income



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### Map 3: Equity Map – Poverty Threshold

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## Map 4: Equity Map – Communities of Color



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Map 5: Equity Map – Language (speak English “less than well”)

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## Map 6: Equity Map – Gini Index



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## Map 7: Equity Map – Composite Heat Map

## PARK SYSTEM USAGE

In 2021, staff partnered with the University of Washington Tacoma Milgard School of Business to conduct a park and trail usage study. Utilizing anonymized mobile device, a team of data scientists analyzed park and trail usage for a period of 2018 – 2020. Using big data can provide incredible insights about park visitors particularly in a system like Lynnwood where sites are not gated with controlled access points. However, we know that not every user is walking around with a mobile device so there are some limitations leading to undercounting total users, especially children. Despite this limitation, the mobile device data can be mined to create a demographic profile of users and can highlight trends in use from year-to-year, seasonally, use by location and pre and post-pandemic changes. The following charts and tables are highlighted summaries from the study.

Figure 5. Total Park visits by Location: 2018 & 2020

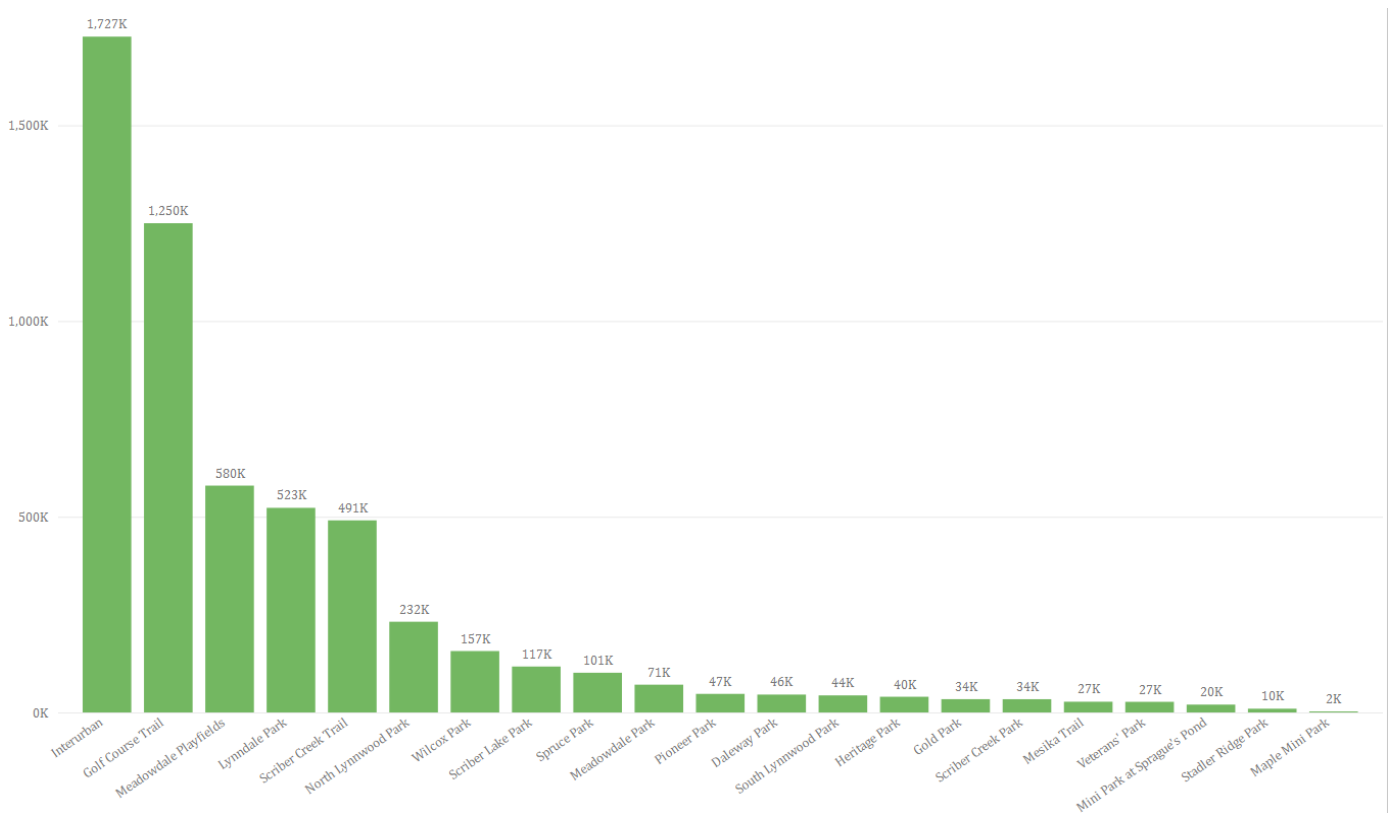
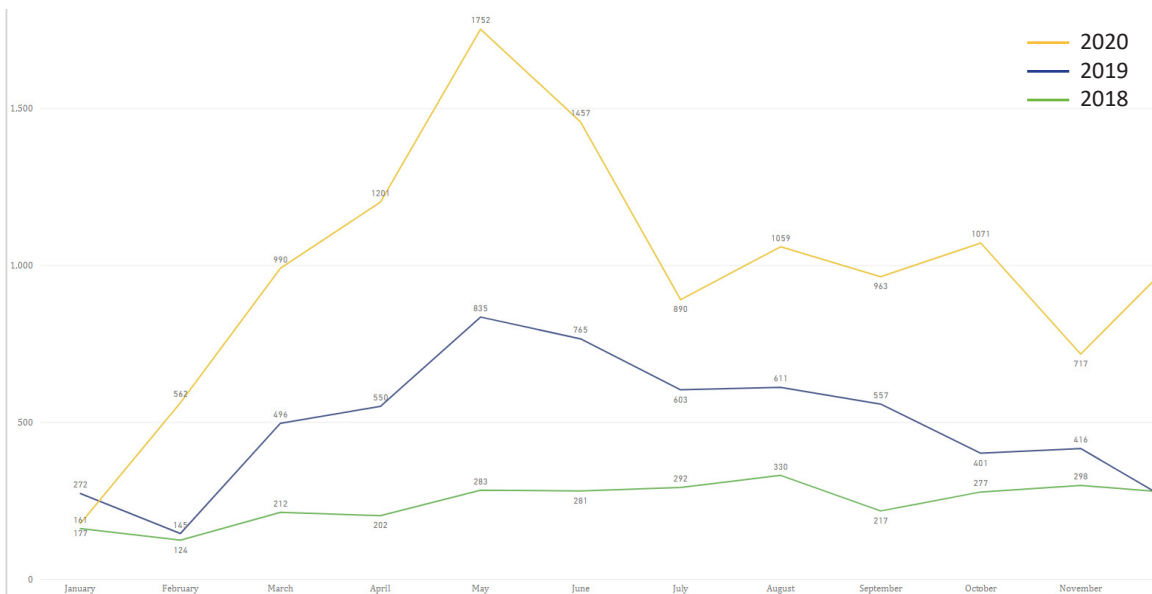


Figure 6. Total Park visits by Location: 2018 &amp; 2020

Park Name	2018	2019	2020	3 Year Total
Interurban Trail	695,598	400,771	630,296	<b>1,726,665</b>
Golf Course Trail	170,153	357,549	722,273	<b>1,249,975</b>
Meadowdale Playfields	149,497	286,008	144,024	<b>579,529</b>
Lynndale Park	87,906	172,129	262,676	<b>522,711</b>
Scriber Creek Trail	182,894	114,064	193,784	<b>490,742</b>
North Lynnwood Park	34,521	70,295	126,901	<b>231,717</b>
Wilcox Park	31,453	33,031	92,345	<b>156,829</b>
Scriber Lake Park	36,470	26,644	54,170	<b>117,284</b>
Spruce Park	17,307	26,581	57,516	<b>101,404</b>
Meadowdale Park	16,882	23,756	30,265	<b>70,903</b>
Pioneer Park	11,679	8,880	26,828	<b>47,387</b>
Daleway Park	12,410	17,216	16,001	<b>45,627</b>
South Lynnwood Park	7,331	14,598	21,627	<b>43,556</b>
Heritage Park	12,378	9,002	18,674	<b>40,054</b>
Gold Park	10,037	10,342	13,506	<b>33,885</b>
Scriber Creek Park	9,977	15,118	8,700	<b>33,795</b>
Mesika Trail	6,327	9,247	11,800	<b>27,374</b>
Veterans' Park	13,079	9,308	4,715	<b>27,102</b>
Sprague's Pond Mini Park	2,827	9,825	7,361	<b>20,013</b>
Stadler Ridge Park	1,886	5,200	2,433	<b>9,519</b>
Maple Mini Park	274	942	365	<b>1,581</b>
<b>Total Park Users</b>	<b>1,510,886.00</b>	<b>1,620,506.00</b>	<b>2,446,260.00</b>	<b>5,577,652.00</b>

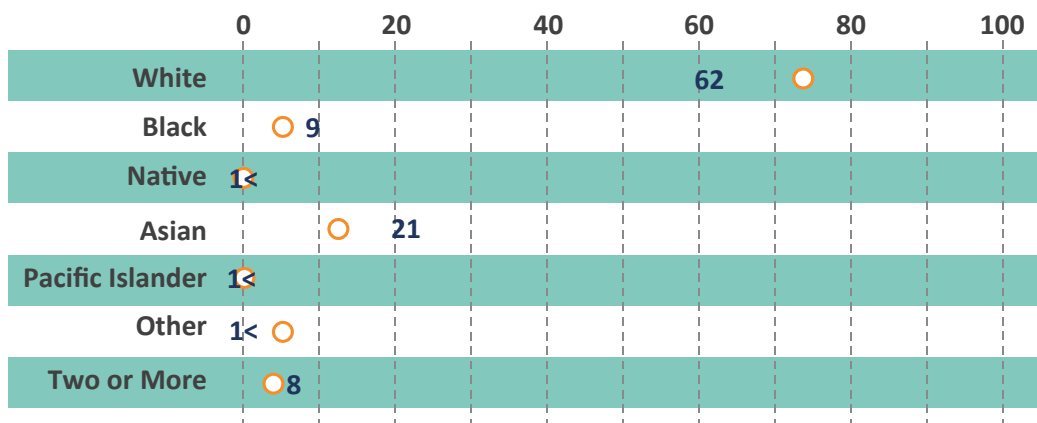
Across the system, overall park and trail use increased during the pandemic in 2020 with the highest increases found in trail use. One clear view of this trend is shown in the chart showing visits to the Golf Course Trail which more than doubled between 2019 and 2020.

Figure 7. Gold Course Trail Use by Year: 2018 &amp; 2020



In evaluating the race and ethnicity distribution of our park users, we found that there is an over representation by certain users (i.e. white) and an under representation by others (i.e. Black, Hispanic, and Asian). Further exploration and surveying of community members is needed to understand how or why the park system isn't working for them.

Figure 8. Park User Representation



#### Legend

% City of Lynnwood  
(percent of total population)

○ Park Users  
(percent of total park users)

% → ○ Over-representation  
of park users

○ ← % Under-representation  
of park users



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# PUBLIC PROCESS 3



## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Lynnwood is expected to continue its rapid growth in the coming decade, driven by new investments in the City Center and other neighborhoods that bring greater diversity, more jobs and people, and changing needs. The City recognizes that, to be an accountable government, it must understand the community's needs and develop plans that deliver the right balance and mix of services.

Community engagement and input played a crucial role in establishing a clear planning framework that reflected community priorities in 2013-2016 for development of the original PARC Plan. This planning process leaned on community outreach, stakeholder meetings, surveys, and extensive inventorying to provide a baseline of demand and need. Throughout this process, the public provided information and expressed opinions about its needs and priorities for parks, trails, and recreation opportunities in Lynnwood. This feedback played an important role in preparing and organizing policy statements and prioritizing the capital facilities project list contained within the 2016 PARC Plan. A new community engagement effort for this update was initiated in July 2020 and consisted of three survey efforts

## Visioning & Initial Community Discussions

Planning began with staff conducting “visioning” exercises at a joint board and commission meeting (June 2013) and Lynnwood University (September 2013). Outreach continued with a series of community open houses and stakeholder meetings in fall 2013. From these public sessions, comments about park facilities included sports field turf improvements, golf course improvements, off-leash dog areas, equipment updates, park restroom additions, fitness trails, running tracks, community arts and music events, community gardens, geocaching and orienteering. The need to address gaps in the park system was also noted, along with specific improvements to existing parks and undeveloped parks. Appendix A includes a summary of comments collected during these initial visioning and outreach discussions.

## Surveys

Beginning in 2014, communication about the PARC Plan process was shared through press releases, electronic news, website, social media, and outreach in City facilities. Between April and December 2014, City staff conducted an online outreach survey to assess the community's level of satisfaction and future needs. This survey generated baseline information for staff to develop a statistically-valid survey that was administered the following spring. The results of both surveys were remarkably similar.

The PRCA Department contracted for the administration of a statistically-valid survey during April and May of 2015, which was sent to a random sample of registered voters. The purpose of the online and mail survey was to gather input to help determine park, trail, open space, and recreation program priorities. A total of 324 surveys were completed: 215 responses via the mail survey and an additional 109 interviews via the online survey.

Together, staff learned that Lynnwood residents value parks and recreation services and put their priority on quality, safety, and maintenance above all else. Regarding policy priorities, providing safe, clean, well-maintained parks; acquiring and conserving urban forests, replacing aging park equipment, and developing or improving walking, biking, and nature trails were given very highest priorities. Survey results consistently indicated that Lynnwood residents are pragmatic and that they value increased access, connectivity, and improvements to the existing system. Outdoor recreation improvements and enhancements included the desire to improve connectivity through new trails, acquire new park land, increase access to gyms, provide sports fields in the MUGA, and create a public place for the community to gather. Residents also place importance on providing adequate programming for youth and senior populations. System deficiencies, such as inadequate parking, worn playgrounds, and a lack of gathering places, were highlighted. Appendices B and C provide summary responses for both surveys.

To inform the 2021 update to the PARC Plan, the PRCA Department conducted three additional surveys to inform and validate the previous findings. Challenges with COVID-related restrictions on public gathering limited the types of outreach that could be performed, and all three surveys were completed primarily electronically.

The PRCA Department conducted a recreation customer service survey with Recreation Center and Senior Center customers. The purpose of this survey was to learn about existing customer use of available services and programming needs, including barriers to use. The survey was emailed to customers of the Recreation Center and Senior Center and all surveys were completed electronically in May 2021. A total of 328 survey were completed and analyzed, 326 in English and two (2) Spanish responses.

Between April and June of 2021, the PRCA Department conducted a Community Recreation Needs Survey. The purpose of this survey was to ask community members about their use of different facilities and programming offered by the PRCA Department and about different arts and culture events and activities. The survey was advertised on social media and through Lynnwood eNews. City staff conducted in-person intercepts at the Lynnwood Food Bank, LETI, COVID vaccine clinics, and other events. A total of 280 surveys were completed and analyzed. 108 surveys were completed in hard copy and 172 were completed electronically; 224 of these were English language, 37 in Spanish Language, 14 in Korean, and 5 in Russian.

From July 2020 through June 2021 a park user survey was available to park visitors by scanning a QR code posted in each park. The purpose of this survey was to ask visitors about their use of public parks, including the types of facilities they used on their visit, how long their visit lasted, and how many people were with them on their visit. A total of 100 responses were collected and analyzed.

This three-part survey effort confirmed that Lynnwood residents and system users see parks and recreation services offered by the City as essential to the quality of life in Lynnwood. Survey respondents had priorities that varied across age and ethnic groups, but expansion of existing program and facility opportunities were desired by all. Results consistently indicated that Lynnwood residents are satisfied with the quality, safety, and maintenance of existing facilities and that these remain important to survey respondents. There was strong interest among respondents to all surveys in community-building events such as live performances, arts and culture events, and food festivals. Respondents sought the expansion of indoor facilities supporting youth, young adult, and senior programming, including facilities that were tailored to each group. Preferred facilities include indoor playground space, expanded indoor water features, and indoor walking track. Barriers to participation, such as inconvenient program times and high fees, were identified. The survey results are presented in Appendix L.

## Plan Review Open House Meetings

As the development of the PARC Plan neared completion, community members were invited to two public open houses to offer direct comments and feedback about the future of parks, trails and recreation opportunities in Lynnwood. The intent was to offer some of the core recommendations from the draft Plan and elicit feedback from residents. The meetings were held on January 27 and 28, 2016. Spanish translation services were provided for the second session. For each open house, the project team prepared informational displays related to parks, recreation programming and trails. Each meeting lasted up to three hours, and meeting summary notes are provided in Appendix D.

For the 2022 update, an online engagement, “Tell us what you think,” page was available on the City website for interested parties to provide input into their needs through public comment post. Additionally, an online open house was promoted from October 6 – December 6 with an opportunity for community members to provide comment on the draft Plan. A summary of the comments collected from these outreach efforts are presented in Appendix L.

## Public Comment Period

Additional opportunities for public input were provided through the plan adoption process. The PARC Plan was evaluated through the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) process with an additional public comment period between TBD and TBD. The plan was evaluated by the Parks & Recreation board and the Planning Commission. A public hearing was held TBD before adoption by City Council.

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A photograph of a gravel path winding through a forest. The path is made of grey gravel and is flanked by trees and foliage. On the left, a large tree trunk is visible, and a small wooden post with a blue sign is planted in the ground. On the right, another tree trunk is visible. The background is filled with green and yellow foliage, suggesting autumn. The text "Maintaining Today... Planning for Tomorrow" is overlaid in orange with a black outline at the bottom of the image.

**Maintaining Today...  
Planning for Tomorrow**





We love the parks!!!!

Absolutely adore the parks here, and feel they are vital to my happiness and peace of mind.

We have a wonderful facility here in Lynnwood, but there are no classes for the kids except swimming.

I really wish there were more fitness pass classes that fit into a working adult's daily schedule.

Disc golf & dog parks are trending.  
Great way to increase park use affordably.

Some of the things residents have





Invest in the Meadowdale  
Playfields!

I am amazed and thankful for all  
the outdoor recreation activities  
provided by the Lynnwood  
Senior Center...

We love the rec center and  
the family annual pass.

We have a wonderful  
facility.

More buses needed for senior  
center outings.

Maintaining our outdoor recreation  
spaces is vital to our community!

been saying about parks & recreation:



## COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The community needs assessment for this PARC Plan follows in the next five sections:

- Place-Making: addresses linkages to other planning efforts
- Healthy & Vibrant: addresses recreation programs, facilities, health, art, culture and heritage
- Active & Connected: addresses parks, trails and other outdoor recreation
- Safe, Secure & Accessible: addresses maintenance and management
- Mind the Gap: addresses system planning and service standards



**GROWING A PLACE CALLED HOME**



*“I absolutely adore the parks here and feel they are vital to my happiness and peace of mind.”*

*“Build the trail from Center to Sound.”*



*“I’d like to see connecting trails or wider sidewalks and signs between the parks we have so that it’s easy for pedestrians to use a city-wide park system.”*

*“We love the parks!!!!”*



# PLACE-MAKING 4.1

## A SENSE OF PLACE

Lynnwood seeks to establish its identity in the region as a welcoming and vibrant community. As a designated core city in the Puget Sound Regional Council VISION, Lynnwood is designated as one of 28 regional growth centers in Puget Sound. Through the collaboration of its recent planning efforts, Lynnwood has set a course for accommodating future density growth in its City Center and transportation hub as a platform for unifying the built environment with measures that will create a stronger sense of place for the community.

As new development and redevelopment occurs, visual wayfinding, public art, unified street furnishings and other physical improvements are targeted as methods for “place-making.” The City’s parks, trails and open spaces play a critical role in achieving this public appearance for future amenities within the City Center and connecting the center with other major corridors (e.g., Hwy 99, Interurban Trail, etc.) and public spaces (e.g., City Hall, Recreation Center, urban plazas, natural areas, etc.). As stated in Goal 5 of the Economic Development chapter in the 2015 Lynnwood Comprehensive Plan, “*livability and a strong, positive sense of place contribute critically to developing and maintaining a city’s competitive advantage in the Puget Sound region. Connectivity and place-making identity are vital characteristics for Lynnwood’s vision of the future.*”

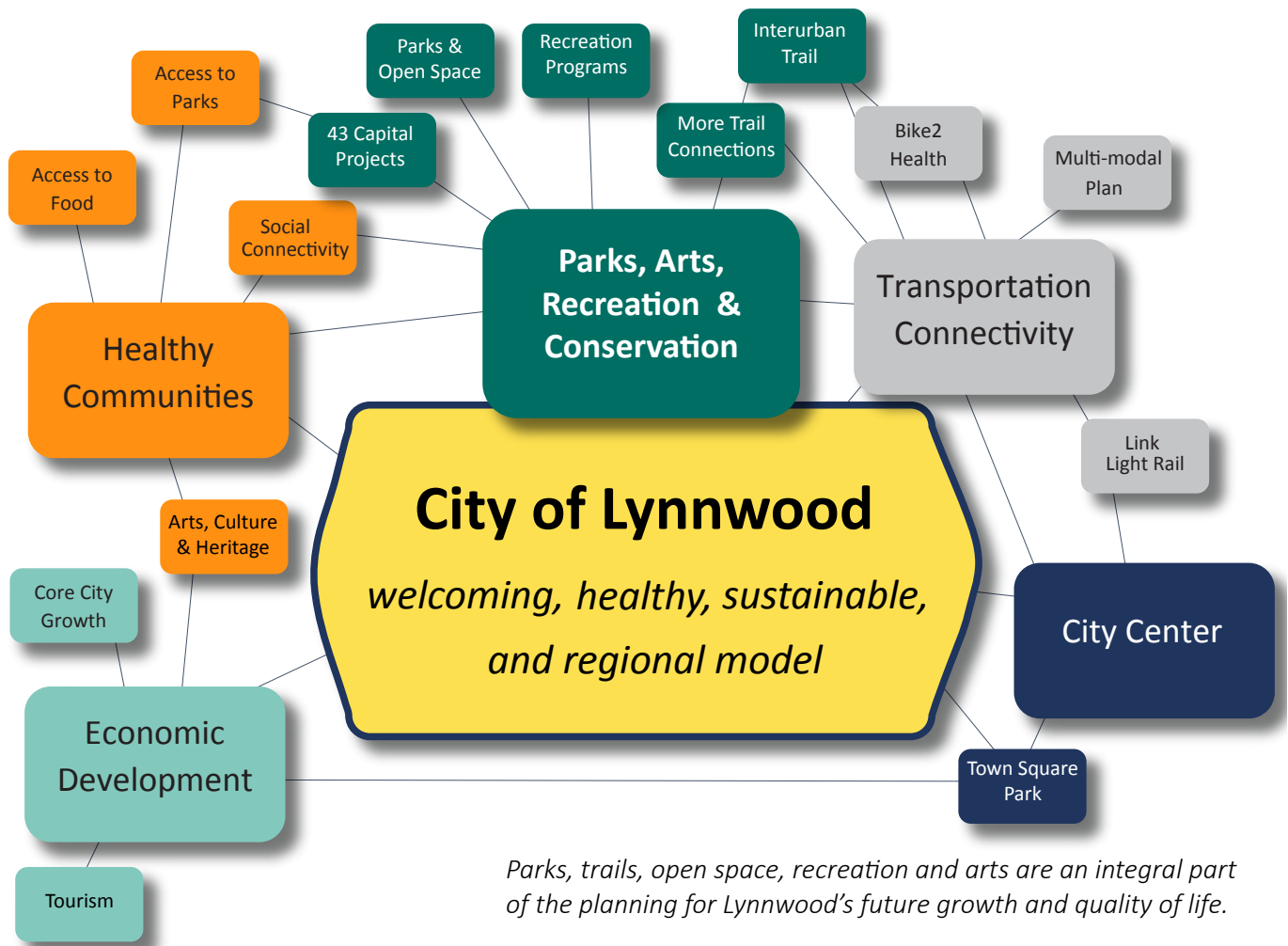
## CIVIC PLANNING (“BETTER TOGETHER”)

Lynnwood is aggressively focused on planning its future and has several completed or in-progress planning efforts that relate to the provision of parks and recreation services. City leadership have been actively collaborating and coordinating their efforts under the “better together” principle. The community’s future for how parks, recreation, arts and open space conservation are managed will be better integrated with other City programs, plans and

policies. This holistic approach to City governance should ensure a higher quality of life for its residents. Guided by the “better together” banner, this PARC Plan reviews and assimilates City and regional planning efforts that are related to the future provision of parks and recreation by Lynnwood.

Lynnwood has taken a very proactive and integrated approach to planning for its future. The graphic below illustrates the array of different planning efforts and priorities across City departments that link to the roles and responsibilities of the Parks, Recreation & Cultural Arts Department. While the Department takes the lead role in maintaining and improving its facilities and programs, the importance of a strong park and recreation system is recognized through the myriad plans guiding the on-going growth and improvement of the City. All efforts are being integrated to enhance the quality of life for the entire community moving forward.

Figure 9. Relational Map of City Planning Efforts



*Parks, trails, open space, recreation and arts are an integral part of the planning for Lynnwood's future growth and quality of life.*

## Citywide Comprehensive Planning

The Lynnwood Comprehensive Plan states the City's goal for parks, recreation and open space is to "provide a comprehensive system of parks, open space and recreation facilities that serves the needs of current and future residents and visitors to Lynnwood and to meet the recreational needs of the community, and provide a park system that includes mini, neighborhood and community parks." To accomplish this goal, the PRCA Department will need to continue to coordinate with other City departments and planning efforts to achieve the welcoming and healthy community that residents envision for Lynnwood.

## Community Health

Lynnwood's vision calls for Citywide park and recreation policies that emphasize and promote a healthy community. One key component for promoting health is directly tied to being a safe and walkable community - interconnecting all the places where people live, work, play, shop and gather. Lynnwood is actively engaging in programs, policies, and planning to enhance its active transportation network (human-powered modes of transportation, primarily walking and biking) to support a healthier community by providing the infrastructure to encourage physical activity as part of daily life. Lynnwood also recognizes that this effort will take collaboration and coordination between the Community Development, Economic Development, Public Works and PRCA Departments. Lynnwood is committed to creating a more walkable and bike-able community that will provide access to all citizens regardless of age, gender, socioeconomic status or ability.

The strategic ten-year Healthy Communities Action Plan (HCAP) had been outlined as a top priority for the Parks, Recreation & Cultural Arts Department in its 2013/14 Biennium Report, and in November 2015, the draft action plan was released. The plan addresses policy, infrastructure improvements and programming to support the broader goal of improving the health of Lynnwood, and it is built around three health priorities including active living, food access and social connectedness. Additionally, community health efforts in Lynnwood are boosted by significant grant support from the Verdant Health Commission to support public health projects and programs, such as Bike2Health, Move 60 Teens and 3rd grade swimming lessons.

## Pedestrian-Scale Connectivity

The Citywide Sidewalk and Bicycle Plan illustrates how the City can provide a framework of sidewalks, walkways, trails, paths, promenades and bikeways to allow people the choice to travel between most homes, schools, businesses, entertainment and other services throughout Lynnwood without using their cars. The pedestrian plan component includes a total of 104 miles of sidewalks, paths, and trails, of which 85 miles (82%) is complete today. The bicycle system plan component includes a total of 70 miles of bike lanes/routes, of which 12 miles (17%) are complete today.

The cities of Edmonds, Lynnwood, and Mountlake Terrace launched Bike2Health with funding provided by the Verdant Health Commission in an effort to increase bicycling connectivity, make bicycling safer, and improve access to health and wellness choices. The target of Bike2Health is to increase connectivity by completing 11 critical missing links of the regional

bicycle network. Bike2Health will create a regional bicycle network establishing several key north/south and east/west corridor routes and connecting major destinations (e.g., colleges, civic centers, employment centers, the Interurban Trail, etc.) and transit hubs (e.g., the Edmonds Ferry, the Lynnwood and Mountlake Terrace transit centers, and Swift bus rapid transit stations). In total, roughly ten miles of bicycle network will be connected or improved by installing shared lane markings, bicycle route signage and approximately six miles of new bicycle lanes.

## Economic Development

The 2015 Economic Development Action (EDA) Plan update represents Lynnwood's vision, goals and actions for economic development based on a revised economic profile. The current plan follows from the 2009 *Lynnwood Moving Forward: Our Community Vision* that included economic development goals for the future. Within the EDA Plan, goals 3, 4 and 5 contain strategies and actions related to parks, trails and open space. Key elements from those goals are listed below:

- Action Area 3.4 - Open Space: Foster the importance of quality open space in attracting businesses and residents to Lynnwood.
- Goal 4: Strengthen Lynnwood's Image and Identity in the Region: This would be achieved through Branding, Events and Venues, and Marketing and Advertising.
- Goal 5: Enhance Lynnwood's Livability and Unique Sense of Place: Livability and a strong, positive sense of place is recognized as a critical contribution to developing and maintaining a city's comparative advantage in the Puget Sound region. In addition to animating physical space and fostering greater community connection, place-making improves local business viability by drawing both residents and visitors to unique, diverse and vibrant commercial and mixed-use areas. Connectivity, Wayfinding and Signage, Better Neighborhoods, Community Services are targets within this goal to enhance livability.

## Arts, Culture & Heritage

In 2015, the Arts Commission began the preparation of a Cultural Arts Plan to plan for and promote the expansion of partnerships, investments and awareness in Lynnwood's arts and cultural opportunities. Despite the City's Arts Program suffering deep cuts during the recent recession, important arts and creative programming survive including a diverse public art collection, summertime Shakespeare in the Park performances, engaging public art in private development and much more. The goals of the forming Cultural Arts Plan overlap with many of the City's broader goals addressing its quality of life and include:

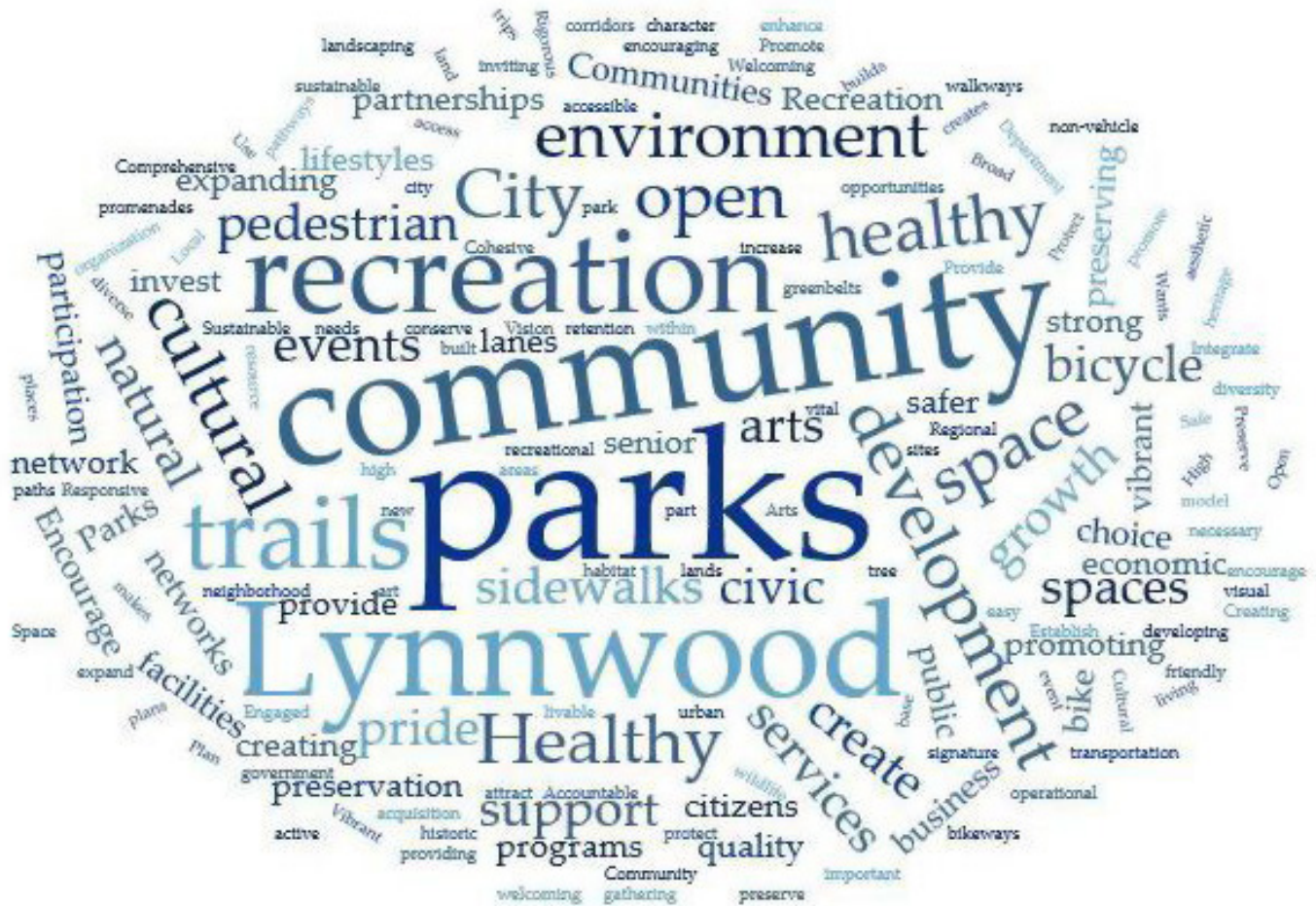
- Advocating for a healthier community through use of art such as creative displays, dance activities and active art programs;
- Providing free art activities for all ages at public events;
- Promoting, preserving and sustaining the cultural arts and identifying the resources needed to create and sustain a vibrant cultural community;
- Expanding the public art collection to include pieces and programs that represent the cultural diversity of Lynnwood; and
- Celebrating cultural heritage and providing social gathering spaces and events that are stabilizing and strengthening elements in creating a strong sense of community identity.



## Visualizing ‘Better Together’

In compiling, reviewing and summarizing a range of City plans, a number of common topics surfaced related to values, priorities and interests. The graphic below represents a “word cloud” composed of the key words and phrases from plan summaries prepared in the development of this PARC Plan. While each major City planning effort from the recent past may individually reference parks and recreation, a snapshot of the words common to all the plans in aggregate reveals a strong relationship to themes of parks and recreation.

Figure 10. Word Cloud - Common Words from City Plans



# FUTURE GROWTH

## Lynnwood as a “Core City”

Likely the biggest rationale for recent City planning efforts comes from the plans for future light rail service. Sound Transit is working with Lynnwood to extend light rail service to the Lynnwood Transit Center by 2023 with construction anticipated to begin in 2018. The Lynnwood Link project covers the extension from Northgate to Lynnwood. The project will add 8.5 miles of new light rail service with several new stations and provide frequent service between Snohomish County, Seattle and beyond. The benefits for this project include increased mobility, access and transportation capacity for residents and workers. This anticipated transportation linkage will trigger significant growth in Lynnwood that increases both population and density within its City limits.

Adopted in 2008, Puget Sound Regional Council’s VISION 2040 (an integrated growth management, environmental, economic and transportation strategy) designated Lynnwood as a Core City and also designates 763 acres of Lynnwood (including Alderwood Mall, the Transition Area and the City Center) as one of the 28 Regional Growth Centers in the four-county planning area. Growth Centers are expected to be areas of high-density/high-intensity land development served by robust transit service. The designation as a core center will focus new growth in Lynnwood that reinforces the need to accommodate greater density and transit-oriented development and provides an opportunity for Lynnwood to proactively and intentionally determine how the City should accommodate that growth.

Anticipating this new growth, Lynnwood developed a Vision Plan for how the City and its citizens desire to become a more community-centered place to live, work and play. The 2010 Vision Plan (Lynnwood Moving Forward: Our Community Vision) proffers seven core statements to lead Lynnwood toward becoming a regional model of a sustainable, vibrant community with engaged citizens and an accountable government. Of the seven core statements, five directives relate to parks and recreation:

- To be a welcoming city that builds a healthy and sustainable environment;
- To invest in preserving and expanding parks, recreation, and community programs;
- To be a cohesive community that respects all citizens;
- To be a city that is responsive to the wants and needs of our citizens; and
- To invest in efficient, integrated, local and regional transportation systems.

Linking the City’s adopted vision to this Plan reinforces the integrated coordination within the City government and reflects the importance of desires of the community.

## City Center Parks

As part of the transit-oriented development and redevelopment of Lynnwood in the proximity of the future light rail station(s), the city has engaged in proactive planning to create a compact, dense and lively City Center to offer new opportunities for culture, commerce and housing. Located at the union of I-5 and SR 524 (196th St SW), the future City Center will provide multi-modal transportation facilities from light rail and rapid bus

transit to new streets and bike and pedestrian connections. The City Center Sub-Area Plan includes unified streetscape standards with design elements that will contribute to enhancing the sense of place and uniqueness for Lynnwood's new urban core. New parks and public spaces in the City Center are important elements of this urban identity.

To further articulate the important role of parks in the designated City Center, a master planning effort was conducted in 2007 and updated in 2018 with implementation strategies.. The Lynnwood City Center Parks Master Plan originated from the City Center Sub-Area Plan's identification of four parcels for development into parks to meet the recreational needs of the increasing population of Lynnwood's City Center. Since the completion of the City Center Parks Master Plan, staff have continued to re-evaluate priorities for parks within the City Center, and the current direction is to specifically target investments toward Town Square Park, Village Green as part of the Northline Village development, and potentially a park that connects the north and south ends of the regional growth center in partnership with the Public Facilities District.

### **Town Square**

As the heart of the City Center, Town Square will be a landmark for the re-imagined downtown Lynnwood. The urban park would support a range of events, festivals and activities year round. The location of Town Square provides direct interaction with the promenade, connecting the park to other City Center parks, the Interurban Trail, transit hubs, Convention Center and Alderwood Mall.

### **Village Green**

The Village Green Park is planned to be a .7-acre gathering space within the Northline Village surrounded by relatively high density residential housing over retail/services and could bring several thousand new residents to this area of the City Center. Village Green will be a neighborhood park, first designed to meet the health and recreational needs of the surrounding residents, but also to welcome visitors, particularly those walking, biking, or using transit to move about City Center.

### **Billiards Park**

Billiards Park would contain iconic elements and activities that can be seen from the promenade and surrounding streets to define the park and create a desirable destination in the transition area between the City Center core and Alderwood Mall. Billiards Park would be linked directly to the City Center, and the integration of the promenade into the park would also provide direct connection to the Interurban Trail and Alderwood Mall.

## LINKING CONNECTIONS

Beyond the commitment to supporting a healthy community through an enhanced active transportation network, Lynnwood recognizes that trails, pedestrian pathways and bicycle paths can contribute to local economies through job creation, tourism, commercial businesses and increases in real estate value. In the National Recreation and Park Association's *Active Transportation and Parks and Recreation* report, numerous studies are cited showing that active transportation projects contribute more positive economic impacts than road infrastructure-only projects through the creation of more jobs and economic stimuli.

Lynnwood's City Center Sub-Area Plan illustrates the intent to create linkages and connections through the City Center via promenades and a chain of parks and plazas. The combination of public spaces, promenades, sidewalks and bike lanes will create a more compact, walkable environment and a strong sense of place. The network is highlighted with the anchor of the Town Square and links directly with the Interurban Trail.

The Highway 99 Sub-Area Plan also includes policies and objectives to enhance connections between land uses with access to parks, trails, gathering spaces and to create new public amenities along the corridor.

## BENEFITS OF PARKS, TRAILS, RECREATION & OPEN SPACE

A number of organizations, non-profits, and studies have noted the overall health, economic, environmental and social benefits provided by parks, open space and trails. In 2005, The Trust for Public Land published "*The Benefits of Parks: Why America Needs More City Parks and Open Space*." This report makes the following observations about the benefits of parks and open space, all of which have health impacts:

- Improvements to physical and mental health are increased through physical activity and contact with the natural world.
- Social and community benefits, including more stable neighborhoods, improved social connections and reductions in crime and juvenile delinquency.
- Increases in local economic prosperity as residential and commercial property values rise, community and economic development sustainability and enhanced tourism.
- Environmental benefits through trees and other vegetation, which improve air quality, act as natural air conditioners and assist with stormwater control and erosion.

### Physical Activity Benefits

Residents in communities with increased access to parks, recreation, natural areas and trails have more opportunities for physical activity, both through recreation and active transportation. By participating in physical activity, residents can reduce their risk of being or



becoming overweight or obese, decrease their likelihood of suffering from chronic diseases, such as heart disease and type 2 diabetes, and improve their levels of stress and anxiety.

Nearby access to parks has been shown to increase levels of physical activity. According to studies cited in the National Park and Recreation Association's 2010 report, the majority of people of all ages who visit parks are physically active during their visit. In addition, the CDC reports that greater access to parks leads to 25% more people exercising three or more days per week. Park location and access also matters. According to a study in Los Angeles, people who live within 1 mile of a park are four times more likely to visit the park one or more times per week, compared to those who live farther away.

Providing convenient access to parks and recreation is particularly important in neighborhoods with lower socioeconomic status, as parks can provide free or low-cost options for physical activity.

## Social & Community Benefits

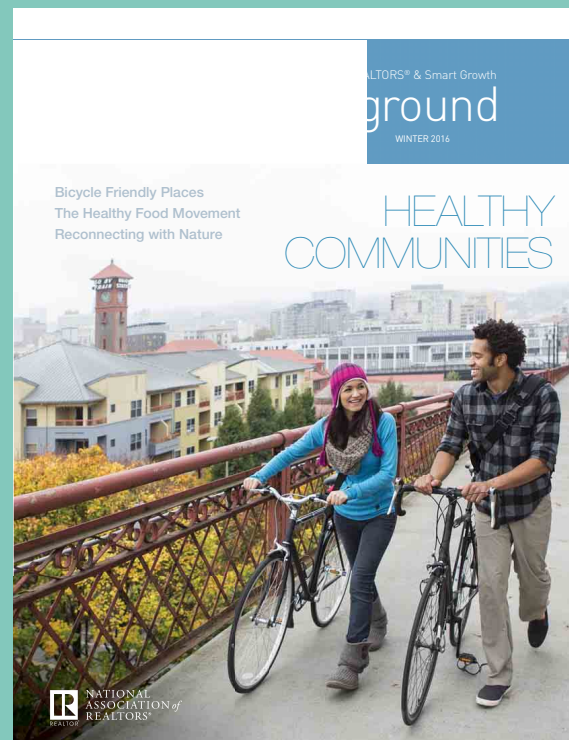
Park and recreation facilities provide opportunities to engage with family, friends and neighbors, thereby increasing social capital and community cohesion, which can improve residents' mental health and overall well-being. People who feel that they are connected to their community and those who participate in recreational, community and other activities are more likely to have better mental and physical health and to live longer lives than those who do not. Access to parks and recreational facilities has also been linked to reductions in crime, particularly juvenile delinquency.

From the winter 2015 issue of the National Association of Realtors (NAR) magazine, the direct link between how communities are built and grow is tied to health and quality of life. More walkable and bike-able environments with better access to nature and parks have become essential for personal well-being and needs to be integrated into community planning. The NAR articles identify walkable communities as a prescription for better health.

Even the U.S. Surgeon General sounded a call to action challenging communities become more walkable to allow more Americans to increase their physical activity through walking. The Center for Disease Control and its Healthy Community Design Initiative focuses on walkability and the need to better integrate into transportation planning.

The NAR magazine issue also reported on the value of bicycle-friendly communities and the direct tie to healthy and sustainable living. Access to healthy, locally-grown food choices is reported with the value of community gardens and urban food hubs for healthy diets, as well as connection to community engagement.

Realtors have long been aware that housing near a good system of parks and trails will hold strong appeal to buyers. The winter NAR issue illustrates the recognition that community design for healthy living goes beyond the single house location. People want choices, and these healthy community design traits of walking, biking, trails and parks all play an important role in housing prices, sales and re-sales.



## Economic Benefits

Parks and recreation facilities can bring positive economic impacts through increased property values, increased attractiveness for businesses (quality of life) and workers and through direct increases in employment opportunities. Improved economic conditions can in turn improve health outcomes as people have more money to spend on food, housing, childcare and other daily needs. However, increased property values can cause a decrease in housing affordability and an increase in housing displacement - due to rising rents or property taxes - negatively impacting the quality of life for affected residents.

## WELCOMING, HEALTHY & SUSTAINABLE

The City's future vision to become recognized as a welcoming, healthy and sustainable community requires the PRCA Department to play an important contributing role to facilitate this future outcome.

This plan highlights the wealth of recreational opportunities provided by the City and outlines the existing gaps in the park and recreation system that are obstacles to achieving the public health and economic vitality goals. Specific improvements, projects and programs are identified to ensure the most effective measures for closing gaps from deferred maintenance to future system expansion.

This PARC Plan is formatted to present the cohesive plan for addressing all aspects of needs and demands on the comprehensive park and recreation system around four themes that resonated from the City plans discussed above combined with the results of current system-wide assessments. These four themes, which are presented in the following sections, include the following.

### 4.2 Healthy & Vibrant

This section highlights the needs and demands to ensure adequate support for recreation, health, wellness, art and heritage (facilities and programming) to support a healthy and vibrant community.

### 4.3 Active & Connected

This section presents the foundation of the parks system as providing places where everyone is welcome and identifies the outdoor recreation facilities that promote an active and connected lifestyle.

## 4.4 Safe, Secure & Accessible

This section measures the critical aspect of the park system infrastructure relative to the physical conditions and quality assurance that is essential for safety and accessibility.

## 4.5 Mind the Gap

This section focuses on the adopted level of service for Lynnwood's park system and the current assessment of its inventory and remaining gaps in reaching the desired performance standard for the community's future needs.

The Washington State 2014 Governor's Blue Ribbon Parks and Outdoor Recreation Task Force reported that leadership and commitment were needed to gain from initiatives that provided three outstanding qualities that make the State of Washington a great place to live. While the Task Force had a statewide focus, its conclusions, stated below, apply to every local community.

- **Healthier people** – Experiencing and recreating in the outdoors contributes to both mental and physical health for everyone from our children to returning veterans and aging Baby Boomers.
- **Stronger communities** – Communities that invest in parks, trails and other outdoor spaces offer the quality of life that helps every resident thrive, and gives them a competitive edge in the quest for business creation, recruitment, and retention.
- **A thriving economy** – An entire business spectrum rests on the quality of our parks, public lands, and recreational opportunities. Outdoor recreation creates jobs, and is a star attraction for the recruitment of new businesses and a talented workforce. The economic contribution to Washington from outdoor recreation is significant, estimated at \$22.5 billion annually by the Outdoor Industry Association.



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ON THE MOVE &  
PUSHING FORWARD



*"I am amazed and thankful for all the outdoor recreation activities provided by the Lynnwood Senior Center..."*

*"Add child care at the Recreation Center for parents who want to participate in the group exercise programs."*

*"Provide more indoor basketball courts."*



*"Accommodate the needs of various abilities."*

*"Bring art classes back to the community!"*

*"Offer golf classes for children (low cost)."*

# HEALTHY & 4.2 VIBRANT

The City of Lynnwood currently has two community facilities - the Lynnwood Recreation Center and the Lynnwood Senior Center. These centers are heavily used for programs and reach capacity at peak times. Also, the City partners with the Edmonds School District for athletic fields and gymnasiums and with various private providers for indoor recreation and enrichment programs.

## TRENDS IN RECREATION & PROGRAMMING

The current national trend is toward a “one-stop” recreation facility to serve all ages. Large, multi-purpose regional centers help increase cost recovery, promote customer retention and encourage cross-use of the facility by other City departments and community groups. Amenities that are becoming common in large multi-purpose regional centers (65,000 to 125,000+ sq. ft.) include:

- Gymnasium space
- Indoor walking tracks
- Lap, leisure and therapeutic pools
- Weight and cardiovascular equipment
- Outdoor recreation and education centers
- Interactive game rooms
- Playgrounds
- Community, event or party rooms

## The Outdoor Participation Report

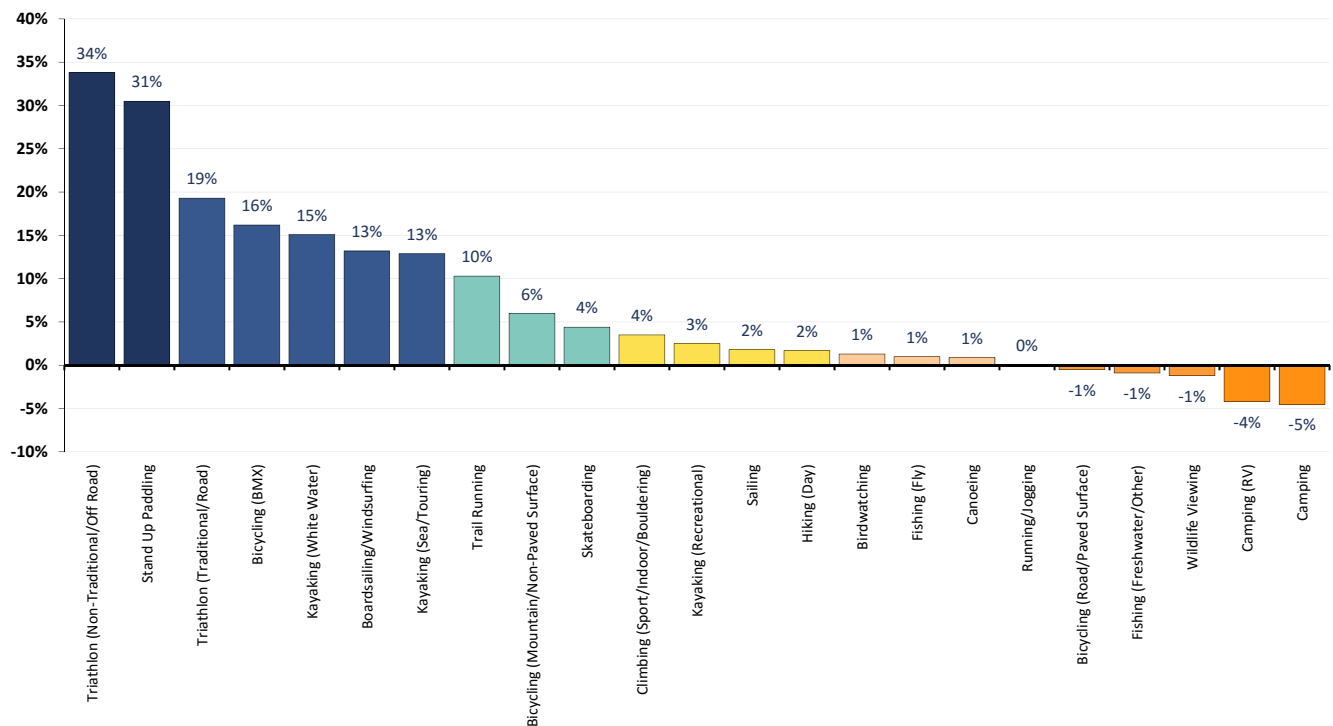
According to *2015 Outdoor Participation Report*, published by the Outdoor Foundation in Boulder, Colorado, participation in outdoor recreation, team sports and indoor fitness activities vary by an individual’s age. Gender also plays a role in determining behaviors and

participation trends. Figure 11 illustrates the three-year trend changes by major activity. Recent trend highlights include the following:

- The biggest motivator for outdoor participation was getting exercise.
- Running, including jogging and trail running, was the most popular activity among Americans when measured by number of participants and by number of total annual outings.
- Walking for fitness is the most popular crossover activity.
- Almost one-quarter of all outdoor enthusiasts participated in outdoor activities at least twice per week.
- Indoor fitness becomes the preferred activity among young women ages 16 to 20 and remains the most popular form of activity. Males, however, favor outdoor activities until they are age 66 and older.
- Outdoor activities are popular among children, especially among boys ages 11 to 15.

Participation rates drop for both males and females from ages 16 to 20. These rates climb back up slightly for females into their early 20s and males late 20s before gradually declining throughout life.

Figure 11. 3-Year Change in Outdoor Recreation Participation of Youth (6-24) (2015 Outdoor Foundation)





## The State of the Industry Report

Recreation Management magazine's *2015 State of the Industry Report* listed the top 10 program options most commonly planned for addition over the next three years, along with the frequency (in parentheses) noted by survey participants:

- Mind body / balance programs (25.2%)
- Fitness programs (24.9%)
- Educational programs (24.3%)
- Day camps & summer camps (22.8%)
- Environmental education (21.5%)
- Teen programming (20.4%)
- Adult sports teams (19.4%)
- Active older adult programs (19.4%)
- Holidays & other special events (19.1%)
- Nutrition & diet counseling (17.4%)

For most programming types, community centers are the ones most likely to be planning to add such programs. There are a few exceptions; parks are most likely to be planning to add environmental education, sports tournaments or races, individual sports activities and water sports.

The same report indicated park systems that are planning to add features to their facilities in the next three years list their top five planned amenities as:

- Playgrounds
- Park shelters, such as picnic areas and gazebos
- Park restroom structures
- Outdoor sports courts for basketball, tennis, etc.
- Bike trails

## Sports Trends

The National Sporting Goods Association (NSGA) reported on participation levels in 47 sports indicating that 32 sports experienced growth during 2012. Highlights from the 2013 NSGA participation survey include:

- Fitness sports each increased about 5%.
- Team sports showed mixed results with participation lagging in basketball, baseball, ice hockey and soccer and increases in lacrosse, softball and volleyball.
- Tackle football experienced the largest team sport drop of nearly 13% decline in participation. Over half the decline was in the 7-11 age group of those who might participate on an infrequent basis.
- Female participation in 40 of the 47 sports/activities has increased compared to only 11 sports showing increased male participation.
- Indoor gaming activities increased by an average of 11%.

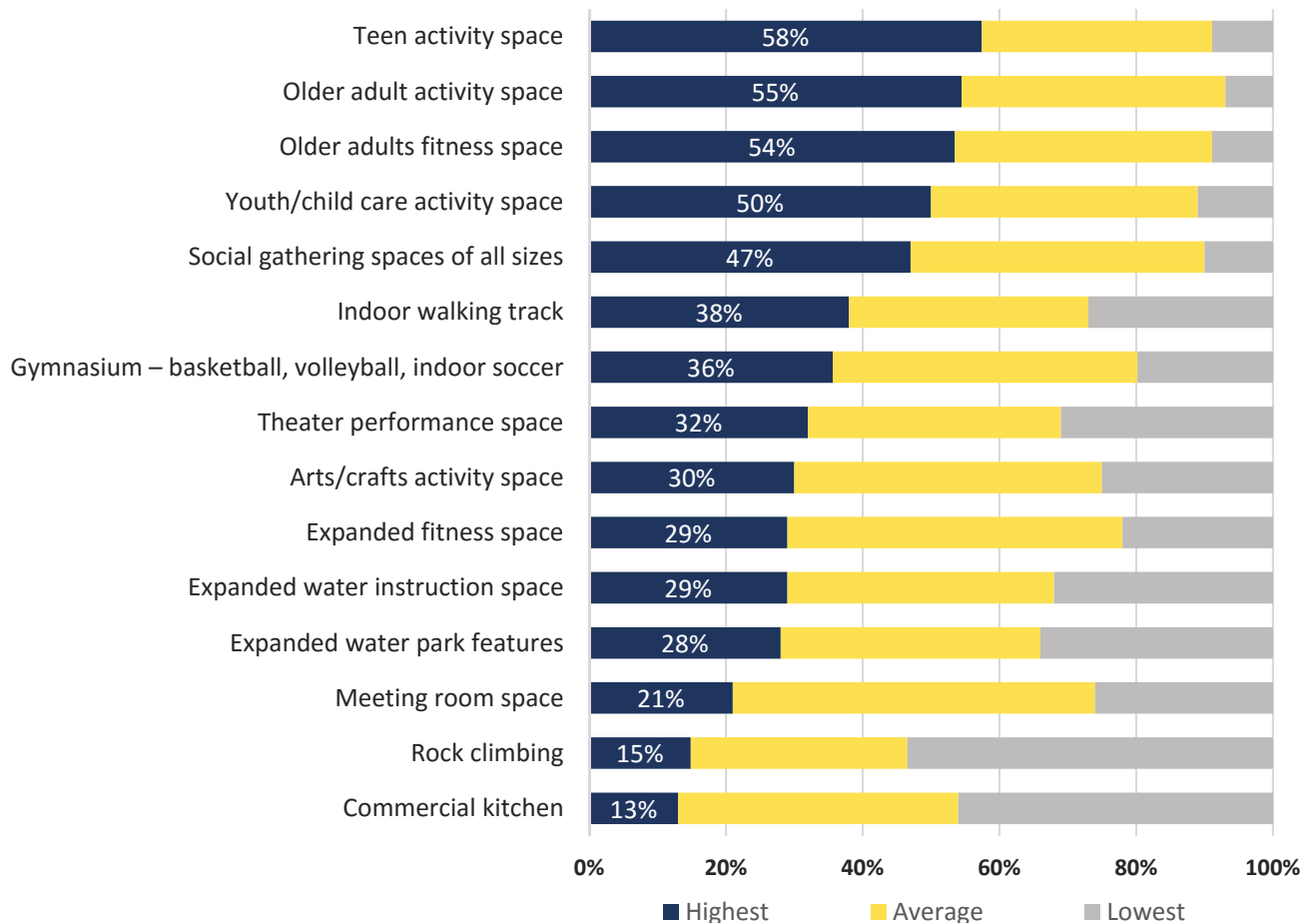
Overall, the trend shows that participation in many sports is rebounding with some sports continuing to struggle to attract new participation.

## COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION & FEEDBACK

The PARC survey conducted as part of this Plan included a set of questions pertaining to recreation programs and facilities. One-third of survey respondents visit the Lynnwood Recreation Center on an annual basis, and 17% visit the center at least weekly. In general, the quality of the Recreation Center and the Senior Center was ranked as very high.

Survey respondents were asked to rate priorities for a number of possible developments for indoor facilities on a scale rating from lowest to highest. Teen, older adult, and youth/child care activity space, as well as older adult fitness space, were given the highest priorities (over 50%), compared with a commercial kitchen and a rock climbing wall at 13%.

Figure 12. Development Priorities for Indoor Facilities

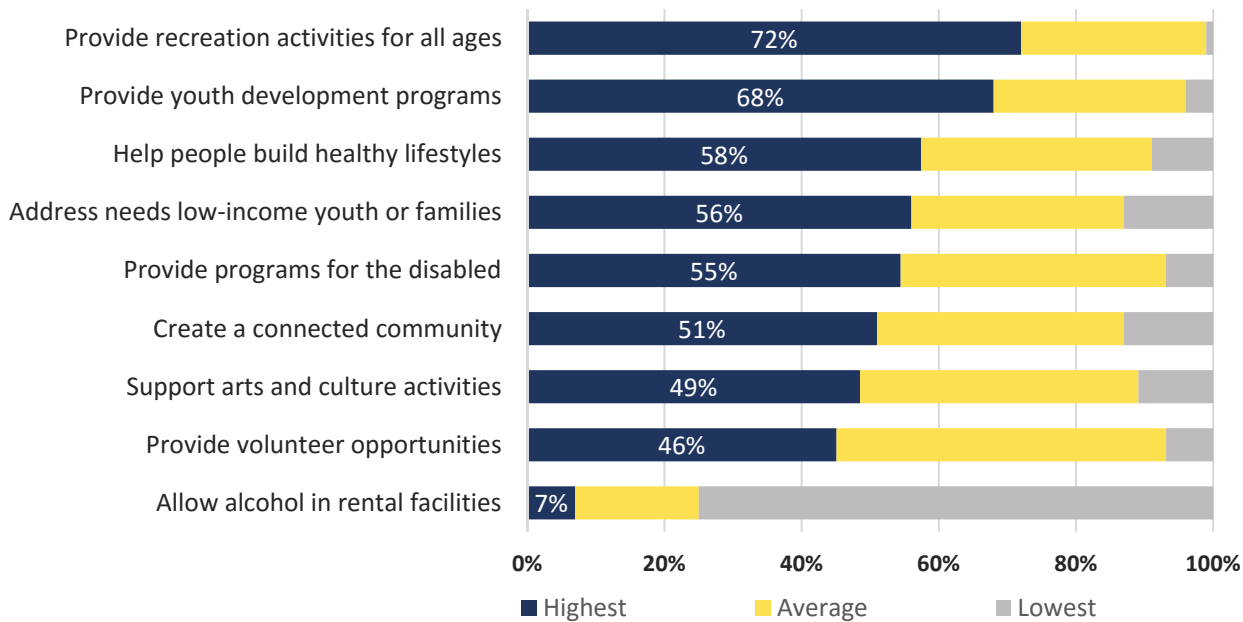


Survey respondents were asked to rate priorities for a number of recreation program offerings on a lowest to highest rating scale. Provide recreation activities for all ages, youth development programs, healthy lifestyles, low-income youth and families, disabled, and connected community ranked very high with scores (above 50%), compared with allowing alcohol in rental facilities which did not rank highly (7%).

Some programs, such as address needs of low-income youth or families and programs for the disabled, do not rank highly against all of the possible program participation areas, since these are relatively small populations with low program volumes. The relatively high priorities given to these offerings by the respondents at large, however, indicates that there may be

public support for using general funds to provide scholarships or subsidies to support these program options.

Figure 13. Recreation Program Priorities



Survey respondents were asked to indicate what interest areas members of their household would participate in if offered including “very unlikely, unlikely, neutral, likely, very likely.”

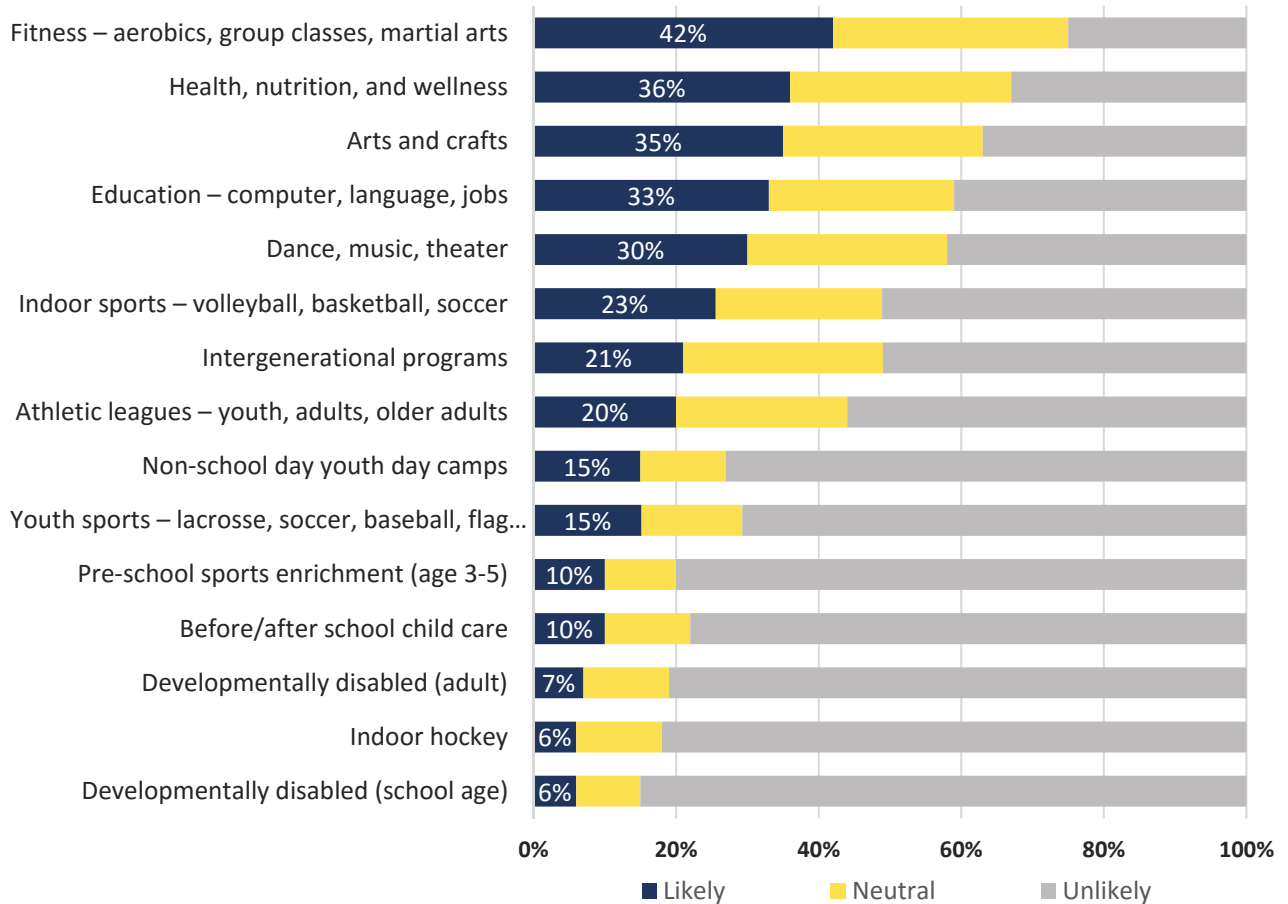
Figure 14 illustrates the rank order list reflecting the highest percent given a likely to very likely participation indication.

Fitness including aerobics, group classes and martial arts was given the highest likely to very likely indication at 42% compared with indoor hockey at 6%.

High likely indications reflect activities for which there are high participation rates for the population in general and which will have high volume turnout. Low priority rankings reflect niche activities for which there are low percentages of the population that are involved and for which there will likely be small turnout.

That does not mean low volume activities should not be provided, but that the program offerings should be tailored to niche population interest with smaller turnout.

Figure 14. Recreation Program Participation Interest

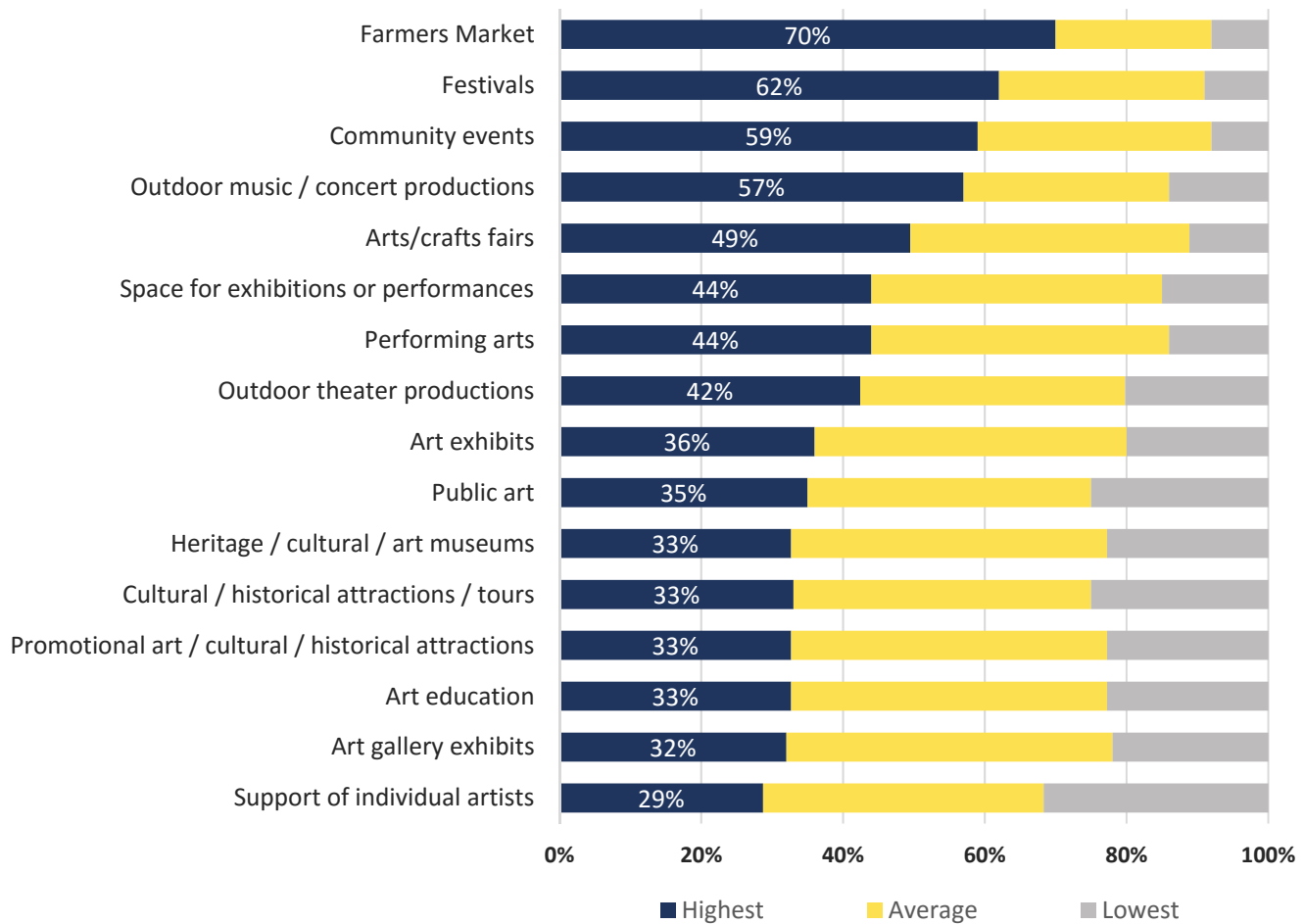


Survey respondents were asked to rate priorities for a number of cultural arts program services on a lowest to highest rating scale. Farmers markets, festivals, community events and outdoor music and concert productions were given very high rankings (over 50%), compared with support of individual artists at 29%.

Generally, highly ranked cultural arts programs are those that more actively involve the general public and will likely be viewed favorably through the support and use of general funds. This does not mean individual artists should not be supported, but the means of funding this type of art service may involve the use of other than general funds including donations, grants and enterprise accounts.



Figure 15. Cultural Arts Priorities



## RECREATION FACILITIES

### Lynnwood Recreation Center

The Lynnwood Recreation Center is a full service, multi-purpose, high demand facility and is used for recreation, aquatic, fitness and community programs and events. The center offers the following amenities:

- Recreation pool including water slides, river, water playground and family hot tub
- Lap pool, sauna, adult hot tub and warm-water therapy pool
- Cardio / weight room
- Fitness studio
- Racquetball courts
- Private, family changing rooms
- Locker rooms



Renovated in 2010, the center accommodates many of the City's recreation programs; however, a significant demand for indoor facilities remains. A second phase for the center was master planned to provide programming space for youth/teen and senior activities, performing arts and sports, but that project has been on hold due to the high construction cost.

## Lynnwood Senior Center

The Lynnwood Senior Center is a community center serving all people 62 years of age and older with a variety of services, activities and special events. The 4,200-square foot center is a gathering place for active adults and offers activities for the mind and body. Older adults can participate in a number of activities, including exercise classes, yoga, Zumba, dance, computer training, and much more. In addition to a wide range of exercise and physical activity classes, the center offers outdoor recreation programs that include hikes, bicycle excursions and trips throughout the Pacific Northwest. The center also has a community garden where participants can grow flowers and vegetables.

## School District Facilities

The School District is a major partner in the provision of the City's park and recreation services in terms of open space acreage, athletic fields and indoor recreation facilities. For years, the City has enjoyed a cooperative relationship with the Edmonds School District in the use of their indoor facilities for a variety of organized recreation and sport activities. The use of school district facilities has enabled the City to provide a much higher level of service than would otherwise have been possible, given its lack of gymnasium space and sports fields for programming. The City reciprocates with priority use of its pool for swim team practices and swim meets.

Via a recently re-negotiated interlocal agreement between the City and District, the City will continue its historic use of the Cedar Valley Gym for indoor programming. Also, the City has use of the Lynndale Elementary School gymnasium during the summer for its summer camp programs that are based at Lynndale Park. The City recently began using the Meadowdale Middle School gymnasium on weekends from November through March to enable the expansion of certain recreational activities. These facilities aside, there continues to be high demand and insufficient supply of indoor gymnasium space. The projected increase in population will only aggravate this situation further. In the future, the City should continue to work closely with the District to actively explore opportunities for expanded joint use of facilities such as joint development of the former Alderwood Middle School site to expand parking and recreation access at Heritage Park and to serve the residents southeast MUGA area.

## RECREATION PROGRAMS

Lynnwood's recreation services are a major community asset and support the physical, mental and social health of community members. The City currently offers a variety of programming, including fitness, sports, aquatics, outdoor recreation, day camps and a variety of other programs and special events for all ages. The Recreation Division, as a whole, generates approximately \$5.4 million in program revenue each biennium generated from over 500,000 customer visits, and it operates with a \$9.5 million biennial budget.

To continue to provide responsive and focused programs, the City should continue to:

- Enhance the diversity of programs offered, focusing on programs that are in high demand or serve a range of users
- Meet the needs of diverse users, including at-risk communities and those with special needs
- Improve the accessibility of programs, by holding classes and activities at locations throughout the community and at affordable rates
- Monitor local and regional recreation trends to ensure community needs and interests are addressed by available programming

Given limited resources and the availability of recreational providers in the region, the City should continue to expand its partnership with the Edmonds School District and explore relationships with private fitness clubs and the local entrepreneurs (i.e., contractors) to provide recreation services. The City also should promote and coordinate recreational opportunities provided by its partners to help connect residents with options to learn and recreate.

### Aquatics Program

Swim lessons, water fitness, recreation and leisure swimming, and health and safety programs make up the majority of aquatic programming. The Aquatics Program produces over 25,000 registrations each biennium and generates more than \$1.2 million in revenue for the City. Over the next ten years, growth in community health and safety programs is expected, but no significant new facility investment or staffing increases are planned.

The pools at the Lynnwood Recreation Center are very popular with residents and have become a regional destination. Given its popularity, the Aquatics Program needs to continue to balance and find opportunities to accommodate the different groups who have varied priorities and uses for the pool. For example, the City strives to accommodate more youth aquatics programming during the summer months, since school is closed. This seasonal shift in operating priorities tends to come at the expense of pool availability for lap swimming and therapeutic programs.

Another unintended consequence of high demand and the popularity of the facility is that wait lines can be long with the pool at capacity. Also, it has become a customer service challenge to turn away pool patrons due to capacity limitations, especially for those who drive up to an hour each way to visit the center. Due to this, the number of Lynnwood residents using the pool and aquatics programs is somewhat lower than what the Department prefers.

With a focused role of aquatic health and safety classes, the Department has and should continue to seek opportunities to partner with other City departments, such as police or public works, and outside agencies to provide CPR and First Aid training for their staff. The Aquatics Program should continue to explore ways to expand water safety education to the community through swim lessons and certifications.

## Adults 62+ Program

Fitness, outdoor recreation, trips, social events and services comprise the bulk of programs and activities for the Adults 62+ Program. There is no age restriction to participate in these programs, as long as the participant has an associate membership or is participating with another individual who is 62 years or older. Individuals with a senior membership qualify for discounts on trips and gain access to a number of drop-in activities at the Senior Center. In general, registration and drop-in programs generate between \$130,000 - \$150,000 annually from 10,000 - 11,000 registrations.

The Adults 62+ Program is limited by available space. The Senior Center is currently at capacity, and many of the physical fitness classes take place at the Recreation Center. This physical separation translates into fewer participants who take fitness classes and also participate in senior center based activities. The Department has contemplated expansion options for the Senior Center, and the capital facilities plan anticipates the project for 2021.

Staffing is a limitation, so the senior center relies on significant volunteer support to operate. The City has considered the need for a volunteer coordinator to assist the program with scheduling, training, processing volunteer applications, placing volunteers and encouraging/thanking volunteers for their service. Current staffing levels also limit the ability to partner with other programs to expand services or pursue other opportunities for programming.

## Athletics & Sports Program

These programs provide opportunities for participation in quality adult athletic leagues and youth sports camps including operating and scheduling two indoor gymnasiums and an outdoor athletic complex, consisting of five fields that are used for City-sponsored leagues, school district athletics and rentals by community athletic organizations. Softball adult athletic league play is conducted year-round for approximately 88 teams. Youth sports camps, including soccer, football and baseball are offered for children ages 5 - 13 and are provided by third-party contractors.

A shortage of multi-purpose fields exists in wider region around Lynnwood. Although national data suggest that adult softball league participation has been in decline for the past decade, local and regional participation is tied to access to quality fields. City staff have noted that neighboring organizations which provide quality field surfaces are capturing teams and market share from others. In response, the City is planning for the renovation of the athletic fields at Meadowdale Playfields to convert two existing sand fields into synthetic-turf, multi-purpose fields. The City anticipates a resulting growth in participation of City leagues and significant demand for those fields from a variety of user groups.



Biddy sports is another opportunity for the Athletics & Sports Program. Currently, no organizations in Lynnwood provide sport programming for pre-school age youth. In 2017, the Department anticipates starting a biddy sports program to provide activities, such as soccer, basketball and t-ball. This program will be run utilizing parent volunteers as coaches. Management of volunteers will be a major new opportunity for this program with the addition of biddy sports.

This Athletics & Sports Program works very closely with the Edmonds School District, and 100% of the City's current indoor gymnasium space is provided through an interlocal agreement with the District. Staff should continue to improve its relationship with the District to explore additional services and cost sharing for the benefit of the Lynnwood community.

## Fitness & Recreation Program

The Fitness and Recreation Program provides all of the recreation programming for the Recreation Center and provides opportunities for participants of all ages in a variety of recreational classes from special interest to dance to fitness. This programming is a combination of staff-led programs and contractor-led programs. The Fitness and Recreation Program is responsible for programming the weight room, fitness studio, classrooms and conference room for a total of 250 weekly program hours..

The goal for the Fitness & Recreation Program is to provide quality programming at an affordable rate. Since recreational programming can be influenced by national and regional trends, staff should stay abreast of current trends and continue to monitor and evaluate program offerings. The Department also should continue internal dialogue about the balance between being an a la carte community center versus a traditional gym that offers specialized fitness and access to child care.

## Youth Programs

Youth Programs provides opportunities for recreation, socialization, community involvement, leadership development and education for youth 18 years and younger. Youth Programs include Kids Klub preschool, summer day camps, afterschool health programming for middle schoolers, family events, junior counselor training and enrichment programs. These program offerings are focused to meet the diverse needs of youth in the Lynnwood community.

The current programming for all youth programs operates within City-owned facilities. As with the Adults 62+ Program, this program area is limited by a lack of available program space. If the program remains structured as a center-driven approach, the City will need to continue to explore opportunities for expanded indoor program space or seek new partnerships with the school district to accommodate youth program expansion.

Expanding beyond the existing indoor center space presents a different opportunity and challenge. Several areas of Lynnwood have concentrations of low-income, multi-family or highly diverse communities. The City should explore the potential of off-site programming to these areas and potentially target afterschool or school break programming. Such an approach creates challenges regarding staffing and logistics, but it may also be an important way to reach out to and connect with the youth of these areas of the city that may not have ready access to the Recreation Center or other indoor youth programs.

## HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

The City currently is preparing a 10-year Healthy Communities Action Plan that is built upon the nationally-adopted Healthy Communities model, which addresses policy change, built environment improvements and programming. The action plan contain numerous strategies to help the City reach the broader goal of improving the health of Lynnwood residents. Two recommendations to help guide the community in creating healthier environments are:

- Increase physical activity by making it easy and safe to be physically active daily. Safe sidewalks, trails, and bicycle lanes make it easier for people to move about and leave their car at home.
- Support daily consumption of and easy access to healthy foods. Healthy food choice in school cafeterias and restaurants, well supported food banks, and neighborhood community gardens offer options for healthier food.

Once completed, the action plan will complement many of the themes from this Plan and guide City staff in approaches that lead toward a healthy community. These future actions may include safer sidewalks, trails and bicycle lanes to make it easier for people to move about the city and leave their car at home. It may also include policies or actions to facilitate healthier food choices in school cafeterias and restaurants to neighborhood community gardens offering options for healthier food. This PARC Plan provides overlapping support to the efforts of staff to complete and implement the action plan.

## ARTS, CULTURE & HERITAGE

### Arts & Culture Programs

Just as the PARC Plan coordinates with transportation, economic development and environmental services, the parks and recreation planning values the relationship to arts and culture as they directly contribute to the quality of life, sense of place and ability of Lynnwood to continue as a healthy and vibrant community.

The Cultural Arts Plan is currently being formulated and has prioritized its focus on public art as a place-making strategy. Many successful cities have used public art to define their public spaces, promote tourism and encourage civic pride and identity. The plan also advocates for lifelong learning in creativity and the arts that will enhance artists and arts opportunities and provide a connection for artistic development through partnerships and relationships with collaborative organizations. The public art collection that was inventoried and appraised during this planning effort is just one example of the close ties between the infrastructure and programming of parks and recreation and cultural arts. These two planning efforts should be expected to reinforce the values of and future for Lynnwood.

The Arts Commission supports universal access to diverse arts to enrich the community and encourages openness and inclusion through cultural arts. The Commission recognizes that partnerships with educational providers, libraries, businesses, and organizations can help leverage programming, events, exhibits, and facilities to expand cultural arts access for the mutual benefit to the community.



### Public Art Collection

The City of Lynnwood public arts collection includes a variety of local and internationally known artists, a variety of media, and varying effectiveness in terms of installation and accessibility to the viewer. The media represented include paintings, works on paper, photography, glass works, sculpture and installations in various sizes and degrees of quality.

The most striking, dynamic and publicly accessible pieces in the collection are the installations and large scale sculptures. Examples of these are the large scale sculptures installed around the Lynnwood Civic Center that are visible to people walking or driving around the campus and to people driving by on 44th Avenue West. Specific examples are the massive stainless steel Lee Kelly sculpture and the similar Bruce West sculpture. Examples of installations that beckon the viewer to come closer and interact are Susan Zoccola's *Three Drops*, the multiple leaded glass window installations (including Maya Radoczy and Lutz Haufschild), and Mara Smith & Kris King's carved brick relief walls.

Many pieces are located inside buildings, for which some are in areas accessible to the general public and others are in areas only accessible to staff. The interior, two-dimensional pieces that hang on walls vary in terms of quality and visibility. There are a number of high-end paintings, such as the Alfredo Arreguin, that hang in main entryways and can be seen by many. Some others, such as the Jacob Lawrence serigraphs and a very fine example of Morris Graves' work, can only be seen in private offices and meeting rooms. Another example of this is one of the finest examples in the collection, a blown glass petroglyph vase by William Morris, that begs for a more prominent display.

The only aspect of the collection that has not held up in terms of quality and value over time is the photography. Many of these artists are local and no longer working, and many of the photographs have been bleached with exposure to the sun because the glass does not have UV shielding. In all, it is a fine collection appraised at a total fair market value of \$1.15 million and is worthy of the City's investment and attention. Appendix H includes the introductory cover letter from the complete arts appraisal for reference.

## Promoting Lynnwood's Heritage

Lynnwood recognizes that its future will be enhanced by creating a unique identity and sense of place. These characteristics which will define Lynnwood as a great place to live can arise from the special identities from its historical heritage. While a heritage planning effort by the History and Heritage Board is concurrent to this park planning process, the PARC Plan recognizes the value of the community historical assets and the role their interpretation can play in defining Lynnwood. The in-progress Heritage Plan places a top priority on the preservation of historic sites. The PARC Plan has identified specific project needs for preservation at Heritage Park, including development and renovation, in the PARC Plan's proposed capital facilities plan.

The ongoing Heritage Plan development has also prioritized the development of interpretive signage, a project that can be coordinated through collaboration with park design and development projects to enhance the educational value of Lynnwood's public spaces. The inclusion of historical information with the design, development and operations of parks and open spaces helps Lynnwood create its unique sense of place – yet another example of the interconnections between Lynnwood's multiple and aligned planning efforts.





OUTDOORS & ACTIVE



*“Place for the community to gather is lacking.”*

*“More zip swings and tire swings.”*

*“Park with running track - Dog park - Miniature golf.”*

*“More play parks around 168th.”*

*“Walking trail with fitness stations.”*

*“Increase trails – safer pathways, walkability, biking.”*



*“Any time you can snatch up property – neighborhood parks – there’s no place for kids today.”*

*“Small venues and another Meadowdale.”*

*“Need to plan ahead to acquire open space, neighborhood, conservation and athletic fields.”*

# ACTIVE & 4.3 CONNECTED

Parks are the foundation of the City's park and recreation system. Lynnwood's parks provide residents with a variety of active and passive recreational amenities. They are places where people can spend time with friends and family, exercise and play, learn and explore, and engage with the City's landscape, wildlife and culture. By improving existing parks and providing new parks or amenities as Lynnwood grows, the City can actively support the mental, physical and emotional health of residents and ensure its park and recreation system meets the needs of the whole community.

## TRENDS IN PARKS & OUTDOOR RECREATION

### National Survey on Recreation and the Environment

The National Survey on Recreation and the Environment (NSRE) is a comprehensive survey that has been collecting data and producing reports about the recreation activities, environmental attitudes and natural resource values of Americans since the 1980s. The NSRE core focus is on outdoor activity participation and personal demographics. The most recent 2012 NSRE reports the total number of people participating in outdoor activities between 2000 and 2007 grew by 4.4% while the number of days of participation increased by approximately 25 percent. Walking for pleasure grew by 14% and continues to lead as the top favorite outdoor activity.

Nature-based activities, those associated with wildlife and natural settings, showed a discernible growth in the number of people (an increase in 3.1% participation rate) and the number of days of participation. Americans' participation in nature-based outdoor recreation is increasing - with viewing, photographing, or otherwise observing nature clearly measured as the fastest growing type of nature-based recreation activity.

## State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

The Washington Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) is a 5-year statewide recreation plan published by the Washington Recreation and Conservation Office. The SCORP is designed to determine outdoor recreation issues and opportunities and helps explore local park and recreation planning strategies. It includes data on current trends in recreation participation and demand in Washington. Findings from the SCORP were reviewed to help inform planning and funding considerations for future park and recreational facilities.

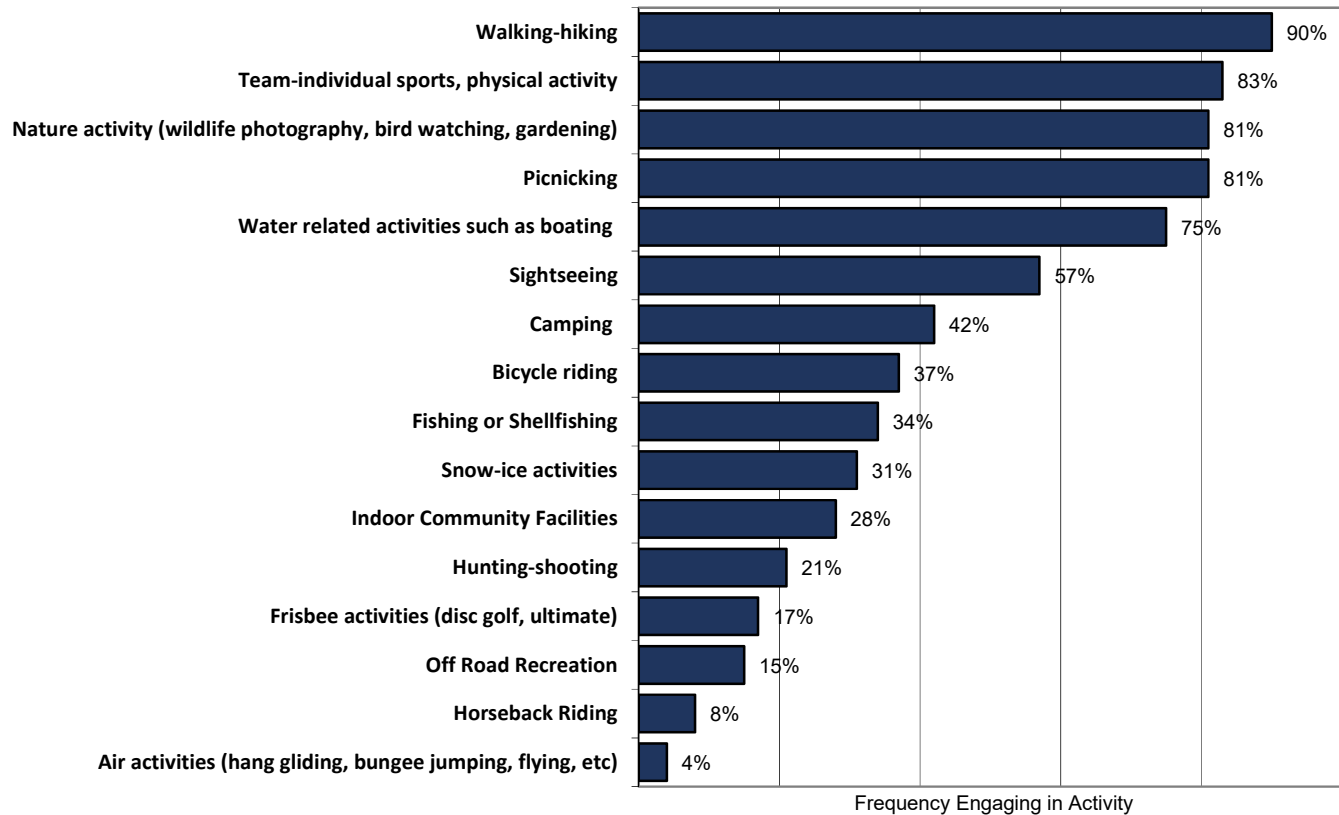
The 2013 SCORP confirms that outdoor recreation is still an integral part of life for most Washington residents; 90% participate in the most popular category of activities, which includes walking and hiking, demonstrating the pervasiveness of outdoor recreation in Washington's culture. Significant increases in rates of participation in outdoor recreation activities since 2006 indicate the importance of the state and local communities to continue their investment in outdoor recreation facilities and opportunities.

Low-cost activities, less strenuous activities, or activities that can be done close to home (activities with any of these characteristics) have high participation rates among Washington residents. These include activities such as walking, recreational activities (jogging and fitness activities), nature activities and picnicking/barbecuing/cooking out. The most intensive users of public facilities and lands are participants in hiking, beachcombing, picnicking/barbecuing/cooking out, wildlife viewing and swimming in pools or natural waters. More specialized activities have lower rates with the categories of horseback riding and air activities (flying, parachuting, bungee jumping, etc.) having the lowest participation rates. Participation rates in the 2013 SCORP Outdoor Activity Categories are depicted in Figure 11.

The overall category of walking (in which 90% of Washington residents participated) is made up largely of those walking without a pet (71% of residents do this), with hiking (54%) and walking with a pet (52%) being of medium importance and climbing or mountaineering (10%) being of minor importance. The breakdown of nature-based activities, in which 81% of Washington residents participated, adds further details for wildlife viewing and photography (59%) and gardening (57%), each with a majority of residents participating. This overall category includes 16 different types of nature activities.



Figure 16. Statewide Participation Rates by Outdoor Activity (2013 SCORP)



According to the 2013 SCORP report, it is assumed that most people will continue to engage in the outdoor activities in which they previously participated. After listing the activities in which they participated, residents were then asked if they planned to do those activities in the coming year. An overwhelming majority of them (91%) indicated that they planned to do all of the same activities in which they had participated in the previous year and another 3% indicated that they planned to do most of those activities. Therefore, it is likely that rates of planned participation would be roughly the same as the actual participation rates discussed previously in this section of the SCORP.

Regarding new forms of recreation, several activities were newly tracked in the 2012 resident survey, including general frisbee play (16.8%), disc golf or frisbee golf (4.5%) and ultimate frisbee or frisbee football (3.0%). While ultimate frisbee requires nothing more than a field, disc golf requires infrastructure for the tees and the baskets, which has potential implications for recreation providers resulting from cross traffic play and user conflicts.

Another activity that is newly tracked in 2012 is swimming in natural waters, in which 35.7% of residents participated. While this activity does not require any facility for the activity itself, it may benefit from some infrastructure, including access to water. Likewise, snorkeling was also newly tracked (3.7%), as were two other water-related activities: using a splash park (8.1%) and using a spray park (6.4%).

The participation rates confirm that outdoor recreation is an integral part of life in Washington's communities and a pervasive value in the Pacific Northwest. Research indicates that nature and outdoor recreation have a significant positive impact on human

health, both physical and mental. Washington's economy also benefits directly and indirectly from outdoor recreation through consumer spending, tax revenue and jobs.

The 2013 SCORP recommendations encourage local park and recreation service providers to do the following:

- Recognize a return to nature-based activities.
- Understand that the top constraints to participation are social factors, not facilities or opportunities.
- Capitalize on the social benefits of outdoor recreation.
- Focus on increasing and/or improving recreation facilities and opportunities that support active recreation.
- Continue to offer diverse outdoor recreation activities and opportunities.
- Take advantage of current technology by using a map-based information system to provide an inventory of supply.
- Recognize recreation types in which supply may not be meeting demand.
- Focus on the capacity of facilities.
- Consider the implications of changing demographics when making recreation decisions.
- Increase priority of wetlands management as a recreation asset.

From the 2013 SCORP, the broadest recommendation for all areas across Washington is to continue the investment in outdoor recreation facilities and opportunities as the foundation for fulfilling the needs and expectations for the benefit of both residents and the natural environment.

## The State of the Industry Report

Recreation Management magazine's *2015 State of the Industry Report* indicated park systems that are planning to add features to their facilities in the next three years list their top five planned amenities as:

- Playgrounds
- Park shelters such as picnic areas and gazebos
- Park restroom structures
- Outdoor sports courts for basketball, tennis, etc.
- Bike trails

## Economic Analysis of Outdoor Recreation in Washington

Released in January 2015, this economic assessment study quantifies the contribution of outdoor recreation to Washington State's economy and way of life. Prepared by Earth Economics, the report states that "the benefits of Washington's outdoor recreation industry go beyond supporting jobs to include creating a way of life. It is estimated that Washingtonians, on average, spend 56 days a year recreating outdoors. According to the recreation surveys and public land records used in this study, there were a total of about 446

million participant days a year spent on outdoor recreation in Washington, resulting in \$21.6 billion dollars in annual expenditures.”

The study revealed that expenditures were highest for recreation associated with public waters, which includes a number of activities with high trip and equipment expenditures, especially motorized boating. Special events such as sports tournaments and races, which generally involve fees and attract overnight stays were ranked second in expenditures, followed by recreation on private lands, which includes expensive recreation activities such as golf, skiing and off-highway vehicle riding and hunting, which often occur on private timberland. *Local parks are the most common place for people to visit as well as the most accessible and least costly destination.*

The report also recognizes that the value of outdoor recreation goes beyond its traditional economic contribution. Benefits included the general improved quality of life people get from engaging in outdoor recreation (i.e., improved physical health, lower health care costs, reduced juvenile crime, less work absenteeism) and from the ecosystem services recreational lands provide. Trees, water and animals that provide ecosystem goods and services have been measured to contribute a combined total estimated value of between \$134 billion and \$248 billion a year. The economic analysis report concludes that “investment in outdoor recreation yields tremendous results.”

## Public Parks and Health: The Trust for Public Land

Aside from the recreational activity and sports participation figures noted in this Plan, a number of organizations and non-profits have documented the overall health and wellness benefits provided by parks, open space and trails. The Trust for Public Land published a report in 2005 called *The Benefits of Parks: Why America Needs More City Parks and Open Space*. This report makes the following observations about the health, economic, environmental and social benefits of parks and open space;

- Physical activity makes people healthier.
- Physical activity increases with access to parks.
- Contact with the natural world improves physical and physiological health.
- Value is added to community and economic development sustainability.
- Benefits of tourism are enhanced.
- Trees are effective in improving air quality and act as natural air conditioners, assisting with storm water control and erosion.
- Recreational opportunities for all ages are provided.

Another significant, recent trend is that of the relationship between child development and access to nature or nature play. Stemming from Richard Louv’s book *Last Child in the Woods*, a relative network of organizations and agencies have come together to discuss the impacts of nature play and seek funding and partnerships to facilitate ways to connect kids to their local environment. Recent studies show that children are smarter, more cooperative, happier and healthier when they have frequent and varied opportunities for free and unstructured play in the out-of-doors, according to the Children & Nature Network, a national non-profit organization working to reconnect children with nature and co-founded by Louv.



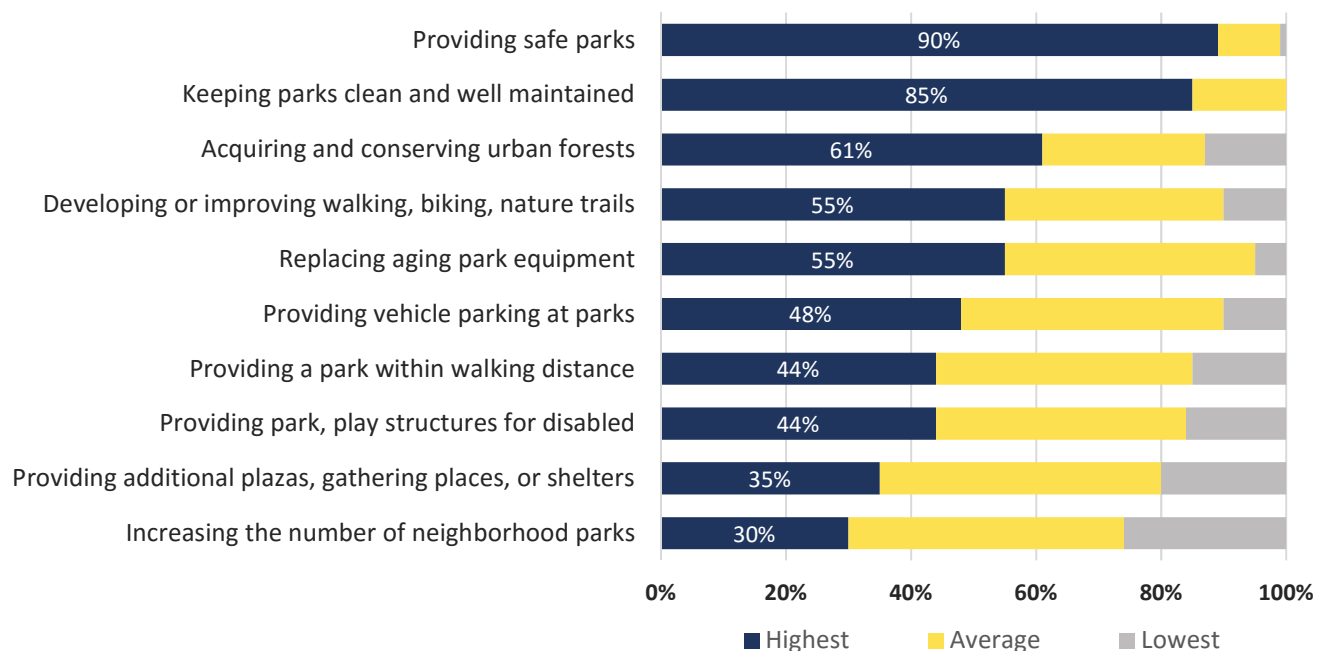
*With a reasonably-priced housing stock and proximity to the greater Seattle metropolitan area, Lynnwood continues to attract couples and young families, and access to neighborhood-based recreation opportunities is vitally important to existing and new residents.*

## LOCAL FEEDBACK & TRENDS

To provide input in determining local recreational needs, the City of Lynnwood conducted a survey in April and May of 2015 through a random sample of registered voters for online and mailed surveys regarding parks, arts, recreation and conservation needs and priorities.

When asked to rate the quality of existing parks, trails and open space in Lynnwood, survey respondents ranked cleanliness, maintenance, landscaping and appearance, accessibility, park equipment, safety and trails with high to very high scores above 50%. Regarding park policy priorities, providing safe, clean, well maintained parks, acquiring and conserving urban forests, replacing aging park equipment, and developing or improving walking, biking, and nature trails were given very highest priorities (see Figure 17).

Figure 17. Survey Responses of Policy Priorities

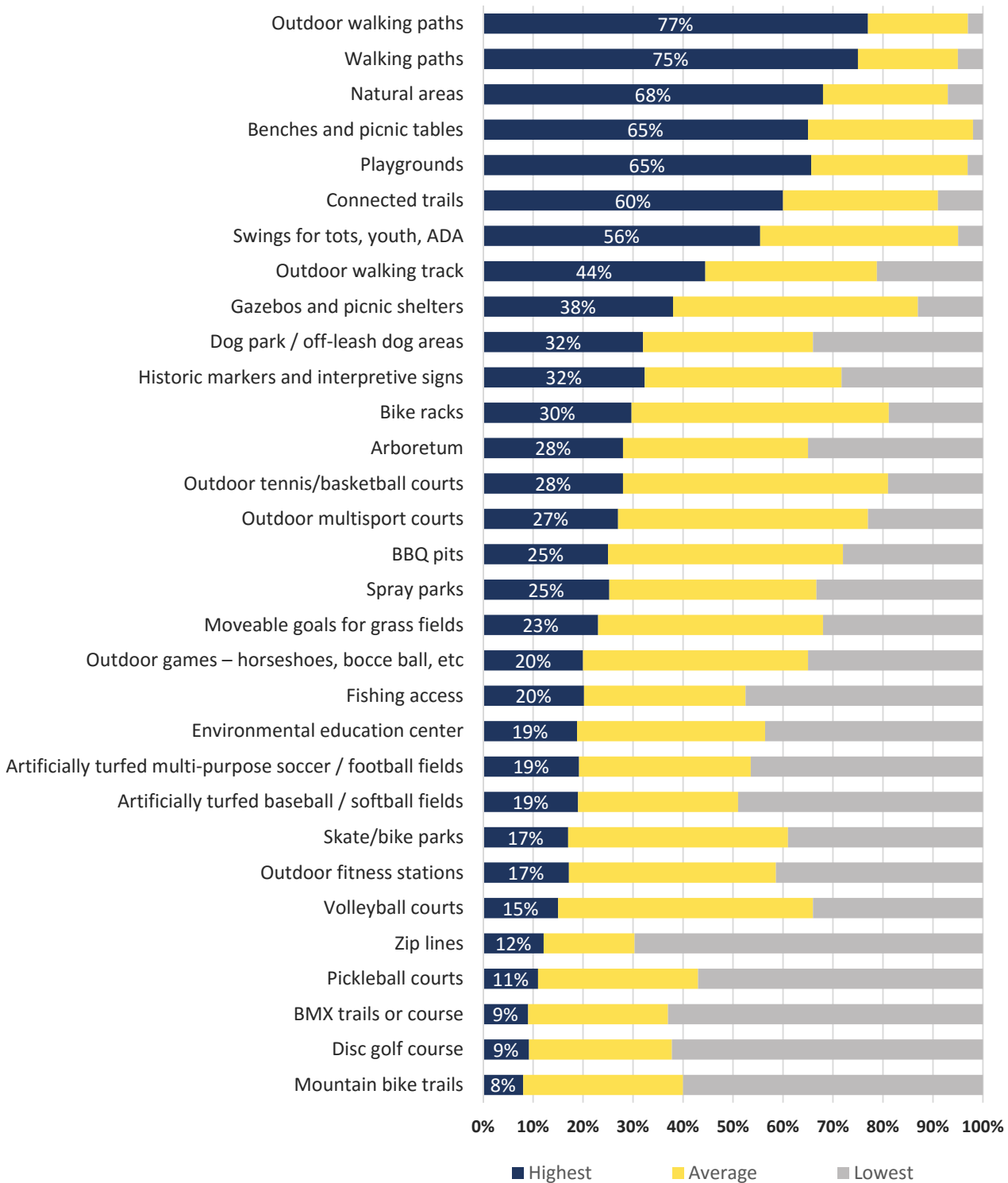


When asked to rate possible developments for outdoor facilities, outdoor walking paths, walking paths, natural areas, playgrounds, benches and picnic tables, connected trails, swings for tots and youth, and ADA compliance were given very highest priorities over 50% (see Figure 18). High priority rankings likely reflect activities for which there are very high participation rates for the population in general. However, the many amenities given lower ratings may be important for providing park users with more choices and serving different recreational user types.

From open house comments, stakeholder meetings, online surveys and advisory board meetings, expressions of desired park facilities and improvements included sports field turf improvements, Golf Course improvements, off-leash dog parks, equipment updates, park restroom additions, fitness trails, running tracks, community arts and music events, community gardens, miniature golf, pickle ball, geocaching and orienteering. Specific improvements to existing parks and undeveloped parks were also expressed.



Figure 18. Survey Responses of Development Priorities for Outdoor Facilities



Outdoor recreation improvements and enhancements shared through public outreach included the desire to improve connectivity through new trails and links, acquire new park land, increase access to gyms, provide sports fields in the MUGA and create public places for the community to gather.



## PARK CLASSIFICATIONS

Parkland is classified to assist in planning for the community's recreational needs. The Lynnwood park system is composed of a hierarchy of various park types, each offering recreational and/or natural area opportunities. Separately, each park type may serve only one function, but collectively the system will serve the full range of community needs. Classifying parkland by function allows the City to evaluate its needs and to plan for an efficient, cost effective and usable park system that minimizes conflicts between park users and adjacent uses. The classification characteristics are meant as general guidelines addressing the intended size and use of each park type. The following four classifications are in effect in Lynnwood and are defined as follow:

- Parks
  - ◆ Community Parks
  - ◆ Neighborhood Parks
  - ◆ Mini Parks
- Special Use Facilities
- Open Space
- Trails

## Parks

The parks within the City are classified as one of the following: mini, neighborhood and community parks.

### **Mini Parks**

Mini parks are small parks that provide limited opportunities for active play and passive recreation. They are generally less than one acre in size and provide some recreational amenity to residents within a ¼-mile walking distance. Developed mini parks may include lawn or other vegetation, a place to sit, and possibly a small feature, such as a play area, public art, or a historic or cultural marker. While mini parks can bring additional recreational amenities to a community, they cannot provide the range of experiences and activities of neighborhood and community parks.

### **Neighborhood Parks**

Neighborhood parks are designed for unstructured, non-organized play and limited active and passive recreation, and they typically serve residents within a ½-mile walking distance. This Plan recommends a minimum neighborhood park size of 1.5 acres, though they are generally 3 to 7 acres in size. The size of neighborhood parks can vary depending on neighborhood need, physical location and opportunity, among others.

Generally, developed neighborhood parks include amenities such as pedestrian paths, picnic tables, benches, play equipment, a multi-use open field for informal play, sport courts or multi-purpose paved areas, and landscaping. Generally, restrooms are provided in City neighborhood parks, but they are not a mandatory improvement due to high construction and maintenance costs. On-site parking and ADA-accessible parking may be provided.

### **Community Parks**

Community parks are large park sites that generally include a wide array of both passive and active recreation facilities. In general, community parks are designed for active and structured recreational activities and sports, although complementary passive components such as pathways, picnic areas and natural areas provide non-organized opportunities for individual and family activities.

Because of the wide array of amenities, community parks appeal to a diverse group of users. Community parks are generally 20 to 40 acres in size, and should meet a minimum size of 20 acres when possible, and serve residents within a 1-mile drive, walk or bike ride from the site. In areas without neighborhood parks, community parks can also serve as local neighborhood parks. Since community parks serve a large geographic area, on-site parking and restroom facilities should be provided.

## Special Use Facilities

Special use facilities include single-purpose recreational areas or stand-alone sites designed to support a specific, specialized use. This classification may include stand-alone sport field complexes, golf courses, recreation centers, sites of historical or cultural significance, such

as museums, historical landmarks and structures, and public plazas in or near commercial centers. Specialized facilities may also be provided within a park of another classification. No standards exist or are proposed concerning special facilities, since facility size is a function of the specific use. Five facilities in Lynnwood are classified as “Special Use” based on their current purpose and/or activity - the Municipal Golf Course, the Recreation Center, the Senior Center, Veterans Park and Heritage Park.

## Open Space

The City’s Open Space classification includes large natural areas, environmental parks and urban greenbelts. These lands are usually owned or managed by a governmental agency, which may or may not have public access. This type of land often includes wetlands, steep hillsides or other similar features. In some cases, environmentally sensitive areas are considered as part of greenways or natural areas and can include wildlife habitats, stream and creek corridors, or unique and/or endangered plant species. Open space may serve as trail corridors and provide for low-impact or passive activities, such as walking and nature observation. It is the City’s policy to preserve natural resources for the conservation of important habitats and for passive recreational use whenever possible. Lynnwood has preserved over 137 acres as publicly-maintained open space. Scriber Creek Park and Gold Park are included in this category because they are environmental parks that do not have active recreation elements. The Lund’s Gulch and Lund’s Creek open spaces, combined, provide over 106 acres of open space.

## PARK & OPEN SPACE INVENTORY

Lynnwood Parks, Recreation & Cultural Arts is responsible for nearly 420 acres of City parks, athletic fields, trails, open space lands and other civic sites.

### Mini Parks

The two developed mini parks in Lynnwood provide basic recreational amenities playground, picnic tables and green space for their immediate neighborhood. Maple Mini Park also functions as a detention basin for stormwater management. Sprague’s Pond Mini Park includes parking and waterfront access to the pond. A future mini park is planned for the City-owned site at 188th Street SW, which contains a stormwater management facility.

Table 2. City of Lynnwood Mini Parks Inventory

Park Name	Status	Acreage
188th St SW Mini Park (F)	Undeveloped	5.05
Maple Mini Park	Developed	0.77
Sprague's Pond Mini Park	Developed	0.90
<b>Total Mini Park Acreage</b>		<b>6.77</b>



## Neighborhood Parks

Eight neighborhood parks are currently developed in Lynnwood providing a mix of recreational and trail amenities. One currently undeveloped property, Rowe Park, is being planned for improvement in the future. All nine neighborhood parks total 37.83 acres in the City's park inventory. Two additional City-owned properties, Manor Way and Doc Hageman Park, are in the urban growth area (MUGA) with the intention of being improved at a future date. These two parks, once developed, would add approximately 17 acres to the City's developed park inventory.

Table 3. City of Lynnwood Neighborhood Parks Inventory

Park Name	Status	Acreage	
		In-City	MUGA
Daleway Park	Developed	7.04	
Manor Way (F)	Undeveloped		8.97
Meadowdale Park	Developed	6.24	
North Lynnwood Park	Developed	6.15	
Pioneer Park	Developed	5.43	
Rowe Park (F)	Undeveloped	2.31	
South Lynnwood Park	Developed	3.93	
Spruce Park	Developed	4.75	
Stadler Ridge Park	Developed	1.98	
Doc Hageman Park (F)	Undeveloped		7.68
<b>Total Neighborhood Park Acreage</b>			<b>54.48</b>

## Community Parks

Lynnwood also provides community parks for expanded recreational opportunities. Three community parks combine to provide over 99 acres of recreational amenities. Community parks, including Meadowdale Playfields and Lynndale Park, contain active recreation amenities, such as sport fields, or programmed events like the bandstand gazebo in Wilcox Park. The four community parks in Lynnwood are listed below in Table 4.

Table 4. City of Lynnwood Community Parks Inventory

Park Name	Status	Acreage
Lynndale Park	Developed	44.31*
Meadowdale Playfields	Developed	24.08**
Scriber Lake Park	Developed	24.01
Wilcox Park	Developed	7.31
<b>Total Community Park Acreage</b>		<b>99.72</b>

\* 3.3 acres owned by Edmonds School District

\*\* Owned by Edmonds School District; managed and operated by the City of Lynnwood in partnership with the City of Edmonds.

In addition to its parks, Lynnwood owns and manages numerous open space and special use sites. The open spaces are preserved for conservation of important habitats and, where feasible, allow for some passive recreational use. Within the City, seven sites contribute 75.43 acres of lands as open space. Open space lands outside the City limits in the MUGA were

purchased with funding through the Snohomish County Conservation Futures program. The Golf Course is operated through a management agreement with a private-sector operator. The Golf Course property contributes 76.66 acres of special use lands to the parks inventory and is owned by the City (39.53 acres) and Edmonds Community College (37.12 acres).

Table 5. City of Lynnwood Open Space Inventory Summary

Park Name	Status	Acreage	
		In-City	MUGA
Gold Park	Developed	6.45	
Scriber Creek Park	Developed	3.84	
Scriber Creek Open Space	Undeveloped	2.32	
Mesika Trail Open Sapce	Developed	5.04	
Land's Gulch North Park	Undeveloped		26.62
Land's Gulch South Park	Undeveloped	57.78	
Lund's Gulch Open Space	Undeveloped		22.25
Seabrook Open Space	Undeveloped		13.28
<b>Total Open Space Park Acrerage</b>			<b>137.58</b>

Table 6. City of Lynnwood Special Use Facility Inventory Summary

Park Name	Status	Acreage
44th Overflow Parking Lot	Developed	1.03
Golf Course*	Developed	76.66
Heritage Park	Developed	7.65
Veterans Park	Developed	1.31
Civic Campus	Developed	4.10
Citywide (Non-Park Sites)	Developed	2.90
<b>Total Special Use Facilitiy Acreage</b>		<b>94.65</b>

Table 7. City of Lynnwood Parks Inventory Summary

Classification	Acreage	
	In-City	MUGA
Parks		
Mini Parks	6.77	
Neighborhood Parks	37.83	16.65
Community Parks	99.72	
Subtotal	144.27	16.65
Open Space	75.43	62.15
Special Use	123.41	
Trail Corridor	28.79	
<b>Total Acreage</b>		<b>417.95</b>

The following maps show the location of existing parks and open spaces within the City.

A matrix follows the map of existing parks and details site-specific amenities for public parklands managed by City of Lynnwood.

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## Map 8: Citywide Parks & Open Space (Existing)

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2016 Park / Facility Amenities Inventory Page 1

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Insert 11x17

2016 Park / Facility Amenities Inventory Page 2

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## Civic Campus & Open Space

**11.17 acres**

**Special Use / Open Space**

44th Ave W from 194th St SW to 188th St SW

This Civic Campus offers a beautiful, wooded, respite from the nearby urban environment of the City's core. Boasting a creek, natural areas, soft trail and picnic tables and benches, one can escape into nature in moments.

In 1969, the original 18-acre site on 44th Ave W was purchased and approved as the new Civic Center Campus. Three new buildings - administration, police and library - opened in 1971. In February of that year, the 8,062 square foot library opened with a collection of 29,000 items. Over the next forty years and three expansions, the library has been annexed into the Sno-Isle Library system and occupies 25,920 square feet. In May, City Hall opened its doors. Today, the building stands at 18,923 square feet and is home to administrative offices, Council Chambers, and a Traffic Management Center. The new police headquarters and jail were situated in the building that now is home to the Senior Center. Today, the police station, jail and municipal court operate in facilities on the SE corner of 44th Ave W and 194th St SW. The Recreation Center first opened in 1977 and has been renovated and expanded several times, most recently re-opening in April 2011 as a 44,800 square foot aquatic and fitness facility. The modernized Center is the City's first LEED® Silver certified facility. Fire Station #15, last renovated in 1995, is a 18,853 square foot station situated at the northern end of the campus.

### Amenities

- City Hall
- Recreation Center
- Senior Center
- Fire Station
- Library
- Veterans Park
- Memorial Plaza
- Mesika Trail - 0.30 miles
- Forested area
- Public Art
- Parking
- Picnic areas
- ADA accessible
- Bus stops



## Daleway Park

**7.04 acres**

19015 64th Avenue West

Daleway Park is located in a west Lynnwood neighborhood. The park features a spray park, large active play areas and picnic facilities. Over half of the park has been preserved as forested open space.

The park was acquired in 1968, developed in 1970 and included one of the area's first spray parks. In 2009 the 39-year old splash pad was renovated with new spray features that are designed to be fun and also low-flow to conserve water.

The splash pad is open from the first weekend in June through Labor Day in September.

## Neighborhood Park

### Amenities

- Spray park
- Play structure, ages 5-12
- Tot swings
- Large grass play area
- Basketball court
- Picnic facilities
- Horseshoe pit
- Forested area
- Nature trails (0.4-mile)
- Restrooms
- Parking





## Gold Park

**6.45 acres**

6421 200th Street SW

**Open Space**

Located in south Lynnwood, Gold Park is preserved as forested open space for the neighborhood, with trails, grassy clearings and a seasonal stream.

Nature trails with interpretive signs were constructed as an Eagle Scout project in 2001. In 2010, students in the Learn-n-serve Environmental Anthropology Field (LEAF) at Edmonds Community College adopted the park. The school is developing an “ethnobotanical garden” in the park that showcases native plants and their modern uses and roles in restoration and ecology. The park features ferns, salal, fairybells, trillium, bleeding heart, and huckleberries. Community volunteers help keep the invasive plant population under control.

Barbara and Morris Gold bought this property in 1954 and built a 5-bedroom house for their family. Dr. Gold ran his obstetrics practice in the house until 1982. To protect their forested land from development, the Gold family sold it to the City of Lynnwood in 1997 on the condition the property would be preserved as a park. The City purchased the park land with a Snohomish County Conservation Futures grant.

### Amenities

- Forested area
- Grass meadows
- Picnic tables
- Nature trails (0.21 miles)
- Ethnobotanical garden with interpretive signage
- Wildlife habitat
- Seasonal stream
- Parking



## Heritage Park & Open Space

**7.65 acres**

19921 Poplar Way

Step into the past at Heritage Park, and experience the history of Lynnwood from its roots as Alderwood Manor.

The planned community of Alderwood Manor emerged between Everett and Seattle along the electric Interurban Railway in 1917. The area's virgin forests had been logged by the Puget Mill Company in the early 1900s, and the stump land was marketed across the United States promising a life of health, happiness and independence in the new community of Alderwood Manor. By 1922 the population of Alderwood Manor grew to 1,463 people and 200,000 hens. Egg production in Alderwood Manor ranked second only to Petaluma, California.

Heritage Park celebrates Lynnwood's agricultural, transportation and social heritage. Alderwood Manor's first general store, the superintendent's cottage and water tower from the 1917 Demonstration Farm, the park site's original residence, and Interurban Car 55 are gathered together in a village-like setting and now serve as community resources in the park.

## Special Use Facility

### Amenities

- Historic structures of Alderwood Manor
- Visitor Information Center
- Heritage Museum Resource Center
- Genealogy Research Library
- Interurban Trolley Car #55
- Heritage exhibits
- Memorial Plaza
- Picnic areas
- Natural areas
- Public art
- Restrooms
- Parking





## Lund's Gulch (North, South, Seabrook)

**93.68 acres**

**Open Space**

North of 164th Street SW at 64th Avenue W

Lund's Gulch, located north of Lynnwood on the northern end of Browns Bay in Puget Sound, is a local watershed basin heavily wooded with mature second growth forest, steep slopes and wetlands. A salmonid stream, Lund's Gulch Creek, flows through the basin and discharges into Puget Sound.

Since 1997 the City of Lynnwood has purchased over 90 acres of land in Lund's Gulch to protect the sensitive areas and wildlife habitat from the impacts of development, and preserve this undisturbed natural area in public ownership.

Snohomish County's regional Meadowdale Beach Park is located in Lund's Gulch, and provides a trail system with direct access to Puget Sound. Currently the County's trail provides the only public access into Lund's Gulch. Access to the trail is from the park's main entrance at 6026 156th St SW.

In 1878 an early pioneer named John Lund homesteaded Lund's Gulch. Land near the water was eventually acquired for the Meadowdale Country Club which featured a clubhouse, Olympic-size swimming pool, bath houses and fish hatchery. The club closed in the late 1960s. In 1968 Snohomish County acquired 114 acres in Lund's Gulch and developed Meadowdale Beach Park.

### Amenities

- Meadowdale Beach Park (County)
- Second growth forest and wildlife habitat
- Lund's Gulch Creek - fresh water fish and migrating salmon



## Lynndale Park

**44.31 acres**

18927 72nd Avenue West

Lynndale Park is Lynnwood's second oldest park, opening in 1969. It is also Lynnwood's largest park, located north of Lynndale Elementary School in west Lynnwood. Approximately 22 acres of the park are preserved as native forest, with the remainder developed with athletic fields and other recreational uses.

The baseball fields are jointly maintained by the City of Lynnwood and Pacific Little League. The park offers an orienteering course and is a popular venue for summer day camps and scouting programs. Nestled deep in the forest, the Lynndale Amphitheater features the popular summer performances of Wonderstage and Shakespeare in the Park.

## Community Park

### Amenities

- 3 lighted baseball fields
- Soccer field
- 4 tennis courts
- 2 basketball courts
- Lynndale Skate Park
- Play equipment, ages 3-12
- Amphitheater
- Large reservable picnic shelter
- Orienteering course
- Forested area
- Walking trails (0.6-mile)
- Hiking trails (0.7-mile)
- Grass play area
- Restrooms
- Parking



## Lynndale Skate Park

7326 Olympic View Drive

The skate park is located in Lynndale Park near the park's north entrance on Olympic View Drive. Construction in 1999 was a joint project between the Cities of Edmonds and Lynnwood. The 5,000 square foot concrete skate park was designed to be challenging and fun for both beginning and experienced skaters.

### ***Special Use Facility***

#### **Amenities**

- 6' deep bowl, snake run, quarter pipe, banks, hips, ledges, rails & curbs
- Play structure, ages 5-12
- Basketball keys
- Benches
- Public art
- Restrooms
- Parking





## Maple Mini Park

**0.77 acres**

4115 Maple Road

Maple Mini Park serves the adjacent neighborhood and also functions as a stormwater detention facility. The park site was donated in 1989 and is jointly operated and maintained by the Public Works Department.

**Mini Park**

### Amenities

- Play equipment, ages 5-12
- Picnic area
- Grass play area





## Meadowdale Park

**6.24 acres**

5700 168th Street SW

Meadowdale Park is located in Lynnwood's north Meadowdale neighborhood. Much of the park has been preserved as forested open space and wildlife habitat. The park was developed in 2002, utilizing environmental conservation measures to preserve the natural beauty of the site. Second growth tree stands were protected; native plantings replaced invasive species to enhance wildlife habitat; indigenous boulders and timbers were preserved in the landscape and also in construction of the restroom building and the public art.

The park property was purchased in 1998 from Frances and Denis Murphy. The Murphys were dedicated to protecting the environment of Lund's Gulch and preserving open space in Lynnwood. They sold their property to provide a park for the Meadowdale neighborhood, and to protect the natural habitat of the property.

Future development plans include the addition of picnic shelters and expansion of the parking lot.

## Neighborhood Park

### Amenities

- Play structure, ages 5-12
- Tot lot, ages 2-4
- Swings
- Zip line
- Basketball key
- Picnic areas
- Climbing swale
- Sand pit
- Grass play areas
- Walking trail (0.48 miles)
- Public art
- Forested areas with nature trails
- Restrooms
- Parking



## Meadowdale Playfields

**24.08 acres**

16700 66th Avenue West

The athletic complex and park are located adjacent to Meadowdale Middle and Elementary Schools and west of Meadowdale High School. Approximately 5.5 acres of the park are forested, and the remaining developed with both active and passive recreational uses.

This facility was developed in phases from 1985 to 1990 as a joint project between the City of Lynnwood, the City of Edmonds, Edmonds School District and Snohomish County. Meadowdale Playfields hosts youth, adult and senior leagues and tournaments from Snohomish and King Counties.

**Community Park / Special Use**

### Amenities

- 3 lighted youth/adult competition softball fields
- 2 multipurpose sand fields
- Concession building
- Children's play area, ages 5-12
- Walking trails (0.67-mile)
- Picnic facilities
- Public art
- Forested area
- Pond
- Restrooms
- Parking



## North Lynnwood Park

**6.15 acres**

18510 44th Avenue West

North Lynnwood Park, also known as “Dragon Park,” is located immediately north of Lynnwood Elementary School. This neighborhood park features a spray park, picnic facilities and large active play areas popular with summer camps and for family gatherings.

The park was acquired in 1968, developed in 1970 and included one of the area’s first spray parks. In 2009 the 39-year old spray park was renovated with new spray features that are designed to be fun and also low-flow to conserve water.

The spray park is open from the first weekend in June through Labor Day in September.

**Neighborhood Park**

### Amenities

- Spray park
- Play structure, ages 5-12
- Climbing boulder
- Swings
- Large grass play area
- Walking trail (0.30-mile)
- Basketball court
- Outdoor stages/performance area
- Orienteering course
- 2 reservable picnic shelters
- Restrooms
- Parking





## Pioneer Park

**5.43 acres**

18400 36th Avenue West

This linear neighborhood park serves as an recreational buffer between single-family and multi-family residential. The park includes approximately 1.5 acres of forested area at the north end, with the remaining area developed for active recreational use.

This site was one of the first homesteads in Alderwood Manor settled by Duncan Hunter in 1889. Hunter staked his claim to 80 acres of forest land near what today is 36th Avenue West. In 1895 the first school in Alderwood Manor was built on the Hunter homestead. The park site was acquired in 1985 and developed in 1987.

## Neighborhood Park

### Amenities

- Play structure, ages 5-12
- 2 tennis courts
- Walking trail (0.5-mile)
- Nature trail (0.14-mile)
- Grass play area
- Picnic facilities
- Forested area
- Parking





## Scriber Creek Park

**3.84 acres**

20015 Cedar Valley Road

**Open Space**

Scriber Creek Park is located in the Cedar Valley area of south Lynnwood. This passive park, acquired in 1991, includes forested wetlands, wildlife habitats and nature trails. It is bordered by Scriber Creek on the north and the Scriber Creek Trail on the south. The Scriber Creek Trail links the park with the Interurban Trail at the Lynnwood Transit Center on 44th Avenue W.

### Amenities

- Scriber Creek
- Forested wetlands
- Wildlife habitat
- Walking trails (0.4-mile)
- Scriber Creek Trail access
- Benches
- Picnic tables
- Interpretive sign board
- Parking



## Scriber Lake Park

**24.01 acres**

5322 198th Street SW

**Open Space**

Scriber Lake Park is a quiet natural refuge that has been preserved in the center of Lynnwood. Scriber Lake and its associated wetlands are located within this urban forest. This lake provides important wildlife habitat for waterfowl, songbirds and small mammals. The lake is also regulated as a stormwater holding facility.

Paul Schreiber homesteaded 160 acres at this site in 1890. The lake eventually became known as Scriber Lake. At one time there was a resort at the west end of the lake, built by the Barklay family, with a dance hall, rental cabins and swimming pool. In 1966 the widening of 196th Street SW reduced the size of the lake and the lake's water quality was compromised. In 1982, the City of Lynnwood purchased 24 acres, which included the lake, to preserve it as a nature conservation area.

Future development plans include replacement of the boardwalk and lake water quality improvements, as proposed in the 2005 Scriber Lake Park Renovation Plan.

### Amenities

- Scriber Lake, associated wetlands
- Floating dock
- Observation nodes
- Wildlife habitats
- Walking trails (0.8-mile)
- Scriber Creek Trail access
- Picnic areas
- Interpretive signs
- Public art
- Public fishing
- Restrooms
- Parking





## South Lynnwood Park

**3.93 acres**

20915 61st Avenue West

South Lynnwood Park is located in the south Lynnwood neighborhood. Approximately one acre of the park is forested, with the remainder developed for active recreational use. There is access to the Interurban Trail at the south end of the park. The park was acquired in 1975 and developed in 1978.

**Neighborhood Park**

### Amenities

- Play structure, ages 5-12
- Tot lot, ages 2-4
- 2 tennis courts
- Basketball court
- Ball wall
- Large grass play area
- Forested area
- Walking trail (0.2-mile)
- Interurban Trail access
- Picnic facilities
- Restrooms
- On-street parking



## Sprague's Pond Mini Park

**0.9 acres**

5200 200th Street SW

**Mini Park**

This linear park is located in the 52nd Avenue West right-of-way on the west side of a privately-owned pond. Although privately-owned, the pond does provide public access, and park users can enjoy the view and the pond's duck and geese population.

The mini park was originally developed in 1970 with a small playground. In 2009, with strong neighborhood support, the park was renovated with new play equipment, a neighborhood access trail, picnic tables, barbecues, benches and neighborhood art.

### Amenities

- Play structure, ages 5-12
- Swings
- Picnic facilities
- Pond views
- Grass play area
- Walking trail
- Scriber Creek Trail access
- Wildlife habitat
- Parking





## Spruce Park

**4.75 acres**

16864 36th Avenue West

Spruce Park is located in the northeast corner of Lynnwood. Approximately half of the site remains forested with the remainder developed for active recreational use. The park was acquired in 1991 and developed in 1993 and 1994.

The park property was first owned by the Congdon family, and purchased in 1952 by William R. Marshall and Louise Burnett Marshall. In 1991 the Marshall family sold the property to the City for development of a park in their neighborhood.

### Amenities

- Play structure, ages 5-12
- Tot lot, ages 2-4
- Basketball court
- Large grass play area
- Picnic facilities
- Walking trail (0.27 miles)
- Nature trail (0.17 miles)
- Public art
- Forested areas
- Restrooms
- Parking

## Neighborhood Park



## Stadler Ridge Park

**1.98 acres**

17428 33rd Place West

Stadler Ridge Park is a small neighborhood park located in northeast Lynnwood. The park includes natural forested areas and rolling topography, with rock outcroppings, stumps and logs retained in the landscape as informal seating and natural play features. Three at-grade slides connect hillside terraces with play equipment. A loop trail encircles the active central portion of the park, and nature trails wind through the forested areas.

Stadler Ridge Park is named for the Stadler family who settled in this area in 1928. Emil and Katie Stadler moved to Alderwood Manor from Montana and purchased a five-acre farm on 36th Ave W where they raised eight children. In the early 1940s, the family purchased an additional ten acres to the west, and ten acres to the south of this park. Descendants of the Stadler family continue to live in the Lynnwood area.

The Grand Opening and Dedication of Stadler Ridge Park was held on Monday, April 1, 2013. Mayor Don Gough and Parks, Recreation & Cultural Arts Director Lynn Sordel welcomed the neighbors and the Stadler family to their new park. Park development was funded with a grant from the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program and the City of Lynnwood General Fund.

## Neighborhood Park

### Amenities

- Play structure (ages 5-12)
- Slides
- Basketball key
- Large grass play area
- Walking trail (0.20 miles)
- Nature trails (0.14 miles)
- Picnic facilities
- Interpretive sign
- On-street parking





## Veterans Park

**1.31 acres**

44th Avenue West and Veterans Way

Veterans Park is located on the Civic Center campus south of the Lynnwood Library. In 1999, the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1040 began development of the Veterans memorial in the plaza to honor veterans of past wars. The entry sign at the Veterans Way entrance was constructed as an Eagle Scout project in 2003.

Inscribed memorial bricks may be purchased from the VFW to honor loved ones.

**Mini Park**

### Amenities

- Flags representing the United States and military branches
- Inscribed memorial bricks
- Interpretive plaques
- Public art
- Benches



## Wilcox Park

**7.31 acres**

5215 196th Street SW

**Community Park**

Lynnwood's first park opened in 1962 and was named for the pioneering Wilcox family who homesteaded the site. The park, also known as "Flag Park," is a popular venue for community events. Approximately half of the park remains forested with the other half developed for active recreational use.

In the 1920s, the park property was a dairy farm owned by Charley Olsen, a local milk deliveryman. Eugene and Gunda Wilcox leased the 40-acre farm in 1926 and raised 8 children on the property. In 1961 seven acres of the property were deeded to the City of Lynnwood for its first community park.

Located west of the park is the Scriber Creek Bridge, which provides pedestrian access to Wilcox Park. The bridge is a remnant of the two-lane road that once connected Alderwood Manor to Highway 99 and Edmonds (now 196th Street SW). In the 1960s, the road was relocated to the south and expanded to 4 lanes, closing the bridge to vehicular traffic.

### Amenities

- Flag plaza
- Bandstand
- Large grass play area
- Play structure, ages 5-12
- Tot lot, ages 2-4
- Swings
- Basketball court
- Reservable picnic shelter
- Forested area
- Restrooms
- Parking

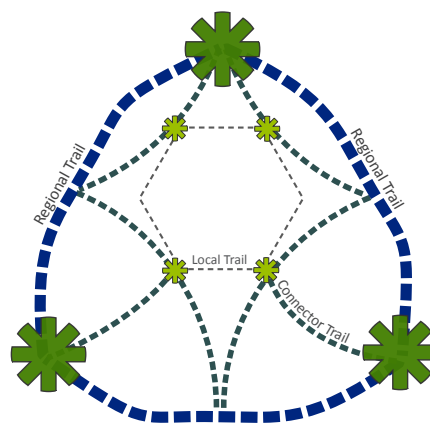




## TRAIL CLASSIFICATIONS

Trails are non-motorized recreation and transportation networks generally separated from roadways. Trails can be developed to accommodate multiple or shared uses, such as pedestrians and bicyclists, or a single use. Recreation trail alignments aim to emphasize a strong relationship with the natural environment and may not provide the most direct route from a practical transportation viewpoint.

This plan for the recreational trails system uses a trail hierarchy (right) to create a series of interconnected linkages throughout the City and represents a trail framework based on the planned user volumes and intensity. This hierarchy conceptualizes a branching circulation network of non-motorized routes - ranging from cross-regional and inter-city primary corridors, to secondary intra-city neighborhood corridors, to minor local connections - with the primary purpose focused on recreation. These interconnected linkages enable recreational trail users to create loops or individualized routes depending on desired travel distances or specific destinations.



The differences between the trail classifications within the hierarchy are based on purpose, intensity of use and connections, rather than on trail width, material or user. Three trail classifications exist within the Lynnwood network: regional, connector and local trails. These three trail classes serve as the primary linkages across and through the City. Figure 19 describes the three trail types in Lynnwood.

Figure 19. Trail Types & Characteristics

Trail Type	Characteristics	Trail Description
<b>Type 1: Regional</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides major community and regional connections</li> <li>Most heavily used</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Paved</li> <li>10-16' width</li> <li>2' shoulders on both sides</li> </ul>
<b>Type 2: Connector</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides community connections</li> <li>Moderate use</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Paved or unpaved, depending on context</li> <li>8-16' width</li> <li>2' shoulders on both sides</li> </ul>
<b>Type 3: Local</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Appropriate for trails within subdivisions and linking to the trail</li> <li>More localized use</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Paved or unpaved</li> <li>2.5-8' width</li> <li>1' clearance on both sides</li> </ul>

Additional information about trail characteristics and standards appear in Chapter 4.4 - Safe, Secure & Accessible.

## TRAIL INVENTORY

Trails are also an important element in Lynnwood's inventory of outdoor recreation and a key piece of the local and regional multi-modal transportation system. Lynnwood currently owns and/or maintains over 7.6 miles of trails outside of the trails and pathways within individual parks. The table below list those trails with their associated mileage. Other pedestrian and bicycle connections are part of an expanding network of mobility that Lynnwood has been enhancing as opportunities become available. The Interurban Trail, created from the former trolley line traveling between Seattle and Everett, forms the backbone for future connections to increase and enhance alternative transportation modes within Lynnwood and connecting beyond the City limits. Additionally the City recognizes the importance of trail corridors as part of the citywide park and open space system. Two trails, the Golf Course Trail and the Interurban Trail, have linear acreage that allows them to be used as both trails and as open space. Table 8 identifies these trail corridors.

Table 8. City of Lynnwood Trail Inventory

Trail Corridor	Hard Surfaced	Soft Surfaced	Total Miles
Interurban Trail	3.80		3.80
Golf Course Trail	0.50	1.50	2.00
Scriber Creek Trail	0.82	0.68	1.50
Mesika Trail		0.30	0.30
<b>Total Miles</b>	<b>5.12</b>	<b>2.48</b>	<b>7.60</b>

Table 9. City of Lynnwood Trail Corridor Inventory

Park Name	Status	Acreage
Golf Course Trail Corridor	Developed	3.96
Interurban Trail Corridor	Developed	24.80
<b>Total Trail Corridor Acreage</b>		<b>28.76</b>

In addition to discrete trail corridors and their associated open space, the Lynnwood park system also includes nearly seven miles of pathways and trails within developed park sites. The table below identifies existing park trails.

Table 10. City of Lynnwood Park Trails Inventory

Park Trail	Hard Surfaced	Soft Surfaced	Total Miles
Daleway Park	0.06	0.40	0.46
Gold Park		0.21	0.21
Heritage Park	0.18		0.18
Lynndale Park	0.70	0.60	1.30
Lynndale Skate Park	0.16		0.16
Meadowdale Park	0.20	0.28	0.48
Meadowdale Playfields	0.67		0.67
North Lynnwood Park	0.30		0.30
Pioneer Park	0.50	0.14	0.64
Scriber Creek Park		0.40	0.40
Scriber Lake Park	0.20	0.60	0.80
South Lynnwood Park	0.20		0.20
Spragues Pond Mini Park	0.09		0.09
Spruce Park	0.27	0.17	0.44
Stadler Ridge Park	0.20	0.14	0.34
Veterans Park	0.15		0.15
Wilcox Park	0.12		0.12
<b>Total Miles</b>	<b>4.00</b>	<b>2.94</b>	<b>6.94</b>

The map on the following page illustrates existing trail corridors across Lynnwood and in its parks.

An overview of existing trail corridors follows.



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## Map 9: Citywide Trails (Existing)

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## Interurban Trail

**3.8 miles**

212th Street SW to 177th Street SW

**Regional Trail**

The Interurban Trail is a regional hard-surfaced, non-motorized trail located in the PUD/PNW traction right-of-way. The trail begins in North Seattle and continues north through Shoreline, Edmonds, Mountlake Terrace, Lynnwood, unincorporated Snohomish County, and Everett. Lynnwood's portion of the trail is 3.8 miles long and is mostly separated from motorized traffic.

The Interurban Trail follows the route once used by the Interurban Railway that ran between Seattle and Everett from 1910 to 1939. Soon after Highway 99 was built, the Interurban was abandoned in favor of travel by automobile. Puget Power converted the Interurban corridor to a power line corridor and titled segments to Seattle City Light and Snohomish County Public Utility District #1. In the mid-90s, cities along the corridor between Seattle and Everett began developing portions of the Interurban Trail for non-motorized commuter and recreational use.

### Features

- 12'-Wide Class I Bicycle/Pedestrian Trail
- Parking available at Lynnwood Transit Center
- 44th Avenue W bridge completed in 2010



## Golf Course Trail

**1.5 miles**

**Local Trail**

208th Street SW - Lynnwood Municipal Golf Course

The Golf Course Trail is a combination soft and hard surface off-road pedestrian trail around the perimeter of the Lynnwood Municipal Golf course. A portion of the trail winds through the Edmonds Community College campus.

### Features

- Combination soft surface and asphalt pedestrian trail
- Views of Golf Course
- Picnic facilities
- Access to Edmonds Community College
- Parking available on EdCC campus





## Scriber Creek Trail

**1.5 miles**

Scriber Lake Park to Lynnwood Transit Center

Scriber Creek Trail is a soft surface pedestrian trail that generally follows the Scriber Creek corridor in Lynnwood.

The trail links Scriber Lake Park, Sprague's Pond Mini Park, Scriber Creek Park, the Interurban Trail and the Lynnwood Transit Center on 44th Ave. W.

**Connector Trail**

### Features

- 8' wide combination soft surface and asphalt pedestrian trail
- Views of wildlife habitat, creek and associated wetlands



## Mesika Trail

**0.3 miles**

**Local Trail**

19100 44th Avenue W - Civic Center Campus

The Mesika Trail is a 1/3 mile soft surface, loop trail that runs along a seasonal stream in the forested greenbelt behind City Hall on the Civic Center campus.

The greenbelt features evergreen and deciduous trees, and a dense understory of shrubs, brush and snags which provides a good habitat for birds.

### Features

- Soft surface pedestrian trail
- Seasonal stream
- Wildlife habitat
- ADA accessible benches
- ADA accessible picnic facilities

## Proposed Recreational Trail Network

The Interurban Trail is a regional spine that links Lynnwood to surrounding jurisdictions and provides miles of recreational enjoyment for residents and visitors. Additionally, the Scriber Creek Trail and many trails internal to parks further enhance the trails network. Expanding on this strong base, the proposed trail network will provide logical connections to key destinations, and these trails should be comfortable and convenient for the community to use. If fully developed, the recreational trail network would total nearly 22 miles. The following trail corridors are proposed.

- **Interurban Trail Connections:** The planned redevelopment of the City Center will create an opportunity to further integrate the Interurban Trail with the City Center through pedestrian and bicycle friendly connections. This could include extensions into the City Center with landscaping, trails, lighting, benches and signage.
- **City Center Promenade:** The promenade will be a pedestrian corridor that links the City Center with the transit center, Alderwood Mall and surrounding districts, and it is planned to include features such as specimen trees, special paving, lighting, public art, graphics and special furnishings.
- **Center to Sound Trail:** Building upon the success of the Interurban Trail, the Center to Sound Trail is conceived as a multi-use recreational trail that links City Center to Lund's Gulch. The generalized alignment follows Scriber Creek and roadways, and it will link together several City parks and provide a major trail spine through the center of Lynnwood.
- **Tunnel Creek Trail:** This short connection will link the Alderwood Mall area to the Interurban Trail and generally follow 33rd Avenue West.
- **Swamp Creek Trail:** Located in the MUGA, this trail corridor generally follows Swamp Creek and passes through land owned by Snohomish County. If fully extended, the trail could connect Manor Way Park with the Interurban Trail; however, the alignment will require further review given the environmentally sensitive nature of the County lands.

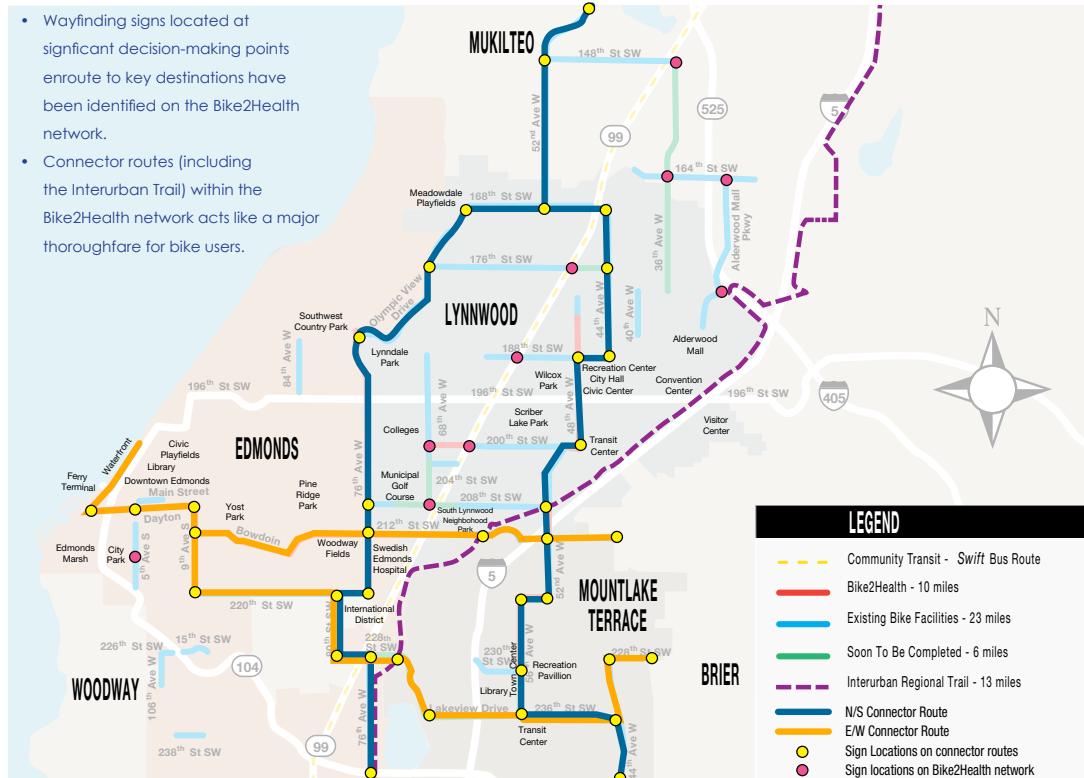
In addition, the cities of Edmonds, Lynnwood and Mountlake Terrace launched Bike2Health in an effort to increase bicycling connectivity, make bicycling safer and improve access to health and wellness choices. Bike2Health increased connectivity by completing 11 critical missing links of the regional bicycle network.

Bike2Health helps establish a regional bicycle network establishing several key north/south and east/west corridor routes and connecting major destinations and transit hubs. Connector routes (including the Interurban Trail) within the Bike2Health network will act like major thoroughfares for cyclists. The following graphic depicts the planned corridors.



Figure 19. Bike2Health Corridor Map

### Key Destinations and Wayfinding Sign Location Plan



### Connect Lynnwood Plan

The Connect Lynnwood Plan is the City's long-term vision and near-term action plan for improving walking and bicycling throughout Lynnwood. The Plan focuses on safe, accessible, and comfortable network connections within neighborhoods to connect schools, parks, transit, and commercial areas. Access to parks was a key element to prioritizing walking and bicycling projects within the Plan. Extending the Scriber Creek Trail through Lynnwood to Lund's Gulch is a major feature of the plan to move network connections to an All Ages and Abilities facility which connects to the Interurban Trail and Transit Center.

### Park Access Plan

To help evaluate park access to Lynnwood's existing parks, the city joined the 10-Minute Walk Campaign, a nationwide movement to improve access to parks and green spaces. City mayors across the U.S., including Mayor Nicola Smith, signed on to the 10-Minute Walk mission of ensuring all residents have safe, easy access to a quality park within a 10-minute walk of home by 2050. While 79% of Lynnwood current (2021) residents live within a 10-minute walk of a park, (above the national average of 54%), only 4% of Lynnwood's land is used for parks and recreation which is low when compared to the national median of 15%. Access to parks is about geographic distribution, walking network connectivity, and the quality of parks. With the support of a planning grant from the National Recreation & Park Association, staff designed a project to work with community members as park champions to conduct walk audits throughout Lynnwood to each neighborhood park. The data collected from the walk audits was mapped and combined with data used in the Connect Lynnwood project to create a Park Access Plan, Appendix N. This Plan highlights specific issues



impacting the walking network to parks and the countermeasures recommended to alleviate the issue. These audit findings and countermeasure recommendations are mapped and recorded in the Park Access Plan and prioritized within the Connect Lynnwood Plan which aims to improve walking, biking, and rolling infrastructure across Lynnwood.

Figure 20. Lynnwood's Future All Ages % Abilities Bicycle and Regional Trail Network



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## SPORT FIELDS

Lynndale Park contains three lighted baseball fields, jointly maintained by the City and Pacific Little League. The community park also contains tennis courts and numerous other recreational amenities to provide a wide range of play and outdoor activities.

The athletic complex of Meadowdale Playfields was developed as a joint project between the City of Lynnwood, City of Edmonds, Edmonds School District and Snohomish County. Meadowdale Playfields hosts youth, adult and senior leagues and attracts tournaments from Snohomish and King Counties. The sport complex includes:

- 3 lighted youth/adult competition softball fields
- 2 multipurpose sand fields
- Concession building
- Restrooms and parking
- Park amenities: walking trails, play area, picnic facilities and 5+acre natural area

Lynnwood recreation programming offers adult softball at Meadowdale Playfields. Partnerships with Edmonds School District also provide gyms for recreation programming, as well as access to their athletic fields. The City has a good relationship with the school district. After-school sport providers using school grounds include the following:

- SnoKing
- Pacific Little League
- Alderwood Little League
- North Sound football
- MTYAA (Mountlake Terrace Youth)
- Skyhawks soccer

Public surveys, open houses and stakeholder meetings conducted in 2013 and 2014 identified needs for improvements to Meadowdale Playfields to reverse the loss of softball teams to more updated facilities, increase potential operating revenues, expand all-weather tournament play opportunities and lengthen game times. The need for artificial turf to replace the sand soccer fields was also identified to reduce injury and liability issues, lower maintenance, cut operating costs, and increase revenues through extending play times and seasons. Stakeholders also identified the potential to line the future artificial turf fields for both soccer and lacrosse (a growing sport) to allow multi-purpose field function. The PARC survey reported that 19% of respondents ranked “artificially turfed multi-purpose fields” as the highest priority. This response included “soccer/football” and “baseball/softball” facilities.

Staff also noted an emerging park use trend where large adult groups (rather than traditional family groups) are gathering to use informal park open lawns for team sports with impromptu nets, goals and active game play. Wilcox Park frequently experiences group set-up for volleyball. These larger informal groups (non-league) also gather around picnic tables that are insufficient to support the size of groups. This team use is affecting park use (consuming lots of space) and creating wear patterns in the turf with net and goal

placements. Park staff would like to be able to direct group play to suggested play area locations to avoid overuse in localized spots. Staff also expressed the public desire for mobile (moveable) athletic equipment like soccer goals and volleyball nets.

The Lynnwood Capital Facilities Plan approved in 2015 identified Meadowdale Playfields renovation projects to keep the sports fields in safe, playable condition that extend across weather and seasonal conditions. The need for converting the existing sand soccer fields and softball infields into an artificial turf surface has been identified to expand viable hours of play and address capacity needs. An update to the complex was completed in 2017 to convert the playing surfaces. These fields will require replacement in 12-14 years.

## SPORT COURTS

Within Lynnwood's park facilities several different types of sport courts provide diversity to park visitors. The current inventory of basketball amenities includes eight (8) courts and 17 basketball keys spread across nine different parks. Eight tennis courts are located in three different parks. A small skate park is within Lynndale Park, which attracts skaters, BMXers and scooter riders. These different specialized outdoor recreation facilities help create the range of active engagement for different ages that goes beyond the established age-specific playgrounds and walking trails. The PARC survey reported that 28% of respondents ranked "outdoor tennis/basketball courts" as highest priority and 27% of respondents ranked "outdoor multi sport courts" as highest priority.

## GOLF COURSE

The Lynnwood Golf Course was transferred to a private management agreement for operations in 2014 as an 18-hole, enterprise operation. Lynnwood's Comprehensive Plan states the City's goal for parks, recreation and open space is to "provide a comprehensive system of parks, open space and recreation facilities that serves the needs of current and future residents and visitors to Lynnwood." The 2014 National Citizen Survey (NCS) Community Livability Report provided opinions of a representative sample of Lynnwood residents. Among the top three community qualities cited by survey respondents as most popular were parks and green space.

In stakeholder meetings at the end of 2013, suggestions for Golf Course improvements were shared to help ensure a safe and viable outdoor recreation asset in Lynnwood. Enhanced maintenance of cart path edges was encouraged. Signage and better wayfinding was recommended for both finding the course from off-site locations and adjacent to the course from Edmonds College. Stakeholders acknowledged the value of the public/private partnership and its contribution to tourism and encouraged the Department to promote the Golf Course. Suggestions were also made regarding seeking more sponsorships from corporations and supporting different fee structures for youth involvement.



As a special element of a comprehensive system of recreational opportunities, the municipal Golf Course offers both open space and outdoor recreation that contributes to the quality of life in Lynnwood. While the Golf Course is operated through a management agreement and is independently managed, the City remains a contributing partner by ensuring that needed upgrades and improvement help keep the Golf Course as a viable recreational amenity. Infrastructure needs include more parking, food and beverage services, and updated pro shop and cart trails. In the Lynnwood Capital Facilities Plan, three projects specifically targeted needed improvements for the Golf Course: improved pro shop and concessions, updated cart pathways, and replacement of safety netting.

## BEYOND SPORTS

While providing a range of outdoor sports facilities is a critical element in fostering a healthy and active community, attention must also recognize the need to support those activities and provide facilities for less physically active park users. While parking and restrooms provide basic necessities for supporting accessible outdoor recreation, the value of shelters and gathering places should not be underrated. Currently Lynnwood has picnic shelters in only three (3) parks: Wilcox (1), Lynndale (1) and North Lynnwood (2) Parks. Park staff identified the need for additional shelters. Picnic shelters can be sized for the type of park and the extent of outdoor recreation facilities that could benefit from the provision of a sheltered, gathering location. In the Lynnwood Capital Facilities Plan approved in 2015, adding improved parking and an additional picnic shelter at Meadowdale Neighborhood Park was identified for 2016.

## Alternative Recreational Amenities

Providing facilities for alternative or emerging sports, such as skateboarding, BMX, mountain biking, disc golf, zip lines and parkour, can offer residents a more diverse range of recreational experiences, while creating destinations that attract local and regional visitors. Lynnwood currently has an outdoor, concrete skatepark located in Lynndale Park. Opportunities and facilities for other alternative sports are limited in the city.

While recreational trend information is limited, a number of respondents to the outreach survey supported additional facilities for alternative sports. Opportunities may exist to develop alternative sports facilities at existing parks and plan for these facilities in the site design of parks to be developed in the future. The City should also consider incorporating small-scale skateboard (skate spots) or bike skills features into neighborhood and community park sites, as appropriate.

## Spraygrounds

Spraygrounds are water play features that are very popular and provide a means of integrating aquatics into parks at a relatively low cost. Lynnwood currently has two spray parks. One is located at North Lynnwood Park and the other is at Daleway Park. The City should consider at least one additional sprayground to serve residents east of Highway 99. This special use amenity typically is supported by parking and restrooms, since it draws users from a wider area.

## Community Gardens

Community gardens provide common space for residents to grow fruits, vegetables and flowers. Gardens have been shown to increase healthy food consumption, while providing opportunities for active living, social connections and lifelong learning. Community gardens are becoming more popular park amenities in urban environments, where residents may have limited outdoor space. Gardens are also popular to a diverse range of residents.

The City of Lynnwood currently offers only limited community garden space to the public. Thirty raised beds are available at the Senior Center, but no other City park has community gardens. A plurality (40%) of respondents to the City's outreach survey identified a high or very high need for community gardens. Additionally, the City's recently completed Healthy Communities Action Plan specifically calls for opportunities to create, expand or increase community gardens within the city. Siting of community garden plots should be considered in the design and development of future parks and opportunities should be examined to install gardens in other public lands as appropriate.

## Off-Leash Dog Areas

An off-leash dog area provides a location where residents can exercise and socialize dogs. This is especially important for residents who have small yards. With higher density planned for the City Center, Lynnwood should evaluate the future need for designated off-leash areas. As the City grows, residents with smaller yards will seek out alternatives to exercise their dogs, and consideration should be given before dog/people conflicts become common along trails or in City parks. Respondents to the community survey placed off-leash dog areas in the upper third of development priorities for outdoor recreation facilities.

At least a one- to two-acre site should be considered, in a location away from natural resource areas, for future development of an off-leash dog area. The site should also be safe, not isolated, and noise impacts on neighbors should be considered. Ideally, a dog park would be a component to a larger community park, where infrastructure (parking, restrooms, garbage collection) exists and supports multiple activities. Lynnwood's Capital Facilities Plan calls for the addition of an off-leash dog area to Lynndale Park in 2016. Lynnwood should look to partnership opportunities in the development of future (or additional) off-leash dog areas; communities throughout the Northwest have relied on grassroots or non-profit organizations for the on-going operations and maintenance of such facilities.

## Pump Tracks & Bike Skills

A new type of facility that appeals to mountain bicyclist, skateboarders, and scooter riders are pump tracks which are dirt or paved paths with a series of rollers and steep berms that create riding loops. Pump tracks can be developed to fit in smaller spaces and designed as a variety of shapes and sizes to cater to a wide variety of riders and skill levels. Tracks can be constructed with modular units or simple and affordable construction. Tracks are often accompanied with skills areas featuring ramps, rails, and jumps for riders to practice on.

## CONSERVATION & OPEN SPACE

### Valuing Remnant Landscapes

The recent acquisitions of natural land within Lund's Gulch illustrate Lynnwood's commitment to conservation and the protection of wildlife habitat and sensitive open spaces from the impacts of urbanization. Lynnwood has been acquiring land in Lund's Gulch since 1997, and it now holds over 90 acres in conserved public ownership. Lund's Gulch Creek is a salmonid stream and flows into the northern end of Brown's Bay in the Puget Sound. The Lund's Gulch Open Space connects to the county-owned Meadowdale Beach Park and provides outdoor recreation amenities, such as hiking and birdwatching.

Scriber Lake Park is another special natural area that has been conserved. Its lake and associated wetlands contribute to flood control and stormwater management, and they also provide direct ecosystem services and important wildlife habitat. Walking trails and park support facilities, such as parking, restrooms and picnic areas, enable outdoor recreation activities that are compatible with natural lands.

Even the small Scriber Creek Park, a 3.8-acre neighborhood park, can provide a patch of ecological natural area that is a refuge for wildlife in the city.

While the two larger sites mentioned above and their natural characteristics add value to Lynnwood's park and open space system, they are located several miles apart - separated by urban and suburban developed lands. That separation limits the wildlife and ecosystem value of each site. Providing connections through corridors of natural (or restored) open space lands can enhance significantly the ecological function of those areas. Aligning an open space acquisition target to existing gaps in riparian corridors could help bridge and connect these important natural areas and increase their ability to provide sustainable habitat and ecosystem functions (i.e., stormwater management) beneficial to a growing Lynnwood.

In a 2012 research report, the value of Seattle's parks and green spaces was measured to examine the environmental value and benefits of Seattle's urban forest. The report, *Seattle's Forest Ecosystem Values: Analysis of the Structure, Function and Economic Values*, found that trees save the city about \$23 million on carbon storage, pollution removal and residential energy savings. The cost to replace those trees would be \$4.9 billion. The data generated from this research emphasizes the need to better manage and allocate funding for this

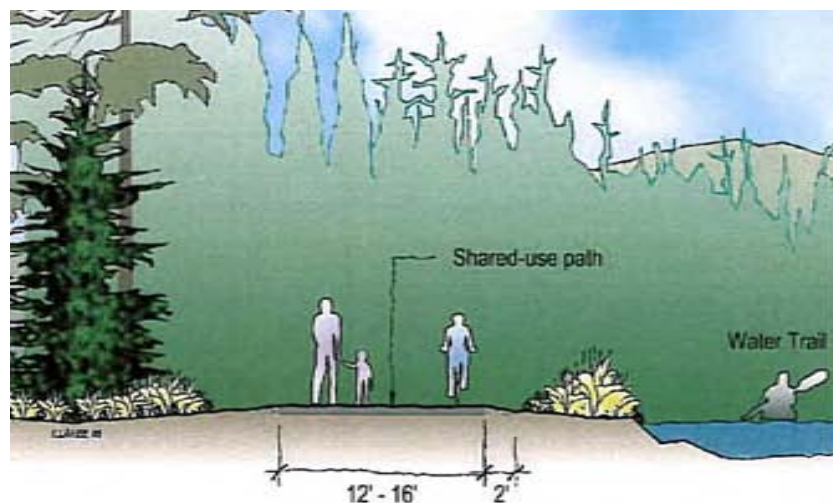
important resource. Parks and open space provide sustainable locations for the urban forest, and street trees provide the connecting corridors. Cities are beginning to recognize that their urban forest and trees within parks and open spaces are capital assets that require regular expenditures to protect their asset values, and not just a negative liability requiring funding for hazard tree removals.

In a separate study, The Trust for Public Land examined Seattle's park system and reported that parks deliver annual revenue of \$19.2 million, municipal savings of \$12.4 million, resident savings of \$511.6 million and a collective increase of resident wealth of \$110.8 million. The different economic values resulted from seven measurable factors provided by the parks include clean air, clean water, tourism, direct use, health, property value and community cohesion. The report confirms the value of parks and open space beyond esoteric green space and reinforces the benefits of conserving significant natural areas as a means to enabling a sustainable community.

## Connecting Major Open Spaces

Lynnwood owns 75.43 acres of land classified as open space within City limits. The acquisition of the Lund's Gulch Open Space has added 90 acres to Lynnwood's inventory, although those lands are primarily outside City limits in the MUGA. Since much of the potential natural lands within the city already have been developed, the primary target for new open space lands should aim to connect creek corridors with preserved open space and buffers that would also protect the aquatic resources of Lynnwood's riparian areas. Such corridors would help connect fragmented habitat to larger open spaces to support the movement of wildlife. As Lynnwood's density increases through redevelopment, opportunities for obtaining land along these riparian corridors could add valuable ecosystem services and natural resource protection to the waterways. In addition to a connected and wider riparian corridor system, these alignments could provide added benefit for a recreational trail system.

Figure 21. Cross Section Detail of Recreational Trail Along Creek Corridor (from Clark County Trails Plan, MacKay & Sposito)





Preserving and restoring riparian corridors with some adjacent buffering lands will provide multiple benefits and value to Lynnwood's green infrastructure, including stormwater management, clean water, protection of aquatic resources, space for urban tree canopy, shared use regional trail corridors and wildlife habitat.

The Center to Sound Trail master plan, acquisition and development can contribute to an overall conservation effort to acquire and protect riparian corridors. Providing for appropriate and sustainable levels of public access along open spaces, particularly riparian corridors, can reinforce the value of natural areas and their ecosystems services, while providing for vital transportation connections for cyclists and pedestrians. A significant portion of the future potential connection could follow the alignment of Scriber Creek from City Center and its connection to the Interurban Trail.

Promoting greater access to the outdoors through regional trails within natural environments provides health benefits beyond the enjoyment of physical activity. Better community health is linked to better connections and alternative transportation choices. Lynnwood should continue its coordinated efforts with Public Works and the County's Conservation Futures Program to acquire riparian corridors and adjacent natural lands to create significant connections and conserved open spaces.

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**SAFETY FIRST**



*“ Safe trail perception – buildings, lights, paved paths (vs. Lynndale forest) – open trails.”*

*“Maintenance of walkability between City Center and Alderwood Mall needs to be addressed.”*



*“Maintaining our outdoor recreation spaces is vital to our community!”*

*“Update [the play] equipment.”*

*“Parks with bathrooms and big slides – toddler friendly.”*

Quotes from the Outreach Process



# SAFE, SECURE & ACCESSIBLE

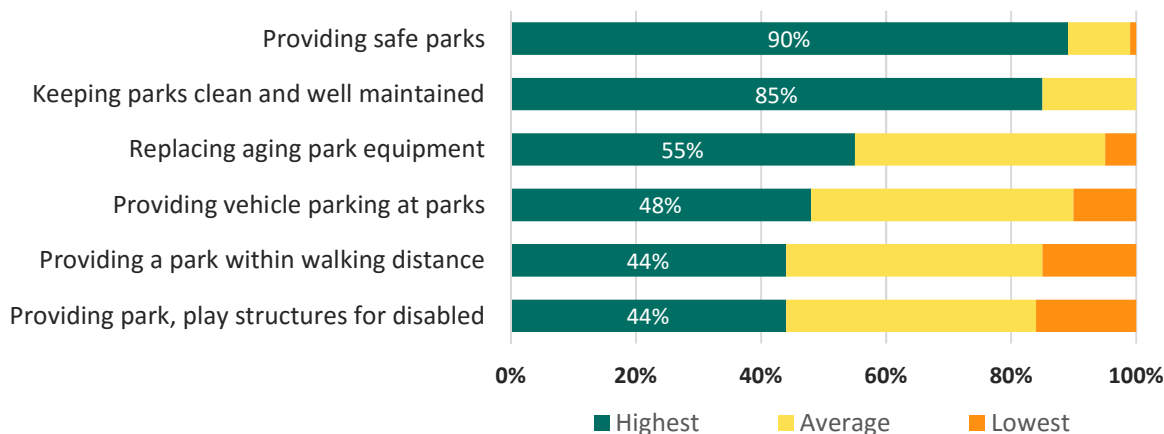
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Lynnwood's park system within its City limits contains over 260 acres of parks, open spaces and special use facilities in addition to over 7.5 miles of public trails outside of developed parks. Within the City's developed parks, almost seven miles of pathways and trails provide additional walking opportunities. In the Lynnwood MUGA, the City owns currently undeveloped park and open space lands totaling 128 acres. The Department provides maintenance for park facilities: parks, open spaces and undeveloped parks, and for the Interurban Trail, parkways and the City's gateway welcome signs. Most of the developed parks have aging infrastructure dating from the 1970s, along with outdated irrigation systems from the 1990s.

## LOCAL FEEDBACK

Community feedback regarding parks and recreation reinforced the importance of quality maintenance, and outreach survey responses emphasized the need to take care of the existing system. "Safe and clean" were the top-rated park priorities in community survey results.

Figure 22. Safety & Access Priorities from Community Survey



Providing safe, clean and well-maintained parks, acquiring and conserving urban forests, replacing aging park equipment, and developing or improving walking, biking, and nature trails were given very high priorities (above 50%) compared with increasing the number of neighborhood parks at 31%.

## PARK MAINTENANCE LEVEL-OF-SERVICE

Years of lean operations following the Great Recession has significantly impacted park maintenance level-of-service. This chart illustrates how park maintenance services in just a few example areas are impacted by constrained resources. The Grade A column is our optimal service goal. Grade B reflects our current reduced service levels often experienced with mild budget cuts or unforeseen circumstances. And, Grade C reflects more serious impacts we would have to adopt if resources are further reduced. Managing the system in any given year requires balancing a variety of factors such as rain, drought, storm response, fires, weather, vandalism, the number of construction projects we're managing, and availability of seasonal staff in spring and summer. Our current budgeted level of service in FY21/22 equates to 55 labor hours per acre to perform at a Grade B.

Figure 22. Park Maintenance Level of Service:

Task	Grade A	Grade B	Grade C
Turf Mowing	Weekly 1" + growth	Biweekly 2" + growth	Monthly 3"-8" + growth
Landscaping	Monthly	Bimonthly	Quarterly
Vandalism Reponse	Immediate repair/ removal	3 – 7 day reponse	8+ day response
Seasonal Plantings/ Lighting	Included	Select floral beds/ lighting displays	No seasonal plantings or holiday lighting

## ASSET MANAGEMENT

The beauty and value of a park goes beyond its natural environment and its characteristics to connect with nature. The site improvements that have been designed and developed to enhance, enrich and enable outdoor recreation for park visitors help shape and define the experiences and values provided by park lands. Lynnwood has a legacy park system with aging assets that will require careful attention and planning to maintain a safe and clean park system. An asset inventory was conducted to provide the foundation for managing existing park improvements and for providing costs for repairs and replacement as they wear with use and time.

The assessment of physical assets within parks was conducted and included the identification of park maintenance issues and opportunities. The table below uses a rating scale of 1 to 3, with "1" rated as being in good condition, "2" rated as being in fair condition but needing attention, and "3" rated as being in poor condition needing immediate repair, replacement, major renovation or removal.

While this PARC Plan includes an asset assessment to identify current and near-term issues to be addressed to ensure that parks remain safe, secure and accessible, the City should consider implementing an asset management program. Such a program would track all installations, repairs, renovations and replacements with their expected life cycle timing and costs to help manage and predict the needs for park system assets. Playground safety is one area of particular focus where regular inspections and maintenance should be adopted to ensure the crucial upgrades typically needed to reduce the risks of injuries.

## AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) COMPLIANCE

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability. Titles II and III of the ADA require, among other things, that newly constructed and altered state and local government facilities, places of public accommodation, and commercial facilities be readily accessible to, and usable by, individuals with disabilities. Recreation facilities, such as play areas, are among the types of facilities covered by Titles II and III of the ADA. how to track changes work?

The U.S. Department of Justice 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design provide guidelines that are intended to address design conditions to ensure that barriers or obstacles blocking outdoor recreation facilities are prevented or removed, such that all park patrons have reasonable access to site amenities. Since the vast majority of Lynnwood's playgrounds and park amenities date back 30 years or more, the assessment of the City's legacy park system revealed that at least some items in every park and open space appear out of compliance with the Standards for Accessible Design.

The conditions assessment also accounted for park maintenance issues and identified the need to develop a replacement strategy for grills, benches and picnic tables, among others, to ensure the provision of ADA accessible site furnishings in City parks. Additional handicapped parking stalls are needed that include requisite striping, location and signage. Some playgrounds need ramps into play areas to reduce access barriers to play equipment due to a change of grade in the landscape. Additionally, the maintenance of safety fall surfacing (e.g., engineered wood fiber) surrounding play equipment would be easier to monitor for staff with the installation of vertical marks on play equipment to indicate the recommended depth of fall safety material.

The conditions assessment included a rating scale of 1 to 3 to assign relative values of ADA compliance for major park asset types. A rating of "1" indicated a high likelihood of compliance with ADA standards; a rating of "2" equated to some elements being out of compliance, but relatively easy to fix; and "3" represented instances where a number of elements did not comply and where full compliance may be difficult and more expensive. The aggregate average rating across all Lynnwood park and outdoor recreation facilities was 2.5 – which suggests the need for the City to conduct an ADA Transition Plan to more specifically document and adequately address ADA compliance issues and upgrades over time.

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## Table 11: Park & Facility Condition Assessment

## ADA Assessment Report

The City conducted a ADA Facility Assessment report in 2018. The report Identified 2,061 ADA barriers across the 24 parks, trails, and facilities that are part of the Lynnwood parks system. Diagrams and maps showing these barriers are included in Appendix M. The total cost to remove these barriers is estimated to be over \$6.97 million.

The barriers identified in this report focus on compliance with three codes and standards, the 2010 Federal ADA Standards, the 2015 Washington State Amended International Building Code, and the 2015 Architectural Barriers Act Standards. These standards are used to evaluate the level of access provided for different amenities, such as parking lots, bathrooms, facilities, and picnic areas. The ADA Facility Assessment report identifies barrier for playground access, but additional efforts should be spent to create inclusive and equitable play spaces.

## DEFERRED MAINTENANCE

The Department strives to provide quality park facilities and core services. However, as a result of the recent recession and the ongoing trend of budget reductions, existing park infrastructure is burdened with a long list of deferred maintenance. Deferred maintenance generally is known as the practice of postponing maintenance activities, such as repairs on assets and infrastructure in order to save costs, meet budget funding levels, or realign available budget monies. The failure to perform needed repairs may lead to irreparable asset deterioration. Generally, a policy of continued deferred maintenance may result in higher costs, asset failure, and in some cases, health and safety implications.

Projects on this list represent repairs, renovations and replacements that could not be accomplished within the normal operations and maintenance cycles. Safety and risk management issues may be heightened when deferred maintenance projects have not been addressed. The park and

Table 12. Deferred Maintenance Estimates by Park

Facility	Deferred Maintenance
Daleway Park	\$192,050
Doc Hagman Park (F)	
Gold Park	\$22,500
Golf Course Trail	\$51,000
Heritage Park	\$69,500
Interurban Trail	\$103,500
Lund's Gulch	\$115,000
Lynndale Park	\$335,200
Lynndale Skate Park	\$49,000
Maple Mini Park	\$34,000
Manor Way (F)	
Meadowdale Park	\$168,550
Meadowdale Playfields	\$383,500
Mesika Trail	\$37,000
North Lynnwood Park	\$306,000
Pioneer Park	\$190,500
Rowe Park (F)	
Scriber Creek Park	\$83,500
Scriber Lake Park	\$203,000
South Lynnwood Park	\$209,500
Spragues Pond Mini Park	\$31,500
Spruce Park	\$136,500
Stadler Ridge Park	\$55,700
Veterans Park	\$37,200
Wilcox Park	\$174,000
<b>Systemwide Total</b>	<b>\$2,988,200</b>

facility maintenance assessment includes the backlog of deferred maintenance projects identified by staff, along with additional issues noted by the project team during this planning process. Table 10 below summarizes the deferred maintenance projects for existing, developed parks and open spaces. The total costs for identified deferred maintenance projects is nearly \$3 million. The extent of repairs, renovations and replacements illustrates the significant need for additional resources for the Department to address the provision of a safe, secure and accessible park infrastructure.

For the City to ensure safe and accessible park infrastructure, Lynnwood must move to a more proactive program of asset management to address the renovation of its park facilities. The Department should continue to track and document its asset inventory with on-going condition assessments integrated with life-cycle planning. By tracking the installation of and expected useful life of assets (most manufacturers can provide typical product life expectancy), the Department can plan for proactive maintenance and replacement of assets in the future. This information would aid in future budgeting for capital repairs and overall asset management. Appendix F includes additional detail regarding deferred maintenance needs by park.

## PLAYGROUND SAFETY

One of the primary amenities that identify parks as destinations for outdoor recreation is the playground. Whether designed for younger or older children, playgrounds and play safety standards have gone through significant changes in the last several decades. Many of Lynnwood's parks were developed before the US Consumer Product Safety Commission published its first *Handbook for Public Playground Safety* in 1981. Recommendations from the handbook, along with technical information in the ASTM standards for public playgrounds, can contribute to greater playground safety.

Figure 23. Age of all playgrounds

Playground	Installed
Lynndale Skate Park	2020
Spruce Park	2020
Heritage Park	2019
Lynndale Park	2018
Stadler Ridge Park	2014
Rec Center	2010
Spragues Pond	2009
North Lynnwood Park	2006
Meadowdale Park	2002
Wilcox Park	2002
Daleway Park	2000
Pioneer Park	1996
South Neighborhood Park	1995
Maple Mini Park	1994
Meadowdale Playfield	1990

The standards cover design and installation of equipment and the need for regular inspections to ensure that potential hazards are addressed to reduce playground-related injuries. Playgrounds falls are the most common hazard and represent 44% of injuries on playgrounds.<sup>1</sup> Ensuring an adequate protective surfacing under and around equipment is typically the most frequent maintenance need. The playground safety handbook recommends routine inspection of all playground areas and equipment for

1 O'Brien, Craig W.; Injuries and Investigated Deaths Associated with Playground Equipment, 2001-2008. U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. Washington, D.C., 2009.

excessive wear, deterioration and potential hazards. Different equipment manufacturers typically provide maintenance recommendations that can help formulate the checklist, process and record keeping for playground inspectors. Documentation from the continued practice of inspections and repairs will help inform the need for major replacements and planning for future capital renovations. Lynnwood should review its playground safety inspection and maintenance procedures to incorporate the ASTM standards.

## CRIME PREVENTION THROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN (CPTED)

The inventory assessment highlighted an opportunity to consider incorporating crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED) principles to enhance park safety and facilitate the monitoring of park uses and behaviors. CPTED applies four principles that are used to deter criminal behavior in outdoor environments:

- Natural surveillance
- Natural access control
- Territorial reinforcement
- Maintenance

CPTED natural surveillance (“see and be seen”) asserts that sight lines for better visibility can deter undesirable behavior and increase the perceptions of safety and comfort by park patrons. Lowering understory vegetation or raising lower tree branches through intentional vegetation management can provide more clear lines of sight in and around trails and other areas of use. Providing clear visibility and reducing blind corners can also improve safety by limiting conflicts between different users (e.g. runners, cyclists, dog walkers), where unanticipated encounters may result in crashes or entanglements. These type of safety improvements were recently completed on the Civic Campus. Natural access control in park design is often very subtle. Controlling where vehicles enter and exit park facilities through designed barriers, bollards, boulders, and post and cable fencing can protect park users and minimize park property damage from misguided vehicular traffic. Walkways, lighting, fencing and landscaping provide explicit direction for park users. The flow of users through a park will help decrease the opportunity for crime and improve clarity for the intended park behaviors.

Territorial reinforcement comes through clear demarcation of boundaries. For public parks, those boundaries between public and private lands, safe and unsafe areas, and special use, limited access or reserved sites can be delineated with the appropriate placement of fencing, signs, landscaping or other physical or visual design techniques.

Finally, clearly visible, high-quality maintenance is an important element of CPTED, as well as general public safety. CPTED recognizes the “broken window” theory where neglected and poorly maintained amenities are more attractive targets for vandalism or other criminal activity. Deferred maintenance can also result in park amenities that put users at risk. Broken pavement, worn decking, uneven playing fields and missing play safety surfacing can create injuries. Overall attention to CPTED principles can help ensure safer public park environments.



## PARK DESIGN & DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS

Lynnwood's parks for the most part are older and reflect the styles of public parks from the 1970s. The in-house replacement process for old wooden park signs provides an example of the need to modernize and streamline the elements used in parks. With the planned Town Square Park, park upgrades, next phases of master plan development projects and undeveloped park properties anticipating future development, Lynnwood would benefit from park design and facility standards that help unify the system's amenities, operations and maintenance going into the future. Standards can begin with adoption of typical bench details and expand to incorporate graphic sign styles, materials, colors and specific site furnishings. With the desire of Lynnwood to create a unifying identity and enhance park maintenance efficiencies, guidelines for park standards should be planned, endorsed and implemented. Park graphic design and site amenity standards should be coordinated with the Citywide effort to create a graphic identity with the City Center and beyond.

If the City should annex its urban growth area, the acquisition and development of additional parks will be necessary. There may be opportunities to partner with residential development projects for providing new parks to be dedicated to the City upon completion. The establishment of park design and development standards with predetermined requirements for consistency and quality of site amenities would ensure that new parks could readily fit within on-going park operations and maintenance.

### Design Standards for Parks

Public park space should be clearly identifiable and provide a safe and secure environment for outdoor recreation and enjoyment. To help communicate the identity, amenities and uses within the park, some unified design standards should be applied. These standards are intended to help with public access, communication of safety and appropriate behaviors, and efficiency in operations and maintenance **without** creating a park system of identical "cloned" parks. Standardizing the designs for park signage, benches, picnic tables, drinking fountains, lighting, bollards, irrigation systems and fencing can allow for easier and less expensive procurement, installation, maintenance and replacement. The visual character of unified park amenities can quickly convey to the park visitor that the space is part of an overall system of public spaces where they are welcome.

While sharing standard site furnishings and signage styles helps unify the system identity, each individual park should have its own unique character. The shape and size of the land, the layout of circulation and location of key features, the styles, types and colors of play equipment, the architecture of restrooms, picnic and other park structures should be specific to that park. Even though each park contains some standardized site furnishings, each master plan design for park land should strive to create a sense of place that highlights the character of that park in its local context and for its primary purpose (such as passive park with natural area or active sports-oriented facility).

The following tables highlight the range and considerations of various amenities that may be provided within parks and can provide guidance for negotiating facility development opportunities in situations when private entities propose park development in-lieu of payment or for other, alternative arrangements, such as density bonuses.

**Table 14. Minimum Site Design Considerations for Mini Parks**

Amenity	Considerations - where feasible
Playground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimum 2,000 sq.ft. play area</li> <li>Play equipment should be age-specific targeting pre-school and elementary school children</li> <li>Playground should be ADA-compliant</li> </ul>
Paved Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ADA compliant surfacing for barrier-free access</li> </ul>
Picnic Tables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use standard ADA compliant picnic table style</li> </ul>
Drinking Fountain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide ADA-compliant standard fixture</li> </ul>
Benches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use standard ADA compliant bench style</li> </ul>
Grass Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Open play space with sun exposure; 800-1,000 sq.ft. minimum size; irrigated</li> </ul>
Trees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide shade for portion of playground area</li> <li>Provide tree canopy for &gt;40% of park space</li> </ul>
Bicycle Racks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accommodate 2-bike minimum</li> </ul>
Trash Receptacles & Dog Waste Disposal Stations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimum of 1 located at entry</li> </ul>

**Table 15. Minimum Site Design Considerations for Neighborhood Parks**

Amenity	Considerations - where feasible
Playground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimum of 4,000 sq.ft. play area</li> <li>Equipment should be suitable for and developmentally-appropriate for toddlers and elementary school-aged children</li> <li>Playground should be ADA Accessible and play equipment should be ADA Compliant</li> </ul>
Loop Walking Path	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimum 8' wide</li> <li>ADA-compliant surface to accessible elements (benches, tables, play area)</li> <li>Pathway slope not to exceed 5% grade or no more than 8% for more than 30 lineal feet without switchbacks or railings</li> </ul>
Picnic Tables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimum of 2, Use standard ADA compliant picnic table style</li> </ul>
Drinking Fountain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide ADA-compliant standard fixture</li> </ul>
Benches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimum of 2, Use standard ADA compliant bench style</li> </ul>
Open Turf Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide at least 15% of total lawn area with irrigation, preferably adjacent to the play area</li> </ul>
Trees & Landscaping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide shade for portion of playground area</li> <li>New trees and shrubs should be irrigated for a minimum of 2 years until established</li> </ul>
Bicycle Racks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimum of 2, with capacity to serve 4 bikes</li> </ul>
Trash Receptacles & Dog Waste Disposal Stations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimum of 1</li> </ul>

For community parks, any or all of the following outdoor recreation features should be considered in addition to the same amenities provided in neighborhood parks.

Table 16. Minimum Site Design Considerations for Community Parks

Amenity	Considerations - where feasible
Parking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Based on types of amenities and their parking quantity requirements</li> <li>Include requisite number of handicapped parking stalls at appropriate locations</li> <li>Consider need for parking provision at multiple access points, where appropriate</li> </ul>
Loop Walking Path	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide a perimeter trail in addition to pathways accessing all major park amenities</li> </ul>
Multiple Access Points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide connectivity to neighborhoods and public rights-of-way</li> </ul>
Restrooms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide ADA-compliant standardized design facilities</li> </ul>
Picnic Shelter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide minimum of 1 group picnic shelter</li> </ul>
Sports fields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Type and quantity dependent on available space and current public demand for each sport facility</li> </ul>
Sports courts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Type and quantity dependent on available space and current public demand for each sport facility</li> </ul>
Tree Canopy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Target a 25-45% tree canopy dependent on other park amenities and feasibility</li> </ul>
Open Grass Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Open play area with sun exposure</li> <li>Minimum target of 1 acre</li> </ul>
Natural Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Based on existing and restored environmental characteristics</li> </ul>
Off-leash Dog Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimum target of 1 acre</li> <li>Fenced enclosure with double-gate access</li> <li>Provide doggy waste dispenser and trash receptacle at entrance</li> </ul>

## Design Standards for Open Space and Natural Areas

Open space and natural areas are primarily intended to conserve places with ecological sensitivity or natural landscape value. Most natural areas have some space where low-impact recreational uses can be accommodated without reducing the environmental integrity of the land or water resource. Since the open space can range from wetlands and riparian corridors to fields and forests, design standards are not applied uniformly across the site. Each natural landscape is treated according to its level of sensitivity, need for conservation/restoration and tolerance for outdoor recreational use. However, where passive recreation opportunities can be provided, the standardized designs for park benches, picnic tables, signs, and other site amenities should be applied.

## Design Standards for Special Use Facilities

Lynnwood's Golf Course may not warrant the use of standardized design that is applied to park site amenities. Consideration should be given in the design and renovation of any special use facility as to how and how much the site and its amenities should be identifiable within the park system through the application of standardized park signage and site furnishings. For example, a future sport field complex could accommodate some of the standardized park benches, picnic tables and signage, but it would also require its own specialized features, such as bleachers, backstops, field lighting, score boards and other equipment, that are unique to the facility. Each master plan design for new facilities should give careful consideration as to how a unique sense of place and identity is conveyed while still communicating that the facility is part of a system of outdoor recreation accommodation provided by the City of Lynnwood.

## Design Standards for Trails

A successful trail system is integrated with other transportation alternatives to include a range of trail, sidewalk, bike path and connection opportunities designed to the human scale. The typical recreational trail hierarchy (outlined in Figure 19) is aligned from regional shared-use trails to local neighborhood paths and park trails. Trail systems can also incorporate specially designated trails for single track mountain biking, primitive hiking, and water trails for paddlers.

Designing the actual physical trail starts with overall purpose of the trail, connecting travelers from one location to another (point A to point B) or through a particular environment (loop trail through a park). With a clear purpose for the trail, an appropriate alignment can then be determined to help provide the desired outdoor recreation experience or transportation value. For example, regional multi-use shared trails should be designed to a minimum width of 10 feet. In expanding urban centers, providing a 16-foot trail width can help accommodate significant bike and pedestrian use as the community grows and linkages to public transit enable increased trail usage. The most heavily used urban trails benefit from the installation of permanent pavement to withstand heavy traffic in a variety of weather conditions.

Trail design standards are outlined based on the classifications in Table 17. It should be noted that changes in transportation engineering and trail construction methods may warrant the need to update any trail design standards over time. Trail widths and surfacing types will vary across the trail hierarchy. Site furnishings along the trail are one method for standardizing trails as part of the outdoor recreation system provided by Lynnwood. The same benches, picnic tables, bollards and other site furnishings used throughout Lynnwood's park system could be installed along its trails to help unify the sense of place, reduce procurement costs and simplify maintenance.

Figure 24. Illustration of 200th Ave



City of Lynnwood | Stephanie Bower, Architectural Illustration



The unifying standard for Lynnwood's trail system can be visually expressed through a designed wayfinding plan. Linked with the graphic character for the City Center and park system wayfinding, the trail signage should provide identification, direction, destination, travel information and safety messaging, while clearly reinforcing Lynnwood's sense of place.

Connector trails offer both active and passive recreation opportunities and/or attractions that help transform a trail into a memorable destination. These trails are wide enough to accommodate travelers in both directions, whether on foot, bicycle, or using a wheeled device. The U.S Access Board, a federal agency that promotes equity for people with disabilities through leadership in accessible design, develop guidelines and standards for travel on multi-use paths within the public right-of-way. The photo is an example of a 12-foot multi-use path within right-of-way that allows for sufficient buffer from vehicular traffic, pedestrian level and street level lighting, and sufficient space for traveling/passing.

Connector trails are intended to connect important land uses and areas of interest in a comfortable and convenient way. Where feasible, connector trails are developed as separated (from vehicles) infrastructure to connect park facilities. The conceptual image below shows that elevated trail development through available open space can be a sustainable way to reinforce the values of natural areas and their ecosystem services while still providing vital transportation connections for cyclists and pedestrians.

Figure 25. Illustration of Boardwalk Through Wetlands



### **Local Trail**

Our community consistently ranks trails and outdoor walking paths as the number one priority for outdoor facilities. Trails can improve a sense of community by connecting people to nature and to each other; encouraging community gathering and spaces for learning and discovery. Our current inventory of almost 7 miles of developed park trails include a combination of paved loop trails, wood chip trails, and earthen foot paths through the woods. The photo below is an example of an elevated bridge or boardwalk structure needed through wetland areas.

Figure 26. XX

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Table 17: Trail Design Considerations by Type

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## Considerations for Signage & Wayfinding Standards

A good wayfinding system can provide a consistent identity and display effective and accessible information to orient the traveler. This guidance system ensures efficient use of the trail, park or other public space and conveys safety to the user by translating the environment into a known geography. Signs, symbols, mapping, color, standardized site amenities combined with good design of the physical environment (i.e. trail or park) helps the traveler navigate the space and stay comfortably oriented.

Lynnwood's 2015 Economic Development Action (EDA) Plan called out the need to strengthen the City's image and identity in the region. Branding a visual and graphic identity through wayfinding amenities (i.e., signs, banners, benches, etc.) into streetscapes, parks and other public spaces is one action proposed to contribute to creating a recognizable image. The EDA Plan also recognized that creating a unique "sense of place" would enhance the City's connectivity via branded wayfinding and signage. Two action items outlined the direction to achieve this goal:

- Action 5.3.1: Develop community signage that reflects community aspirations around sense of place; the signage should reinforce the City's boundaries, business districts, neighborhoods and key destinations and reflect the Lynnwood brand.
- Action 5.3.2: Develop a set of unique wayfinding graphics for primary pedestrian and bike connectors through and between Lynnwood's major assets.

Parks, trails, urban plazas and other public open spaces are the primary targets for unifying an urban environment into a cohesive, accessible and connected community through an identifiable wayfinding program. The need for design standards for a unifying wayfinding system have been identified for parks, trails, City Center and the community at large. Lynnwood should pursue a comprehensive wayfinding program that includes both visual graphic standards and site furnishing standards.

## Integrating Design Elements

The Monon Trail, a rail trail heading north almost 17 miles from downtown Indianapolis, illustrates some tools for helping visitors find the trail and find their way along the trail. The combination of a signature color, unified logos and icons, matching site furnishing, and signage styles help identify the location and direction of the trail and its support facilities, as part of a unified navigation system.

At crossroads and trailheads, the bright red colors used consistently in signs and furnishings mark the trail's presence. Kiosks and information signs help located the trail user. Rule signs alert the user to trail behavior expectations and reinforce trail identity. The signage system helps identify place, provide information about trail distances and amenities, locate connections and interpret history and culture.

## NATURAL ASSET CONSIDERATIONS

The park and facility conditions assessment focused on built improvements within the park system, but natural features within the system can also be considered as assets that should be managed. Lynnwood actively practices vegetation management through volunteer activities to control and remove invasive plant species. Drainage characteristics are part of the natural surface hydrology and often go through changes from surrounding land uses, which affects parks and their uses. Responses to surface hydrology should be considered in operations and maintenance and may require additional resources beyond annual budget allocations.

Additionally, the urban forest and extensive natural areas are composed of trees that, while they appreciate in value over time, still require some attention to maintain their health and vitality. Jurisdictions that recognize the value of their park tree canopies, street trees and woodlands have adopted cyclical tree pruning schedules in their capital facilities planning to ensure adequate allocation of resources to keep their urban forests healthy. Lynnwood should consider implementing a regular proactive pruning cycle on a five to ten year cycle to prevent deterioration of these important natural assets in their park and street infrastructure.





**FIX IT... REFRESH IT... GROW IT...**



*“We need more outside open spaces, PARKS! On the east and north side of Lynnwood there are hardly any compared with other cities.”*

*“Children in my area, need more outside area’s to play.”*

*“Make sure that it works with the plan to bring light rail up north, and ways to bike or walk to the terminal.”*

*“I love the kids parks that have been added and improved, but we do need more for the older generation.”*



*“Make the County develop parks in the future area to be annexed by Lynnwood.”*

*“A lot of parks are away or not near by public transportation.”*

*“Too many people and not enough parks to go to that are big enough to hold multiple activities.”*

Quotes from the Outreach Process



# MIND THE GAP 4.5

Lynnwood residents are fortunate to have access to great parks, recreation facilities and the Interurban Trail. Through thoughtful planning, the City has secured several new park sites over the years, and a strong system of parks and open spaces exist today. However, the continued and projected growth of the city will place further pressure on access to new lands for open space. Lynnwood uses an adopted Level of Service (LOS) standard, supporting performance goals, and spacial analysis of the current system to evaluate the quantity and quality of services provided and identify needs to fill gaps or expand facilities.

## FRAMING SERVICE STANDARDS FOR OUTDOOR RECREATION

The Level of Service standard is the adopted benchmark the City is trying to attain with their parks system; the LOS performance is a snapshot in time of how well the City is meeting the adopted standard.

The use of service standards for parks and recreation has a long history. Standards have been widely applied in park systems across the country as a means to benchmark where a community is and target where it wants to be with regard to the provision of parks, open space, trails and facilities.

The use of numeric standards, typically framed as parkland acres per capita, have become tradition for parks agencies, in part, tied to dated publications from the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), which are no longer recommended as a “one standard fits all”. Locally, Lynnwood has a history with park standards dating back 20 years, and the City has used these standards to guide the growth of its system and serve as a benchmark reference for itself and in comparison to other, similar cities. In many cases, jurisdictions link their standards with a funding source to help finance the growth of the system. In Washington, park impact fees are a common funding tool for this purpose.

As cities move away from the previous national standard, they must determine their own standards and metrics that work for their particular community. This can mean broadening the perspective on parks and recreation systems and how they fit into the fabric of shifting populations, values, issues, and resources.

In 2016, Lynnwood evaluated the LOS to refine the benchmark and align the adopted standard to the community's particular needs and demands. As part of this update, LOS evaluation continues with an assessment of the existing park system and what contributes to LOS performance. It also includes recommendations for other performance metrics that provide more complex goals for parks and facilities than just acres per capita.

This section begins with a summary of the assessment of what contributes to LOS performance, a review of the current LOS standard and the resulting level of service performance. It concludes with a discussion of other performance goals that work in tandem with the LOS to address the more complex demands on parks, open space, trails and facilities.

## DEFINING LOS PARKLAND

Typically, parkland classifications denote a general level of development or type of use, and the park acreage of certain classifications are counted toward the LOS performance. In previous plans, LOS performance has been evaluated by adding the acreage of parks classified as Community, Neighborhood, or Mini parks.

The first step in this assessment was to update and verify the existing park inventory and acreages. The next step was to evaluate the existing inventory in relation to its main function and whether that contributes to LOS performance. The purpose of this is to include active parkland that is not necessarily within the design guidelines of Community, Neighborhood, or Mini but is providing valued outdoor open space and recreation services. For example, Gold Park and Scriber Creek Park are classified as Open Space, yet they serve the surrounding areas much like neighborhood parks. Focusing on function recognizes that these parks serve key values of protecting urban natural area and providing outdoor education, but are also serving the neighborhood as daily park space with passive recreation opportunities.

## Level of Service Primer

The adopted Level of Service (LOS) standard targets the desired amount of and degree of developed areas and is representative of the vision, mission and goals of the community for its park system.

The LOS performance measures how much the system has met its adopted standard and is expressed as a percentage.

"Demand" measures what the system should have based on the population.

If there is a gap between existing inventory and Demand, this is called the "Need".

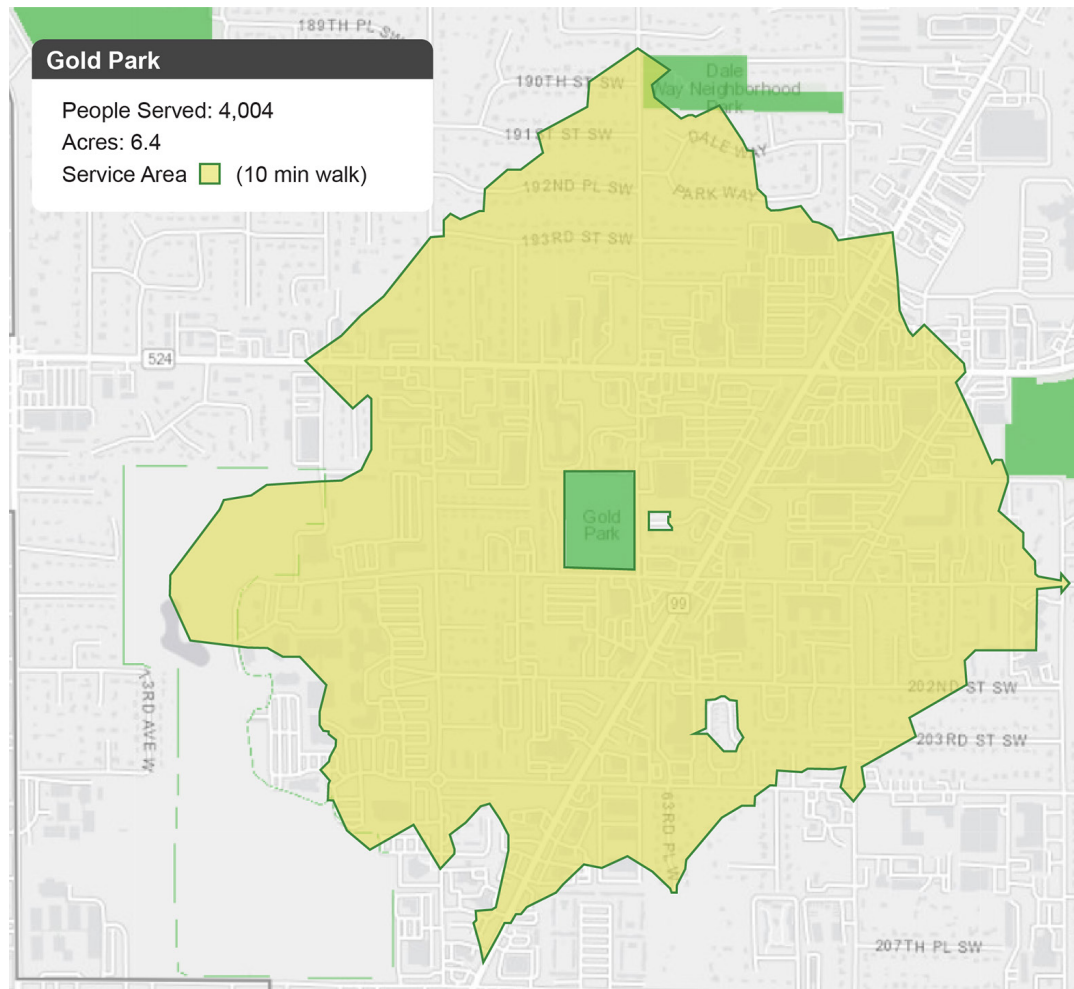
### Example:

Standard = 1 acre per 50 people

Population = 10,000 people

1 acre of parkland for every 50 people would be a *Demand* of 200 acres. If the park system has 120 acres of parkland providing parks & recreation services, then the *Performance* is at 60%, and there is a *Need* for an additional 80 acres.

Figure 27. Gold Park 10-Minute Walk Service Area (2021 The Trust for Public Land ParkServe®)



Three recommendations resulted from this evaluation.

First, to add a classification for Trail Corridor. Similar to linear parks, Lynnwood has parkland along community trails that can also provide neighborhood park and urban open space type functions. This classification is an important consideration as, in many cases, this type of parkland can provide much needed open space along transportation, utility, and natural resource corridors, especially in areas that are already high density with little open space left to convert to park use. In these situations, trail corridors or linear parks become part of the greater public realm, integrated with other civic infrastructure, and can provide a network of connections to parkland in more isolated conditions.

The second recommendation is to recognize a broader view of function within the inventory by identifying parkland as whether it is publicly accessible and therefore usable for recreation, whether active or passive. Publicly accessible is defined here as park property that allows for an able bodied person to physically and lawfully walk within the site.

The third recommendation is to use parkland that is publicly accessible to assess LOS performance. The previous table shows the existing parkland inventory updated with the Trail Corridor classification, publicly accessible designation, and the total acreage contributing to LOS performance

Table 18. City of Lynnwood 2021 Parkland Inventory with Public Access Designation

	Site Name	Classification	Status	Public Access	City	MUGA
1	188th St SW	Mini	Undeveloped	No	5.05	
2	Maple	Mini	Developed	Yes	0.77	
3	Sprague's Pond Mini Park	Mini	Developed	Yes	0.90	
4	Daleway	Neighborhood	Developed	Yes	7.04	
5	Doc Hageman	Neighborhood	Undeveloped	No		7.68
6	Manor Way	Neighborhood	Undeveloped	No		8.97
7	Meadowdale	Neighborhood	Developed	Yes	6.24	
8	North Lynnwood	Neighborhood	Developed	Yes	6.15	
9	Pioneer	Neighborhood	Developed	Yes	5.43	
10	Rowe	Neighborhood	Undeveloped	Yes	2.31	
11	South Lynnwood	Neighborhood	Developed	Yes	3.93	
12	Spruce	Neighborhood	Developed	Yes	4.75	
13	Stadler Ridge	Neighborhood	Developed	Yes	1.98	
14	Lynndale*	Community	Developed	Yes	44.31	
15	Meadowdale Playfields**	Community	Developed	Yes	24.09	
16	Scriber Lake	Community	Developed	Yes	24.01	
17	Wilcox Park	Community	Developed	Yes	7.31	
18	Gold	Open Space	Developed	Yes	6.45	
19	Scriber Creek	Open Space	Developed	Yes	3.84	
20	Scriber Creek Open Space	Open Space	Undeveloped	Yes	2.32	
21	Mesika Trail Open Space	Open Space	Developed	Yes	5.04	
22	Lund's Gulch North	Open Space	Undeveloped	Yes		26.62
23	Lund's Gulch South	Open Space	Undeveloped	Yes	57.78	
24	Lund's Creek Open Space	Open Space	Undeveloped	No		22.25
25	Seabrook Open Space	Open Space	Undeveloped	No		13.28
26	Golf Course Trail	Trail Corridor	Developed	Yes	3.96	
27	Interurban Trail	Trail Corridor	Developed	Yes	24.80	
28	44th Overflow Parking Lot	Special Use	Developed	Yes	1.03	
29	Golf Course***	Special Use	Developed	Restricted^	76.66	
30	Heritage Park	Special Use	Developed	Yes	7.65	
31	Veterans Park	Special Use	Developed	Yes	1.31	
32	Civic Campus	Special Use	Developed	Yes	5.10	
33	Citywide (Non-Park Sites)	Special Use	Developed	Restricted^^	2.90	
				<b>Total Acreage</b>	<b>339.15</b>	<b>78.80</b>
						<b>417.95</b>
				<b>Total Publicly Accessible Acreage</b>	<b>258.50</b>	<b>26.62</b>
						<b>285.12</b>

\*ESD Owned 3.3 acres

\*\*ESD Owned

\*\*\*State Owned 37.12 acres

^Pay to Use

^^Roadway sites



## CURRENT & PROJECTED LEVEL OF SERVICE

The City of Lynnwood aims to provide access to parkland to a service standard of 3.5 acres per 1,000 persons. When current populations of the City and its MUGA are compared to the park acreage standards for measuring park land needs, the difference between existing acreage and “demand” for park acreage to meet the standard is considered the “need” in future acreage.

The table below highlights the measurements for the City’s current and projected level of service (LOS) performance at its adopted standard.

Table 19. City of Lynnwood Level of Service Performance

Adopted Standard and Projected Lynnwood Population			
LOS Standard	3.5 acres / 1,000 residents		
2025 Population	43,782		
2035 Population	54,404		
2045 Population	66,404		
City Parkland Acreage	285.12		
Level of Service	2025	2035	2045
Demand (acres)	153	190	232
Performance	186%	150%	123%
Need (-) or Surplus (+) (acres)	+132	+94	+52

By 2025, the City will have reached 169% of its adopted standard for park acreage. This performance measurement weighs the existing acreage (285.12 acres) against the “demand” (153 acres) at the projected population (43,782). At this level of performance, the City is providing access to 6.5 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents. Not counting any acquisitions that may occur, there would be a surplus of 132 acres. As a designated regional growth “core city,” Lynnwood can expect significant population changes in coming years, especially upon the completion of the Link light rail line. Additional housing and development will be triggered in anticipation of the extension in the regional Sound Transit system.

The inclusion of existing parkland within Lynnwood’s MUGA increases the total number of park acres. However, the inclusion of the MUGA’s population into the calculation creates a significant reduction in performance to the adopted standard. In the near term, existing parkland would continue to provide the desired level of service. By 2035, the system would need to add 25 acres of publicly accessible parkland and a total of 134 acres by 2045.

Table 20. City of Lynnwood plus MUGA Level of Service Performance

Adopted Standard and Projected Lynnwood Population			
LOS Standard	3.5 acres / 1,000 residents		
2025 Population	78,117		
2035 Population	88,584		
2045 Population	119,837		
City Parkland Acreage	285.12		
Level of Service	2025	2035	2045
Demand (acres)	273	310	419
Performance	104%	92%	68%
Need (-) or Surplus (+) (acres)	+12	-25	-134

## BEYOND THE BENCHMARK

Using a service standard for park acreage tied to a community's population is a common technique for determining what is an acceptable level of service. This standard should be used in conjunction with other assessment and analysis strategies to gauge the community's need for additional lands, facilities, amenities, and continued maintenance. Part of this assessment is achieved through public engagement and use studies, to obtain feedback on community needs, priorities, user satisfaction, demand on certain facilities, facility conditions, etc. Another part of the assessment includes quantitative and qualitative analysis of the existing system to understand gaps and further details of current performance. The following are recommendations for LOS metrics to build upon the recent efforts to refine LOS performance specific to Lynnwood. Each metric falls under a guiding principle that is tied to PRCA's core values and goals. Although split into different types, the guiding principles and metrics have overlapping objectives and, like the LOS standard, should not be looked at in isolation but are supportive of each other.

Figure 28. Guiding Principles for LOS Metrics



## Condition

In addition to understanding the inventory of park amenities, communities must also assess the condition of each park's general infrastructure and facilities. The condition or quality of park amenities is a key measure of park adequacy and a required assurance of public safety. General park infrastructure may include walkways, parking lots, park furniture, drainage and irrigation, lighting systems and vegetation. Deferred maintenance over a long time period can result in unusable amenities when perceived as unsafe or undesirable by park patrons.

- Provide well-maintained parkland by reducing the deferred maintenance backlog 5% annually
- Continually replace one system playground annually to renew aging equipment and space out future lifecycle aging of playgrounds
- Maintain park maintenance operating hours per acres to a minimum standard of 55 hours acre per annually

## Distribution

In 2014, The Trust for Public Land produced the *City Park Facts Report*, which defines park access as the ability to reach a publicly owned park within a half-mile walk on the road network, unobstructed by freeways, rivers, fences and other obstacles. This metric can be evaluated by using a geographic information system (GIS) and Census data to determine the percentage of households that are within walking distance from a park or the geographic area that is within walking distance of an existing park. Walking distance is most commonly defined as a half-mile or a ten-minute walk. Of the 100 largest cities in the U.S. that have explicit park distance goals, over 60% use a half-mile measurement. Determining the 'walksheds' for a community's existing parks can reveal the gaps where residential areas have no public parks within reasonable walking distance. These gaps provide a measure of need to provide a more equitable distribution of park facilities and trails. Identified gaps within the park system can become targets for future parkland acquisition. A parkland gap analysis for Lynnwood performed in 2016 is detailed in the next section of this chapter.

- Provide equitable distribution of parkland within a ½-mile (approximately 10 to 15-minute walk) of every household
- Provide universal access connector trails (minimum 10-foot wide, hard-surface, less than 5% grade) serving all ages and abilities within a ½-mile (approximately 10 to 15-minute walk) of every household. See the next section "Beyond Mileage" for discussion of trail planning and initiatives.

## Demand

The term “pressure” refers to the potential demand on a park. One method of exploration examines the proximity of residential populations to a park and assumes that the residents in a ‘parkshed’ represent the potential park users. The acreage of the subject park is then used to calculate the number of park acres available per 1,000 people within the parkshed. This measure of probable park use and population pressure assesses the capacity of park land and its likelihood for high visitor use, more frequent maintenance needs, or need for expansion.

Beyond examining quantity of park land acreage, public demand and need for future and additional recreational amenities is further revealed through community surveys, focus group and stakeholder interviews, population projections and park use pressures exhibited through overcrowding, wear and tear, and exceeded programming capacity.

- Increase capacity and types of uses of existing facilities through adjacent acquisitions, development of additional amenities, and enhancing existing amenities
- Balance capital investment equally between acquisition, development, and major maintenance over 10-year PRCA Capital Project Plan
- Acquire and develop a balanced mix of parklands (parks, trails, open space, and special use)

## Experience

PRCA’s meta-goal of Foster Healthy, Active Community speaks to the incorporation of Universal Design in facilities and programs. Integrated, all inclusive spaces and activities provide more enriching experiences for everyone. This overlaps with the meta-goal to Create Great Parks and Public Spaces because a well-designed space considers all potential users and positive community interaction ties to community character and a sense of place. Meeting ADA standards is a starting point for providing all inclusive access to existing public facilities.

- Increase universal access to parkland amenities to serve all ages and abilities by removing the backlog of ADA barriers 1% annually and all barriers at sites receiving major upgrades
- Connect each park amenity element by updating pathways to provide universal access (minimum 6-foot wide, hard-surface, less than 5% grade) converting 1,500 linear feet per year



Figure 29: LOS Metrics Dashboard and Current Benchmarks

CONDITION	DISTRIBUTION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Provide well-maintained parkland by reducing the deferred maintenance backlog <b>5%</b> annually <i>Current Backlog = \$3,000,000</i></li> <li>■ Continually replace <b>one</b> system playground annually to renew aging equipment and space out future lifecycle aging of playgrounds <i>Currently Replacing 1/year</i></li> <li>■ Maintain park maintenance operating hours per acres to a minimum standard of <b>55 hours/acre</b> annually <i>Currently Providing 55 hours/acres</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Provide equitable distribution of parkland within a ½-mile (approx. 10 to 15-minute walk) of every household <i>Currently serving: 79.5%</i></li> <li>■ Provide universal access connector trails (minimum 10-foot wide, hard-surface, less than 5% grade) serving all ages and abilities within a ½-mile (approximately 10 to 15-minute walk) of every household. <i>Currently serving: Interurban walkshed (&lt;15%)</i></li> </ul>
EXPERIENCE	DEMAND
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Increase universal access to parkland amenities to serve all ages and abilities by removing the backlog of ADA barriers 1% annually and all barriers at sites receiving major upgrades <i>Current barriers: 1,577 with cost estimated at \$6.5M (\$50K/year funded)</i></li> <li>■ Connect each park amenity element by updating pathways to provide universal access (minimum 6-foot wide, hard-surface, less than 5% grade) converting 1,500 linear feet per year <i>Not Started</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Increase capacity and types of uses of existing facilities through adjacent acquisitions, development of additional amenities, and enhancing existing amenities <i>Currently serving 2.4M users</i></li> <li>■ Balance capital investment equally between acquisition, development, and major maintenance over 10-year PRCA Capital Project Plan <i>Historical spending = approx. 1M/yr</i></li> <li>■ Acquire and develop a balanced mix of parklands (parks, trails, open space, and special use) <i>Current: Parks 41%, Open Space 31%, Special Use 22%, Trail Corridor 7%</i></li> </ul>

## BEYOND MILEAGE

### Trails for Connectivity

As with roadway system and transportation planning, planning for recreational trails should be geared toward connectivity. The Demand metric for universal access connector trails reinforces the desire to improve overall connections across the City and enhance off-street linkages between parks and major destinations.

Within the Comprehensive Plan, the Parks Element contains two policies that focus on interdepartmental collaboration to implement the multi-modal transportation planning and overall walkability of the city with connections to existing and future regional trails. These policies would lead to considerable mileage beyond the existing system, enhance the City's goals for better connections, and provide the infrastructure to support a healthier community. The Parks Element also contains six strategies for enhanced trail connections, including partnering with Public Works to support the implementation of the Connect Lynnwood Plan which seeks to create walking, rolling, and bicycling facilities to serve all ages and abilities..

Additionally, an Economic Development goal from the Comprehensive Plan cites connections for pedestrians and bikes as important elements in enhancing livability and Lynnwood's unique sense of place. While these connections may not be part of the PRCA Department's responsibilities, the connections become part of the "string of pearls" cited in the City Center Sub-Area Plan where bicycle and pedestrian walkability infrastructure provide connections between planned future core parks and adjacent land uses. Also, the Economic Development Plan has a prioritized project list that includes connections to the Interurban Trail, and linking to Scriber Creek and to Lund's Gulch.

### Trails for Community Health

Lynnwood's recent planning efforts and current commitment to its Healthy Communities Action Plan demonstrates the community awareness of the importance of public infrastructure in affecting overall public health. A welcoming and accessible City plays a significant role in encouraging and supporting physical activity that promotes healthy active lifestyles. The need to build on existing infrastructure and create interconnected systems should be the standard for establishing demand for trails. Recreational trails are essential as elements in a multi-modal alternative transportation network. The City has adopted policies that will encourage or require better mobility and connections between land uses and destinations to support physical activity as part of a daily lifestyle. Compact neighborhoods, shared open space with mixed use and integrated land uses as identified in the City Center plans can support a full range of human activities: live, work, shop, play, learn and gather.

In the NRPA publication, *Safe Routes to Parks*, the elements of walkable, healthy community design are outlined as convenience, comfort, access & design, safety and the park itself. As further emphasis for the importance of a walkable community to promote public health, the

U.S. Surgeon General has issued a Call to Action to “step it up” and promote more walking and build a more walkable world. A more connected network of trails, sidewalks and bike lanes with links to public transit enhances health and also provides economic values.

## Trails for Economic Health

In the 2009 report *Walking the Walk: How Walkability Raises Housing Values in US Cities* by Joe Cortright of CEOs for Cities, research cited the connection between home value and walkability. Higher WalkScore measurements (walkscore.com) where typical consumer destinations are within walking distance were directly associated with higher home values. Homes located in more walkable neighborhoods command a price premium over otherwise similar homes in less walkable areas. The National Association of Realtors reports in their *On Common Ground* publication with numerous articles citing the preference of walkable, mixed-use neighborhoods and the role of walkability in creating healthier communities. These preferences translate into higher real estate prices and housing values. Even the National Association of Homebuilders (March 2014 publication: *Walkability, why we care and you should too*) has recognized that walkability is desired by consumers, creates lower development costs and allows flexibility in design. As part of the system of walkability and bike-ability, recreational trails are real estate assets that enhance community connections and contribute to economic health.



## Parks for Health

Parks are an important destination for people engaging in outdoor physical activity. Physical activity is one of the most important behaviors that reduces chronic diseases and improves health incomes for all age groups. Numerous studies have demonstrated that public parks contribute to health even beyond physical activity. The NRPA report *Quantifying the Contribution of Public Parks to Physical Activity and Health* outlines several variables for parks' role in improving both community and individual health. An important variable for promoting community health is the provision of parks which are accessible through safe walking routes and contain elements that create an attractive destination. Lynnwood is currently engaging in a Healthy Communities Action Plan and should reinforce the important role of parks and their contribution to improved health outcomes.



## A COMPREHENSIVE TRAIL NETWORK

Recreational trail connections, improvements and relationships to complete streets, and sidewalks and bike lanes have been cited in numerous Lynnwood plans. Major undertakings, such as the goal to connect the Scriber Creek Trail with Lund's Gulch and other destinations within the City, have been stated in the Comprehensive Plan. The Transportation Element identifies future needs in the multi-modal, non-motorized transportation system for the community.

In addition to the proposed recreational trail alignments noted in this Plan, Lynnwood may want to consider a stand-alone trail plan to identify and reinforce the need for off-street, recreational trail improvements to improve community connectivity. Cooperation with Snohomish County in conducting a unified regional trail plan for both the City and the MUGA could further planning efforts as the community grows and may provide valuable implementation strategies for a better connected trail system, while improving project eligibility for both transportation and recreation grant funding.

### The Interurban Trail

"As the backbone of the skeleton system, the Interurban Regional Trail is an important non-motorized transportation facility for both the City of Lynnwood and the region. Classified as a class 1 multi-use regional trail, it begins in Everett and heads south through Lynnwood, Mountlake Terrace, Edmonds, Shoreline, and north Seattle, for a total of approximately 24 miles. The entire length of the trail through the City of Lynnwood is paved and is generally 12-feet wide. The trail is mostly continuous and separated from roadways except for a few locations. Completion of these "missing links" is planned. The Trail should be continuous, uninterrupted by major roads and road crossings and include lighting and other amenities in order to provide a safe and comfortable pedestrian environment."

- excerpt from *Transportation Element of Lynnwood Comprehensive Plan*





## GAP ANALYSIS

Understanding the known gaps in the park system will provide a foundation for strategic planning to ensure that tomorrow's residents have equal access to a robust system of parks, trails and amenities to stay healthy and active.

### Parkland Walksheds

Providing parkland within walking distance ( $\frac{1}{2}$ -mile) of every resident will require both acquiring new park properties in currently under-served locations and improving multi-modal transportation connections to allow local residents to safely and conveniently reach their local park. As Lynnwood develops and acquisition opportunities diminish, the City will need to be prepared to take advantage of acquisition opportunities in strategic locations to better serve City residents.

To better understand where acquisition efforts should be directed, a gap analysis of the park system was conducted to examine and assess the current distribution of parks throughout the city. The analysis reviewed the locations and types of existing facilities, land use classifications, transportation/access barriers and other factors as a means to identify preliminary acquisition target areas. In reviewing parkland distribution and assessing opportunities to fill identified gaps, residentially zoned lands were isolated, since core parks primarily serve these areas. Additionally, walksheds were defined for neighborhood and mini parks using a  $\frac{1}{4}$ -mile primary and  $\frac{1}{2}$ -mile secondary service area with travel distances calculated along the road network starting from known and accessible access points at each park. Walksheds for community parks were derived using  $\frac{1}{4}$ -mile,  $\frac{1}{2}$ -mile and 1-mile travel distances to acknowledge that community parks serve a wider array of users and driving to such sites is typical.

Maps 10, 11 & 12 illustrate the application of the distribution criteria for existing parks.

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Map 10: Park Walkshed Map (Neighborhood & Mini Parks)

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Map 11: Park Walkshed Map (Community Parks)

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Map 12: Park Walkshed Map (All Parks)

Map 13 illustrates a negative impression of the combined walksheds for all the parks in the previous maps to create a “gap” map, which shows those areas of the City where residents need to travel more than ½-mile to reach a core park.

Gaps in parkland distribution appear in seven main areas of the city:

- Northwestern section of city south of Meadowdale High School
- Northeastern section of city southwest of Spruce Elementary School
- Regional Growth Center (City Center and Alderwood Transition Area)
- Southcentral section of city north of South Lynnwood Park
- Northern section of MUGA
- Northeastern section of MUGA
- Southeastern section of MUGA

Resulting from this assessment, potential acquisition areas are identified for future parks. The greatest documented need is for additional neighborhood and community parks to improve overall distribution and equity, while promoting active use recreational spaces that can accommodate field sports, court sports and open play. This Plan proposes acquisition of parkland for future neighborhood parks in these areas.

While the targeted acquisition areas do not identify a specific parcel(s) for consideration, the area encompasses a broader region in which an acquisition would be ideally suited. These acquisition targets represent a long-term vision for improving parkland distribution throughout Lynnwood.

## Trail Walksheds

Trails provide people with valuable links between neighborhoods, parks, schools and other public facilities, commercial centers and other regional non-motorized facilities. In some cases, public trails provide alternative transportation connections between neighborhoods. The Connect Lynnwood Plan provides the City’s strategic goals and policies related to comprehensive pedestrian and bicycle network planning including route designation, classification, funding priorities and design standards.

To supplement the work of the pedestrian and bicycle plan, a gap analysis was conducted to examine and assess the distribution of existing recreational trails. As with the parkland analysis, trail walksheds were defined using a ¼-mile primary and ½-mile secondary service area with travel distances calculated along the road network starting from known and accessible access points of each existing trail segment. Map 14 illustrates the citywide distribution of trails and the relative access to these trails within reasonable travel walksheds.

Approximately half of the city is well-served with reasonable access to recreational trails, which include park trails, Scriber Creek Trail and the Interurban Trail. The north-central section of the city and most of the MUGA is deficient with access to recreational trails.



## Access & Equity

Maps 15 and 16 illustrate the combination of the composite equity map from earlier in this Plan with the existing access gaps for core parks and trails. These maps can be used to further refine the prioritization for acquisitions and development projects to improve recreational access to residents in areas with equity disparities.

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## Map 13: Parkland Gap Map

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## Map 14: Trail Walkshed Map

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## Map 15: Equity & Park Access Gaps

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## Map 16: Equity & Trail Access Gaps

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**PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE**



*“We need more outside open spaces, PARKS! On the east and north side of Lynnwood there are hardly any compared with other cities.”*

*“Children in my area, need more outside area’s to play.”*

*“Make sure that it works with the plan to bring light rail up north, and ways to bike or walk to the terminal.”*

*“I love the kids parks that have been added and improved, but we do need more for the older generation.”*



*“Make the County develop parks in the future area to be annexed by Lynnwood.”*

*“A lot of parks are away or not near by from public transportation.”*

*“Too many people and not enough parks to go to that are big enough to hold multiple activities.”*



# GOALS 5

## ACTION STRATEGIES

Lynnwood's adopted Community Vision (*Lynnwood Moving Forward*) targets the City becoming a regional model for a sustainable, vibrant community with engaged citizens and an accountable government. The Parks, Recreation & Cultural Arts Department is an active contributor to helping the City achieve its vision through a series of action strategies, outlined in this section, to focus resources and accomplish measurable results over the next ten years. Lynnwood's Vision sets forth several declarations for focused actions and goals for the participation of all City departments. One specific directive focuses on the Department's purpose and contribution to achieving the Vision.

To invest in preserving and expanding parks, recreation, and community programs.

- Develop a network of pedestrian and bike trails for recreation and transportation
- Encourage business/organization partnerships & participation to create and promote community events
- Create civic pride through cultural arts, events, parks, and services
- Promote healthy lifestyles
- Provide diverse senior services creating a livable community
- Establish a new signature event that creates civic pride
- Use parks and cultural arts to attract economic growth

This directive from the Vision provides the guidance for strengthening the goals, objectives and action plan for this PARC Plan.

In an effort to highlight the overarching strategic goals and directions to enable the Department to meet the City's Vision, the goals and objectives from past plans have been re-organized, enhanced and arranged to align with the common themes noted from the public during the planning process for this Plan. The graphic on the following page represents the core strategic directions and objectives for this Plan.

Figure 30. Strategic Meta-Goals and Objectives for the PRCA Department

GOALS					
	Foster Healthy, Active Community	Create Great Parks & Public Spaces	Ensure Sound Management & Maintenance	Prepare for the Future	Encourage Connectedness
OBJECTIVES	Provide programming for all ages and abilities	Develop City Center Town Square Park	Provide administrative leadership & staffing	Strive to meet adopted standards	Pursue an interconnected system of parks, trails and open space
	Connect people to places	Create unique place-making identities for parks	Maintain and sustain quality facilities	Proactively manage change	Integrate Plan with other City projects/plans
	Promote active & healthy lifestyles	Unify parks with Lynnwood sense of place	Align financing for upkeep & growth	Annexation & added parklands	Collaborate with and engage the community
	Increase access to arts, culture & heritage	Conserve and protect natural & open spaces	Address deferred maintenance needs	Renovate & repurpose to meet existing needs	Develop public/private relationships
	Provide access to human and community services		Leverage more through partnerships		
			Engage more grant and outside funding support		

While the illustration above aligns objectives for park and recreation under five different goals, the overarching mission leads towards a healthy and connected community. The unifying goal for the Department is fulfilling its role in creating an interconnected park, trail and recreation system that is woven into the fabric of an enhanced quality of life for residents of Lynnwood.

## FROM GOAL TO POLICY

Taken together, the goals and policies provide a framework for the Park, Arts, Recreation and Conservation Plan. A goal is a general statement describing an outcome the City wishes to provide. Goals typically do not change over time unless community values shift. Policies are more specific, measurable statements that describe a means to achieving the stated goals. Policies reflect adopted practices intended to implement and achieve the goals.

The 2015 Lynnwood Comprehensive Plan outlined a number of policy statements in its Parks Element and provides the foundation reference for the goals and strategies outlined in this Plan. These policy statements have been modified to reflect more focused and specific parks, recreation, open space needs. The policies are further articulated through targeted action strategies that will translate directly into capital facilities projects. Strategies direct specific tasks to accomplish measurable results towards achieving goals. Many strategies are directly tied to capital projects included in the 2022-2027 capital facilities plan.

# Strategic direction **01** FOSTER A HEALTHY, ACTIVE COMMUNITY

**GOAL:** Lynnwood's parks, recreation facilities and programming bring community members together, celebrates culture and heritage, and supports and fosters wellbeing and quality of life.



# Strategic direction **01** FOSTER A HEALTHY, ACTIVE COMMUNITY

## 1. RECREATION & HEALTHY CHOICES

### Policies

- 1.1** Provide a variety and balance of recreational services and programs that promote the health, education, social connections, and well-being of community members of all ages and abilities.
- 1.2** Examine policies and procedures to identify barriers to equitable access to parks, facilities, and programs.
- 1.3** Maintain Lynnwood's recreation facilities to provide recreational opportunities, community services and opportunities for community members to connect, learn and play.
- 1.4** Plan for the future recreation facility needs to accommodate the City's population growth.

### Actions

- 1.1.1** Conduct an analysis of policies and procedures using the NRPA Framework and City's Race Equity Toolkit.
- 1.1.2** Establish a language translation and interpretation plan to equitably serve our diverse community.
- 1.1.3** Implement ADA Transition Plan to remove ADA barriers to inclusive participation in programs and use of facilities.
- 1.1.4** Add a new marketing coordinator position responsible for outreach and engagement with diverse audiences to increase participation by underrepresented community members.
- 1.1.5** Conduct a facility needs assessment and feasibility study to assess the needs and suitability of current buildings, understand long-term needs, and guide future investment in facilities.
- 1.1.6** Establish a dedicated Recreation Center Equipment Reserve and Replacement Fund to address on-going asset maintenance, repair and replacement.
- 1.1.7** Restore recreation programs and services to pre-pandemic offerings with a focus on high-need areas of concern and current community needs and interests.
- 1.1.8** Renovate Lynndale Park facilities to support the robust summer camp operations.
- 1.1.9** Continue to expand and diversify popular youth and teens programs to meet the growing need for engaging, affordable, safe options for children with a focus on providing services in low-income neighborhoods.
- 1.1.10** Design programming and services to meet the needs diverse users, including under-resourced communities or those with disabilities
- 1.1.11** Support enhanced program scholarships and other mechanisms to increase recreation access for under-resourced residents.
- 1.1.12** "Continue to provide and expand opportunities for older adults to engage in social, recreational, educational, programs designed to, in partnership with community agencies."
- 1.1.13** Adjust and adopt cost recovery goals and targets using an equity-based evaluation.
- 1.1.14** Maintain staff development and certifications (e.g. CPR/First Aid, lifeguard certification, playground safety, etc.) to retain high safety standards in facilities and on play equipment.



# Strategic direction 01

## FOSTER A HEALTHY, ACTIVE COMMUNITY

### 2. ARTS, CULTURE & HERITAGE

#### Policies

- 2.1** Work with the community and local organizations to foster a greater number and variety of cultural events and support community celebrations.
- 2.2** Reflect the City's identity by incorporating art, history and culture into the park and recreation system, and other places.
- 2.3** Seek opportunities to support and expand programming at Heritage Park with volunteer docents, museum exhibits, tours, and open houses.

#### Actions

- 1.2.1** Support the goals and initiatives of the Cultural Arts Plan and Heritage Strategic Plan.
- 1.2.2** Continue to support community events that provide opportunities for social engagement and bring families and neighbors together through partnerships, sponsorships, and grant programs.
- 1.2.3** Partner with the Edmonds School District to offer art opportunities for students through artist in residencies, community art projects, gallery showings, and temporary art installations.
- 1.2.4** Identify appropriate locations within parks and greenways for the installation of public art, interpretive signs, or cultural displays.
- 1.2.5** Initiate new cultural arts improvements and enhancements with the creation of signal box art wraps throughout the city.



# Strategic direction 01 FOSTER A HEALTHY, ACTIVE COMMUNITY

## 3. COMMUNITY & HUMAN SERVICES

### Policies

- 3.1** Develop measurable health and social services objectives tied to the City of Lynnwood strategic plan and budgeting process.
- 3.2** Develop evaluation tools assessing the efficacy and impact of health and social services activities in the community.
- 3.3** Initiate marketing strategy sharing Community and Human Service Initiatives, partners and City strategies.
- 3.4** Build strong advocacy agendas based on community healthcare and the social determinants of health

### Actions

- 1.3.1** Develop and implement health and social services community events with Lynnwood-based providers.
- 1.3.2** Reimagine Fair on 44th to enhance health and safety service offerings at the event.
- 1.3.3** Develop Community & Human Services Program budget with identified outcomes and staffing needs.
- 1.3.4** Conduct regular partner meetings between City and community service providers.
- 1.3.5** Outreach to South County municipalities and engage them with regular partner meetings.
- 1.3.6** Increase community knowledge of current service providers by creating directory on City website.
- 1.3.7** Convene and facilitate listening sessions regarding Community and Human Services to share information and legislative priorities.
- 1.3.8** Participate in neighborhood outreach for engagement, improvement, and creating neighborhood identities.



# Strategic direction 02 CREATE GREAT PARKS & PUBLIC SPACES

**GOAL:** Lynnwood's parks and open spaces meet local needs for active and passive recreation, enhance the environmental and visual quality of the community, and healthy living.



# Strategic direction **02** CREATE GREAT PARKS & PUBLIC SPACES

## 4. PARK DESIGN & DEVELOPMENT

### Policies

- 4.1** Design and develop park sites and facilities to maximize recreational value and experience while minimizing maintenance and operational costs and negative environmental and community impacts.
- 4.2** Strive to reduce barriers to participation and improve safety to provide universal access to facilities and programs.
- 4.3** Balance capital investment equally between acquisition, development, and major maintenance over 10-year PRCA Capital Project Plan.

### Actions

- 2.4.1** Restore Park Planning function to support planning and capital project management.
- 2.4.2** Design new parks and provide improvements to existing parks which promote public safety and security, and provide accessibility to all in accordance with Americans with Disabilities Act standards.
- 2.4.3** Prioritize park development in areas where service gaps exist (where households are more than ½-mile from a developed park).
- 2.4.4** Balance capital investment equally between acquisition, development, and major maintenance over 10-year PRCA Capital Project Plan.
- 2.4.5** Balance system expansion and development equally between new urban core and residential neighborhood parks and between parks and trails.
- 2.4.6** Increase capacity and types of uses of existing facilities through adjacent acquisitions, development of additional amenities, and enhancing existing amenities.
- 2.4.7** Establish level of service for parkland amenities such as playgrounds, dog parks, sport courts, and specialty features based on community need.
- 2.4.8** Update and modernize design standards design standards to provide continuity in furnishings (trash cans, tables, benches, fencing) and construction materials to reduce inventory and maintenance costs, standardize maintenance practices, and improve park appearance.
- 2.4.9** Incorporate sustainable development and low impact design practices into the design, planning and rehabilitation of new and existing facilities.
- 2.4.10** Acquire and develop Town Square Park in City Center area.
- 2.4.11** Develop new neighborhood park, Rowe Park, in west Lynnwood, per 2004 master plan.
- 2.4.12** Continue development and renovation of Scriber Lake Park per the master plans.
- 2.4.13** Implement improvements to Gold Park to add parking, picnic facilities, continue invasive plant removal and trail development.
- 2.4.14** Implement specific renovations and improvements at Lynndale Park, Wilcox Park, South Lynnwood Park, Veterans Park and Daleway Park.
- 2.4.15** Identify opportunities to create public gathering spaces that enable community members of all ages to connect with each other.



# Strategic direction 02 CREATE GREAT PARKS & PUBLIC SPACES

## 5. SPECIAL USE FACILITIES

### Policies

- 5.1** Establish and operate specialized recreational facilities (e.g. sports facilities, off leash dog areas, skateparks, community gardens) to respond to identified public needs, as appropriate.
- 5.2** Explore partnership with Edmonds School District to jointly develop recreation facilities at the former Alderwood Middle School for public use.

### Actions

- 2.5.1** Consider local needs, recreational trends, and availability of similar facilities within the City and region when planning for specialized recreational facilities.
- 2.5.2** Encourage the development of specialized facilities that generate revenues to offset the cost of their operation and maintenance.
- 2.5.3** Provide additional picnic shelters for events such as family gatherings, community events and other meetings.
- 2.5.4** Identify opportunities to create, expand or increase suitable sites for community gardening and urban farming.
- 2.5.5** Monitor the condition, investment needs and usage rates of various field facilities to plan for long-term maintenance and capital needs.
- 2.5.6** Replace sodium halide lights with LED lighting at Meadowdale Playfields
- 2.5.7** Develop an off-leash dog areas in the Regional Growth Center where off-leash use is safe and would have limited environmental impacts.



# Strategic direction **02** CREATE GREAT PARKS & PUBLIC SPACES



## 6. OPEN SPACE & NATURAL AREA CONSERVATION

### Policies

- 5.1** Establish and operate specialized recreational facilities (e.g. sports facilities, off leash dog areas, skateparks, community gardens) to respond to identified public needs, as appropriate.
- 5.2** Explore partnership with Edmonds School District to jointly develop recreation facilities at the former Alderwood Middle School for public use.

### Actions

- 2.6.1** Pursue opportunities to provide appropriate public access (e.g. trails, viewpoints and wildlife viewing areas) within natural areas to support passive recreation and environmental education.
- 2.6.2** Encourage conservation easements for open space within urban areas to buffer and enhance the built environment.
- 2.6.3** Support volunteer and interjurisdictional efforts for restoration and preservation of the four major watersheds in South Snohomish County: Scriber Creek, Lund's Gulch, Swamp Creek and Halls Creek.
- 2.6.4** "Actively work to improve the condition of City-owned natural areas through invasive species removal; planting of native species; restoration of urban forests, creeks, wetlands and other habitat; and improvement of hydrological conditions."
- 2.6.5** Continue to encourage stewardship of open space and natural areas through the Friends of groups, Adopt-A-Trail, and Park Service programs.
- 2.6.6** Coordinate with Snohomish County and adjacent jurisdictions for the development of a regional conservation and greenway plan to guide future acquisitions and restoration efforts of existing public lands.
- 2.6.7** Consider the preparation of an Urban Forestry Management Plan to articulate a long-term strategy for tree protection, urban forestry management and public education and outreach.
- 2.6.8** Provide environmental educational opportunities in natural areas with interpretive signage, nature trails and overlooks.
- 2.6.9** Maintain Tree City USA designation with continued review of tree policy and management.
- 2.6.10** Develop a Right Tree, Right Place policy to guide tree planting along right-of-ways and under power lines.
- 2.6.11** Develop master plan for future public use of Lund's Gulch in partnership with community members.



# Strategic direction 03 ENSURE SOUND MANAGEMENT & MAINTENANCE

GOAL: Lynnwood's PRCA Department coalesces the community and stewards its human, social and physical capital and resources to expand recreational opportunities for community members.



# Strategic direction 03 ENSURE SOUND MANAGEMENT & MAINTENANCE

## 7. ADMINISTRATION

### Policies

- 7.1** Provide leadership and sufficient staff resources to maintain the overall parks and recreation system to the City's requirements.

### Actions

- 3.7.1** Conduct regular performance audits and analysis to ensure alignment with "Budgeting for Outcomes" budgeting processes.
- 3.7.2** Provide stewardship of resources and maintain expenditure control targets.
- 3.7.3** Assess the effectiveness of the organization on a regular basis and make structural changes as appropriate.
- 3.7.4** Assess the Department's staffing needs and hire adequate staff to manage the City's park and recreation system.
- 3.7.5** Annually update the Capital Facilities Plan to reflect the recreational needs of the community.
- 3.7.6** Promote professional development opportunities that strengthen the core skills and commitment from staff, Board members and key volunteers, to include trainings, materials and/or affiliation with the National Recreation & Park Association (NRPA) and the Washington Recreation & Park Association (WRPA).
- 3.7.7** Use part-time, seasonal, and contract employees for select functions to meet peak demands and respond to specialized or urgent needs.
- 3.7.8** Amend the Parks & Recreation Element of the City's Comprehensive Plan as needed to reflect the recreational needs of the community.
- 3.7.9** Work with Community Development and Economic Development to revised proposed level of service and park development in the City Center Plan.
- 3.7.10** Pursue adding a volunteer coordinator to manage and enhance community volunteer opportunities and service projects that support Department operations.
- 3.7.11** Evaluate need to provide limited-commission status to park operation staff to improve staff and community safety in parks.
- 3.7.12** Work with Human Resources, Finance and City Council to review personnel policies including employee benefits.
- 3.7.13** Evaluate our recruitment and hiring practices to ensure that the diversity of our staff reflects the diversity of the community we serve.
- 3.7.14** Collect and analyze demographic data of participants, employees, and contractors to understand how well we are reaching and serving the Lynnwood community and inform targeted programming changes and outreach efforts.



# Strategic direction 03

## ENSURE SOUND MANAGEMENT & MAINTENANCE



### 8. MAINTENANCE & ASSET MANAGEMENT

#### Policies

- 8.1** Actively manage Lynnwood's park and recreation assets through a regular schedule of maintenance and capital renewal efforts to optimize use, reduce unplanned reactive maintenance and protect public investment.

#### Action

- 3.8.1** Update park maintenance standards and a routine preventative maintenance program to ensure parks, facilities and equipment are maintained in a manner that keeps them in safe and attractive condition; Repair or remove damaged components immediately upon identification.
- 3.8.2** Maintain a standardized and systematic inventory and assessment of park system infrastructure, including quantity, location, condition and expected useful life.
- 3.8.3** Develop and update an Asset Management Plan for major assets to support improved stewardship, reduce costs and increase maintenance and replacement efficiency.
- 3.8.4** Provide well-maintained parkland by reducing the deferred maintenance backlog by 5% annually.
- 3.8.5** Continually replace one system playground annually to renew aging equipment and space out future lifecycle aging of playgrounds.
- 3.8.6** Increase universal access to parkland amenities to serve all ages and abilities by removing the backlog of ADA barriers 1% annually and all barriers at sites receiving major upgrades
- 3.8.7** Connect each park amenity element by updating pathways to provide universal access (minimum 6-foot wide, hard-surface, less than 5% grade) converting 1,500 linear/year
- 3.8.8** Maintain park maintenance operating hours/acre performance to a minimum standard of 55 hours/acre annually.
- 3.8.9** Encourage and promote volunteer park improvement and maintenance projects from a variety of individuals, service clubs, churches and businesses.
- 3.8.10** Explore and evaluate fitness equipment maintenance and replacement options for the Recreation Center.

# Strategic direction 03

## ENSURE SOUND MANAGEMENT & MAINTENANCE

### 9. PARTNERSHIPS

#### Policies

- 9.1** Pursue and maintain effective partnerships with governmental agencies and private and non-profit organizations to plan and provide recreation activities and facilities in an effort to maximize opportunities for public recreation.

#### Action

- 3.9.1** Enhance partnerships with the Edmonds School District and City of Edmonds to maximize public use of recreation facilities on school sites, especially athletic fields and gymnasiums, and to encourage provision of community education programming at schools.
- 3.9.2** Coordinate with neighboring jurisdictions and Snohomish County to provide a connected trail network that provide continuous walking and biking access between regional parks and other key destinations.
- 3.9.3** Coordinate with public, private and non-profit providers, such as organized sports leagues, to plan for projects to expand specialized facilities.
- 3.9.4** Explore partnership opportunities with Verdant Health Commission, local hospitals and businesses to develop, fund and promote park and recreation activities, programs and amenities.
- 3.9.5** Explore partnership opportunities with the Snohomish Sports Commission to attract sporting events and tournaments.





# Strategic direction 03

## ENSURE SOUND MANAGEMENT & MAINTENANCE



### 10. FUNDING

#### Policies

- 10.1** Use traditional and new funding sources to adequately and cost-effectively maintain and enhance the quality of Lynnwood's park and recreation system.

#### Actions

- 3.10.1** Maintain general fund support of parks, recreation programs and maintenance.
- 3.10.2** Conduct 6-year Park Impact Fee Rate Study which adequately addresses Capital Project Plan needs.
- 3.10.3** Partner with the Lynnwood Parks and Recreation Foundation to explore private funding to support the needs of parks and programs.
- 3.10.4** Consider the potential benefits of voter-approved initiatives, such as bonds and levies, to fund and manage certain park and recreation program areas.
- 3.10.5** Utilize strategic capital investments in parks, trails, open spaces, recreation and art to encourage and support economic development and revitalization.
- 3.10.6** Pursue alternative funding options and dedicated revenues, including a levy lid lift, for the acquisition and development of parks and facilities, such as through private donation, sponsorships, partnerships, state and federal grant sources, among others.
- 3.10.7** Update admission fees, rental fees, and discounts on a periodic basis to reflect market rates.



# Strategic direction **04** PREPARE FOR THE FUTURE

GOAL: Lynnwood provides a comprehensive system of parks, open space and recreation facilities that serves current and future needs.





# Strategic direction 04 PREPARE FOR THE FUTURE

## 11. PARK & OPEN SPACE ACQUISITION

### Policies

- 11.1** Acquire additional parklands necessary to adequately serve the City's current and future population based on adopted service levels.

### Actions

- 4.11.1** Provide parkland to a service standard of 3.5 acres per 1,000 persons.
- 4.11.2** Create a comprehensive Parkland Capital Project Plan using a equitable, sustainable, and community-led process.
- 4.11.3** Provide equitable park distribution and prioritize park acquisition within a 1/2-mile (approximately 10 to 15-minute walk) of every household.
- 4.11.4** Acquire and develop a balanced mix of parklands of parks, trails, open space and special use.
- 4.11.5** Pursue acquisition of park-adjacent parcels to provide for needed parking expansion or valuable natural area/open space conservation.
- 4.11.6** Evaluate opportunities to acquire lands declared surplus by other public agencies for park and recreation use.
- 4.11.7** Proactively seek parklands identified within this Plan, in both developed and undeveloped areas, to secure suitable locations for new parks to serve future residents. Evaluate acquisition opportunities based on criteria such as improvement to existing level of service, connectivity, preservation and scenic or recreational opportunities for residents.
- 4.11.8** Continue acquisition of open space properties in the Swamp Creek and Scriber Creek watersheds.

# Strategic direction **04** PREPARE FOR THE FUTURE



## 12. MUGA PLANNING

### Policies

- 12.1** Pursue cooperative planning efforts with Snohomish County to fund acquisition of open space for conservation and future park development in the MUGA to meet the recreational needs of Lynnwood's annexation areas.

### Actions

- 4.12.1** Establish or improve urban public services in newly annexed areas, as funds are available, to meet established levels of service.
- 4.12.2** Partner with Snohomish County to masterplan a trail network for Lund's Gulch with identified locations for trailheads, parking lots, and trail connections.
- 4.12.3** Partner with the Edmonds School District to jointly develop recreation facilities or operate with an Interlocal Agreement new facilities that will be developed with a new school at the former Alderwood Middle School site.
- 4.12.4** Acquire identified conservation lands along Scriber Creek, Swamp Creek and Lund's Gulch.
- 4.12.5** Acquire additional sites for future MUGA parks as noted in this Plan.
- 4.12.6** Partner with Snohomish County to provide frontage, parking improvements, and public access to Doc Hageman Park. Pursue long-term development partnership.
- 4.12.7** Develop Manor Way Park as a potential annexation project.
- 4.12.8** Acquire a site for the future parks operations and maintenance satellite location as a centrally-located equipment storage facility in the MUGA.
- 4.12.9** Renew and maintain conversations with Snohomish County staff regarding the collection and management of MUGA park impact fees and joint planning for targeted acquisitions.



# Strategic direction 04 PREPARE FOR THE FUTURE

## 13. RECREATION FACILITIES

### Policies

- 13.1** Renovate, repurpose, and/or expand Recreation facilities to meet community need.

### Actions

- 4.13.1** Conduct a recreational facilities space and parking needs study to meet future growth and demand which specifically addresses need for expanded instructional pool space, older adult space, parking, and dedicated program space for preschool and teen programs.
- 4.13.2** Renovate Recreation Center to better serve customers with covered walkway, replaced pool toy features, and enhanced patio/rental space.
- 4.13.3** Renovate and expand Lynndale Park camp buildings for day camp program with ability to run year-round, outdoor/nature programming.





# Strategic direction **05** ENCOURAGE CONNECTEDNESS

GOAL: Lynnwood's PRCA Department strengthens community member connectivity by fostering built environment improvements and social bonds.





# Strategic direction 05

## ENCOURAGE CONNECTEDNESS

### 14. TRAILS & LINKAGES

#### Policies

- 14.1** Develop a network of shared-use recreational, pedestrian and bicycle trails to enable connections within parks and between parks, neighborhoods, public amenities and regional trail corridors.
- 14.2** Design and construct trails to serve users of all ages and abilities.
- 14.3** Support the adoption and implementation of the Connect Lynnwood: Active and Accessible Transportation Plan.

#### Actions

- 5.14.1** Integrate the siting of proposed trail segments into the development review process; require development projects along designated trail routes to be designed to incorporate trail segments as part of the project.
- 5.14.2** Provide universal access trails (minimum 10-foot wide, hard-surface, less than 5% grade) serving all ages and abilities within a ½-mile (approximately 10 to 15-minute walk) of every household.
- 5.14.3** Provide trailhead accommodations, as appropriate, to include parking, signage, restrooms and other amenities.
- 5.14.4** Implement trail inclusive and accessible signage standards, route and wayfinding signage for trails and associated facilities and informational maps and materials identifying existing and planned trail facilities.
- 5.14.5** Implement Interurban Trail corridor upgrades and improvements.
- 5.14.6** Support interjurisdictional efforts to provide consistent and aesthetic improvements along the length of the Interurban Trail.
- 5.14.7** Partner with utilities, agencies and private landowners to secure trail easements and access to open space for planned trail connections.
- 5.14.8** Conduct a master plan and alignment study for the Center to Sound Trail which will link City Center, Scriber Lake and Lund's Gulch.
- 5.14.9** Design and construct the northward extension of the Scriber Creek Trail from Scriber Lake Park north to the Meadowdale area and Lund's Gulch (as a segment of the Center to Sound Trail).
- 5.14.10** Coordinate with Snohomish County, Brackett's Landing Foundation and volunteers on the development of the South Lund's Gulch Trail Network.
- 5.14.11** Coordinate with Snohomish County for the development of recreational trails within the MUGA to enhance linkages between future parks and the Interurban Trail.
- 5.14.12** Work with Sound Transit to provide transit service to trailheads, parks, and recreation facilities.

# Strategic direction **05** ENCOURAGE CONNECTEDNESS

## 13. COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

### Policies

**15.1** Commit to using effective and inclusive outreach and engagement techniques and strategies to ensure we include the public's values, interests, and needs in planning, decision-making, and program delivery.

### Actions

- 5.15.1** Advance equity across the Department by examining and implementing equitable policies and practices through the use of the NRPA Framework for Equity and Team Real Racial Equity toolkits.
- 5.13.2** Involve community members and partners in system-wide planning, park site facility design and recreation program development. Use a diverse set of communication and informational materials to solicit community input, facilitate project understanding and build public support.
- 5.15.3** Employ public participation best practices to improve community involvement in park and recreation planning efforts such as listening/conversation groups, focus groups, volunteer and community member feedback, and participant surveying.
- 5.15.4** Identify under-represented segments of the community and work to increase their capacity to participate in park planning and decision-making.
- 5.15.5** Pursue opportunities to partner with neighborhood groups to identify opportunities to partner with community members to improve, maintain and monitor local parks, natural areas and trails.
- 5.15.6** Identify inclusive strategies to promote and distribute information about recreational activities, education programs, community services and events, and volunteer activities sponsored by the City and partner agencies and organizations.
- 5.15.7** Identify and strengthen longterm and sustainable community connections to support targeted promotions, scholarships, and programming supporting underserved communities.
- 5.15.8** Provide clear maps of City parks, trails and recreation facilities online, in the parks and recreation catalog, at trailheads and public counters, and in newspaper articles or notices.
- 5.15.9** Create a set of translated City parks, trails, and recreation facility maps in highest use languages spoken at home.
- 5.15.10** Support volunteer park improvement and stewardship projects to promote community ownership of parks and recreation facilities.
- 5.15.11** Manage volunteer programs to support program needs, offer unique experiences to community members, and reflects our diverse community.
- 5.15.12** Survey, review and publish local park and recreation preferences, needs and trends at least once every six years.
- 5.15.13** Enhance special events to incorporate equity, cultural diversity, and inclusive practices.
- 5.15.14** Facilitate an inclusive work culture and environment which supports attracting and retaining a diverse workforce.
- 5.15.15** Provide entry workforce development through outstanding training, coaching, and mentoring.





**STRATEGIC INVESTMENTS**





*According to the 2015 Economic Analysis of Outdoor Recreation in Washington, there were a total of about 446 million participant days a year spent on outdoor recreation in Washington, resulting in \$21.6 billion dollars in annual expenditures.*



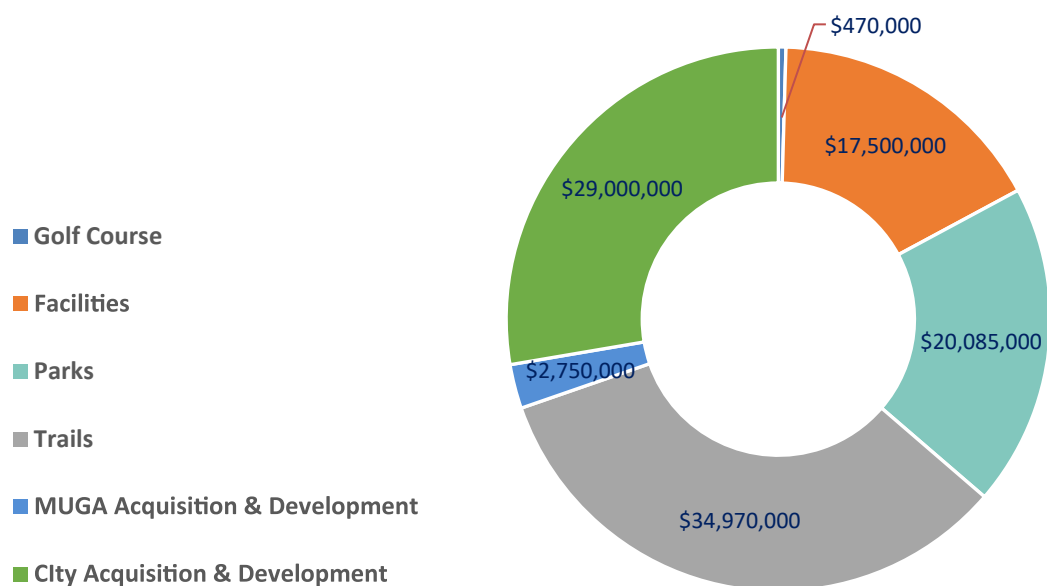
# CAPITAL PLANNING

## 6

The Capital Facilities Plan (CFP) puts into chronological order the project intent and strategic actions adopted by the City to guide the implementation of this Plan. It assigns proposed time frames and estimated costs for specific projects group by project type. A summary of proposed project categories and scopes is described below.

The projects were selected based on the need to address deferred maintenance, care for aging facilities, implement long-standing plans for improvements, and work toward meeting the goal to better connect and create access to park and recreation facilities. The following table summarizes the aggregate capital estimates from the 2016-2025 CFP by park types for the next ten years. A full CFP funding schedule follows later in this chapter.

Figure 31. Capital Facilities Plan Expenditures Summary



## FACILITIES

The expansion of the Senior Center to accommodate growing needs of teens and older adults is targeted for 2023 if additional space can be allocated within the North Administration Building. A covered walkway for the approach to the swim center is planned to help protect patrons waiting in line outdoors at the Recreation Center. A feasibility and community needs assessment for a new community center is planned for 2023 to re-evaluate the Recreation Center Phase II concept and other opportunities to deliver indoor social and recreation programs. City Center Public Art projects involving screens for utility boxes are proposed for annual installation over the next ten years. Over the ten-year period of the CFP, facilities projects are estimated at \$17.5 million. Partnership projects, such as the partnership with the development of a new middle school at the former Alderwood Middle School, are important opportunities to expand and enhance the recreation infrastructure for Lynnwood.

## PARKS

### Acquisition

Town Square Park acquisition and subsequent development is the most significant park acquisition in the ten-year plan with strategic acquisitions proposed for park-adjacent parcels to expand needed parking or open space/natural areas. The acquisition and preservation of historically significant parcels or structures is also captured within the CFP by planned expenditures every three years. The total estimated costs within for future acquisitions is \$29 million.

### Deferred Maintenance & ADA Upgrades

The City recognizes the importance of addressing an aging infrastructure and catching up on deferred maintenance projects that could evolve into future safety concerns and reduce the quality of recreation experiences. The CFP designates \$200,000 annually which started in 2017 to repair, renovate, replace or upgrade site amenities that need attention and may be out of compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). As park projects are evaluated and designed, an opportunity to address barriers and obstacles to access will be identified and incorporated into the capital project scope. An additional \$50,000 annually is being directed to ADA barrier removal in accordance to the recently completed ADA Transition Plan for addressing public infrastructure toward full ADA compliance.

### Renovations, Improvements & Development

Sixteen significant park improvement projects from major playfield renovations to next phases of park development are planned in the CFP. Three currently undeveloped parks, Rowe Park, 188th St Mini Park, and Alderwood Transition Area Mini Park, are targeted for development. The combination of renovations, improvements and developments to continue to provide quality public parks is estimated at \$20.1 million over the ten-year CFP.

# TRAILS

## Acquisition

Lands along a future Center to Sound Trail alignment could be targeted for future acquisition to enable the connection of the Scriber Creek Trail to Lund's Gulch Open Space. The City would designate \$3.5 million toward the end of the ten-year CFP to help match grant funding for the acquisition of easements, rights-of-way and real property.

## Planning

Existing public lands along riparian corridors could evolve into part of the Scriber Creek Trail. The Center to Sound Trail currently is in early planning stages and a master plan is proposed following an environmental assessment exploring opportunities for fence removal along the corridor. The plan would connect the Scriber Creek Trail northward to Lund's Gulch. Several years after the master plan is completed, the CFP targets acquisition and development for phases of the Center to Sound Trail.

## Renovations, Improvements & Development

To achieve the City vision to be a welcoming, connected and healthy community, four different trail projects were identified to develop and enhance access to outdoor recreation and destinations across Lynnwood, which include:

- Center to Sound Trail
- Interurban Trail
- Swamp Creek Trail
- Tunnel Creek Trail

A master plan focusing on improvements along the Interurban Trail was completed in 2018 and \$200,000 per budget biennium is being directed to implement spot improvements along this busiest and most heavily used trail in Lynnwood.

The existing Scriber Creek Trail is planned for a major renovation to convert it into a 12 to 16-foot wide, Class I pedestrian facility. Construction for the first two phases is planned to be complete by the end of 2023 with Phase III construction planned for 2025.

### **Center to Sound Trail**

The City envisions a long-term project to improve Scriber Creek Trail and extend it to make a connection between City Center with Lund's Gulch and Meadowdale Beach Park creating the "Center to Sound" connection. The Scriber Creek Trail is an existing mixed-surface, variable-width pedestrian trail that generally follows the Scriber Creek corridor in Lynnwood. At the south end, the trail is a spur from the regional Interurban Trail and links the Lynnwood Transit Center, Scriber Creek Park, Sprague's Pond Mini Park, Scriber Lake Park, and Wilcox Park at the north end. A current project to improve the existing Trail will be constructed in phases and will convert the existing trail into an accessible, 12'-16' width, shared-use path that will be elevated on bridge and boardwalk where crossing wetlands/streams

## GOLF COURSE

### Renovations & Improvements

To remain a viable business enterprise and continue to provide valuable recreational amenities, the Lynnwood Municipal Golf Course needs improvements to its cart paths, safety netting, , as well as pro shop renovations and improvements to the hitting area. Proposed improvements are estimated at \$470,000.

## MUGA

### Acquisition & Development

In planning for its future, Lynnwood has recognized the need to prepare the MUGA for future annexation and to proactively plan for needed park and recreation infrastructure. The potential acquisition or development partnership of the former Alderwood Middle School property for future park use, a future Parks Operations satellite facility, and the conservation of adjacent natural lands along Swamp Creek and Lund's Gulch are identified in the CFP. The development of the future Doc Hageman Park and Manor Way Park are noted in the CFP. Projects proposed for acquisition or development in the MUGA may be dependent on the pace and extent of future annexation and will rely on partnership with the County until annexation is realized.

## REVENUE PROJECTIONS

This Plan included the development of tax revenue projections based on the projected city growth. The revenue model estimates property tax, sales tax, business license, utility tax and shared revenues. The components of future growth that influence revenue potentials include the timing, scale and quality of new development, as well as the population and employment impacts of the new development as it is completed. In all, the revenue projection in 2015 estimated between \$10.1 million and \$32.2 million in revenues over the ten year period. To clarify, these numbers reflect citywide collections. Appendix I includes additional detail.

If growth is projected in the General Fund, the incremental enhancements to the City's budget may not be relatable to the PRCA Department's need, since General Fund allocations are at the discretion of City Council and are competitive between City departments. While it may be assumed that the PRCA Department's budget increases in proportion to the General Fund in the future, the additional funding still may be less than what is necessary to address operations, deferred maintenance or programming needs. The Department should review these projections and its overall system needs and explore opportunities for additional, dedicated resources to help address the needs for safety, maintenance, acquisitions, programs, and park and trail development.



The City completed and adopted a Park Impact Fee Rate Study in 2018 with an anticipated revenue collection estimated at \$2 million/year once fully implemented. In the first three years, the fund has collected \$5 million to be directed at capacity expansion projects.

## COMPREHENSIVE PROJECT PLANNING

In 2021, Lynnwood PRCA was awarded a grant from the National Recreation & Park Association (NRPA) to develop a comprehensive capital project. Lynnwood was one of six communities nationwide to create a plan dedicated to advancing community-driven, systems-level strategies for equitable park access that improves the environmental resilience and health of communities. Our project, the ParksLove Project, will serve to create a comprehensive project plan which includes community input, cost estimating, indexing, and prioritization to direct future park system improvements equitably

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## 2016-2025 CAPITAL FACILITIES PLAN

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## Map 17: Proposed Parkland Acquisition Target Areas

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## Map 18: Proposed Recreational Trails & Bike Routes

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FUTURE FORWARD



*“Provide 55+ ‘playgrounds’ fitness equipment outside.”*

*“We need a big climbing net structure like they have at Seattle Center.”*



*“Need bike routes near every school.”*

*“Have the website show park features (i.e. trails, shelters).”*

# IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES 7

The community-based goals and objectives that guided the identification of proposed policies and projects for future park and recreation service delivery for Lynnwood will require significant resources for successful implementation. The Capital Facilities Plan summarizes the estimated costs and proposed timing for individual projects. During the development of this PARC Plan, the assessment of current and future needs translated into additional system-wide strategies and CFP projects. The provision of park and recreation service will trigger the need for funding beyond current allocations and for additional operations and maintenance responsibilities. Given that the operating and capital budgets of the PRCA Department are limited, additional resources will be needed to leverage, supplement and support the implementation of proposed policies, programs and projects. The following highlights potential strategies to facilitate near-term direction on implementation of this Plan and as a means to continue dialogue between the City, its residents and its partners.

## PROJECT-LEVEL OPTIONS

### Partner Coordination & Collaboration

Specific projects and goals identified in this Plan demand a high degree of coordination and collaboration with other City departments and outside agencies.

Across departments, a number of planning efforts involve parks and recreation elements and will require close collaboration to ensure efficiency and effective implementation. The coordination for the City Center development, new transportation connections and infrastructure support for a healthy, walkable community involve parks, trails and open space elements. Internal coordination with the Public Works and Community Development departments can increase the potential of discrete actions toward the implementation of the proposed trail and bikeway network, which relies heavily on street right-of-way enhancements, and in review of development applications with consideration toward potential parkland acquisition areas, planned trail corridors and the need for easement or set-aside requests. However, to more fully expand the extent of the park system and recreation programs, additional partnerships and collaborations should be sought.

The close coordination with the Edmonds School District will advance a number of projects in which resources can be leveraged to the benefit of the community. The City should continue discussions with the Edmonds School District regarding coordinated development of the former Alderwood Middle School site, advancing policies and practices to keep school yards open for public use, and development of a new interlocal agreement for the Meadowdale Playfields.

Lynnwood should continue to explore opportunities with the Verdant Health Commission to further promote wellness activities, healthy living and communications about the benefits of parks and recreation. For example, this group could assist in the development of updated, graphic Walking Guides that highlight the health benefits of walking and include trails maps and descriptions.

Developing or strengthening these types of collaborative projects will be essential for reaching the goals of the Plan and meeting the needs of the future park system. Partnerships may allow the City to share responsibilities for the financial, acquisition, development, planning and operational activities. Partnerships, like many relationships, require time to develop and establish the mutual values that keep the partners at the table, leverage all accumulated resources and lead to successful project or program implementation.

## Volunteer & Community-based Action

Volunteers and community groups already contribute to the improvement of park and recreation services in Lynnwood. Volunteer projects range from recreation and senior program support to park-specific projects that include wildlife habitat enhancement, invasive plant removal, planting, debris removal and trail construction. The City should consider the development of an Adopt-A-Trail program where volunteers can assist with maintaining, enhancing and monitoring local trails. Lynnwood also should maintain and update a revolving list of potential small works or volunteer-appropriate projects for the website, while also reaching out to the high schools to encourage student projects. Enhancing and supporting organized groups and community-minded individuals will continue to add value to the process for improving Lynnwood and implementing its future programs and projects.

## Snohomish County Conservation Futures

The County currently assesses the maximum allowable excise of \$0.0625 per \$1,000 assessed value to fund the Conservation Futures program and provides cities a venue to access these funds through a competitive, local grant process. Lynnwood has already collaborated with the County to apply Conservation Futures funds toward the acquisition of parkland. Conservation Futures is an important source of funding to leverage local investments to secure grant and partnership funding for the conservation of park and resource lands. The City should continue to submit grant applications for support in financing the acquisition of additional natural areas along creeks to facilitate the protection of these lands and enable improved linkages to expand the trail network.



## Grants & Appropriations

State, federal and private grant programs are available on a competitive basis. Pursuing grants does not relieve the City from allocating necessary resources for park system funding, but if successful, they may help stretch those resources to leverage existing funds. Grants typically do not cover more than 50% of any project budget and require matching funds to meet or exceed the requested grant amount. Lynnwood should continue to leverage its local resources to the greatest extent by pursuing grants independently and in cooperation with other local partners.

Appropriations from state or federal sources, though rare, can supplement projects with partial funding. State and federal funding allocations are particularly relevant on regional transportation projects and could have feasibility for the Interurban Trail or Scriber Creek Trail if multiple partners are collaborating in the project.

## Parkland Donations & Dedications

Parkland donations from private individuals or conservation organizations could occur to complement the acquisition of park and open space lands across the City and the MUGA. Gift deeds or bequests from philanthropic-minded landowners could allow for lands to come into City ownership upon the death of the owner or as a tax-deductible charitable donation. Parkland dedication by a developer could occur in exchange for park impact fee credit (if Lynnwood adopts a PIF program) or as part of a planned development where public open space is a key design for the layout and marketing of a new residential project.

## Public-Private Partnerships

Public-private partnerships are becoming increasingly necessary for local agencies to leverage their limited resources in providing park and recreation services to the community. Corporate sponsorships, health organization grants, conservation stewardship programs and non-profit organizations are just a few examples of partnerships where collaboration provides value to both partners. The City has existing partners and should continue to explore additional and expanded partnerships to help implement these Plan recommendations.

## SYSTEM-WIDE OPTIONS

Although a variety of approaches exist to support individual projects or programs, the broader assessment of community needs suggests that additional, dedicated system-wide funding may be required to finance upgrades to and growth in the parks system. The inventory and assessment of the park system identified a significant backlog of deferred maintenance that must be addressed to ensure the provision of a safe, secure and accessible park system.

### Local Funding - Bonds

According to the 2019 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, Lynnwood maintains significant reserve debt capacity for councilmanic, non-voted bonds (\$30 million) and voter-approved general obligation bond debt (\$80 million). The selective use of GO bond capacity for park and recreation system enhancements should be discussed and considered in parallel with other needs for Citywide expenditures. The strategic investments in partnership with the Edmonds School District may be viable uses for bonded debt. However, such discussions warrant a review of debt implications for large capital projects, along with polling of voter support for such projects.

### Park Impact Fees

Park Impact Fees (PIF) are imposed on new development to meet the increased demand for parks resulting from the new growth. PIF can only be used for acquisition, planning, and/or development purposes. They cannot be used for operations and maintenance of parks and facilities. The City of Lynnwood currently adopted and implemented park impact fees in 2018 to support and grow its parks, open space and trails systems. The timing for a PIF program is especially opportune given the significant potential residential growth targeted for Lynnwood with the development of the City Center and regional growth center. The City should prioritize the usage of PIF to secure new community and neighborhood parks and consider the potential to match PIF with a short-term councilmanic bond (with repayment by PIF) to have the requisite capital to purchase key properties in advance of additional development pressure.

### Levy Lid Lift

A levy lid lift could be structured to maximize voter support to include parkland acquisitions and development, trail development and general park element upgrades. It could also be used to fund on-going operating expenses, expand recreation program offerings and/or offset the existing deferred maintenance deficit noted in this Plan. This will require additional effort to compile a specific funding package, along with an assessment of potential revenue, political willingness and potential voter support. A voter-approved levy lid lift will require a 60% majority of voters to approve such a measure. Based on the 2021/22 Budget and information from the Snohomish County Assessor, the City has ample taxing capacity available within its state-mandated allowable limit.

## Special District Formation

Another approach to financing park and trail acquisition and development, in addition to operational needs, is through the formation of a special district. Municipalities across Washington have favored the creation of Metropolitan Park Districts (MPD) to meet the recreational needs of residents, while also being sensitive to the set of demands placed on general purpose property tax funds.

As part of the development of this Plan, a more detailed review of the structure, governance and taxing authorities of MPDs was conducted and included an initial assessment of a City-only MPD and a City plus MUGA MPD. As a voter-approved junior taxing district, an MPD is impacted by the State's \$5.90 aggregate tax limit, so the current available tax capacities for the City and the City plus MUGA were reviewed. Within Lynnwood, the available capacity (\$1.88) is greater than the total allowable MPD levy amount (\$0.75), which leaves ample excess capacity for the City or other taxing districts to tap into for other municipal needs. This is important since an MPD is one of the first taxing districts to have its levy amount reduced (or prorated) in the event the aggregate tax rate exceeds the \$5.90 limit. This may make an MPD's tax revenue potential more uncertain, especially if other taxing districts are competing for voter approval. Revenue stability aside, a City-only MPD can generate up to \$3.5 million annually, based on the current assessed valuation and the maximum allowable rate (\$0.75). If an MPD is of interest, the City would need to strategize what elements of their parks, trails, open space and recreation system would be part of the MPD's governance and finance responsibilities and address how the potential \$3.5 million in MPD funding can cover the costs of future City Center parks maintenance, along with other needed park capital projects, and deferred maintenance (nearly \$3 million), among others.

If the MPD were enlarged to encompass the MUGA, other challenges would surface. The current available tax capacity (\$0.72) is less than an MPD's allowable taxing authority, and the MPD might utilize all of the remaining capacity within the MUGA and directly impact the potential for other taxing districts to pursue voter-approved funding. Separately, the establishment of an MPD that crosses municipal boundaries requires that all affected municipalities authorize the ballot measure for their respective constituents. In this case, Lynnwood City Council and Snohomish County would need to separately refer the measure to voters. Depending upon the political ties between the City and the County and the implications to the County regarding future taxing capacity, it may prove difficult to secure the County Council's approval for an MPD that includes the MUGA.

Appendix J includes a more detailed discussion of MPD requirements and options for Lynnwood to consider.

## Other Funding Tools

Appendix K identifies other implementation tools, such as grants and acquisition tactics, that the City could utilize to further the implementation of the projects noted in the CFP.

## ENHANCING COMMUNICATIONS & OUTREACH

Many of the Plan recommendations will require the continued execution of effective communications and outreach. Promoting the City's park, recreation and trail system will require broader marketing and outreach that entails a combination of better signage, more public news coverage, enhanced wayfinding, enhanced user maps and information, expanded use of engaging social media, and intuitive website/online resources.

To enhance residents' awareness of Lynnwood's park and recreation offerings, the City should:

- Frame its services around the goals of health, fitness, activity and safety.
- Provide enhanced maps of parks and trails that are visually appealing and translatable to mobile devices.
- Provide wayfinding signage within the park and trail system to direct residents and visitors to the City's parks and facilities.
- Continue to improve the City's website and social media presence to promote events, recreational and education programs, and volunteer activities.
- Continue to coordinate with web-based mapping applications, such as Google Maps, to ensure park names and locations are shown correctly on these often used sites.

In addition, the City should act as the local hub for information about recreation, programs, events and activities in the community. This may include providing print and web-based information about the benefits of active lifestyles and available recreation resources, but it may also include information about high school sports and other general fitness or health information.



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