

# Lynnwood Parks, Recreation & Cultural Arts Department

## 2017/2018 Biennium Report



**LYNNWOOD**  
WASHINGTON

*A great deal more*

# Acknowledgments

## **City Council**

Benjamin Goodwin,  
*Council President*  
Christine Frizzell,  
*Council Vice President*  
Ian Cotton  
George Hurst  
Ruth Ross  
Shannon Sessions  
Shirley Sutton

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Paul Rosser  
Loren Simmonds  
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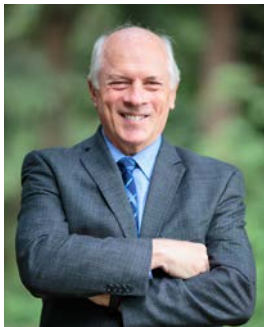
*Advisory Board members who served in 2017 & 2018*

## Director's Message

The Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts Department provides a gateway to a healthy, prosperous and connected community. On any given day, someone is being positively impacted through the menu of services we provide. It could be as simple as taking a walk through one of beautiful parks or trails, engaging in a class at one of our facilities, participating in a sports league or just receiving the benefits of breathing clean air in our parks. In 2017-18, we achieved some great successes and we are pleased to share some of our accomplishments through this report.

Our Department understands parks are crucial in the role of preserving natural resources, protecting open spaces and connecting our community. We are partners in combating obesity, physical inactivity and unhealthy habits. We are a fun-filled prescription for health and well-being. And, we provide opportunities to connect with your neighbors and make new friends.

Most importantly, our professional staff works hard every day to ensure all members of our community have access to programs, facilities, places and spaces that make our citizens' lives and our community great. We are honored to work in a City that cares so much about its parks, culture and recreation. The tremendous support provided through your voices, partnerships, and volunteerism is a true testament to the caring community we all share. Thank you, Lynnwood!



Sincerely,

*Lynn D. Sordel, Director*

# 2017/2018 Highlights & Accomplishments

*ADMINISTRATION*

*HEALTHY COMMUNITIES*

*PARK OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE*

*RECREATION*

*GOLF*

# Administration

- Earned over \$11 million in total department revenue from all sources, including more than \$6.5 million from Recreation programs and services
- Awarded \$675,000 in grant funding from WSDOT for Scriber Creek Trail Redevelopment design
- Adopted and implemented a comprehensive Park Impact Fee Rate Study and fee ordinance (Ordinance 3288)
- Adopted the City Center Parks Master Plan Update (Resolution 2018-08)
- Adopted the Interurban Trail Improvement Master Plan (Resolution 2018-10)
- Completed the renovation of the Meadowdale Playfields, a \$5.64 million project with \$2.55 million in grant funding
- Partnered with the Parks & Recreation Foundation's Par4Kids Golf Tournament generating contributions of over \$17,000 for the Recreation Benefit Fund
- Partnered with the Parks & Recreation Foundation to receive \$500,000 from the Elizabeth Ruth Wallace Live Trust
- Completed a 25-year extension of the Interurban Recreational Trail Easement with Snohomish County PUD
- Executed a new lease agreement with the Northwest Veterans Museum to open a new museum in the Wickers Building at Heritage Park
- Hosted annual Arbor Day celebrations and received the City's 18th & 19th annual Tree City USA awards with 279 trees planted



## Healthy Communities

- Hosted 39 individual events in 2018 reaching nearly 22,000 residents and event-goers with more than 675 volunteer hours contributed and generating \$17,840 in sponsorships and donations
- Partnered with Oye' Media to produce the annual Afro-Latino Festival (2017, 2018), NAACP to host Ubuntu (2017, 2018), and Leadership Snohomish County's STEP Up (2017, 2018)
- Partnered with the Edmonds School Foundation to host a Summer Meals free lunch and activity site at South Lynnwood Park serving 961 meals (2018)
- Awarded \$22,422 in grants to support arts and culture programming
- Granted \$3,200 for 7 Love Your Block neighborhood mini-grants with a total community investment of \$7,300 and 128 volunteer hours
- Hosted Artist-in-Residence program at Cedar Valley Community School (2017, 2018)
- Earned annual AWC WellCity Award for 2017 saving the City more than \$115,000 in medical premiums
- Hosted the 1st annual EGGS-plore egg hunt and Auction supporting artists and local non-profit service providers (2018)
- Hosted 2nd and 3rd annual Fair on 44th Block Parties serving over 8,000 attendees, featuring 130 vendors/partners, fitting and distributing 400 bike helmets, and showcasing the City's service departments
- Completed 6 signal wrap projects throughout the City featuring the City's history, art, and local heritage
- Launched DiscoverLynnwood.com interactive online map featuring arts and history points of interest (2017)
- Filled the Outreach & Event Coordinator 1-FTE Position (2018)



# Park Operations & Maintenance

- Maintained 389 acres of improved parks, athletic fields, trails, open space, buildings and equipment
- Adopted update to Chapter 10 LMC Park Rules (Ordinance 3249)
- Supported City's community service program in partnership with the Police Department and Court to put community service workers to work in parks in lieu of incarceration providing 2,626 labor hours
- Coordinated 25 volunteer service projects with community groups such as local Boy & Girl Scout Troops including the construction of a kiosk at the Lynndale off-leash dog area, a blueberry planting at the 40th Ave Plaza and invasive plant removal projects at both Scriber Lake and South Lynnwood Neighborhood Parks
- Capital Facility Projects Completed:
  - Lynndale Park playground replacement (2017)
  - Meadowdale Park picnic shelter addition and parking lot expansion (2017)
  - Lynndale Park off-leash dog area (2017)
  - Meadowdale Playfields renovation (2018)
  - Scriber Lake post and rail fence replacement (2018)
  - Scriber Lake domestic water line replacement project (2018)
  - Heritage Park playground addition site prep and walkways (2018)
  - Began planning and installation of the Interurban Trail 40th ST Pavilion project
  - ADA parking lot improvements and restriping as identified in the City of Lynnwood ADA Facility Report
  - \$83,000 deferred maintenance and ADA improvements as identified in the 2016-2025 PARC Plan

# Recreation

- Online registrations increased 16% to 13,750 transactions
- Registration revenue increased 12% for the biennium, a net increase of \$2,826,042
- LSC added Saturday operating hours and increased visits by over 1,500 (2018)
- LSC volunteers donated 15,531 hours
- Over 2,556 people trained in lifesaving techniques
- 200 Golden Tickets offered to lifeguard employment candidates
- Preschool Kids Klub restructured to include Kids Klub Pre-K (4-5 years) and Ready, Set, Learn (3-4 years) and added capacity
- Increased program offerings including out-of-school break camps and additional NightWaves sessions for middle school students
- Expanded programming offered at renovated Meadowdale Playfields including softball, soccer, lacrosse, youth camps, and a record 39 tournaments (2018)
- Continued the implementation of cost recovery strategies and the identification of new revenue sources for the Recreation Division
- Initiated an open gym program for high school students at Cedar Valley Community School
- Renewed grants with Verdant Health Commission for Move 60! Teens and 3rd grade swim voucher (775 vouchers redeemed)
- More than 60,000 registrations processed
- 9,652 10-Visit Passes and 1,231 Annual Passes sold
- 6,265 total facility rentals for parks, rooms, and pool
- 195,407 point-of-sale purchases including:
  - 70,648 youth visits
  - 3,544 summer camp participants
  - 3,608 pairs of goggles



# Golf

In 2017–2018, The Lynnwood Municipal Golf Course continued its trend of being profitable and very popular with local golfers. In 2017, the expansion of the parking lot was completed which added nearly 50 new spaces. Favorable weather helped the course generate record breaking food and beverage revenues, while overall the course outperformed the Seattle market which was down 4.8% for the year. In total, golf rounds and total revenues finished the year equal to or better than the average of all other Premier managed courses (13 total) against 2016.

In 2018, the course continued to produce strong earnings and achieved record high revenues in every department. The increased performance and earnings were realized due to the new parking lot expansion and some great golf weather. Playing conditions were also greatly improved and the course is now on track for greater success.

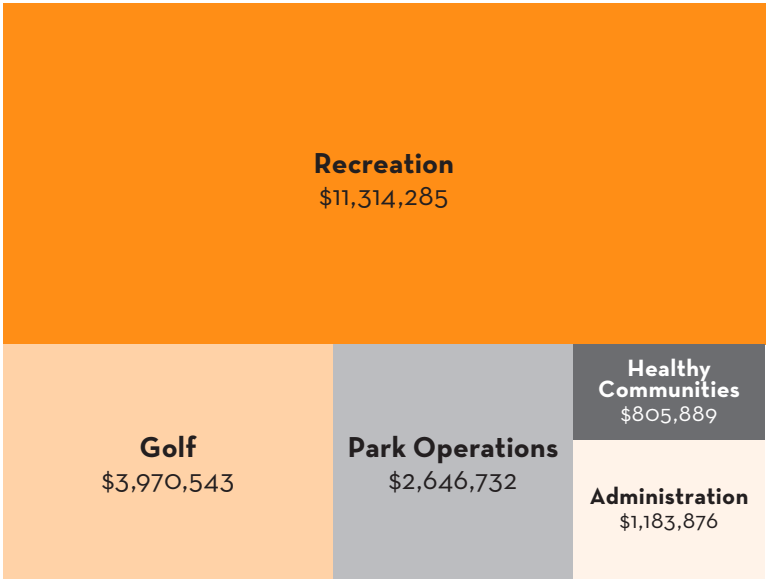
## *Highlights:*

- Completed the construction of the golf course parking lot (2017)
- Execution of a new 25-year land lease with Edmonds Community College (2017)
- Premier Golf continued management of course resulting in 40,203 rounds played (2017) and 45,596 rounds played (2018)



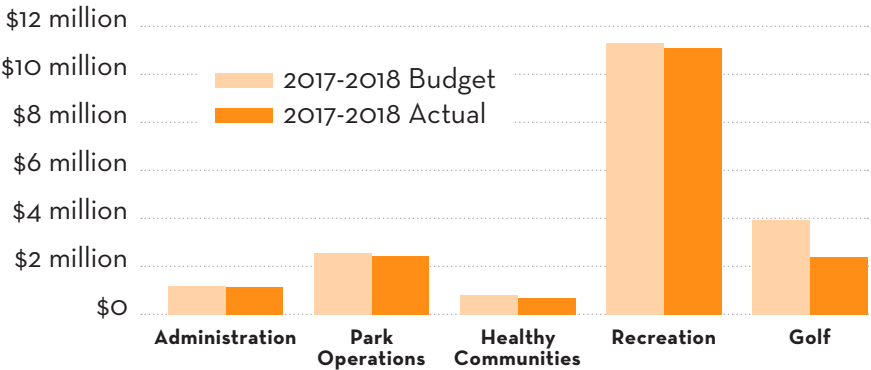
# Financial Report

## 2017/2018 Budget



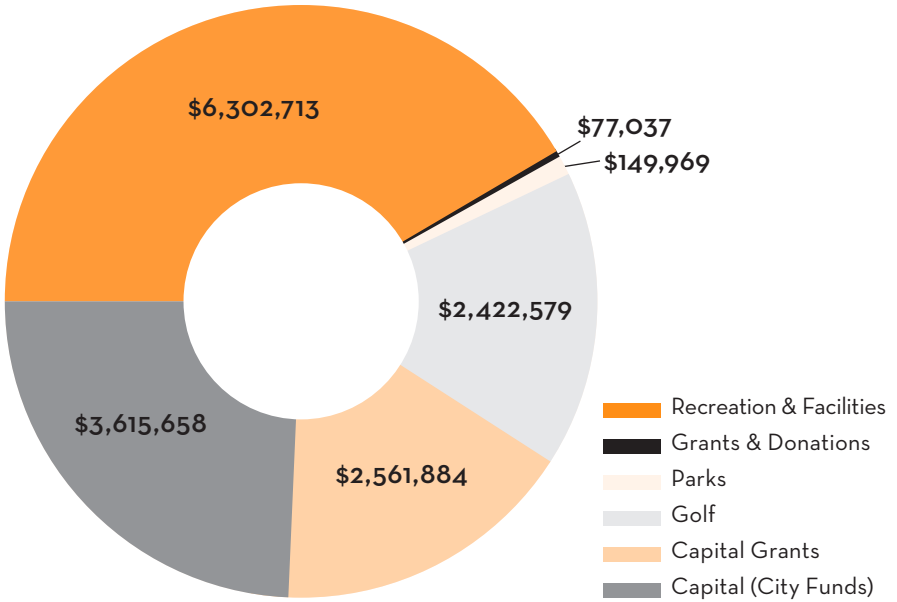
**TOTAL BUDGET: \$19,921,325**

## Expense Budget vs. Actual



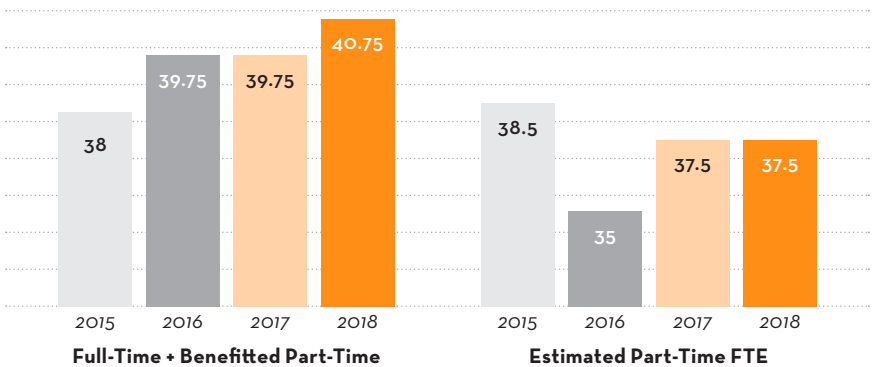
**TOTAL ACTUAL: \$17,644,234**

## 2017/2018 Revenues



**TOTAL: \$15,129,840**

## Staffing Levels 2015-2018



# PARC Plan Goals in Action



*Fostering a healthy, active community*



*Creating great parks & spaces*



*Ensuring sound management*



*Preparing for the future*



*Encouraging connectedness*

## Lynnwood's Strategic Priorities



*Fulfill the community vision for the  
City Center and Lynnwood Link light rail*



*Ensure financial stability and economic success*



*Nurture operational and  
organizational excellence*



*Be a safe, welcoming, and livable city*



*Pursue and maintain collaborative  
relationships and partnerships*

# Welcoming & Inclusive Senior Center

5

3

4

Lynnwood's Senior Center plays a vital role in supporting, connecting and providing an inclusive place for all aging adults. Research shows that a sense of social connection and belonging is strongly correlated to positive mental and physical health. Mary-Anne Grafton, Senior Center Supervisor, shares, "one of the main goals that I strive to achieve is creating an inclusive and welcoming center where anyone at any age and background can come and enjoy their time at the Center." Picking up the program guide, *The Messenger*, is a testament to the diverse programming and offerings that LSC provides for all whether attending a LGBTQ+ Film Festival and potluck, taking a class taught in Korean language or simply offering keyboards in other languages—LSC is a place of inclusivity. Mary-Anne takes pride in having diversity in the Center because it is an accurate reflection of the community of Lynnwood in which the Senior Center serves.

A recent visitor shared her first-time visit story:

*I first came to the senior center, I actually forced myself to do it some months after my husband passed. I was hibernating and knew it; just had to do something. Had been driving past the Center on 44th for years and decided it was time to stop. So grateful I did. Over the years I have met so many wonderful people who have become a support system and gone on so many wonderful trips (too many to mention). Concerts, plays, art exhibits and one-of-a-kind adventures; who knew a 70 year-old could zip line?!!! The English Tea is also a great favorite. And all the classes that are available—flower arranging, computers, health & wellness, card games, etc.—all invaluable. Truly can't thank you and all the Center staff for the continuing care and support.*



There is no age requirement to join LSC. Check out all of our fun trips, tours, classes, and activities online.





# Developing Lynnwood's Youth

Each year, the Recreation Center employs nearly 250 part-time staff as lifeguards, swim instructors, camp counselors, fitness instructors and cashiers. This cadre of staff are mostly teens, college students and young adults. Recruiting, hiring, and training is a constant cycle where sometimes it feels like the business we're in is professional development.

Kelly Schudde, the Recreation Supervisor, says that when interviewing potential employees, she likes to give "off the wall questions" that are sometimes unexpected, to see how people will react in hard to handle situations. Whether they're hiring for lifeguards or camp counselors, they look for personality in all positions. The reason for this, Kelly says, is that, "you can teach skills, but you can't change someone's personality or attitude." Kelly also likes to make sure that once a person is hired on at the Recreation Center, they are constantly setting new goals and striving for improvement. Not to mention, they hold regular team meetings to stay up-to-date with trainings and to make sure everyone is on the same page.



Staff development is something that is given great attention, because every day the employees at the Recreation Center are working hard to build a cohesive team that supports one another. “We all want the best for the program” Kelly says, and from that, there is a mutual sense of support and camaraderie that happens here.

Sitting on the bleachers looking out at the lap swimmers, Assistant Aquatic Supervisor Meagan Viken smiles as she thinks about the personal success that one of the staff members had while working as a lifeguard. “He had just moved to the United States by himself and he didn’t know anyone. He struggled in public school and his therapist suggested that he get involved in a community, which is what led him here. When he first came in for an interview, he was shy and barely spoke. Meeting him now, you would never suspect he was once this way. He “has found a sense of belonging” and has made friendships and connections that encouraged him to continue his role as a lifeguard each time he comes back to the states.”

When Assistant Aquatic Supervisor Chris Klontz was asked why he thinks people like working here, he replied, “I really think it has a lot to do with the family culture we have here.” Chris has been a part of many success stories that have come from working here. We are “about encouragement and building people up,” and in an environment like this, it gives people the opportunity to succeed. From going through the hiring process, to helping staff members find their niche, Chris helps employees with every step of their journey, making sure they find success here.

If you know a teen or young adult with the “right stuff,” the Recreation Center offers Golden Tickets for lifeguard candidates and is always on the hunt for new staff that will help run programs in service to Lynnwood. The Golden Ticket Program is a staff recruitment tool designed to decrease the financial barrier of getting certified as a lifeguard. If a prospective employee is willing to commit to working for six months in a shift that needs filling, the Aquatics Program will issue a “Golden Ticket” to cover the cost of a lifeguard class for that person.

# From Novice to Lifeguard of the Year!



It's not very often that someone wants to be a lifeguard when they don't know how to swim themselves. But this was the case for Audrey, who came to the Recreation Center with a friend and immediately loved the atmosphere. She knew she wanted to get involved, but didn't know where to start. With help from the Aquatics staff and her friend, Audrey started to practice swimming, eventually becoming comfortable in the water and wanting to take it a step further. She was able to pursue her dream as a recipient of the Golden Ticket Lifeguard award, which waives the cost of the program fee to get a lifeguard certification. After many hours spent in the pool, Audrey passed the Lifeguarding course and joined the Aquatics

team. She has excelled in every aspect of working at the pool, having become a fitness instructor and a swim instructor, in addition to her lifeguard duties. She is a natural leader and is proactive in ensuring that people are always safe in the pool.



The Aquatics leadership team was really impressed at how quickly Audrey was able to learn and become a favorite amongst her peers. At the end of her first year working, she was nominated for and awarded Lifeguard of the Year! Audrey has now become a Lifeguard instructor, shaping the next generation of lifeguards. She also teaches CPR and First Aid classes.

Audrey positively influences not only her co-workers, but her community. She is proof that with the right attitude and the right people around you, you can achieve anything you put your mind to! Audrey's success story also reflects the level of camaraderie and togetherness there is at the pool. Amy Collins, an Assistant Recreation Supervisor at the pool, describes their team as a family. "We are always practicing together and working together. And at the end of the day we all know that we hold each other to the same high standards to provide the best service for our community!"



# Young Scouts Offer a Great Deal More



Though they may sometimes be young, small and few, Scouts are some of the City's hardest working volunteers. We could not maintain our parks, trails and open spaces without the dedication of our volunteers—especially local Boy Scout and Girl Scout Troops. Collectively, scouts have put in countless hours enhancing our park system by taking on planning, procurement and installation of various park projects.

In 2017–2018, Scouts completed resurfacing projects of trails and pathways improving access for all, landscaping projects and plantings, and construction projects. A Silver Award Girl Scout project included the planting of edibles and trees at the new Interurban Trail 40th Plaza. Parks Superintendent Eric Peterson had the privilege of working closely with three Eagle Scout candidates to resurface the Golf Course Trail with 150 yards of gravel, replace the old wood parking stops at Lynndale Park by constructing and installing new parking bollards, and replace the Daleway Park horseshoe pits and planter boxes.

Providing opportunities to refurbish and enhance park facilities is a win for the community, but they also provide incredible, hands-on, real-world, leadership experience for teens. The youth involved in these projects are our future leaders and lead by example with their dedication to volunteering and giving back to one's own community.



# It's an Eggspllosion of Art

## *How does one hatch “creativity”?*

By inviting people to make some fun stuff—and showing it off to everyone. Lots of creative people live in Lynnwood which we found that when we held a “LOVE Lynnwood” T-shirt design contest in 2018. Local artist Allan Carandang’s design was chosen from over 40 entries and went into production with 500 Lynnwood NW shirts printed and sold. The winning design was also featured on stickers, social media and even used for a Police Department challenge coin.

With 65 traffic lights all over the City, Lynnwood has many metal signal control boxes that are like blank canvases which now serve as inspiration for the City’s newest public art program, Signal Box Art. The idea is to create fun, unique, beautiful, and colorful designs for each box, and let

the image tell a story about Lynnwood. The stories each box tell may be about that location’s history, neighbors, or point of interest in the themes of arts, heritage, and healthy living. For example, 60 students from Cedar Valley School created “pop art” designs of everyday things. Their box is at Wilcox Park near their school. Our latest installations were the Sister City box on Highway 99 inspired by old growth trees native to Washington and bamboo trees native to South Korea and the historical fire box at 212th Street SW.





Now to the more serious project, EGGS-plore Lynnwood; get 30 artists to design 30 eggs and put them at various nonprofits and businesses throughout the city for a giant EGG Hunt. Why EGGS? Fun fact: Lynnwood was the nation’s second largest egg producing region in the 1920s and has a rich farming history that many people now don’t know about. After the egg hunt, we gather the eggs to exhibit at City Hall and throw a party. At the event, we host a silent auction with proceeds donated to local nonprofits. In 2018, \$1,900 was donated to the Lynnwood Food Bank and Neighbors in Need.

Looking to the future, we continue to invite local creatives to show at our galleries, to lay more art EGGS, and to create Love Lynnwood projects.

The Arts Commission’s newest event supporting art projects in Lynnwood is “The Art of Food & Wine.” This fun and very popular event will return February 8, 2020 to the Lynnwood Convention Center.

Arts programming is made possible through grants, donations and the support of the Lynnwood Parks and Recreation Foundation.



*the art of*  
**FOOD & WINE**



# Swing, Hit, Run... Playfields Score a Win



When opportunities arise to reinvest in existing facilities with community support, you jump! The City of Lynnwood, City of Edmonds, Edmonds School District, and Snohomish County all prioritize youth and families and their need for access to better athletic facilities. Collectively these agencies financially supported the much-needed improvements at the Meadowdale Playfields which were in sore need of refreshing. Where



*Photo courtesy of Realskypics*

there were once rarely used sand and dirt fields, there are now three softball fields and two multipurpose fields that are the place to play in South Snohomish County! The new synthetic turf is durable and sustainable creating opportunities for year-round play for all types of sports enthusiasts. Today, you will find Meadowdale Playfields bursting with activity hosting soccer, lacrosse, softball and many other sports on the new fields.

Robust tournament play brings an economic benefit to the surrounding businesses within the community. “Before these fields were renovated, we had nothing to offer,” said Travis Hutchins, Athletic Coordinator. “But now we have people who come far and wide to use our top-of-the-line

facilities.” The jump paid off and we now have a community asset that creates a place to support a healthy, active lifestyle.

The Playfields are utilized for programed athletic activities, tournaments, and are available for rent by residents and community groups. For more information, visit [playlynnwood.com](http://playlynnwood.com).



# Parking Drives Rounds



A parking lot expansion in 2017 kicked off a record-breaking trend resulting in a total of 45,596 rounds played in 2018 at the Lynnwood Golf Course.

The Lynnwood Golf Course achieved record high revenue in every category during 2018 reaching nearly \$1.3 million in total revenue for the year. Green Fee revenue hit nearly \$970,000 and food & beverage revenue exceeded



\$106,000, which puts it at the fourth consecutive record-breaking year during the time Premier has managed the course!

The mobile app for Lynnwood Golf Course continued to be a key marketing advantage in 2018 with 2,006 active users. Being able to track push notifications was crucial, and we brought in an estimated \$54,363 in revenue as a direct result of those push offers sent to the Lynnwood Golf Course customers.

July welcomes the Lynnwood Golf Course's biggest tournament of the year put on by the Lynnwood Parks & Recreation Foundation and Lynnwood Rotary, raising funds for "Par 4 Kids." The tournament helps raise money for scholarships for low income kids who cannot otherwise afford to participate in recreation programs. Last year's event was the largest ever with 82 participants.

Looking to the future, we plan on designing a hitting area for lessons and warm up to improve the customer experience, adding restrooms, and upgrading paths and bunkers on the course. We hope to continue breaking records in the coming years!



# Partnering for a Safer Lynnwood



Safe and secure parks are one of our Department's core values. Creating safe, welcoming parks where people visit regularly are easier to maintain. Through collaboration, utilizing different strategies, and working closely with the Police Department, we prioritize safe parks. We do this by actively working together and sharing and talking about issues that arise no matter how small or seemingly inconsequential. Community Health & Safety Sergeant Cole Langdon says, "Our parks are sacred gathering places where many community members come together in a safe and welcoming environment. Anything that could detract from making these areas safe and welcoming is likely to catch the attention of the Police Department with our proactive, community policing approach."

One strategy is the Park Patrol Program partnership with Police cadets who visit each park before dusk looking for and reporting any maintenance needs and advise users of any rule violations. The reports provided by cadets help us to quickly respond to maintenance needs, such as vandalism and graffiti taking place in the evening. Our ongoing partnership with LPD promotes safe and secure parks for all users. We know the most important way to create safe parks is to ensure a steady and abundant supply of visitors. Park Superintendent Eric Peterson shares that his team can be more effective at keeping parks clean and well-maintained with this added

public safety support. Having plenty of people around to observe what happens helps to prevent crime and undesirable behaviors of all types. Which means you, as a park user, are a collaborator and for that, we thank you!



# Food Access Gets a Boost



In 2014, the Foundation for the Edmonds School District, in partnership with the Edmonds School District, launched the Nourishing Network program because children were going hungry. A cornerstone program of the Nourishing Network is the Summer Meals Program which provides summer meals to youth of the Edmonds School District. As the needs of our community grew, so too did the need to expand the summer meals program. In 2018, the City of Lynnwood, in partnership with the Foundation, hosted the first ever summer meals site at a park—South Lynnwood Park. As the third program site within Lynnwood, it was a tremendous success. Healthy food along with organized physical activities and time for free play proved to be a model that hundreds of kids would benefit from on a weekly basis. Marielle Harrington, Healthy Communities Coordinator, believes “the summer meal program directly supports Lynnwood’s emphasis on park activation where we are developing programming in our parks to support our residents’ physical activity and healthy lifestyle.”

In total, 1,033 summer meals were served and 1,243 kids participated in organized physical activities at South Lynnwood Park which became the most popular Summer Meals site. Foundation Executive Director Deb Brandi remarked on the partnership with Lynnwood saying, “We can only meet the growing needs of our community when we partner with organizations that have existing resources to address these basic needs. It’s simply a win-win.”

The Nourishing Network is one of our Fair on 44th Health & Safety Partners and conducts food drives throughout the year in our community to meet the needs of over 650 housing insecure students.





# Partnerships Boost Park Planning

## *South Lynnwood Park*

A make-over is coming to South Lynnwood Park which looks the same today as it did when it was developed forty years ago. This 4-acre neighborhood park features a large lawn, sport courts, playground, walking paths and natural area. Its position along the Interurban Trail provides a unique connection for walkers and cyclists in the South Lynnwood neighborhood, which is Lynnwood's most diverse and underserved in the city. However, its 1970s architecture doesn't meet the needs of our current residents and visitors with an inaccessible playground curb perimeter, small sidewalks, and lack of seating and picnic facilities.



So, when the City was approached by The Trust for Public Land (TPL) to improve the park's playground and health opportunities at the park, we jumped at the chance to give the park a much-

needed update. Using a grant from Kaiser Permanente, TPL and the City set out to conduct outreach in the neighborhood to gauge interest in the project and learn from users what they wanted to see change at the park. School visits, classroom design meetings, and open houses at the park resulted in hundreds of ideas for the park. The overwhelming desire for the park is for it to be nature-themed, fun, and bring people together. When we asked Cary Simmons, Parks for People Program Manager at The Trust for Public Land, what the main goal of this park improvement is, his response was simply, "for a better community." TPL's main goal is to improve the quality of life and make sure everyone has equal access to these play spaces.

With the support of TPL and our extensive outreach to the neighborhood, the City was successfully awarded \$1.3 million in State grants for the project. With this funding, the park renovation will be designed in 2019 and renovated in 2020.



[www.lynnwoodwa.gov/City-Services/Engineering-Services/Public-Projects-and-Programs/Parks-and-Trails/South-Lynnwood-Park-Renovation.htm](http://www.lynnwoodwa.gov/City-Services/Engineering-Services/Public-Projects-and-Programs/Parks-and-Trails/South-Lynnwood-Park-Renovation.htm)

## Interurban Trail

With the anticipation of the last missing piece of the Trail to be completed in 2018, City staff began a planning study on how to make other improvements along the Trail to enhance its use through new features and placemaking. To assist with the planning, research, and outreach, HBB Landscape Architecture, led by Parks & Recreation Board member and landscape architect, Monica Thompson, donated their services to create an Interurban Trail Improvements Master Plan. This new Master Plan, informed by trail users, was adopted by the City Council in 2018 with the first improvement project, the 40th Ave Plaza, initiated. Again, with support of HBB, a new plaza featuring seating, fitness station, water station, bicycle, service station, public art, kiosk, and blueberry garden was designed. Construction of the new plaza began in the summer of 2018 in conjunction with a City sewer project through the same location which allowed for access to bring in a water connection and concrete surfacing of the disturbed area.



Additional improvements will be planned along the corridor such as improving the damaged segment of trail in the northern segment, adding trailhead features, and more fitness stations. Along with these capital projects, we also began our Adopt-A-Trail program which will be a partnership with businesses along the trail to perform service projects, tree plantings, beautification projects, and general care of the trail such as trash pick-up. Having business partners join us in caring for this important regional trail will help ensure that the trail becomes a beautiful amenity for residents that is fun and safe to use.



# History in the Making

Even though Cheri Ryan currently lives in unincorporated Snohomish County with a Bothell address, she still considers herself an “Alderwood Manor girl.” Cheri lived her entire childhood in Alderwood Manor on 36th Ave W, which is now within the City limits of Lynnwood. After growing up and becoming very fond of the area, Cheri became a member and then a volunteer with the Lynnwood-Alderwood Manor Heritage Association and Museum. She now serves as the current president of the Heritage Association and is the Chair of the City’s History and Heritage Board. In both roles, Cheri has a deep commitment to sharing the rich histories of Alderwood Manor, Lynnwood, and Heritage Park.

According to Cheri, “Heritage Park is an unknown jewel in the City of Lynnwood. Each day that I volunteer at the Superintendent’s Cottage (*photo below*), I meet people young and old, with a story; a story that often is different from mine. This makes the world a much smaller place. Because

the City of Lynnwood has only been a City for 60 years, it is nice to share the history that brought the City to life especially it is currently changing at a rapid pace. Many people think that Lynnwood doesn’t really have history, so it is fun and rewarding to share our stories whether



it is with somebody for 5 minutes or an hour. As a volunteer, I am part of a group of people that are keeping the history alive so it will be available for generations to come. The Lynnwood of today is much different than it was 60 years ago and it will be even more different 60 years from now.”



# The Big Gift



Aunt Bette must really love Lynnwood. In 2018, the Elizabeth Ruth Wallace (Aunt Bette) Living Trust donated \$500,000 to the Lynnwood Parks and Recreation Foundation, the largest gift received in its 13-year history.

Aunt Bette's niece, Cheri Ryan, one of the Living Trust's trustees, tells us that Aunt Bette grew up and made fond memories in Alderwood Manor, and wanted to make gifts to places that are dear to her heart.

The Big Gift made a spark that ignited some new capital projects—and restarted some old projects. The gift has kickstarted the Water Tower's renovation by being leveraged to secure both a County and State Heritage grant. The Water Tower was moved to Heritage Park from its original location in Alderwood Manor in 2003 awaiting to be restored to its former glory. Aunt



Bette's gift also made possible the installation of a new playground at Heritage Park equipped with tall slide, rock climb and a chicken spring rocker which recalls the area's many chicken farms from a hundred years ago. Four generations of the Stadler family gathered to celebrate the dedication of the new playground (*pictured above*).

Another fun project that is underway is the "LOVE Lynnwood" sculpture to be located at the Lynnwood Convention Center once installed. The gift will also make grants to schools to help them bring field trips to Heritage Park for Edmonds School Districts students.

Aunt Bette, your legacy lives on.

*Thank You!*



# Here a woof, there a roof, everywhere a new improve



We completed several capital improvements that continue to impact our bottom-line operations. These new additions require extra resources to maintain and upkeep, but the impact they have on the community makes it worthwhile. For the park user, these improvements add to the park experience and offer many new recreational opportunities.

***Lynnndale Park Off Leash Dog Area:*** The first dog park in our system includes a doggie fitness court, hydration station, bike rack, tables and benches, and parking lot. The off-leash area can be accessed from Olympic View Drive and is open dawn to dusk.

***Interurban Trail 212th St Connection:*** This project completed the last “missing” piece of the trail corridor in Lynnwood. The new segment from 212th St SW finishes the trail and makes a direct connection for users who no longer have to divert onto side streets.



***Meadowdale Park Improvements:*** In 2017, we added a picnic shelter which has become the most popular in the entire system as well as an expanded parking lot adding 18 new parking spaces.

***Meadowdale Playfields Renovation:*** In 2018, we reopened the once disused five athletic fields to at least a 75% user increase serving youth, teens and adults in a variety of sport activities. This project also improved the pedestrian pathways along the fields enhancing walkability at the park.

We hope you enjoy these new features in your neighborhood parks and get out and Play Lynnwood!



# Fair on 44th—Let's Party



Ladder trucks, bicycles, sirens, backhoes, art and more! The Fair on 44th is the City of Lynnwood's wildly successful Community Health and Safety Block Party with a flair for bubble trucks, vactors, rock climbing and food trucks.

On one Saturday each September we close the street, roll up our sleeves and showcase all that the City does to help the City run and support its residents. From emergency response to snow removal to youth programming, City departments come out to engage with the residents they serve. What started out in 2012 as a small event has continued to grow as we welcome partners and agencies who help to support the community with focus of health and safety. More than 4,000 kids, adults and families walk through the event, stopping at booths that catch their eye to engage and learn. There really is something for everyone! Misty Burke, Events & Outreach Coordinator, says, "The Fair has a different feel than other events." She likes that it is a free community outing where people can walk away with more than just a brochure. The Fair on 44th is the City's grand way of saying "Thank You" to its engaged community.



# A Look Ahead

We will continue to implement the PARC Plan Goals and City's Strategic Priorities with a focus on analyzing our park level of service, addressing equity, and updating our comprehensive plan. Meeting the needs of our changing community means working to improve access for all to our programs and parks, especially in these areas:

## *Keeping Parks Safe & Well Maintained*

Providing safe, welcoming, and accessible parks is core to the services we provide. Over the years and especially through the Great Recession, we lengthened the life cycle of our playgrounds and have deferred many maintenance needs in the system. The cumulative impact of this deferred maintenance systemwide was calculated at \$3 million in 2015 (PARC Plan Appendix F). With this in mind, the Council made a capital commitment to begin addressing the long list of deferred maintenance and ADA compliance projects with some of the projects highlighted in this report. This commitment is expected to be continued in the 19/20 capital budget with the goal to continue our playground replacement program on an annual cycle, upgrade pathways, and continue making ADA improvements to restroom buildings.

Despite these advances, the reality is that the demands on our park system have grown substantially—in many ways. Over the past ten years, we developed a new park, acquired 13 acres in open space, continue to maintain 2 miles of right-of-way, and have grown the overall use of our system with each improvement such as the new dog park, picnic shelter and playground updates. The net increase in labor needed to sustain these system improvements is equivalent to 4 FTE.

When the impacts of the opioid crisis and homelessness spiked three years ago, our parks operation team had to change practices around personal protection and divert many labor hours away from park maintenance to address the immediate need for hazardous clean-up, safe storage of belongings, and working with the Police Department to address criminal trespass activities. Because of the strong partnership between Parks and Police, Lynnwood's parks are safe and we are working hard to keep them that way!

## *Addressing Equity*

When the PARC Plan was developed and our community surveyed, addressing equity and park access came into focus. The Plan features a series of demographic and equity maps (PARC Plan Chapter 2) which highlight neighborhoods in Lynnwood with populations of low-income, income inequality, communities of color, or otherwise underserved communities. One neighborhood in particular stands out—South Lynnwood. Identifying where Lynnwood may have inequality was a first step in better understanding where there are unmet needs in our community. As a result, an interdepartmental team got to work offering new programs, surveying, and engaging the residents in the neighborhood. One focus has been to understand how the neighborhood park which hasn't been updated since it was developed in 1978 can better serve the residents. As a result, the City was successful in receiving a private donation and three state grants to support the renovation of the park which will be designed and constructed in 19/20.

While much of Lynnwood has great access, 24% of Lynnwood residents don't live within a ten-minute walk of a park. Working to address this inequity through planning and capital development was the basis for joining the 10-Minute Walk Campaign and receiving a planning grant from the National Recreation & Park Association. Evaluating park access will be a top priority in 2019 with the development of a Park Access Plan integrated with the City's effort to create the Connect Lynnwood: An Active & Accessible Transportation Plan which will identify ways to improve nonmotorized connections to parks, schools, services, retail, and other important destinations.

A key tool to help reduce the park gap and access problem was the implementation of Park Impact Fees which took effect in 2018. These are fees assessed on new residential and commercial construction to help pay for a portion of new park capacity projects needed to meet the needs of new residents and visitors coming to Lynnwood. The adoption of park impact fees was only made possible thanks to the generous partnership with The Trust for Public Land donating their services to conduct our rate study. Over time, park impact fees are anticipated to pay for 46% of all new park acquisition and development costs.

As staff work to make an update to the PARC Plan, another look at equity and park level-of-service will be completed. The update will look at walk access, park quality, demand on parks, park condition, and park amenities to ensure that residents' needs are being met over time.

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