



**CITY OF  
SAMMAMISH**



February 2018

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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CONSERVATION  
TECHNIX



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# 1 | INTRODUCTION

This Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan is a six-year guide and strategic plan for managing and enhancing park and recreation services in Sammamish. It establishes a path forward for providing high quality, community-driven parks, trails, open spaces and recreational opportunities.

## PURPOSE OF THE PLAN

This citywide Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan, or PRO Plan for short, is an update to the 2012 PRO Plan, builds on the recreation planning foundation provided in that plan and incorporates the diverse feedback from the extensive community engagement program conducted for this plan update. This Plan creates a vision for an innovative, inclusive and interconnected system of parks, trails and open spaces that promotes recreation, health and environmental conservation as integral elements of a thriving, livable Sammamish. The Plan will establish a path forward to guide the City's efforts to provide high-quality, community-driven parks, trails, natural areas and recreation programs across and throughout Sammamish.

Sammamish has experienced significant changes since the adoption of the 2012 PRO Plan, and this Plan update has been revised to reflect current community interests and opportunities related to a strong demand for locally-provided recreation services and to plan for an expansion of the park system in response to continued residential and commercial development in the city.

The PRO 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 or recreational facilities and programs. The PRO Plan is part of the City's broader Comprehensive Plan and is consistent with the guidelines established by the Growth Management Act (GMA). The PRO Plan must be updated every six years for Sammamish to retain eligibility for state grants through the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO), which administers a variety of outdoor recreation and conservation grant programs.

This 2018 PRO Plan considers the park and recreation needs of residents citywide. It provides updated inventories, demographic conditions, needs analysis, management considerations 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.

## **PLANNING PROCESS OVERVIEW**

This citywide Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan is a reflection of the community's interests and needs for parks, recreation programs, facilities and trails. The planning process was aimed to encourage and enable public engagement in the choices, priorities and future direction of the City's park and recreation system. The Plan project team conducted a variety of public outreach activities to solicit feedback and comments, in concert with a review of the recreation system inventory, level of service review and the current and future needs assessment.

Efforts to update the Sammamish PRO Plan began in spring 2017. Current community interests surfaced through a series of public outreach efforts that included a mail-based survey, open house meetings, stakeholder discussions, online engagement, website content and Parks and Recreation Commission meetings. An assessment of the park inventory became the basis for determining the current performance of the system. An overarching needs analysis was conducted for recreation programs and facilities, parks, trails and open space to assess current demands and project future demand to account for population growth and expanding cultural demographics.

To guide the implementation of the goals of the Plan, a Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) was developed with a set of strategies that identified costs and potential funding sources. Together, this process is represented in this planning document, which will be reviewed by the public, Parks and Recreation Commission, Planning Commission and City Council. Once adopted, the Plan can become a component of the City's Comprehensive Plan and direct park system and recreation program service delivery for the next 5 to 10 years.

## **PLAN CONTEXT: CURRENT CHALLENGES**

As with any citywide strategic planning effort, current community challenges provide a context for developing and assessing strategies for the future. The following represents an abbreviated overview of current community concerns that may affect planning for parks and recreation services and amenities in Sammamish.

## Growth & Development

The Sammamish community has witnessed tremendous growth in recent years. The population of the City has risen over 70% between 2000 and 2017, and a portion of that growth is tied to the annexation of Klahanie in 2016. With a strong uptick in new development, existing residents have voiced concern over the pace of growth and its impacts on the community, such as traffic and tree loss, among others. In response, the City has undertaken an aggressive suite of strategic planning efforts to guide its future growth.

## Open Space Preservation

Linked with the concerns about rapid residential growth, local residents have voiced interest in preserving some of the City's remaining open space. Concurrent with the development of this Plan, the City also prepared a targeted land acquisition strategy and implementation plan to guide near-term and long-term acquisition activities. The efforts toward open space preservation will focus on capturing the environmental benefits of preserving natural resources, wildlife habitat and tree canopy, in addition to accommodating new parks and trails. The 2017-2022 Parks Capital Improvement Plan, adopted by City Council in July 2016, identified land acquisition as a high priority and allocated a total of \$13 million for land acquisition over a six year period.

## Connectivity & Walkability

Much of the development on the plateau has occurred prior to Sammamish becoming a city in 1999. Prior to incorporation, local development was guided by King County land use, standards and plans. As the City continues to mature, residents are interested in safe walking routes to community destinations and improved non-motorized connectivity. Sidewalk and recreational connectivity was one of the core aspects of the Town Center Plan, and trail improvements and the relationships to complete streets, sidewalks and bike lanes have been cited in other Sammamish plans.

## Recreation Facilities & Programs

The development of the Community & Aquatic Center has been a significant boon for indoor recreation in Sammamish and has provided access to a pool, gymnasiums and fitness space. Recent conversations with community members suggest a strong interest in expanding, or having access to additional, recreation program offerings, especially for youth, teens and seniors. At the present, there is limited availability of functional indoor facilities to accommodate growth in recreation programming.

# PARKS & RECREATION SYSTEM OVERVIEW

With a rapidly growing population and a relatively high proportion of families with children, Sammamish has promoted a strong sense of identity and consistently strives to promote community pride and inclusion through a wide range of festivals, events and activities. With the development of the Community & Aquatic Center, residents have a new venue for indoor fitness through a partnership arrangement with the YMCA. The pending development of the Town Center will create a focal point in the community and bring additional amenities to the park system.

While the City is young, its residents are proud of what has been accomplished in its growing park system, but they also are interested in certain facility and program enhancements. This Plan documents those interests and provides a framework for addressing capital improvements and funding in the near-term.

## Vision

The public outreach efforts during the comprehensive park planning process provided feedback from a variety of residents regarding their vision, needs and preferences for parks and recreation opportunities. Building upon the vision statement noted in the City's Comprehensive Plan for parks, trails and open space and through the outreach efforts for this Plan, an updated vision for the future emerged:

*Sammamish's Parks and Recreation system is an integral part of our healthy and sustainable community by connecting people to nature, play and culture.*

This vision provided the foundation for the goals, objectives, recommendations and guidelines in the following chapters within this Plan.

## Department Overview

The Parks and Recreation Department is responsible for the administration, planning, marketing, managing and maintaining parks, trails, open space, programs, and facilities as well as overseeing land acquisition, grant preparation, park development, culture and arts, and park policies.

## Mission

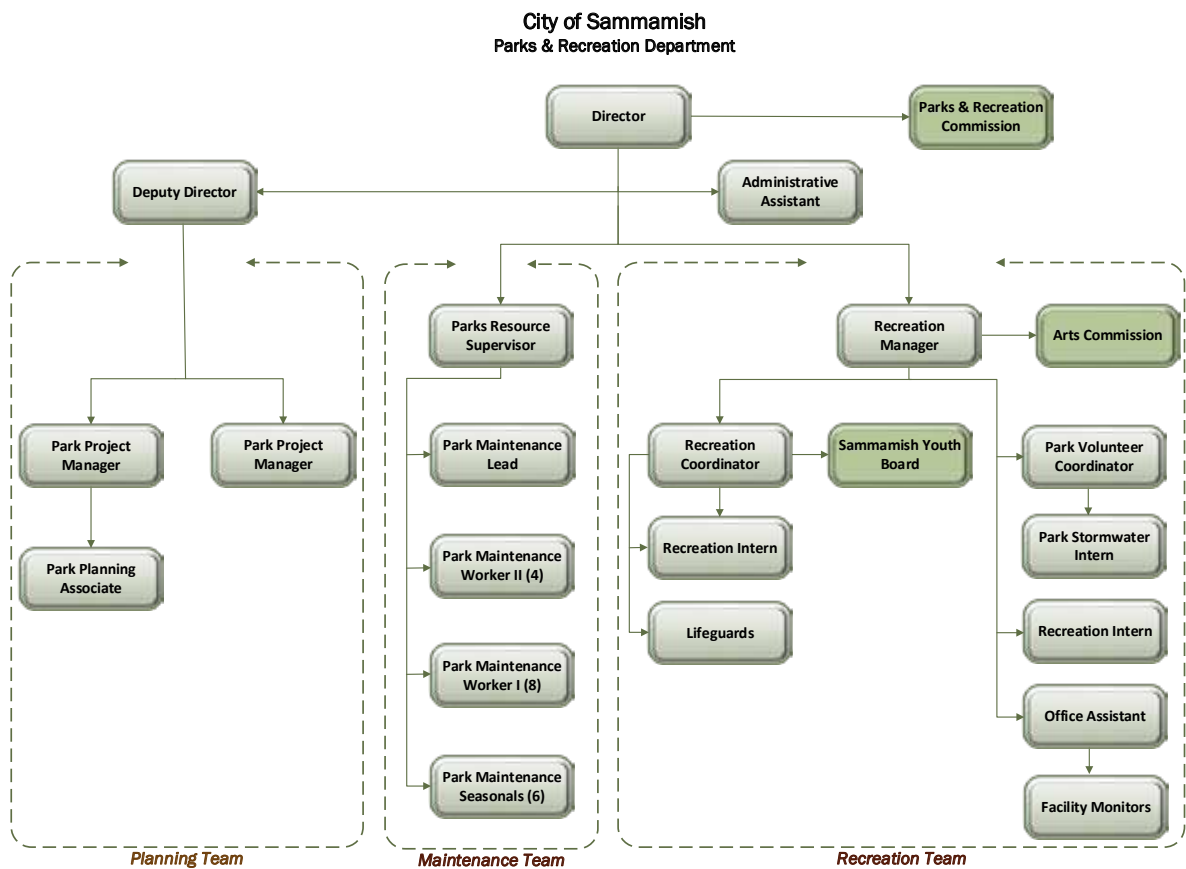
*Sammamish's Parks and Recreation system contributes to the quality of life for the community by creating a legacy of diverse and quality parks, exceptional recreation programs and protected natural resources.*

Shortly after its 1999 incorporation, the City received three parks via transfer from King County (Pine Lake Park, East Sammamish Park and NE Sammamish Park) and hired a recreation manager to oversee these parks and to perform other recreation duties. Facing rapid growth, the Department grew quickly to include the recreation manager, recreation



coordinator, maintenance supervisor with a crew of two full-time staff and two seasonal employees in 2002. In the following years, more park land was added to the system and interlocal agreements for shared use of facilities, and sports fields were developed with the Issaquah and Lake Washington School Districts. In 2012, the Department included 15 full-time staff members, two interns, 12 seasonal park maintenance staff, four seasonal facility staff and 12 summer lifeguards. In 2017, the Parks & Recreation Department includes three divisions; Parks Planning, Parks Maintenance and Recreation supported by 24.5 full-time staff members, four interns, four seasonal park maintenance staff, four part time facility staff and 18 summer lifeguards.

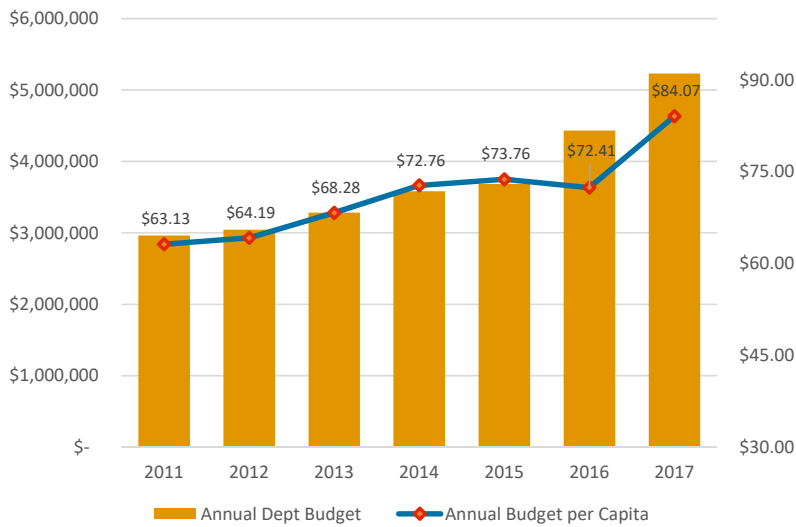
Figure 2. Sammamish Parks & Recreation Department Organizational Chart



NOTE: The Parks & Recreation Department staffs and supports the Parks & Recreation Commission, Arts Commission and Youth Advisory Board. These three advisory groups are appointed by and report to the City Council.

The Department began with responsibility for 43.5 acres of parkland and currently manages over 600 acres of developed parks, preserves, natural areas and special facilities. With additional open spaces and community events, the Parks and Recreation Department has grown with increasing responsibilities for facilities and programming. The park and recreation allocation from the city General Fund budget has also increased to meet the growing needs for the provision of park and recreation services. The following chart illustrates the growth of the departmental budget. Since the previous 2012 PRO Plan, the Department’s biennial budget has grown from \$6 million to almost \$10 million. Relative to the City’s overall General Fund budget by department, Parks and Recreation share of the overall city budget has increased from 9% in the 2015-2016 budget to 11% in the 2017-2018 budget.

Figure 3. Sammamish Parks & Recreation Department General Fund (Biennial) Budget and Budget per Capita



Sammamish Parks and Recreation have been actively developing park facilities during the five years with its capital improvement program for design and construction of new amenities across the system. The CIP Fund increased significantly from 2013-2014 at \$12 million to 2015-2016 at approximately \$30 million primarily due to the Community and Aquatic Center project. The Capital Improvement Program continues to move forward on building the park system and its facilities with its current 2017-2018 budget of \$17.6 million.

Additionally, the efforts of the Department are guided by the Parks and Recreation Commission, the Arts Commission and the Sammamish Youth Board.

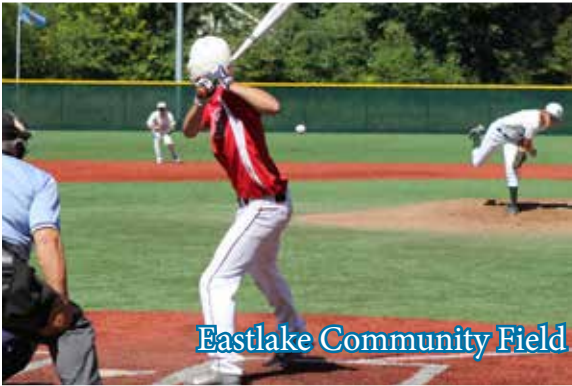
- The Parks and Recreation Commission, a nine-member advisory group to the City Council, meets monthly to provide guidance and give recommendations on issues relating to the delivery of parks and recreation services. The Commissioners are appointed by the City Council for four year terms that are staggered.
- The Arts Commission, a nine-member advisory group, provides guidance on policies and matters promoting public art. Commissioners meet monthly to discuss policies, plan the rotating art displays in City Hall and implement performing and visual art programs.
- The Sammamish Youth Board, an advisory group composed of high school and middle school students appointed by City Council, provides advice on policy relating to youth and oversees community service projects throughout the year.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS SINCE 2012

The 2012 PRO Plan was a strong guide for City officials, management and staff in making decisions about planning, acquiring, developing and implementing parks, recreation programs and recreation facilities. Highlighted projects from the Sammamish Parks Capital Improvement Program include master planning parks, design and permitting for new facilities and improvements, construction of new facilities, existing park upgrades and major repairs, trail expansion and ADA access projects. The following represents a short list of the major accomplishments realized following the adoption of the previous plan.



Community &amp; Aquatic Center



Eastlake Community Field



Sammamish Landing Park



Fourth on the Plateau



Big Rock Park

- Constructed and opened the \$33 million Community & Aquatic Center
- Celebrated 15 years of free concerts at Pine Lake Park
- Offered free Shakespeare in the Park plays
- Produced the 10th annual Fourth on the Plateau
- Partnered with Chamber of Commerce to offer weekly Farmer's Market
- Opened the community garden at the Commons in 2013
- Hosted TeenFest in partnership with the Boys & Girls Club
- Replaced Eastlake High School and Skyline Community Field turf
- Upgraded Klahanie Park grounds following annexation
- Upgraded Sammamish Landing Park to include waterfront access, docks, restroom & beaches
- Trail development by WTA at Beaver Lake Preserve
- Completed the Master Plan for Big Rock Park and constructed the first phase of improvements
- Replaced the equestrian bridge at Beaver Lake Park
- Adopted the Land Acquisition Strategy and Implementation Plan to guide parkland and conservation acquisitions
- Installed play equipment at the Upper Commons in the location of the climbing wall

## PLAN CONTENTS

The remainder of the Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan is organized as follows:

- Chapter 2: Community Profile – provides an overview of the City of Sammamish and its demographics.
- Chapter 3: Community Listening – highlights the methods used to engage the Sammamish community in the development of the Plan.
- Chapter 4: Park System Inventory – describes the various classifications for parks, trails and open space and highlights information about the current inventory of parks.
- Chapters 5 - 7: Needs Assessment & Recommendations – discusses survey results, community feedback and other recreation trend data and provides context to the identification of potential park, recreation program and trail enhancements.
- Chapter 8: Goals & Objectives – provides a policy framework for the parks and recreation system grouped by major functional or program area.
- Chapter 9: Projects & Implementation Strategies – describes a range of strategies to consider in the implementation of the Plan and details a 10-year program for addressing park and facility enhancement or expansion projects.
- Appendices: Provides technical or supporting information to the planning effort and includes a summary of the community survey, stakeholder notes, funding options, among others.



# BENEFITS OF PARKS, RECREATION & OPEN SPACE

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 assisting with stormwater control.
- Recreational opportunities for all ages are provided.



## 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 a 2010 report by the National Park and Recreation Association, the majority of people of all ages who visit parks are physically active during their visit. Also, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that greater access to parks leads to 25% more people exercising three or more days per week.

## 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. Access to parks and recreational facilities has also been linked to reductions in crime, particularly juvenile delinquency.

## Economic Benefits

Parks and recreation facilities can bring positive economic impacts through increased property values, increased attractiveness for businesses and workers (quality of life), and through direct increases in employment opportunities.

In Washington, outdoor recreation generates \$26.2 billion in consumer spending annually, \$7.6 billion in wages and salaries and \$2.3 billion in state and local tax revenue. Preserving access to outdoor recreation protects the economy, the businesses, the communities and the people who depend on the ability to play outside. According to the Outdoor Recreation Economy Report published by the Outdoor Industry Association, outdoor recreation can grow jobs and drive the economy through management and investment in parks, waters and trails as an interconnected system designed to sustain economic dividends for citizens.





## 2 | COMMUNITY PROFILE

Sammamish is a vibrant, growing city and a community of families. In 2012, Sammamish was ranked as “America’s Friendliest City” by Forbes magazine. Residents are actively involved in the decisions that shape this bedroom community and ensure a special sense of place. The following profile includes a description of the planning area, natural features, climate, vegetation and demographics.

### LOCATION & PLANNING AREA

The City of Sammamish is located west of the Cascade Mountains in the Puget Sound region, about 20 miles east-southeast of Seattle. The city is bordered by Lake Sammamish to the west and the Snoqualmie Valley to the east. Nearby cities, including those across the lake, are Carnation, Snoqualmie, Fall City, Issaquah, Bellevue and Redmond. To the north, Sammamish is adjacent to an unincorporated area of King County referred to as Union Hill-Novelty Hill (a census-designated place). Covering over 24 square miles, the city is situated on a plateau and contains Beaver Lake and Pine Lake as its two biggest interior lakes.

King County Metro provides limited service via three bus routes along SE 228th Avenue through the center of the city, which connect to regional destinations Issaquah, Renton and Seattle. While Sammamish does not have freeways within its city limits, SR 520 is accessed to the north via Redmond, and I-90 is accessed to the south via Issaquah.

The planning area for this Plan includes land within Sammamish city limits, plus the unincorporated land within the City’s urban growth area (UGA).

## HISTORY

Native American people, including the Duwamish and Snoqualmie tribes, were settled along the shores of Lake Sammamish for at least 13,000 years. Part of the Lushootseed-speaking peoples, these early residents were some of the many tribes in the Puget Sound watershed, including the Tulalip, Skagit, Sauk-Syiatle, Skykomish, Suquamish, Muckleshoot, Puyallup, Nisqually and Sahewamish.

The tribes were able to take advantage of an abundance of resource and deliberately managed the landscape to produce clothing, shelter, food and medicines, while keeping the forest ecosystem intact. Salmon were harvested from Lake Sammamish, and the western red cedar was a key resource. The wood provided the building material for canoes. Fibers from the bark was made into rope and baskets. Oils from the tree's wood provided insect repellent. Cedar needles were used for medicinal and other purposes.

The first white settlers arrived in the late 19th century - engaging in logging and agriculture, with the later establishment of a trio of resorts by the 1930s. The Sammamish Plateau, as part of unincorporated King County, remained mostly rural until the 1970s and 1980s when residential development, along with its associated shopping centers and schools, were built.

To establish its governance independent of King County, Sammamish was officially incorporated on August 31, 1999. Sammamish annexed Klahanie on January 1, 2016, increasing the city population at that time 20% to approximately 61,000.

## NATURAL RESOURCES

### General Characteristics

Sammamish is characterized by a wide range of natural habitats, including coniferous forests, shoreline habitats, wetlands and upland corridors supported by a wet, temperate climate. A variety of wildlife exist between the lakeshore and the Cascade foothills, including deer, coyote, black bear, bobcat, beaver, mountain beaver and many varieties of birds and fish. A total of 11.8 miles of shoreline lies within city limits, which presents opportunities for water-related recreational pursuits, as well as a need for conservation efforts. The shoreline areas of Lake Sammamish, Beaver Lake and Pine Lake play a key role for water-based outdoor recreation in Sammamish's park and recreation system.

### Lake Sammamish

Lake Sammamish defines the city's western edge extending for 7 miles in length but is not readily accessible within city limits. The City owns 2,750 feet of waterfront property on the lake at Sammamish Landing where water access and swimming are available, but it is limited to 150 feet. This park was opened to the public in 2012.







## Beaver Lake

Beaver Lake covers 79 acres and is a part of a chain of three lakes: Long Lake, Beaver Lake and Little Beaver Lake. Two city-owned parks lie on the lake's western shore: Beaver Lake Park and Beaver Lake Preserve. Beaver Lake Park provides public access to the lake for swimming and non-motorized boating. The Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife operates a public boat launch on the eastern shore of Beaver Lake.



## Pine Lake

Pine Lake offers the only designated swimming beach within Sammamish, with lifeguard services provided by the City. Covering 85 acres, the lake is a popular spot for recreation and fishing.

## Watershed, Hydrology & Critical Areas

The Sammamish watershed includes portions of the cities of Sammamish, Everett, Lynnwood, Kenmore, Brier, Mill Creek, Bothell, Woodinville, Redmond, Bellevue and Issaquah, as well as unincorporated areas of King and Snohomish counties. The watershed includes two major river systems, the Cedar and Sammamish, as well as Lake Sammamish, Lake Washington, Lake Union and numerous tributaries to each. Six major stream systems, totaling 42 river miles, exist within the city: Laughing Jacobs Creek, Zackuse Creek, Ebright Creek, George Davis Creek, Kamin Creek and Pine Lake Creek. These systems support vast biodiversity and significant wetland habitats.

## Farmland and Forests

The Sammamish landscape contained a mix of forest, orchards and dairy or chicken farms for many generations. Much that rural land has been transformed into a more urban environment and has become developed to accommodate a growing population. The Plateau still contains forested areas, including large stands of cedar and fir, along with a mix of deciduous and coniferous trees. Other vegetation in the area is typical of the Pacific Northwest, including lush undergrowth.

# DEMOGRAPHICS

## Population

A review of local demographic information helps paint a picture of the Sammamish community and provides a basis for facility and program considerations. The City of Sammamish is home to approximately 62,240 residents. The City has experienced steady growth since incorporation, increasing by over 27% from 2000 to 2010. In 2016, the population of Sammamish grew an additional 20% with the annexation of the Klahanie area that expanded the city’s southeastern boundaries.

Sammamish’s population is expected to continue to grow with an additional 13,000 residents in the coming years. The 2018 PRO Plan is consistent with the current population level as well as projections for future growth in Sammamish. A discussion on targets for future growth can be found in the Housing Element of the 2015 Sammamish Comprehensive Plan. The City’s Comprehensive Plan cites adequate residential capacity to meet the expected future growth.

Figure 3. Population Characteristics: Sammamish, King County, Washington

Demographics	Sammamish	King County	Washington
<b>Population Characteristics</b>			
Population (2017)	62,240	2,153,700	7,310,300
Population (2010)	45,780	1,931,249	7,183,700
Population (2000)	35,995	1,737,034	5,894,121
Percent Change (2000-16)	72.9%	24.0%	24.0%
Persons w/ Disabilities under age 65	3.1%	5.7%	7.7%
<b>Household Characteristics (2011-15)</b>			
Households	16,201	819,651	2,668,912
Percent with children	54.5%	29.2%	31.2%
Median Household Income	\$147,349	\$75,302	\$61,062
Average Household Size	3.09	2.45	2.56
Average Family Size	3.30	3.09	3.13
Owner Occupancy Rate	87.1%	57.4%	62.5%
<b>Age Groups (2010)</b>			
Median Age	38.1	37.2	37.4
Population < 5 years of age	6.8%	6.2%	6.4%
Population < 18 years of age	32.2%	21.0%	22.9%
Population 18 - 64 years of age	60.9%	67.2%	63.5%
Population > 65 years of age	6.9%	11.8%	13.6%

Sammamish is steadily becoming more diverse and has maintained a large youth population.

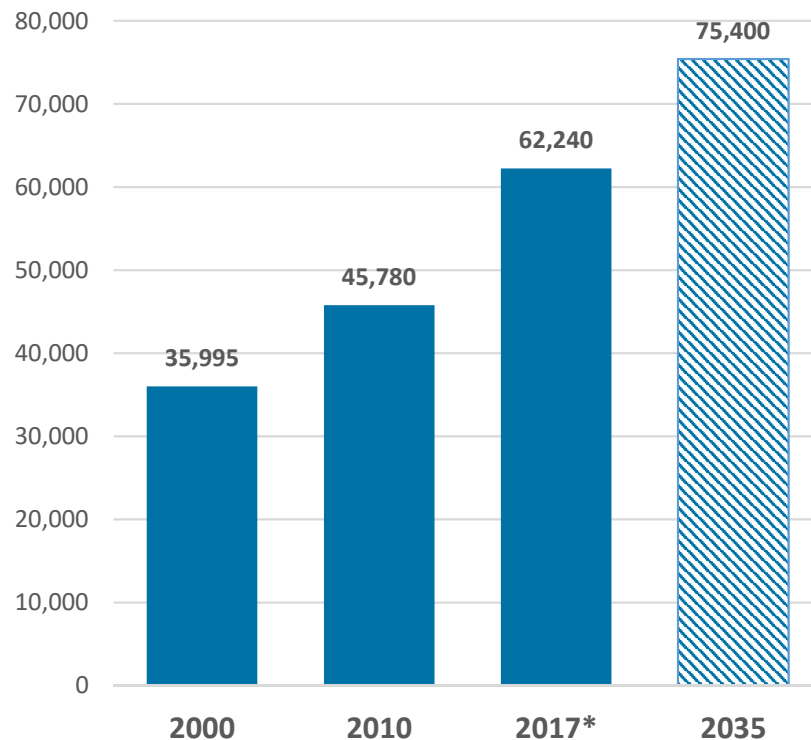
Sammamish has a higher percent of youth than King County and the state.

Households with children are an important component of the City’s makeup, representing more than half (54.5%) of the City’s households.

Sources: Washington Office of Financial Management Population Estimates, 2017  
U.S. Census, 2010 Census, 2000 Census, 2011-2015 American Community Survey



Figure 4. Population Change - 2000 - 2017, plus Projected for 2035, City of Sammamish



\* NOTE: The Klahanie annexation is estimated to have contributed 10,939 residents of the 11,270 population increase from 2015 to 2016.

## Age Group Distribution

The average Sammamish resident is 38.1 years old, which is similar to that of the average resident in King County (37.2) and Washington (37.4); however, the City's population has aged slightly since 2000 when the median age was 35.3. More notably, the age distribution of City residents differs from that of the county and the state – approximately 32% of the Sammamish population is under 18 years of age and 54% of households have children. King County and state age distributions are more similar to each other with populations under age 18 at 21% and 23%, respectively. Sammamish has a higher percent of youth and a lower percentage of residents over 65 years old.

The distribution of ages will have an influence on how the City should best provide needed types of facilities for parks and recreation programming services. Even with Sammamish's rapid population growth over the past 17 years, the population has remained relatively consistent with regard to the distribution of age groups. The community has larger percentages of youth (ages 5 to 14) and adults (ages 35 to 54) than other age groups, see Figure 5. The City's largest "20-year" population group is comprised of 35 to 54 year-olds, representing 38% of the population in 2010.

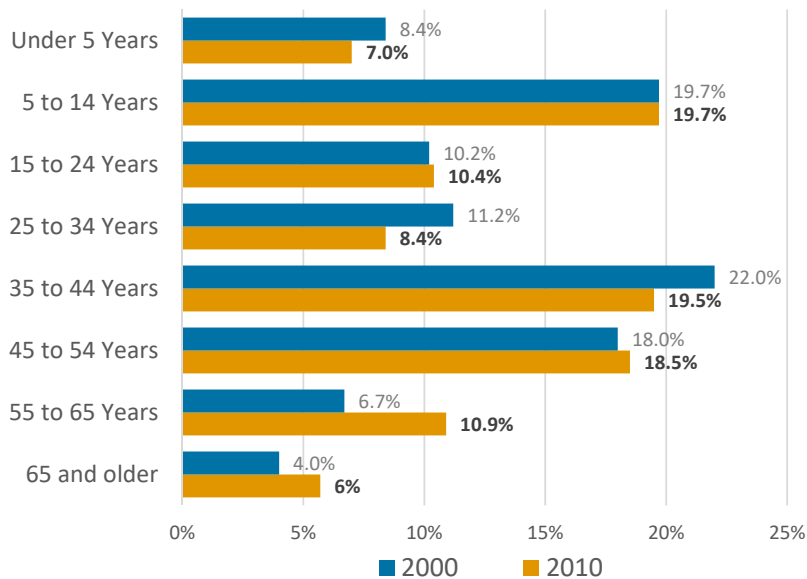
The following breakdown is used to separate the population into age-sensitive user groups.

- 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 programming with characteristics of beginning long-term relationships and establishing families.
- 35 to 54 years: This group represents users of a wide range of adult programming 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 programming exhibiting the characteristics of approaching retirement or already retired and typically enjoying grandchildren. This group generally also ranges from very healthy, active seniors to more physically inactive seniors.

Figure 5 illustrates the age distribution characteristics of these cohorts and provides a comparison between the 2000 and 2010 Census data.

Figure 5. Age Group Distributions: 2000 & 2010 Census



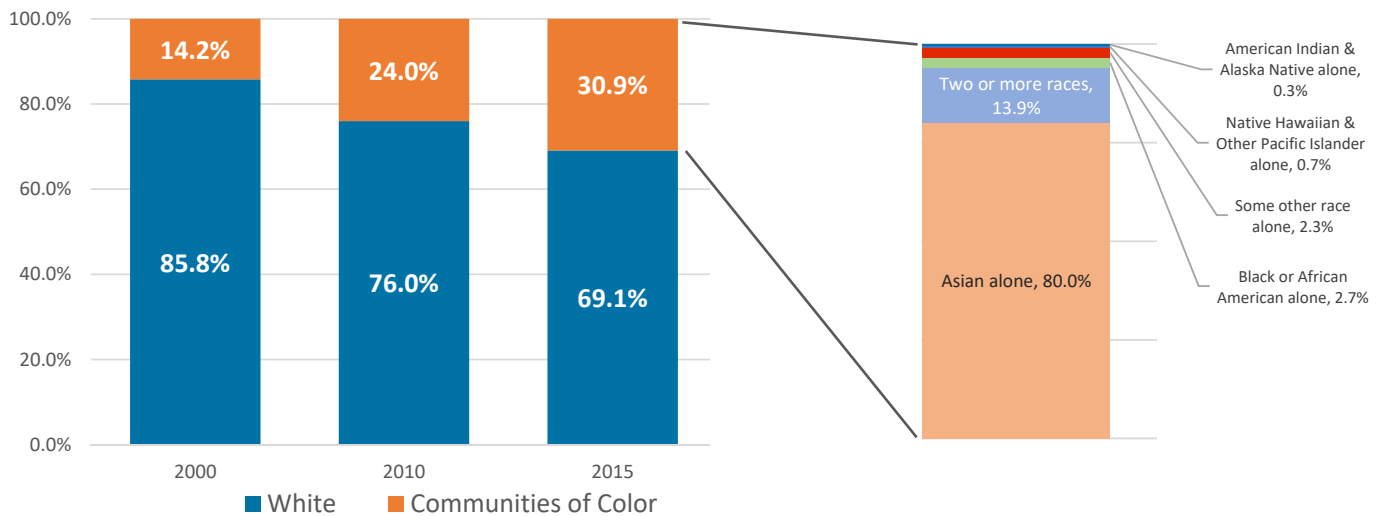
## Race and Ethnicity

In 2010, over 74% of Sammamish residents identified as White. According to the same census, the city was 19.3% Asian, 3.9% Hispanic, 1% African American, and less than 1% Native American, or Pacific Islander. The city has become more racially and ethnically diverse since 2000 when 87.8% of residents were identified as White, 7.9% were Asian and 2.5% were Hispanic.

Over 25% of Sammamish residents were born in a foreign country, a slightly higher rate than in King County (21.2%) and much higher than the Washington population (13.4%). Of foreign-born population, 61.3% originated in Asia, 19.5% came from Europe, 9.4% originated in North America and 6.1% were born in Latin America. Among the Sammamish population over 5 years old, 27% can speak a language other than English. These languages range from Asian (13.5%), Indo-European (10%) to Spanish (3%) in comparative order. Of the population born outside the United States, 82% entered the country before the 2010 census. The majority (56.5%) of the 12,578 foreign-born residents in Sammamish have not yet attained U.S. citizenship status.



Figure 6. Changes in Racial Composition - 2000 - 2015



## Household Characteristics

In 2015, the average Sammamish household included 3.09 people, which was larger than the average household in King County (2.45), Washington (2.56) and the nation (2.51). Average household size has remained relatively stable since 2000, when it was 3.06 people. The average family size in the city is larger, at 3.3 people, higher than King County (3.09) and Washington (3.13). Of the 16,201 households in the city, over one-half (54.5%) have children under 18, again larger than the average household with children in King County (29.2%) and Washington (31.2%). A similar pattern is reflected in the housing tenure in Sammamish with 87.1% owner-occupied housing units a much higher rate compared to King County (57.4%) and Washington (62.5%).

## Income and Poverty

**The Puget Sound Business Journal recently ranked Sammamish (specifically, zip code 97074) as the third wealthiest zip code in the Puget Sound area.**

According to the 2015 American Community Survey, the median household income in Sammamish is \$147,349 with almost three out of four households making more than \$100,000 annually. The median household income is higher than King County at \$75,302 and Washington at \$61,062. Approximately 74% of Sammamish households earn over \$100,000 per year, a rate that is higher than King County (37.5%), Washington State (26.9%) and national (22%) figures.

At the lower end of the household income scale, a small number (4.7%) of city households earn less than \$25,000 annually, which compares favorably to 15.5% of households in King County and 19% across the State of Washington. Median home values in Sammamish have a relatively high value even compared to neighboring communities.

## Employment & Education

The City is a strong bedroom community with a relatively high percentage of residents who work from home. Sammamish residents who commute to work often drive alone. A number of the Sammamish workforce commutes to Redmond (27%) and Seattle (22%)

with Bellevue (14%), Issaquah (6%) and Kirkland (4%) work locations exceeding the Sammamish residents who work in the community (3%). The city has an educated, unique workforce that is heavily employed in the region’s thriving technology sector. The City of Sammamish is expected to add more than 3,000 residents and 2,000 jobs, forecasting a future balanced growth. From a recent study compiled by CAI for the City of Sammamish, a few points regarding local employment stand out.

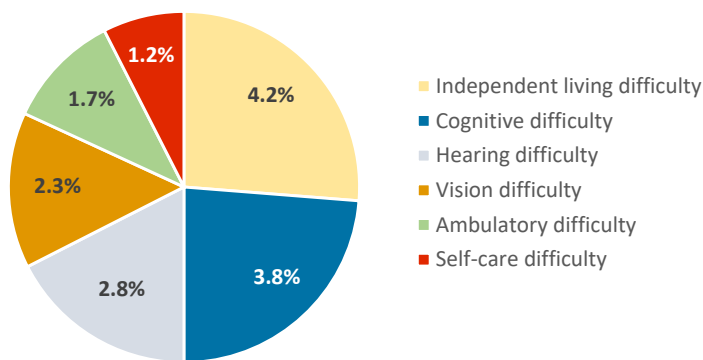
- The City’s workforce commutes from throughout the region to fill jobs in the City
- Most people commute to work via a single car
- A higher percentage of residents work from home than found regionally
- Sammamish has an even mix of employment across all sectors.

Educational attainment is higher in Sammamish with 44.6% of residents over 25 years with a bachelor’s degree and 28.3% of individuals over 25 with a graduate or professional degree, which is significantly higher than King County (18.3%) and Washington (12%). For median earnings in the past 12 months, Sammamish individuals 25 years and over with a bachelor’s degree earned \$98,032 and those with a graduate or professional degree earned \$120,977, providing further explanation for the higher incomes characterized with the city population.

## Persons with Disabilities

The 2015 American Community Survey reported 4.7% (2,343 persons) of Sammamish residents have a disability that interferes with life activities. This is lower than the King County average (9.6%) and much lower than the state average (12.6%). Among residents 65 and older, the percentage of people with disabilities rises to 22.9%, or 797 persons, which is 11% lower than rates found in the general senior population of King County (33.8%).

Figure 7. Percentage of Population with Disabilities that Interfere with Life Activities (selection of multiple disabilities accommodated)



## Community Health

Overall, Sammamish residents enjoy comparatively good health. By most health metrics reported by Seattle & King County Public Health, Sammamish is as healthy as or healthier than King County and the State of Washington as a whole. Comparing favorably to the 25 King County cities, Sammamish can expect positive health outcomes based on its education, incomes levels, life expectancy, cause of death, risk factors and chronic disease.

## 3 | COMMUNITY LISTENING

Sammamish is expected to continue rapid growth in the coming decade, and greater diversity and density will come with that growth. Recognizing and understanding the community's needs and interests will guide the delivery of the right balance and mix of recreational services. This planning process leaned on direct community outreach, stakeholder meetings, surveys and extensive inventorying to provide a baseline of local demand and need.

**Over 1,100 community members participated in the PRO Plan process.**

Community engagement and input played a crucial role in revealing the current interests in and needs for the provision of park and recreation opportunities, as well as establishing the future recreational framework that reflects community priorities. Public outreach methods were varied and extensive, including:

- Three community workshops
- Community survey
- Virtual Town Hall and online content
- Three stakeholder group discussions
- Parks & Recreation Commission and Planning Commission meetings
- Social media content & emails

Throughout this process, the public provided information and expressed opinions about their needs and priorities for parks, trails, recreation facilities and programs in Sammamish. Residents seemed to care deeply about the future of Sammamish's parks and recreation system and appreciated the opportunity to offer feedback in the development of this Plan. Their input helped refine local recreational needs, update policy statements and prioritize the Capital Improvements Plan project list contained within this Plan.

## OPEN HOUSE MEETINGS / WORKSHOPS

The project team sought feedback from local residents and program users at three public meetings, which were held at either Sammamish City Hall or the Sammamish Community & Aquatic Center / YMCA. Meeting display boards, City Newsletter articles, social media and email announcements publicized the events and encouraged participation. Summary responses from each of the meetings are provided in Appendix C.

### Community Workshop #1

On May 23, 2017, the City of Sammamish Parks and Recreation Department hosted a public meeting from 6 to 8 p.m. at Sammamish City Hall to kick off the planning process. The purpose of the meeting was to inform the community about the Plan, provide opportunities for the public to give input and respond to questions about the project.

Participants were provided with multiple ways to provide their feedback, including asking the project team questions, writing on flip charts during small group sessions, and writing on comment forms. For the small group table discussions, participants were divided into two groups to complete the exercises. The following summary highlights the feedback provided by participants during the small group session portion of the meeting and in their individual comment forms.

The two groups identified different priorities about what was most important to them; Group 1 ranked land acquisition and ballfields most highly, while Group 2 prioritized protecting the tree canopy, increasing trail connectivity, and fostering community art in nature/ parks. Both groups identified trails as important.

There were a number of commonalities on the two groups' lists of issues and ideas that need to be addressed in the plan. Both groups think the plan should address:

- Making parks and facilities more multi-purpose/use
- Protecting existing natural areas
- Acquiring more land for parks and open space
- Expanding programs and activities (e.g., after school programs, mentoring programs, winter activities, nature-based activities and community gardens)

The groups also identified a number of things they think are missing or would like to see more of. Both groups said it was important to provide:

- Some form of transit to parks and programs
- More ballfields
- Programs/camps (e.g., young kids' programs, summer camps)

Figure 8. Top Priorities from the Public Meeting



Participants also said they would like to see more ballfields and programs/camps in the future

## Community Workshop #2

On September 20, 2017, the City of Sammamish hosted a public open house from 4 to 8 p.m. in Sammamish City Hall to inform the community about progress on the PRO Plan and to gather feedback about what is important to the community regarding Parks and Natural Areas, Programs, Trails and Preservation. Participants were greeted at a sign-in table and encouraged to pick up a project fact sheet and a comment form. Approximately 60 people attended. Participants were encouraged to visit project boards placed throughout the room. For the duration of the event, the project team was available to answer questions, and participants were invited to take part in an exercise to identify community project priorities and to take part in an allocation exercise to identify how they would earmark resources for recreation programming.

## Community Workshop #3

A third community meeting was held on November 13, 2017 to offer residents an overview of the preliminary project recommendations from the PRO Plan update. The meeting included a 30-minute presentation that highlighted the public process, major comments from the public and preliminary recommendations. Displays included content on parks and recreation facilities, trail connections and potential acquisition areas to consider. Participants were invited to ask questions of the project team and leave comments on the display boards or comment forms.

# COMMUNITY SURVEY

The City of Sammamish Parks and Recreation Department contracted for the administration of a community survey, which was conducted during March 2017. The purpose of the survey was to gather input to help determine park, trail, land acquisition and recreation priorities of the community. In collaboration with staff, the project team designed a 19-question survey to assess residents' recreational needs, preferences and priorities. This allowed the survey to be tailored to issues of strategic importance to effectively plan the future of the parks and recreation system.

The survey was designed to obtain statistically valid results from households throughout the City of Sammamish. The five-page print survey was sent to 4,000 randomized addresses in the city. It was administered as a mixed-method survey, and survey respondents had the option to return the print version or take the survey online. A total of 856 surveys were completed: 598 responses as paper surveys and an additional 258 responses online. The response rate of 22% was an exceptional showing for the community and above average from typical mail-based survey response rates. The sample size was sufficient to assess community opinions generally and allowed for a review by multiple subgroups including age, gender and other demographics.

Major survey findings are noted below, and a more detailed discussion of results can be found in the Needs Assessment chapters of this Plan. The survey and a summary of the response data are provided in Appendix A.



## Major Findings

- Almost half (46%) think that there are enough parks and recreation activities to meet the needs of the community, another two-fifths (40%) think that there are not.
- More than three-quarters (78%) think the city should acquire more land for parks, recreation, open spaces, and other public uses.
- The top three desired increases in active use/recreation infrastructure are playgrounds (58%), athletic fields (57%), and waterfront recreation (55%).
- Sammamish parks were visited by most (94%) of Sammamish households in the last year.
- About half (51%) reported that someone from their household visited a Sammamish city park about once a week or more during the last spring and summer seasons.
- Many live fairly close to city parks, but three-fifths (61%) live more than 10 minutes walking distance to their closest park.
- The top priorities for future park and recreation services included walking and hiking trails (43%), restrooms in parks (33%), and new lands for access to Lake Sammamish (30%).
- Three parks stood out as the most frequently visited in the last year:



## VIRTUAL TOWN HALL

The City also promoted and utilized a Virtual Town Hall as an online forum for civic engagement for the PRO Plan update. The Virtual Town Hall (VTH) was open for comment between May 24th and June 27th. In all, 397 visitors went to the site, and 142 responses were recorded. The VTH used some of the same questions from the statistically-valid community survey. Although respondents to the VTH were self-selected, the responses to questions were very similar to the community survey results. Overall, respondents who participated in the VTH represented a geographic spread of the community and lived in every area of the city; however, respondents were generally older (47% were 50 or older) than those who participated in the community survey.

When asked to rank a list of 5 “big picture” priorities, 38% of the VTH participants said that buying land for future parks and open space was most important, and they ranked priorities as follows:

1. Buy land for future parks and open space
2. Maintain existing facilities
3. Improve existing parks
4. Develop new parks and facilities
5. Offer more programs

When asked to rank a list of 12 existing opportunities (i.e., parks, programs, facilities, trails and open space) they would like to see more of in the future, 25% of the participants said that more trails were most important. The following list represents the top five enhancements for the future:

1. Trails
2. Open space
3. Waterfront recreation
4. Wildlife viewing
5. Picnic areas (shelters, tables, etc.)

VTH respondents were also asked to list up to three things they think are missing regarding existing programs, parks, trails and open space. The following word cloud was built based on word frequency from all of the open-ended responses, and the larger the word appears, the more frequently it was noted by respondents.

Figure 9. Word Cloud of Words for Missing Elements of the Existing Park & Recreation System



## STAKEHOLDER DISCUSSIONS

Interviews with external stakeholders were conducted to more broadly assess the opportunities for site enhancements, partnerships and coordination. Stakeholders were identified by City staff based on their past coordination with the City and their involvement or interest in the future of Sammamish's park, recreation or trail facilities and programs. Stakeholder sessions were organized around three core areas of interest, and the stakeholder meetings were held in May 2017. The following organizations provided insight to the Plan:



- Environmental Group: Friends of Lake Sammamish State Park, Issaquah Alps Trails Club, Sammamish Friends, Sammamish Heritage Society, Save Sammamish, Sammamish Community Wildlife Habitat
- Athletic Group: Eastlake Little League, Sammamish Cricket Club, Sammamish Little League
- Programming Group: Boys and Girls Club, India Association of Western WA, Kiwanis, Parents of sports players, Rotary, YMCA

Stakeholder comments were often specific to the particular perspective or interest of the stakeholder group. While each of the three groups had different responses to many of the questions, there were several themes that ran through the three groups. These are summarized below:

- All three of the groups commended the Parks & Recreation Department for fostering positive working relationships. Parks’ staff were cited as very collaborative and the City was given high marks for maintaining and building partnerships with other organizations and creating a culture of community.
- The Programming and Environmental groups both said that Parks could improve their communication to raise awareness about programs and educate the community about the environment. Specific suggestions included developing a City recreation app and a mobile-friendly website.
- The Athletics and Programming groups both cited a shortage of fields and said that existing fields need to be improved. They also said that converting fields to artificial turf would help overcome the weather-related challenges currently being experienced on grass fields.
- All groups cited the challenges being faced by the city as a result of its growth and evolving demographics and encouraged Parks to understand and account for those challenges in the PRO Plan.
- All groups mentioned the need for a balanced approach, with Programming and Environmental participants indicating concern about the trend toward sports specialization. They advocated more opportunities for kids to engage in informal, unstructured and unscheduled play activities, both on fields and in parks.

Figure 10. Top Priorities of Each of Three Stakeholder Groups



Specific suggestions are discussed further and incorporated in the Needs Assessment chapters of this Plan, and the stakeholder discussion summary is provided in Appendix D.

## COMMISSION MEETINGS

The Parks & Recreation and the Planning Commissions provided feedback on the Plan during multiple public sessions throughout the 12-month planning process. Early in the project, the Commissions held a joint session and heard an overview of the project scope and timeline, and they offered comments regarding current issues and challenges. The Parks & Recreation Commission also received periodic project updates from staff regarding public process, survey results and needs assessment. The Commissions also separately reviewed and discussed the draft Plan that included an overview of community input, key themes and preliminary recommendations for parks, recreation programs and trail opportunities. The Planning Commission conducted a public hearing on the Plan as well.

## OTHER OUTREACH & PROMOTIONS

In addition to the direct outreach opportunities noted above, the Sammamish community was informed about the planning process through a variety of media platforms. The following methods were used to inform residents about the project and about opportunities to participate and offer their comments:

- City website home page
- Project website & online comment form
- City Newsletters
- Email blasts
- Facebook

### Project Website

A unique webpage was created for the PRO Plan on the City's website. The website includes a brief overview of the planning project including public outreach event dates, links to the virtual town hall, online comment form and a sign-up form to get updated information and announcements on the project. Interim project documents, such as public meeting summary notes and display boards, were posted as well.

### Email Blasts

Email blasts were sent to the project's interested parties list, key stakeholder groups and other community organizations. The emails informed the public about public open house meetings and what to expect and provided the opportunity to provide feedback online.

### City Newsletters

The Sammamish City Newsletter featured articles in the May, June, September and November issues about the PRO Plan including information about what the Plan will do, why the project is happening now and how it will guide future improvements. The articles also informed the public about community open house meetings and ways to participate online.

## Social Media

Facebook posts were used to generate and maintain ongoing interest in the project, drive traffic to the project website and inform the public about upcoming engagement activities for the PRO Plan. Notifications were posted on both the City's Facebook page and Twitter feeds frequently leading up to open house meetings and other project milestones.

Figure 11. Screenshot of Project Webpage



Figure 12. Screenshot of Facebook Posting for Open House Meeting



Figure 13. Example of City Newsletter Article

**CITY OF SAMMAMISH**

### ADA access ramp finishing up at Sammamish Landing

If you've wondered what all that construction near Sammamish Landing Park is all about, take a look at the picture below. It's the new "ADA Access Improvement Project," moving methodically and briskly towards completion.

The project includes the American's with Disabilities Act ramp, which will ease the way for people in wheelchairs, and others with mobility challenges.

The city's lone waterfront park, located along East Lake Sammamish Parkway near the northern city limits, will also be equipped with brand new set of restrooms and an outdoor shower.

The park remains open as the construction continues. Residents can use the parking lot on the eastern side of the Parkway, make their way to the other side of the road on a crosswalk equipped with flashing lights, and then access the park via a temporary wooden staircase at the north end of the project.

The improvements are expected to finish up this fall.

*ADA access ramp and new restroom under construction.*

### Community invited to provide input on the future of Parks & Recreation

The city of Sammamish Parks & Recreation Department will be asking for community input on options for the future of parks and recreation programming at the Sept. 20 Farmers Market.

The input will help the city ensure that the update of its Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PRO) Plan incorporates the needs, priorities and values of Sammamish residents.

This is the second opportunity for the community to get involved in the PRO Plan. The city already conducted extensive outreach this spring to capture "big picture" ideas, identify existing opportunities, and pinpoint top priorities for the future.

"We've worked hard to develop options that reflect what the community wants and needs," said Parks and Recreation Director Angie Feser. "We look forward to sharing them on Sept. 20, and gathering input so we can take the first step toward achieving a common vision for the future of our parks."

Since the PRO Plan was adopted in 2012, the city has experienced rapid growth, much of it the result of the Klallan-area annexation. The PRO Plan will ensure that the city is keeping pace with growth and properly reflecting the community's evolving priorities for parks, open space, and recreational facilities and programs.

A third major opportunity for public input on the draft PRO Plan will come around in November when a third public meeting will be held. Then, in early 2018, The PRO plan will be submitted to the City Council for its review and approval.

For more information about the PRO Plan, and the best ways to get involved in the public input process, go to [www.sammamish.us/proplan](http://www.sammamish.us/proplan).

2018 PRO plan

Share your input on the PRO Plan (Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan) at the Farmers Market, City Hall Plaza, 801 228th Ave. S.E. Wednesday, Sept. 20, 4-8 p.m.



# 4 | PARK SYSTEM INVENTORY

This chapter describes the park classification system and provides an overview of the parks and open spaces in and near Sammamish.

## PARK CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

Parkland is classified to assist in planning for the community's recreational needs. The classifications also reflect standards that inform development decisions during site master planning and design. The Sammamish 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. Several factors are considered when classifying parks:

- Specific needs in neighborhood, service area or community
- Suitability of a site for a particular use
- Cost and effort of development
- Possibility for public-private partnerships
- Operating and maintenance costs

The classification characteristics are meant as general guidelines addressing the intended size and use of each park type. The following seven classifications are in effect in Sammamish and are defined as follows.

## Community Park

Often the most-visited type of park in the City's system, a community park is typically 15 to 60 acres in size and serves larger geographic areas, typically within a two- to five-mile travel distance from the park. Many visitors drive to these parks, and parking is provided. In areas without neighborhood parks, community parks can also serve as local neighborhood parks. Community parks offer programmed activities, as well as passive, unstructured recreation. Amenities may include athletic fields, skate parks, play courts, spray parks, swimming beaches, fishing piers, children's play areas, off-leash dog areas, individual and group picnic shelters, trails, natural areas and community gardens. Athletic fields may be natural, synthetic turf, or a combination of surfaces, with or without field lighting. Because of the variety of recreation opportunities and the large number of people served, community parks require support facilities such as restrooms, parking lots and maintenance facilities.

## Neighborhood Park

A neighborhood park is typically 5 to 15 acres in size, depending on a variety of factors including neighborhood need, physical location and opportunity. Neighborhood parks are intended to serve residential areas within close proximity (up to ½-mile walking or biking distance) of the park and should be geographically distributed throughout the community. Neighborhood parks can be either owned and maintained by the City as public parks or by local homeowner associations as private parks serving the residents of specific homeowner associations. Topography and population density can influence the location of a neighborhood park. Access to neighborhood parks is mostly pedestrian, and park sites should be located such that people living within the service area can reach the park safely and conveniently. Connecting and frontage streets should include sidewalks or other safe pedestrian access. Neighborhood parks should be located along road frontages to improve visual access and community awareness of the sites. Additionally, street plans should encourage maximum connectivity and public access to park sites. These parks offer both active and passive recreation on a limited scale, but they are used primarily for unstructured recreational activities. Amenities may include children's playgrounds, open space, trails, picnic areas, small facilities for active recreation, open lawn areas and gathering spaces. Support facilities may include restrooms and off-street parking.

## Mini Park

Also called pocket parks, mini parks are small parks on public or private land that offer green space, outdoor seating areas, small playgrounds (such as a tot lot) and sometimes artwork. Currently, the City does not have any mini parks. Because of their small size and limited recreational opportunities, mini parks are not feasible for the City to develop at this time. However, many private subdivisions have developed and maintain private mini parks, tot lots and small recreational spaces, typically ranging from 0.5 to 5 acres in size, which provide recreational resources to residents of specific homeowner associations.

## Special Use Park

Special use facilities include single-purpose recreational areas or stand-alone sites designed to support a specific, specialized use. This classification may include boat ramps, golf courses, 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.

### **School / City Partnership Park**

A school / city partnership park combines school and city resources to provide recreational amenities that benefit both the broader community and the school. Size and service area vary with each site. In general, elementary and middle schools provide resources similar to those of a neighborhood park, while high schools provide resources similar to those of a community park.

### **Preserves / Open Space**

Preserves are natural areas intended for urban tree and habitat preservation, while allowing public access and limited passive use. Sites typically contain sensitive areas such as wetlands, streams and steep slopes, which also provide habitat for wildlife. These sites may serve as trail corridors, and low-impact or passive activities, such as walking and nature observation may be allowed, where appropriate, along with limited support facilities, such as parking and restrooms. Open space is land set aside to protect natural resources and/or create breaks from development. Open space is not developed and not geared toward recreational use. Size varies with each property for preserves and open spaces.

### **Trails**

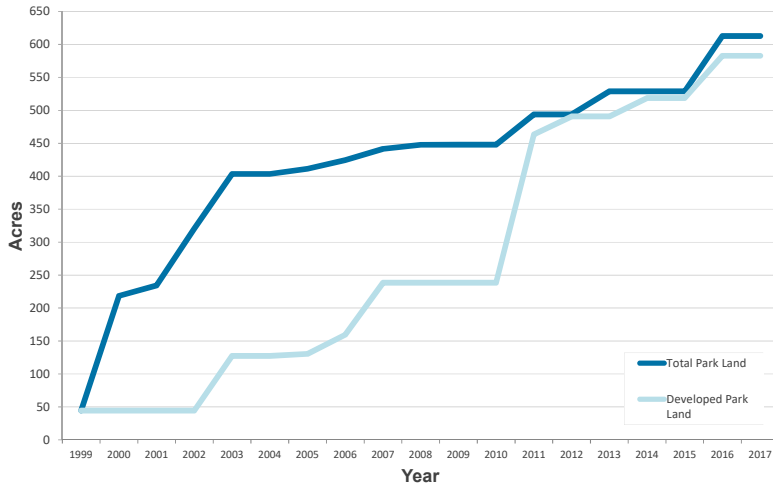
This Plan details recreational trails. Trail corridors that include sidewalks and bicycle lanes or those within the right-of-way are addressed separately in the Transportation Master Plan. Chapter 7 provides more detail on the system for recreational trails in Sammamish.

## **FACILITY INVENTORY**

The City of Sammamish provides and maintains a growing system of parks that supports a range of active and passive experiences. The park and open space inventory identifies the recreational assets within the city.

Sammamish's park system has 14 parks, preserves and facilities totaling 611 acres of parkland. Since incorporation, the City has cared for and improved the parks transferred from King County, as well as expanded the parks system significantly. The growth of the parks system since incorporation has been tremendous, increasing from just 44 acres in 1999 to 490 acres in 2012 (see Figure 14).

Figure 14. Sammamish Park Acreage Since Incorporation



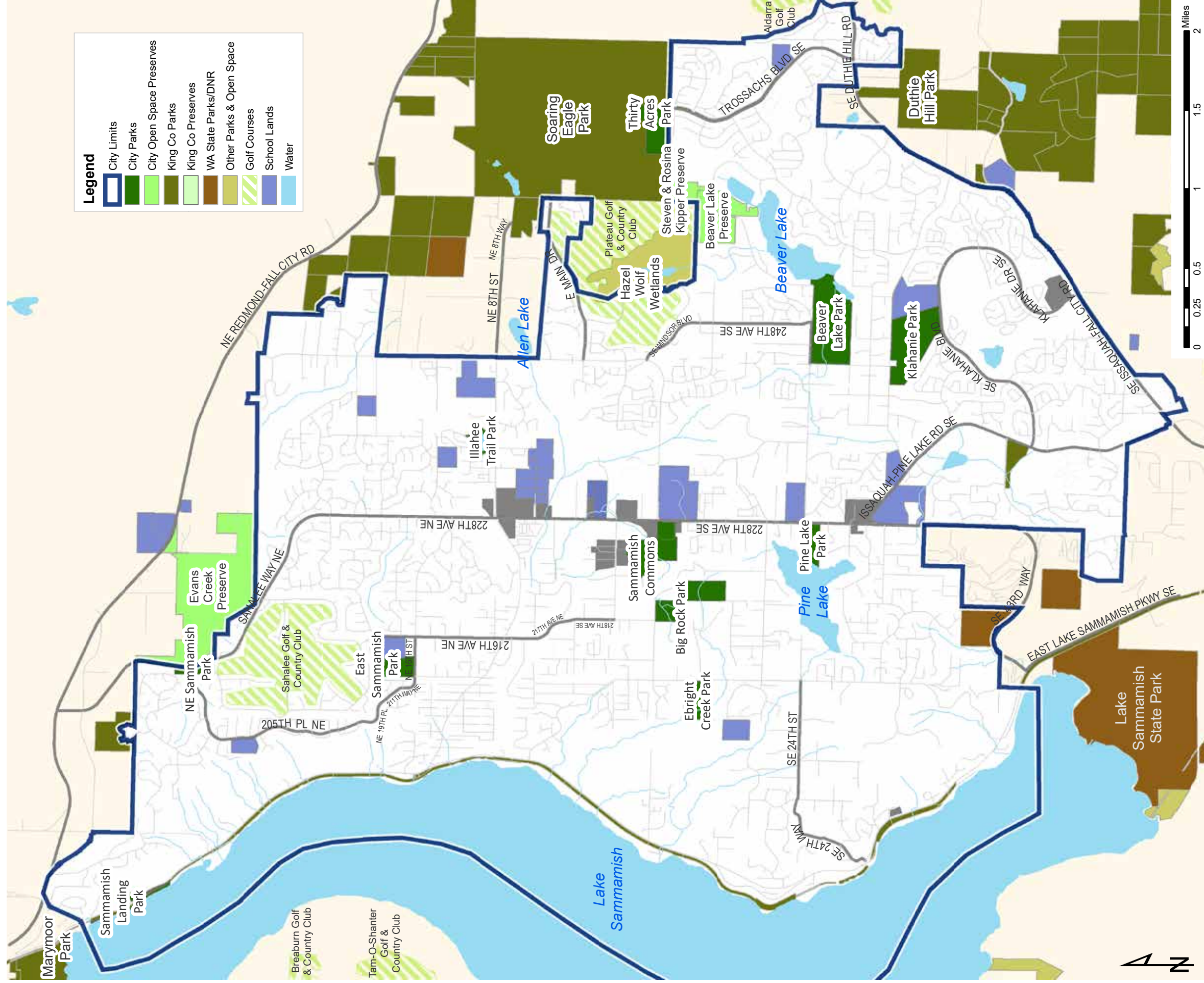
Park system growth has come through land transfers and acquisitions. King County transferred Pine Lake Park, East Sammamish Park, NE Sammamish Park, Beaver Lake Park and Thirty Acres Park to Sammamish. Also, the City of Redmond transferred five parcels of Sammamish Landing to the city. Targeted land purchases were made outright with city funds or with the aid of grants through Conservation Futures and the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office. More significantly, generous private donations allowed the City to acquire a portion of Beaver Lake Preserve, Big Rock Park and Illahee Trail Park. Also, partnerships with school districts led to the development of community sports fields at Eastlake High School and Skyline High School.

The following table summarizes the current land inventory in Sammamish. The map on the following page shows the location of existing parks and open spaces within the City.

Figure 15. Existing Inventory of City-owned Parks & Open Spaces

Park Type / Name	Classification	Acreage
<b>Community Parks</b>		
Beaver Lake Park	Community	79.2
Big Rock Park	Community	36.3
East Sammamish Park	Community	18.8
Klahanie Park	Community	64.1
Pine Lake Park	Community	19.0
Sammamish Commons	Community	39.1
Sammamish Landing Park	Community	7.8
<b>Neighborhood Parks</b>		
Ebright Creek Park	Neighborhood	12.3
NE Sammamish Park	Neighborhood	5.7
<b>Preserve / Natural Areas</b>		
Illahee Trail Park	Natural Area	12.7
30 Acres Park	Natural Area	29.9
Beaver Lake Preserve	Preserve	55.7
Evans Creek Preserve	Preserve	213.2
Steven & Rosina Kipper Preserve	Preserve	17.1
<b>Total</b>		<b>611.0</b>



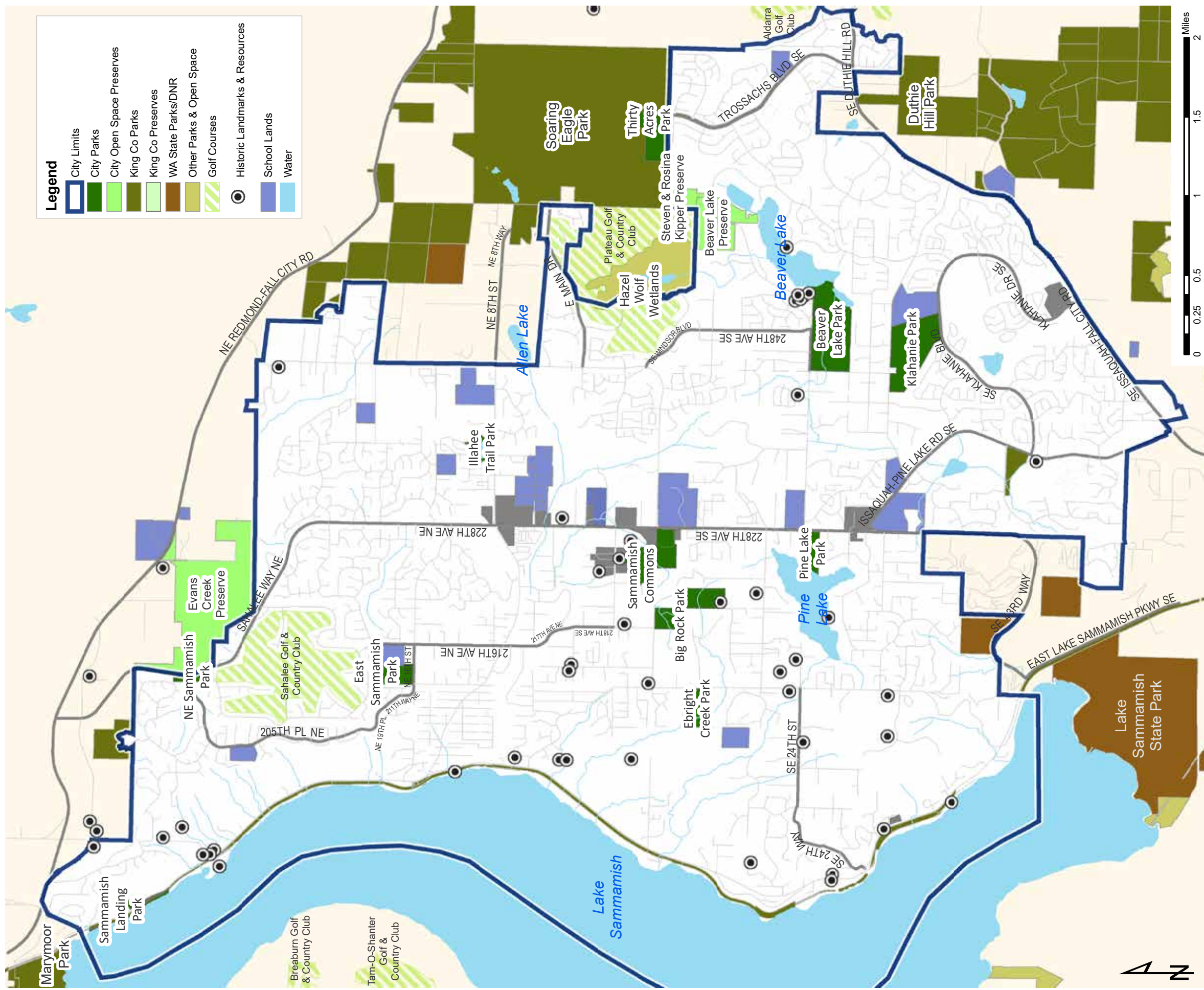


CITY OF Sammamish | PARKS, RECREATION & OPEN SPACE PLAN

# Map I A: Existing Parks & Open Space

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# Map I B: Historic Landmarks & Resources

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## BEAVER LAKE PARK

Community Park

79.2 acres; 25101 SE 24th Street

### Amenities

- Parking
- Lakefront access
- Picnic shelter
- Barbecue grills
- Play structures
- Restrooms
- Trails
- Sport fields: baseball, soccer (modified), softball
- Shore launch
- Picnic tables
- Benches
- Drinking fountains
- Off-leash areas: for small and “all” dogs
- Trash and recycling receptacles
- Dog waste bag dispensers
- Rental facilities - Pavilion and the historic Lodge at Beaver Lake
- Totem poles
- Certified Wildlife Habitat



## Design Opportunities

- Sign placement for park identification does not allow easy visibility for arriving vehicles. At north park entry the sign only faces eastbound arrivals. At west entry, the sign is perpendicular to arriving traffic from either direction.
- The incorporation of a “wayfinding” signage system using small brown park signs within road right of way could identify the approach of all park entrances, similar to what is used for Pine Lake Park.
- At west park area, the ‘bosque’ of purple leaf plum trees in the central plaza near the ball fields is failing. When/if master plan moves forward with redesign of this area, ensure future tree plantings a better chance of success with more soil space for roots and selection of hardier and longer living tree species.

## Management Considerations

- Entrance drive at north park area needs fresh marking paint application for directional arrows and crosswalks.
- Signs for handicapped parking are mounted below the 60” minimum recommended height.
- Tactile warning strips should be added to crossing areas and where walkways intersect with parking or entry driveway for ADA compliance.
- Within picnic shelters with multiple picnic tables, at least half of those tables should be ADA compliant by providing space for a wheelchair.
- Park benches are often offset from the trail and located on concrete pads that are not even with trail surfacing. These benches are not ADA compliant.
- Picnic tables are located in lawn areas (off trail pavement) and lack seating for wheelchairs. At least 50% of picnic tables within each park should be ADA compliant.
- Consider programming options to more fully utilize the Lodge at Beaver Lake.





## BIG ROCK PARK

Community Park

36.31 acres (includes parcels A & B); 21805 SE 8th Street

### Amenities

- On-street parking (18 spaces incl. handicapped)
- Hill slide with climbing slope
- Zipline and log steps play area
- Nature play elements
- Earth mound tunnel
- Portable toilet
- Trails
- Historic Reard-Freed House on Parcel B
- Interpretive signs
- Picnic area (non-ADA compliant)
- Certified Wildlife Habitat
- Trash and recycling receptacles



## Design Opportunities

- Hard trail surfacing should be added to connect to picnic areas to provide universal access to some of the tables.

## Management Considerations

- Oak tree in overlook is dying with greater than 50% foliage loss.
- Oak trees near zipline are dying with greater than 70% canopy loss.
- Small barriers are created where gravel paths meet ramp and bridge/boardwalk pavements, triggering non-compliant ADA access.
- Handicapped signs are mounted on fence, not at minimum 60" height ADA recommendation.
- Handicapped access to parking space lacks tactile warning strip.





## EAST SAMMAMISH PARK

Community Park

18.83 acres; 21300 NE 16th Street

### Amenities

- Parking (100 spaces incl 2 handicapped)
- Barbecue grills
- Picnic shelter
- Play structures
- Restroom facility
- Trails
- Picnic tables
- Sport fields: baseball, lacrosse, soccer, softball
- Tennis courts
- Benches
- Certified Wildlife Habitat
- Trash and recycling receptacles



## Design Opportunities

- Add paved trail to tennis courts to provide ADA compliance.
- Add deciduous shade/canopy trees to parking lot to fill gaps in existing shade for parking surfaces.

## Management Considerations

- One tennis court has surface cracks that will eventually affect level of play. Plan for resurfacing within next 4-5 years.
- Handicapped signs are mounted too low. Raise to 60" minimum recommended height to meet ADA guidelines.
- Concrete ramp into swing set area does not go deep enough into wood chips. Add more chips or shave end of ramp to reduce barrier.
- When/if park gets crowded and parking is inadequate, consider another location for the two (2) dumpsters that currently occupy two parking spaces at the far end of the lot.
- Some park benches are located off trail in grass resulting in lack of universal access. Conduct an inventory of all benches to ensure that 50% or more are ADA-compliant.





## KLAHANIE PARK

Community Park

64.13 acres; 25000 SE Klahanie Blvd

### Amenities

- Parking (28 spaces incl. 2 handicapped)
- Play structures
- Restroom facility
- Drinking fountain
- Trails
- Aligned with East Plateau (King County) Trail
- Sport fields: baseball, cricket, lacrosse, soccer, softball
- Queen's Bog natural area
- Trash and recycling receptacles
- Dog waste bag dispensers



## Design Opportunities

- Park needs master plan to capture the potential of adding more amenities and to address more ADA compliant access to existing amenities. Batting cages for baseball, softball and cricket could enhance the park's use.

## Management Considerations

- Restroom needs ADA compliant signs. Handicapped signs should be added for parking space designations.
- Asphalt path has settled at playground ramp resulting in non-ADA complaint access to playground.
- Existing bleachers are not compliant with International Building Code that dictates safety rails on any bleachers with more than two tiers. Consider adding safety side and back rails or replacing bleachers.





## PINE LAKE PARK

Community Park

18.99 acres; 2401 228th Avenue SE

### Amenities

- Parking (>70 spaces with 2 handicapped)
- Lower parking for handicapped
- Barbecue grills (at shelters)
- “Beach”
- Picnic shelters
- Play structures
- Playground spring riders
- Climbing rocks
- Swing set (2 tot & 2 strap seats)
- Restroom facility with concession windows
- Bike rack
- Picnic tables
- Drinking fountains
- Benches
- Trails
- Basketball court
- Sport field: baseball/lacrosse/soccer/softball
- Trash and recycling receptacles
- Shore launch - for canoes and kayaks
- Dock for swimming & fishing
- Natural area (Certified Wildlife Habitat)



## Design Opportunities

- None noted

## Management Considerations

- Three-tiered bleachers should have safety rails added or be replaced with International Building Code compliant bleachers.
- Crosswalks on loop drive down to shore launch need repainting.
- Shore launch area has two drain outlets that could be a tripping hazard for watercraft activities. Consider how best to reduce hazard and improve safety.





## SAMMAMISH COMMONS

Community Park

39.07 acres; 801 228th Avenue SE

### Amenities

- Parking (upper & lower lots)
- Lighting in parking areas
- Barbecue grills
- Picnic shelters (1 large & 2 small)
- Play structures (upper & lower)
- Restroom facility (Upper)
- Portable restroom (Lower)
- Picnic tables
- Benches
- Trails
- Basketball ½ court (upper)
- Community garden (lower)
- Skate park (upper)
- Spray park (lower)
- Swing set (lower)
- Trash and recycling receptacles
- Native plant garden
- Certified Wildlife Habitat
- Stormwater BMPs (at lower parking lot & Sammamish Community & Aquatic Center / YMCA)



## Design Opportunities

- The stormwater management treatment for the lower parking lot could be interpreted to educate visitors about the value and importance of treated runoff for protecting water quality.
- Consider installing a permanent restroom.
- Depending on potential site impacts to the Lower Commons from the future development of the Town Center, re-assess the location of the spray park as appropriate.

## Management Considerations

- Handicapped signs should be re-mounted to meet ADA guidelines.
- Hole in asphalt trail midway between upper and lower park areas should be repaired.





## SAMMAMISH LANDING PARK

Community Park

7.84 acres; 4607 East Lake Sammamish Parkway NE

### Amenities

- Parking (35 spaces across street and 2 handicapped on-street)
- Barbecue grills (2)
- Lakefront access
- Picnic shelters (2)
- Permanent restroom
- Outdoor shower
- Picnic tables (4)
- Bike rack
- Benches (3)
- Trails
- Regional King County trail
- Shore launches
- Docks
- Certified Wildlife Habitat
- Dog waste bag dispenser
- Trash and recycling receptacles



## Design Opportunities

- Park identification sign and parking lot shade trees need to be added to ADA and access improvements in the parking lot on City-owned property east of the East Lake Sammamish Parkway.

## Management Considerations

- None noted





## EBRIGHT CREEK PARK

Neighborhood Park

12.34 acres; 1317 212th Avenue SE

### Amenities

- Parking (43 space incl. 2 handicapped)
- Barbecue grills
- Picnic shelter
- Play structures
- Playground spring riders
- Swing set – 2 tot and 2 sling
- Restroom facility
- Drinking fountain
- Trails
- Picnic tables
- Benches
- Bike rack
- Boardwalk
- Trash and recycling receptacles
- Dog waste bag dispensers
- Sports court: basketball, soccer, tennis
- Natural areas (Certified Wildlife Habitat)



## Design Opportunities

- The stormwater management best practice at the parking lot could provide an opportunity to interpret the need for capturing and directing rainfall for protecting water quality.
- Consider incorporating some signage and perhaps pavement markers to illustrate how water is channeled safely into the creek and wetland.

## Management Considerations

- Boardwalk across wetland needs a reapplication of stain to provide protection of the wood decking and railing.
- Gravel is needed at the edges of paved surfaces at the playground and shelter to reduce the tripping hazard and provide ADA access.
- Some park benches are located off trail in grass resulting in lack of universal access. Conduct an inventory of all benches to ensure that 50% or more are ADA-compliant.





## NE SAMMAMISH PARK

Neighborhood Park

5.73 acres; 21210 NE 36th Street

### Amenities

- Parking (3 spaces incl. handicapped) & on-street
- Basketball ½ court
- Play structures
- Portable restroom
- Picnic tables
- Drinking fountain
- Tennis courts (2)
- Bike rack
- Benches
- Dog waste bag dispenser
- Trash and recycling receptacles
- Trails
- Natural area



## Design Opportunities

- The addition of a park identification sign at the base of the 37th Street steps would help with wayfinding to the park.

## Management Considerations

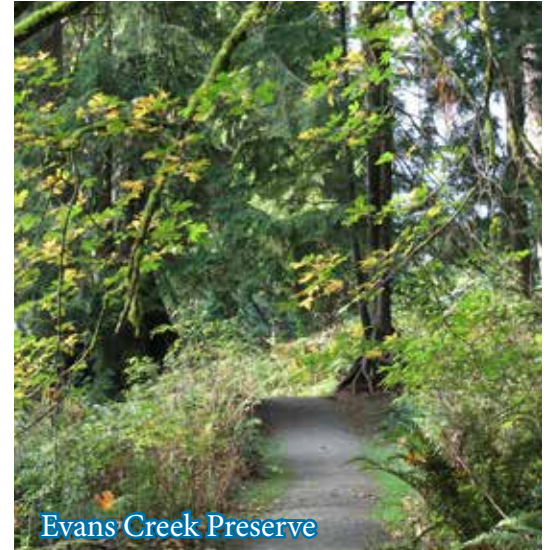
- ADA ramps into both play areas have concrete-asphalt barriers due to settling and/or poor alignment.
- Pressure-treated steps leading into tennis courts are showing signs of wear and should be planned for replacement. Base of steps have pavement gaps and cracks.
- Tennis courts contain numerous cracks that will soon affect level/quality of play. Plan for resurfacing soon.
- The wood and gravel steps leading from natural area to 37th Street could benefit from more gravel infill in many of the steps.



## CITY OPEN SPACE PRESERVES

### Evans Creek Preserve

The 179-acre Evans Creek Preserve offers wildflower meadows, wetlands, wildlife, forested uplands, 3.5 miles of pedestrian-only loop trails. This property was purchased in 2000 and named in 2002. Phase I construction was completed in September 2011 and included the 10-stall lower parking lot, restrooms and over 2 miles of trails. Phase II includes an upper parking lot and an additional mile of trail connecting this parking lot to the existing trail system. The majority of the trails were built by volunteers under the supervision and support of the Washington Trails Association. During Phase I alone, volunteers contributed over 6,500 hours with 46 work parties to build trails, puncheons, turnpikes and enhanced wetland and stream corridors.



Evans Creek Preserve

### Beaver Lake Preserve

Beaver Lake Preserve, a 76-acre site located northeast of Beaver Lake Park, was purchased in 2002 through a Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office grant. The property is divided by West Beaver Lake Drive SE. With the addition of the Steven & Rosina Kipper Preserve property, Beaver Lake Preserve now connects to Soaring Eagle Park, and the acquisition of this property was critical to ensure connectivity between existing natural resources. The Beaver Lake Preserve Master Plan envisioned park improvements to occur in three phases. Phase I was completed in 2008 and included the first set of trails (approximately 1.35 miles), a ten car gravel parking lot and other amenities such as a trailhead kiosk, a portable restroom with enclosure and park signage. Phase II improvements were completed in 2017 and consisted of additional trails (approximately .75 miles) to the north of Beaver Lake Drive SE to close an existing trail loop as well as a trail extension to Beaver Lake. Other improvements consisted of restoration to the picnic meadow, two picnic tables, viewing overlooks, habitat enhancement and park signage.



Beaver Lake Preserve

### Steven & Rosina Kipper Preserve

The 17-acre Steven and Rosina Kipper Preserve was purchased by the City in 2007 to connect Beaver Lake Preserve to Soaring Eagle Park. In the summer of 2012, a new bridge was built across a small stream that runs perpendicular to existing trails.

### Hazel Wolf Wetlands Preserve (Forterra)

This 116-acre preserve is owned and managed by Forterra, the largest regional land trust and conservation organization. The forested site includes the headwaters for Evans Creek and Laughing Jacobs Creek. The property has equestrian and pedestrian trails, that allow connections to Beaver Lake Preserve and Soaring Eagle Park, in addition to an interpretive deck, information kiosk and boardwalk. The Preserve is used for recreation and as a field lab by local high school students.



Illahaee Trail Park



## CITY NATURAL AREAS

### Thirty Acres Park

In 2008, King County transferred this 30-acre parcel to the City. The wooded site is located in the south-central area and is surrounded on three sides by King County's Soaring Eagle Park.

### Illehee Trail Park

This 8-acre property offers a half-mile, wheelchair- and stroller-accessible, loop trail that skirts around a pond known to locals as Llama Lake. Historically, this area was an open meadow, which was used by grazing llamas. With increasing development, the depression filled with water and is now a year-round pond.



Community & Aquatic Center

## CITY FACILITIES

### Sammamish Community & Aquatic Center

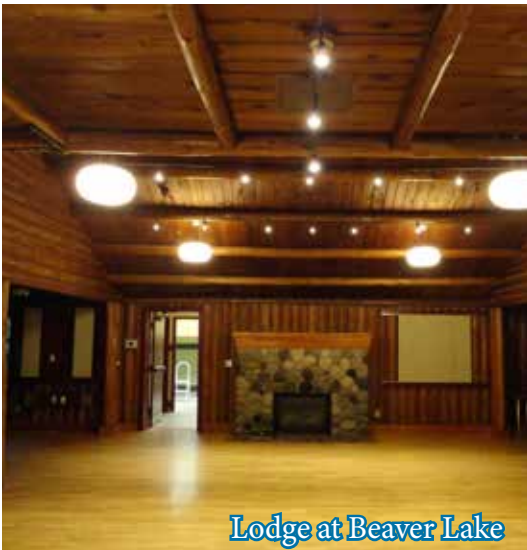
The new Community & Aquatic Center opened in 2016 as a partnership project between the City and the YMCA. It is the largest within the YMCA of Greater Seattle Association. The Center has a 6-lane, 25-yard lap pool, a 3,300 square foot leisure pool, a spa, two gymnasiums, a jogging track, fitness space, group fitness rooms, a break room, a family center room, meeting spaces, child watch areas, administration offices and service areas. The YMCA operates a variety of classes and programs from this site.

### The Lodge at Beaver Lake

Located in the park, this rustic log cabin-styled facility is surrounded by open grass areas and large evergreen trees, while overlooking the lake. The 1930's Depression-era lodge that was once part of a larger resort community has a 1,850 square foot main room that accommodates 150 people seated and has a gas fireplace. The kitchen includes a convection oven, stove top/oven and double-size refrigerator. The lodge is available for short- and long-term rentals.

### Beaver Lake Pavilion

This 2,500 square foot, open-air facility boasts high ceilings, a lake view and a large, stone fireplace. Six picnic tables (moveable) and a barbecue grill are available. The pavilion can be reserved and rented, and it accommodates up to 100 guests.



Lodge at Beaver Lake



Teen & Recreation Center

## Sammamish Teen & Recreation Center

The center is housed in the old King County Sammamish library, at the corner of 228th and NE 8th Street. It is operated by the Boys and Girls Club and open to members in grades six to twelve. It also provides rental rooms and space.

## Reard-Freed House

The Reard-Freed House is a historic farmhouse located at Big Rock Park parcel B. The house was designated a Landmark in 2011 with the efforts of the Sammamish Heritage Society. The house is not currently available for programming, but planned improvements may enable public usage in the future.

## OTHER RECREATION & OPEN SPACE LANDS

### School Grounds

Sammamish is served by three public school districts: the Lake Washington School District, the Snoqualmie School District and the Issaquah School District. Taken together, there are 13 schools within Sammamish city limits and another four just outside city limits. Eastside Catholic, a private school, is also inside city boundaries.

Most elementary schools have outdoor playground equipment, small grass or dirt play fields, basketball hoops and markings for playground games, such as hopscotch. These amenities are similar to those offered by a neighborhood park. Middle and high schools have the same kind of programmed sport fields common in community parks. The City has partnered with the Lake Washington and Issaquah School Districts to upgrade athletic fields with synthetic turf and lights at the two high schools.

### Skyline Community Fields

Skyline Community Fields 1 and 2 were completed in 2007 with a turf replacement in 2017. An interlocal agreement between the City and the Issaquah School District allowed for the City to upgrade existing natural turf fields to artificial turf and add lighting. This change allowed for multiple sports to be played on the fields year round, as well as securing field time for community use during weekday evenings, weekends and the summer.



Skyline Community Fields



Eastlake Community Fields



Soaring Eagle Park





Duthie Hill Park

## Eastlake Community Fields

Eastlake Community Fields 1 and 2 were completed in January 2006. New turf was installed on these fields during the summer of 2016. Field 3 was converted to artificial turf in 2013. An interlocal agreement between the City and the Lake Washington School District allowed for the City to upgrade existing natural turf fields to artificial turf and add lighting. As with the Skyline Community Fields, this change allowed for multiple sports to be played on the fields year round, while securing field time for community use.

## Private HOA Parks & Open Space Tracts

Private homeowner associations (HOAs) parks contribute to the City's total park acreage, providing small-scale recreation opportunities for certain subdivisions. Private HOA parks provide another 107 small parks across the city, totaling 86.9 acres. Private HOAs also provide an additional 1,126.8 acres of open space tracts. Although these private parks are not open to the general public, they are still considered an important element of the parks system. The City should remain committed to providing neighborhood parks, especially for those residents not affiliated with private, homeowner association amenities and resources.



Marymoor Park

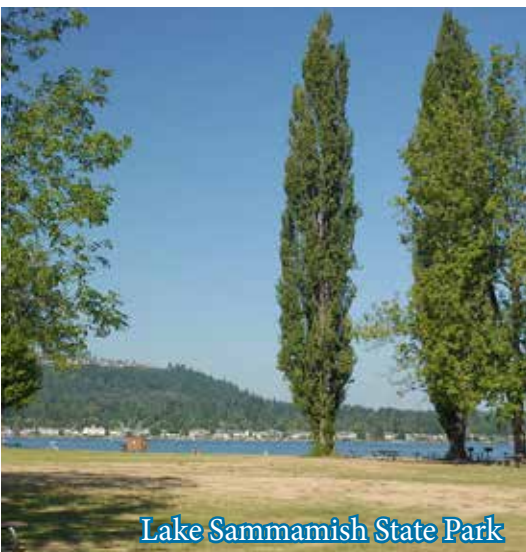
## County Parks

### Soaring Eagle Park

Soaring Eagle Regional Park is 600 acres of mature forests, wetlands and wildlife habitat. Soaring Eagle sits above Patterson Creek on the edge of the Sammamish Plateau along the western flank of the Snoqualmie River Valley. Soaring Eagle Regional Park features 12 miles of trails that are regularly used by hikers, mountain bikers and equestrians.

### Duthie Hill Park

Duthie Hill Park is 120 acres of dense evergreen forest located on the Sammamish Plateau and southeast of Sammamish city limits. It is connected to more than 2,000 acres of public open space that includes Grand Ridge Park, Mitchell Hill Forest and Preston Ridge Park. A 6-mile network of rolling cross country singletrack trails forms a four-leaf clover shape around the park, with a 2.5-acre central clearing serving as the hub.



Lake Sammamish State Park



## Marymoor Park

Marymoor Park is located on the north end of Lake Sammamish in Redmond and is King County's largest, oldest and most popular park. More than 3 million visitors experience the park's 640 acres annually. Recreational activities include sports facilities, rock climbing, a 40-acre off-leash dog park and a velodrome. This park is also one end of the Sammamish River Trail, a paved regional biking and walking trail.

## State Parks

### Lake Sammamish State Park

Lake Sammamish State Park is a 510-acre day-use park with 6,858 feet of waterfront on Lake Sammamish. The park offers paved walking paths, compacted dirt and gravel multi-use bicycle/hiking trails. Kayak and stand-up paddleboard rentals are available in the summer through Issaquah Paddle Sports. There are also boat ramps to the lake, a bathhouse with dressing rooms, sand volleyball courts, two children's play areas, horseshoe pits, baseball / softball fields, soccer fields and wildlife viewing opportunities.

## Nearby City Parks & Open Spaces

### City of Redmond

To the north, the City of Redmond has an extensive park and trail system throughout the city and within portions of King County. The system includes 47 parks comprising 1,351 acres of land in a variety of neighborhood, community and resource parks. There are 59 miles of public trails in Redmond, of which 39 miles are owned and operated by the City. The City also provides a wide range of recreation programs and operates several facilities. These include a community center, teen center, senior center and pool.

### City of Issaquah

To the south, the City of Issaquah Parks and Recreation Department offers year round cultural and recreational activities at the Issaquah Community Center; swimming programs at the Julius Boehm Pool; active recreational opportunities and programs at Tibbetts Valley, Central and Veterans' Memorial Parks; neighborhood parks with children's playgrounds; and special community facilities such as the Tibbetts Creek Manor and the Pickering Barn. The City operates over 1,600 acres of parks (29 park sites) and open space lands and over 24 miles of recreational trails.

## City of Renton

The City of Renton maintains 29 developed public parks, 13 miles of trails, 813 acres of public open space, an 18-hole public golf course, two lake-front beaches and a public boat launch. The City also offers a wide variety of leisure and recreation programming for area residents, including arts & craft classes, general interest programs, and fitness and wellness activities.

## City of Bellevue

Bellevue Parks & Community Services maintains over 2,700 acres of parks and open space land, over 80 miles of trails, and provides recreation programs for over 10,000 participants each year. The City has five community centers and a number of community recreation facilities, including rental facilities within parks.

## Golf Courses

### Sahalee Country Club


Sahalee is a private member owned country club. Sahalee was designed by noted golf course architect Ted Robinson, with later renovations by Rees Jones. It has been consistently ranked in the top 100 courses in America by Golf Digest for over 30 years. The all-weather, year-round course is tree lined with narrow fairways. Sahalee's 27-holes consist of three 9-hole courses of equal caliber (the North, South and East course); any two of which can be combined to a standard 18-hole course. In 2001, the clubhouse was replaced with a new 43,000 square foot facility including expanded dining and locker room facilities. Sahalee hosts private events such as weddings, receptions, fundraisers, birthday parties, meetings, etc. in the ballroom that seats up to 250 guests.

### The Plateau Club

Opened in 1997, the Plateau Club is a private, membership-based country club with an 18-hole championship golf course. It has a two-story, 37,500 square foot clubhouse with a variety of dining and recreational amenities. A fully-equipped recreation center with a competition-sized swimming pool, tennis courts and fitness center are available to members. The recreation facility offers many amenities including a fitness room, fitness studio with low-impact floors for group classes and other activities, a childcare center, massage rooms, and men's and women's locker rooms each with their own steam room. Seasonal programs include competitive swim team, lessons, lap sessions, parties and special events for all age groups. Two outdoor tennis courts include practice walls and ball machines for year-round play, in addition to enabling seasonal programs such as junior camps, tennis mixers, family tournaments and ladies' nights.

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## NEEDS: PARKS & OPEN SPACE

Parks and open spaces are the foundation of the City's outdoor recreation system. Sammamish's parks provide residents with a variety of active and passive recreational amenities. They offer places where people can spend time with friends and family, exercise, play and relax, and explore the City's landscape, wildlife and natural history.

By improving existing parks and providing new parks as Sammamish grows, the City can actively support the mental and physical health of residents and ensure its park and recreation system meets the needs of the whole community. This chapter identifies current trends in outdoor recreation, community interests in parks and open spaces, an assessment of levels of service and recommendations for system improvements.

### CURRENT TRENDS & PERSPECTIVES

The following summaries from recognized park and recreation resources provide background on national, state and local trends that may reflect potential recreational activities and facilities for future consideration in Sammamish's park system. Examining current recreation trends can help inform potential park and recreation improvements and opportunities that may enhance the community and create a more vibrant parks system as it moves into the future.

## National and Regional Trends

### National Recreation and Parks Database Analysis

In 2015, the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) released its Field Report examining the past 50 years of data from park and recreation agencies regarding roles, duties and trends. The report’s newer data from 2010 through 2014 reveals that agencies are performing more roles in serving their communities by providing leadership as public health advocates, programming as recreational experts, care and maintenance as public facilities stewards, and conservation and education as naturalist and managers of public lands. The need to uphold standards of social equity and equal access to public resources has become more critical.

In its sixth year, NRPA continues to provide its benchmarking database Park and Recreation Operating Ratio and Geographic Information System (PRORAGIS) to establish and compare industry trends. The system provides data on municipal, county and state park systems across the United States and allows any agency to compare its own operations and offerings to other agencies of similar size and population.

The PRORAGIS report indicated a general upward trend in jurisdiction operating budgets since 2010 demonstrating growing budgets for jurisdictions of every size - an indicator of the continuing gradual economic recovery. Jurisdictional capital budgets have also risen since 2011. The 2015 NRPA Field Report also provided data on a set of national benchmarking standards for comparison relative to population size. Agencies can compare operating expenditures per acre of parkland and per capita to consider if their funding is adequate compared to communities with similar population densities. For reference, the City of Sammamish falls in the “Over 2,500” category for population density, with a current estimate of 2,585 people per square mile, and in the current budget the City is allocating approximately \$80 per capita for departmental operating expenses.

Figure 16. NRPA Operating Expenditures per Capita



The field report indicated recent trends in staffing and volunteers for park and recreation agencies showing that numbers of authorized full-time positions have steadily rebounded

since 2011. The data indicates that agencies of all sizes are prioritizing full-time hires more than at any time in the past four years. Smaller agencies with limited resources are having a harder time than large agencies in carrying out that priority, but all are shifting resources away from part-time and seasonal hires to re-establish strong cores of professional full-time staffers.

The field report compares the number of acres that are maintained by each full-time equivalent (FTE = 2,080 hours per year) and indicates that the acres maintained per FTE metric is generally trending higher. As illustrated in Figure 17, the range of acreage varies widely in relationship to the amount of parkland within a community.

Figure 17. Number of Acres Maintained per FTE

Number of Acres	Lower Quartile		Median		Upper Quartile	
	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014
250 or fewer	2.7	3.7	5	5.7	9.8	16.6
251 to 1,000	6	5.4	8.7	12.8	19.6	24.1
1,001 to 3,500	9	12.2	21.6	18.3	54.7	39.4
More than 3,500	18.4	16.4	32.8	46.1	66.3	139.3

The 2015 NRPA Field Report also shared five trends that will impact the future of parks and recreation.

- Trend 1. Programs are the key to great park attendance.
- Trend 2. The perceived value of distributed services results in restructuring of departments and shifting roles; however, operations are most effective when a single department carries out all the park and recreation responsibilities.
- Trend 3. Agencies are pioneering new funding methods.
- Trend 4. The infrastructure deficit means parks will have to fight harder for public dollars.
- Trend 5. Walkable cities draw millennials, fueling a suburban exodus.

## Outdoor Participation Report

According to 2017 Outdoor Participation Report, published by the Outdoor Foundation, more than 144.4 million Americans (48.8%) participated in an outdoor activity at least once in 2016. These outdoor participants went on a total of 11.0 billion outdoor outings in 2016, a decrease from 11.7 billion in 2015. Participation in outdoor recreation, team sports and indoor fitness activities vary by an individual's age. Recent trend highlights include the following.

- Twenty-one percent of outdoor enthusiasts participated in outdoor activities at least twice per week.
- Running was the most popular outdoor activity for all ethnic groups.
- 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 between different demographic groups.
- The biggest motivator for outdoor participation was getting exercise.
- For youth, ages 6-17, biking (road, mountain and BMX) was the most popular activity by participation rate (25%). Running (trail running, running and jogging) was the favorite outdoor activity by frequency of participation (70 average outings per runner).



## 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. American's 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 Trends

### Washington State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)

The SCORP is a five-year statewide recreation plan published by the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office. The Washington Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Planning (SCORP) document guides decision-makers in better understanding statewide recreation issues and is required to help maintain Washington's eligibility for federal Land and Water Conservation Fund dollars. The SCORP is designed to determine outdoor recreation issues and opportunities and helps explore local park and recreation planning strategies. It includes valuable data on current trends in recreation participation and demand in Washington. Findings from the SCORP are evaluated to help inform planning and funding considerations for future park and recreational facilities.

The 2018-2022 Washington SCORP is currently in draft form for public review. The draft SCORP includes five priority areas to meet the needs of Washington State residents. Listed below with their accompanying recommendations, these priorities seek to address current needs and plan for future demands for recreation and conservation.

#### *Sustain and Grow the Legacy of Parks, Trails and Conservation Lands*

- Renovate facilities to meet today's recreation needs
- Pursue regional solutions to recreation and conservation
- Build partnerships to leverage better results
- Coordinate recreation needs with planning for growth
- Maintain residents' level of satisfaction in recreation opportunities

#### *Improve Equity in Parks, Trails and Conservation Lands*

- Locate and build recreation facilities for underserved populations
- Connect more people to popular activities
- Provide experiences where people go most
- Enhance Community Health and Safety

***Meet the Needs of Youth***

- Provide a variety of activities for youth
- Build and renovate athletic facilities for youth
- Support programs for youth

***Plan for Culturally Relevant Parks and Trails to Meet Changing Demographics***

- Create new and diverse opportunities
- Accommodate the active senior population

***Position the Outdoor Recreation Economy***

- Promote the outdoor recreation industry
- Promote the benefits of outdoor recreation and conservation
- Improve communications tools
- Maintain mapped inventory
- Maintain funding and identify funding gaps

The draft 2018 Washington SCORP confirmed that outdoor recreation is still an integral part of life for most Washington residents, and 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.

Outdoor recreation at parks, trails and conservation lands contributes \$21.6 billion to the state economy each year. The natural beauty of Washington State is one of the key factors that attract businesses based on the quality of life here. Investing in parks, trails, and conservation lands to keep pace with growth is essential to keeping our economic prospects high. From the draft 2018 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.

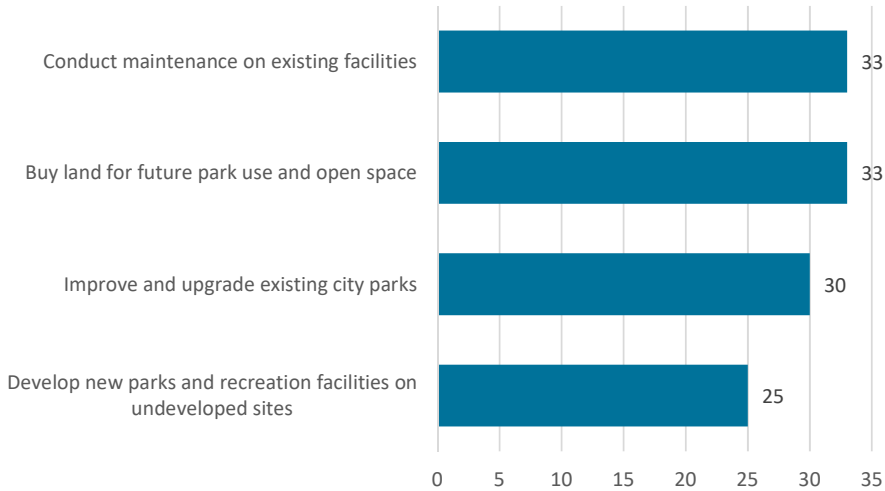
**Local Feedback & Interests****Community Survey**

A community survey was conducted in March 2017 and was designed to measure the level of satisfaction with existing parks and recreation opportunities in Sammamish and the priorities for future improvements and services.

When it comes to meeting the needs of the community, 46% of survey respondents think that there are enough parks and recreation activities to meet the needs of the community, another two-fifths (40%) think that there are not enough opportunities. About a tenth (9%) think that there are more than enough parks and recreation activities to meet the needs of the community, and the remaining 5% said they didn't know.

Four potential priorities for the Sammamish Parks and Recreation Department were given consideration by survey respondents. The two higher priorities identified were buying land for future park use and open space and conducting maintenance on existing facilities. All four priorities received between 25 and 33 priority points out of 100, indicating a fairly even split across the four priorities.

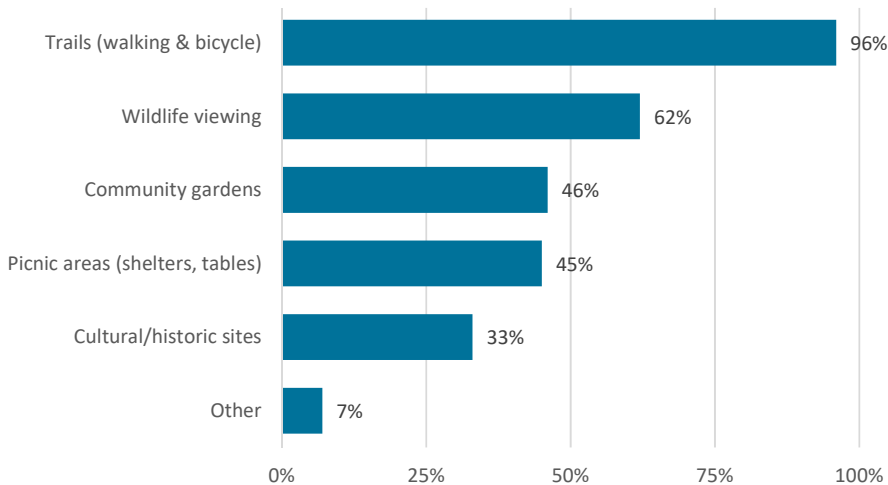
Figure 18. Priorities for Sammamish Parks and Recreation Department



Seventy-eight percent of survey respondents think the city should acquire more land for parks, recreation, open spaces and other public uses. Residents think that the two major foci for land acquisition should be passive use areas, such as walking trails, wildlife viewing, etc. (78%) and preserving open space areas (69%).

When asked what active use or recreation increases are desired, the top three desired increases in active use/recreation infrastructure are playgrounds (58%), athletic fields (57%) and waterfront recreation (55%). Sports courts were favored at 47% and indoor recreation followed at 43% as a desired active use/recreation increase. When asked about the desired increases in infrastructure that supports passive use, increased trails for walking and biking were rated with the highest level of importance. Wildlife viewing was also an important passive use with 62% of respondents desiring increased wildlife viewing opportunities.

Figure 19. Desired Infrastructure for Increased Passive Uses





**84%**

**SAID THAT THEY VISIT PARKS AT LEAST ONCE A MONTH; 51% VISIT PARKS ONCE A WEEK OR MORE**

**63%**

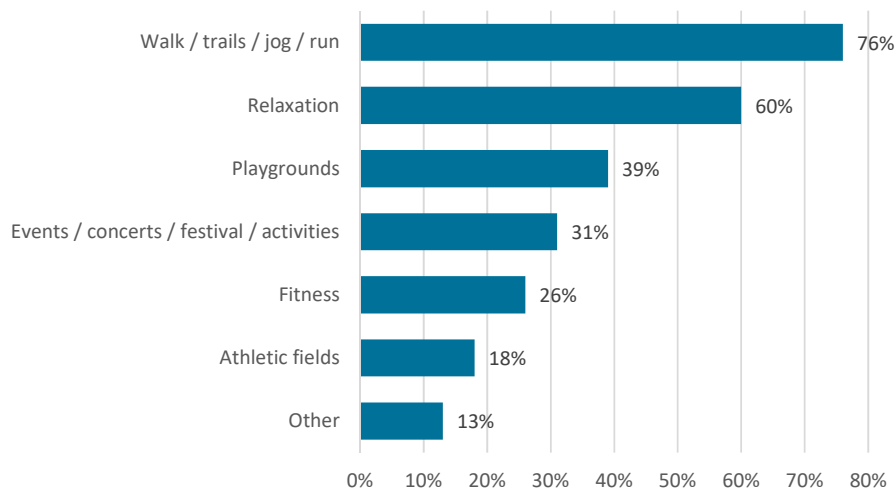
**RATED THE CITY HIGHLY ON THE QUALITY OF PARKS - AS 8 OR BETTER ON A 0 - 10 SCALE**

Based on survey respondents, the top three desired increase for land preservation are preserving the tree canopy (89%), wetlands and sensitive areas with ecological benefits (80%) and linking streams and fish/wildlife corridors (78%).

Exploring which parks were visited most frequently in the last year, the survey results revealed that Sammamish parks were visited by most (94%) of Sammamish households in the last year. Three parks that stood out as the most frequently visited were Pine Lake Park (75%), Beaver Lake Park (69%) and Sammamish Commons (55%).

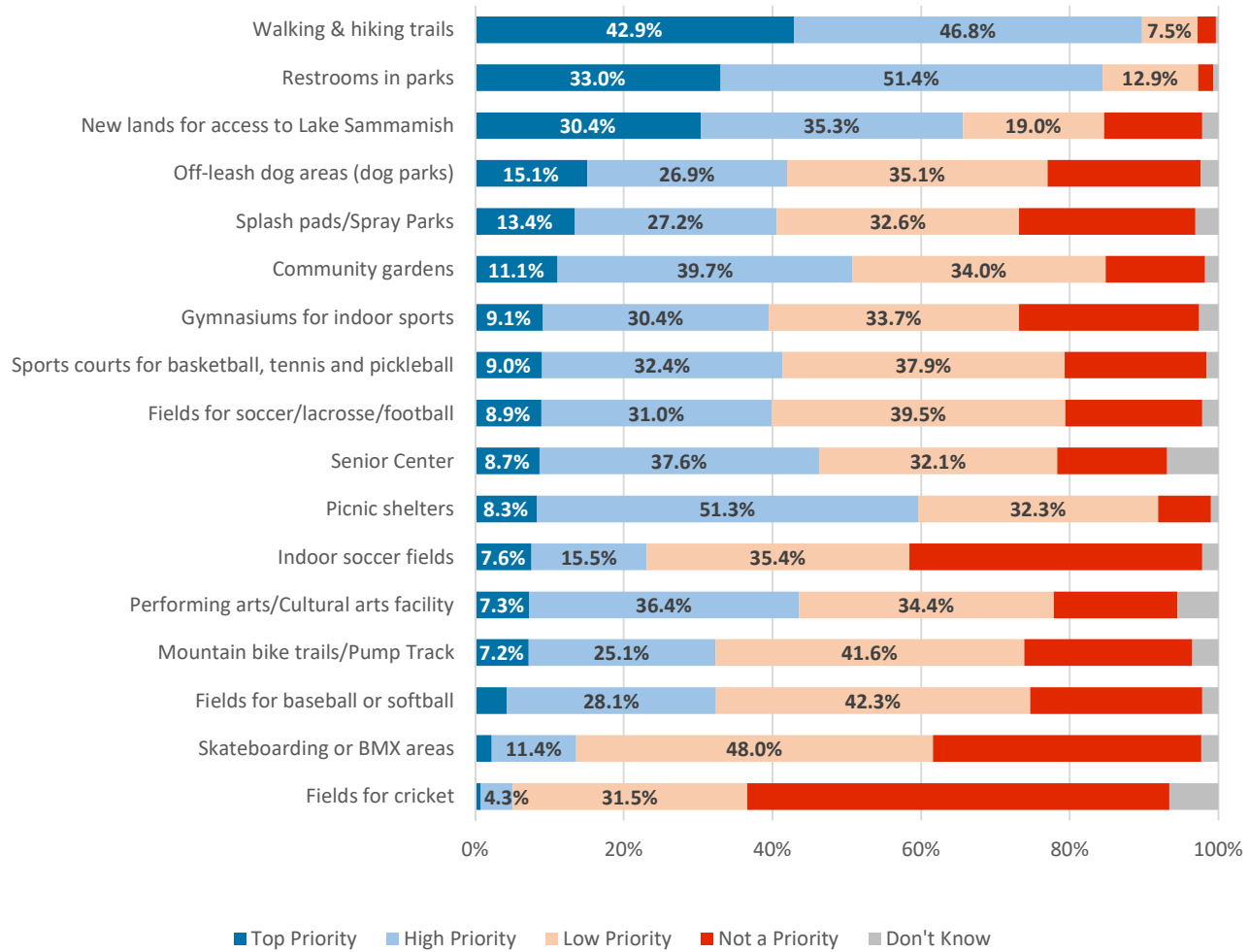
The survey also explored the main reasons for visiting local parks in the last year. The highest response was walking using trails, jogging and/or running (76%).

**Figure 20. Main Reasons for Visiting Local Parks**



The survey also inquired about the top priorities for future park and recreation services. The top priorities included walking and hiking trails (43%) restrooms in parks (33%) and new lands for access to Lake Sammamish (30%). In addition, when asked what other future park and recreation priorities were important to them as part of an open-ended 'other' category, more than half (28) of the 50 responses mentioned an ice rink.

Figure 21. Top Priorities for Future Park and Recreation Services



The survey also solicited additional comments from respondents regarding parks, recreation and open space. Summarizing the categories of comments reveals that most comments were focused on the challenges of urban development (57%) and preserving nature/open spaces (57%).

## Stakeholder Sessions

In May 2017, the City and consultant team convened three stakeholder groups representing park and recreation interest groups — environmental, athletic and programming — and conducted focused discussions with each group. More than a dozen organizations in each category were invited to attend the discussions. Representatives from these organizations, as well as interested individuals, helped identify the current and future needs for the parks system and its offerings. Out of those invited, those groups that attended are listed below.

Figure 22. Representation of Participating Stakeholders

Environmental	Programming	Athletic
Friends of Lake Sammamish State Park	Boys & Girls Club	Eastlake Little League
Issaquah Alps Trails Club	India Association of Western WA	Sammamish Cricket Club
Sammamish Friends	Kiwanis	Sammamish Little League
Sammamish Heritage Society	Parents of sports players	
Save Sammamish	Rotary	
Sammamish Community Wildlife Habitat	YMCA	

The feedback offered by the three different groups was summarized to reflect some general impressions and concerns about the City’s existing park facilities and recreation programs followed by suggestions for improvements and considerations for future implementation. While a summary on all three meetings is covered in more depth in Appendix C, the figure below offers a quick summary of the key results from the participating stakeholders.

Figure 23. Summary of Stakeholders’ Feedback for Parks & Recreation Needs

Partnering Stakeholder Comments
Parks' staff are very collaborative and get high marks for maintaining and building partnerships with other organizations, helping create a culture of community.
A shortage of sports fields was noted with need to improve existing field conditions.
The need for a balanced approach was stressed to offset the trend toward sports specialization.
More opportunities are needed for kids to engage in informal, unstructured and unscheduled play activities, both on fields and in parks.
Preserving existing open space and natural areas and acquiring more land for preservation were among top environmental priorities.
Suggested Improvements
Improve Parks & Rec communication to do a better job raising awareness about programs and educating the community about the environment.
Develop a City recreation app and a mobile-friendly website.
More programs for seniors and increasing the diversity of programs were two top programming priorities.
Future Considerations
Convert more fields to turf to help overcome the weather-related challenges currently being experienced on natural grass fields.
Water activities (canoe, kayak rentals)
ADA activities
Gardening
Alternative sports and activities (frisbee, geocaching, parkour, night hikes, art, wildlife, etc.)
Diversify the mix of parks, programs, and activities within parks.



## Virtual Town Hall Input

The City also promoted and utilized a Virtual Town Hall as an online forum for civic engagement for the PRO Plan update. The Virtual Town Hall (VTH) provided an online forum for engagement and was available between late May and late June. When asked to rank a list of 5 “big picture” priorities, 38% of the VTH participants said that buying land for future parks and open space was most important, and they ranked priorities as follows:

1. Buy land for future parks and open space
2. Maintain existing facilities
3. Improve existing parks
4. Develop new parks and facilities
5. Offer more programs

When asked to rank a list of 12 existing opportunities (i.e., parks, programs, facilities, trails and open space) they would like to see more of in the future, 25% of the participants said that more trails were most important. The following list shows the list by rank and average score.

Item	Rank	Average Score
Trails	1	3.31
Open space	2	4.43
Waterfront recreation	3	4.68
Athletic Fields	4	5.56
Picnic areas (shelters, tables, etc.)	5	5.59
Wildlife viewing	6	5.77
Playgrounds	7	6.12
Sports courts (tennis, basketball, etc.)	8	6.51
Indoor recreation	9	6.73
Community Gardens	10	6.83
Programs	11	7.53
Cultural / historic sites	12	7.73

Appendix B contains summary information from the VTH, along with a compilation of all the write-in and open-ended responses gathered from the online forum.

## Public Open House Input

In May, 2017, the Parks and Recreation Department hosted a public open house to provide opportunities for public input. As part of the open house activities, small group discussions brainstormed about elements within parks and recreation that are important and need to be added or expanded in the provision of parks facilities and recreation programming. Five topic areas surfaced as the highest priority considerations across the two small groups’ discussions: trail connectivity, land acquisition, sports fields, nature play and tree canopy protection. The groups shared their reasoning for these top priorities, highlighted below.

Figure 24. Rationale for Top Priorities Identified for Sammamish Parks and Recreation

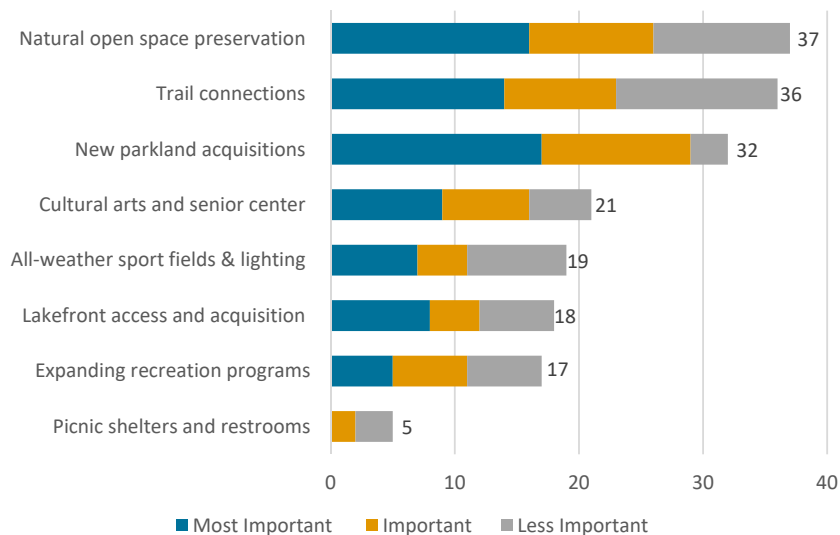
Trails / Connectivity	Land Acquisition	Sports Fields (baseball)	Nature Play	Tree Canopy Protection
Less traffic	Limit overdevelopment	Quality & Quantity	Opportunity to appreciate nature	Protect character of Sammamish
Less pollution	Wildlife habitat	Restrooms	Environmental education	Air quality
Physical and mental health	Tree canopy	Lights	Variety in park amenities	Storm water management
Sustainability	Community soul	Concession	Encourage creative/fun play	Aesthetic value
Increase sense of community	Bond - raise money for acquisition	Covered batting cages	Water play year-round	Wildlife habitat
More park & trail connections		Community building	Work with the rain	
Communicate trail information		Artificial turf		
Signage system		Seating area		

Both groups think the parks plan should address creating parks and facilities that are more multi-purpose/use, protecting existing natural areas, acquiring more land for parks and open space, and expanding programs and activities (e.g., after school programs, mentoring programs, winter activities, nature-based activities, and community gardens). Regarding missing elements from the Sammamish parks and recreation system, both groups said it was important to provide some form of transit to parks and programs, more ballfields, and programs/camps (e.g., young kids’ programs, summer camps).

In September 2017, the City conducted a second public open house to solicit feedback on potential plan recommendations. Participants could provide their feedback in multiple ways, including talking with the project team, writing comments directly on project boards, post-it notes, and comment forms, and participating in tactile exercises to help identify community priorities.

Participants were invited to identify park project priorities. Participants ranked projects using dot stickers on a display board that included 8 different projects listed vertically and three categories (Most Important, Important and Less Important) listed horizontally. The figure below displays the distribution of dots placed on the board in their different categories.

Figure 25. Ranking Results from Open House Park & Recreation Future Priorities



Upon compiling the priorities based on number of placed dots, participants thought that new parkland acquisitions, natural open space preservation and trail connections were the most important projects for the City to pursue.

## Adopted Community Plans

The PRO Plan update follows on a series of adopted plans directing the future of the City of Sammamish, and the City has clearly recognized the importance of its parks, recreation and open space system for the sustainable and healthy future of the community. The role of these adopted plans is emphasized as part of the local trend for parks, recreation and open space in Sammamish. To highlight the importance of specific plans, statements from the Town Center Plan, the Comprehensive Plan and the Sustainability Strategy are repeated below.

- City of Sammamish Sustainability Strategy (2011): The City seeks to become an environmentally and economically sustainable community and to make the community an even better place to live, work and play.
- Sammamish Town Center (2008) and Infrastructure Plan (2009): The core mixed use area centers on outdoor spaces that are defined by buildings and their proportion to streets and openings with walkability as a key component and “green spine” concept that connects a public open space system to adjacent neighborhoods.
- Sammamish Comprehensive Plan (2015): The overarching goal in the parks element of the comprehensive plan is to provide a network of parks, trails, athletic fields, and open spaces that deliver a variety of active and passive recreational opportunities to the Sammamish community.
- Land Acquisition Strategy & Implementation Program (2017): The goal of the Strategy is to develop a tool to assist with the initial screening of potential properties and to provide consistency in the process by which properties are considered for acquisition.

Local, regional and national trends in parks, recreation and the conservation of open space continue to reinforce the values and benefits of investing in a community’s local system of parks and recreation facilities.



## PARK CONDITIONS ASSESSMENT

The City of Sammamish has a diverse mix of parks, natural areas, preserves and special facilities. Approximately 600 acres of green space and outdoor recreational amenities offer Sammamish residents opportunities for water play, active sports, access to nature, family gathering and trails for walking, biking and equestrians.

During the spring and summer of 2017, each individual park facility was assessed by the consultant landscape architect to determine its current conditions and identify any significant maintenance or amenity needs. These individual assessments were part of the inventory for the park system and serve as a guide for prioritizing future improvements. The matrix on the following page indicates the types of amenities within each park facility and their current condition from good to poor, using a scale of 1-3.

- In general, amenities in GOOD condition (rated with a “1”) offer full functionality and do not need repairs. GOOD facilities have playable sports surfaces and equipment, working fixtures, and fully intact safety features (railings, fences, etc.). GOOD facilities may have minor cosmetic defects. GOOD facilities encourage area residents to use the park.
- In general, amenities in FAIR condition (rated with a “2”) are largely functional but need minor or moderate repairs. FAIR facilities have play surfaces, equipment, fixtures, and safety features that are operational and allow play, but have deficiencies or time periods where they are unusable. FAIR facilities remain important amenities for the neighborhood but may slightly discourage use of the park by residents.
- In general, amenities in POOR condition (rated with a “3”) are largely or completely unusable. They need major repairs to be functional. POOR facilities are park features that have deteriorated to the point where they are barely usable. Fields are too uneven for ball games, safety features are irreparably broken, buildings need structural retrofitting, etc. POOR facilities discourage residents from using the park.

Overall, the Sammamish park system was in good condition. The notable exceptions where ratings were poor occurred in Illahee Trail Park due to seasonal flooding having inundated much of the trail making it impassable and the ADA compliance limitations existing at Klahanie Park.

In addition to the individual park site assessments, some common themes arose across the Sammamish park system that should be noted. Limited wayfinding and orientation for the first time visitor, both to find the park then to explore the various opportunities within each park, was a potential barrier for welcoming new park users to each park’s unique offerings. Ensuring that all visitors have equal opportunity for accessing the amenities within each park may require additional navigation techniques and in some cases, the removal of any physical barriers.

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## Park & Facility Condition Assessment

### RATING SCALE

#### Playgrounds:

1	In good condition: no drainage issues; 0-10% material deterioration safety surfacing with a border at the site.
2	In fair condition: drainage issues; 10-25% material deterioration; some small compliance issues that could be spot fixed.
3	In poor condition: drainage issues; 25% or greater material deterioration; needs repair or replacement (but workable).

#### Paved Courts:

1	In good condition: no cracks in surfacing; fencing is functional, free of protrusions, and free of holes/passages; painting and striping are appropriately located, whole, and uniform in color.
2	In fair condition: hairline cracks to 1/8", surfacing required; fencing has minor protrusions, or holes/passages that do not affect game play; painting and striping have flaking or color fading.
3	In poor condition: horizontal cracks more than 1/8" wide, surfacing required; fencing has large protrusions, holes/passages or defects; painting and striping are patchy and color has faded dramatically.

#### Spray Park:

1	In good condition: spray pad has little or no cracking; spray furnishings have little or no damage; no vandalism; good drainage.
2	In fair condition: spray pad has some cracking; spray furnishings have signs of wear, but are in working condition; color fading.
3	In poor condition: drainage issues with clogging or sinking pad; large cracks; spray furnishings broken.

#### Signage:

1	In good condition: a signage system for the site, appropriate signs, no damaged signs.
2	In fair condition; multiple signage system within one site, a few damaged signs (0-10%), need maintenance.
3	In poor condition; multiple signage systems within one site, signs that are not legible from a reasonable distance, some damaged signs (10-25%), old logos, deteriorated materials, no signage.

#### Public Art:

1	In good condition: no vandalism; no signs of weathering.
2	In fair condition: minor signs of weathering or wear.
3	In poor condition: metal leaching/concrete efflorescence/paint peeling/wood chipped or carved into or warping; vandalized.

#### Pathways / Trails:

1	In good condition: surface generally smooth and even; proper width and material for type of pathway; proper clearances; minimal drainage issues.
2	In fair condition: uneven surfaces in places; some drainage issues; some cracking; narrow widths in some places.
3	In poor condition: uneven surfaces; inadequate width; significant cracking or heaving; clearance issues.

#### Skate Park:

1	In good condition: little to no signs of cracking; little or no erosion; elements target a diversity of age groups.
2	In fair condition: some cracking, but still usable; furnishings (i.e. - metal rails) might need spot fixes.
3	In poor condition: parts of the structure are damaged or deteriorated, chipped off or broken; edges of the structure are eroded possibly causing safety issues; elements target a specific / narrow age range.

#### Site Furnishings:

1	In good condition; not damaged; free of peeling or chipped paint; consistent throughout park. Trash receptacles, drinking fountain, picnic tables, benches on paved surface.
2	In fair condition; 0-20% furnishings are damaged and require replacing parts; some peeling or chipped paint; furnishings are not consistent, but are operational.
3	In poor condition; 20% or more are damaged and require replacing parts; significant peeling or chipped paint; multiple styles within park site require different maintenance.

#### Parking Areas:

1	In good condition: paving and drainage do not need repair; pavement markings clear; pathway connection provided to facility; proper layout.
2	In fair condition: paving needs patching or has some drainage problems; has wheel stops and curbs.
3	In poor condition: surfaces (gravel, asphalt, or concrete) needs repair; uneven grading; limited signage; no delineation for vehicles.

#### Natural Areas:

1	In good condition: barely noticeable invasives, high species diversity, healthy plants.
2	In fair conditions: Noticeable invasives, fewer species but still healthy.
3	In poor condition: Invasives have taken over, low diversity, unhealthy plants.

**Park Structures (Restrooms, Picnic Shelters, Concession Building):**

1	In good condition: roof has no leaks; floor shows little sign of wear; finishes are fresh with no graffiti or vandalism; all elements are in working order.
2	In fair condition: roof shows signs of wear but is structurally sound; floor shows some wear; finishes show some wear with some marks or blemishes.
3	In poor condition: roof leaks or otherwise needs repair; floor show significant wear and is difficult to maintain; finishes are dull or discolored, have graffiti, or are not easily maintained; some elements not working or in need of repair (e.g., non-functioning sink).

**Park Trees:**

1	In good condition: trees overall have good form and spacing; no topping; free of disease or pest infestation; no vandalism; no hazard trees.
2	In fair condition; some crowding may exist but overall health is good; less than 5% of trees show signs of topping, disease or pest infestation; vandalism has not impacted tree health (graffiti, not girdling).
3	In poor condition: Form or spacing issues may exist; evidence of disease or pests; vandalism affecting tree health; some hazard trees or trees in danger of becoming hazard trees.

**ADA Compliance:**

1	Appears to comply with ADA standards.
2	Some items appear to not comply, but could be fixed by replacing with relative ease.
3	A number of park assets appear not to comply, including large-scale items like regrading.

**Sports Fields:**

1	In good condition: thick grass with few bare spots; few depressions; no noticeable drainage issues, proper slope and layout; fencing, if present is functional, free of protrusions, and free of holes.
2	In fair condition: grass with bare turf areas in high-use locations, some drainage issues in overuse areas, slope is within one percent of proper field slope, infields have grading problems (bump) at transition to grass and have no additive, may not have proper layout and/or orientation, fencing if present has minor protrusions, or holes/passages that do not affect game play.
3	In poor condition: bare areas throughout the year, uneven playing surface that holds water in certain places, drainage issues, slopes not uniform and/or more than one percent from proper field slope, improper layout and/or orientation; fencing has large protrusions, holes/passages or defects.

**Amphitheater/Stage:**

1	In good condition: paving, stage and stair materials have little to no cracking or peeling, vegetation that is present is healthy; seating and other furnishings show modest signs of wear; views to stage from all seating vantage points.
2	In fair condition: paving, stage and stair materials have some cracking or peeling; vegetation that is present is healthy, but some soil compaction might be present; seating and other furnishings show signs of wear, but are still usable; stage orientation not be ideal for all viewers.
3	In poor condition: paving, stage and stair materials have significant cracking or peeling; vegetation is unhealthy (pests, disease, topped trees), compacted soil; seating and other furnishings need repair or replacement; redesign of space is needed for proper viewing and access.

**Landscaped Beds:**

1	In good condition: few weeds; no bare or worn areas; plants appear healthy with no signs of pest or disease infestation.
2	In fair condition: some weeds present; some bare or worn spots; plants are still generally healthy.
3	In poor condition: many weeds present; large bare or worn areas; plants show signs of pests or disease; compacted soils.

**Turf:**

1	In good condition: lush and full, few weeds, no drainage problems.
2	In fair condition: some bare spots, some drainage problems.
3	In poor condition: irrigation problems, bare spots, weeds, soil compacted.

## Certified Wildlife Habitats

Natural areas in many parks are signed with “certified wildlife habitat” signs indicating values promoted by the National Wildlife Federation. The park system could take further advantage of this status on its website, programming and potential partnerships (such as a local Audubon Society chapter). Parks with Certified Wildlife Habitat signs include:

- Beaver Lake Park
- Beaver Lake Preserve
- Ebright Creek Park
- Pine Lake Park
- Sammamish Commons
- Big Rock Park
- East Sammamish Park
- Evans Creek Preserve
- Illahee Trail
- Sammamish Landing

These sites also could include more interpretive signage to help park visitors understand the function and values of the natural areas they are enjoying.

## Park Directional and Identification Signs

For first time visitors and new residents, many parks are easy to miss while driving past their entrances. Park identification signs are not all easily visible from the road or face approaching traffic. As new park entrance signs are installed, their placement should consider how approaching vehicles from either direction can see the sign with time to make a safe turn into the park.

The use of small brown “park” signs along roadways to indicate upcoming park locations has been only partially implemented. These directional signs are helpful navigation tools for providing navigation aids to interested park visitors.

The Sammamish park system has two different park identification signs at park entrances: bright blue metal signs on posts and pale green signs mounted on stone bases. Eventually, the park system should use one type of park identification sign type for consistency.

## ADA Compliance

Title II of the American’s with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires a public entity such as the City of Sammamish’s park system to reasonably avoid discrimination against people with disabilities. While the ADA is a civil rights law not a building code, architectural barriers may trigger non-compliance with this law and should be avoided or modified to allow for equal opportunities for people with disabilities to participate. This park inventory assessment is not intended to provide a complete ADA assessment, but it does make note of the more obvious existing non-compliant characteristics within the physical infrastructure of park sites. Many of the potential physical barriers are associated with park and trail facilities that have accessible features, such as designated handicapped parking, access ramps, play areas, picnic areas, restrooms and pathways.

The guidelines recommend that handicapped parking stalls be signed with universal symbols mounted at least 60” above ground level. Throughout the park system, handicapped parking stall are designated with signs that are mounted at a variety of non-compliant heights that commonly fall under the 60” minimum height guidelines.



Many park benches located along trails are installed on concrete pads, but the pads are not aligned with or adjacent to the trail pavement or surface levels, which creates a barrier for universal access. At least 50% of park benches should be accessible to meet ADA guidelines.

Throughout the park system, many picnic tables are located in lawn areas (off trail pavement) and lack seating for wheelchairs. According to ADA guidelines, at least 50% of picnic tables within each park should be ADA compliant with hard stable surfaces for access and provide room for a wheelchair at the table space.

At the intersection of park pathways and parking or vehicular traffic, detectible warning strips on the ground surface were often lacking. Particularly notable in older facilities, the lack of detectible warning strips occurs in parking lot entrances where pathways lead into park amenities.

Many of Sammamish's park playgrounds did provide access ramps into the play area, but some of the ramps have abrupt endings where the wood chip safety surface is too low or raked away from the ramp creating a physical drop of more than the accessible measurement of one inch.

## PARK DEVELOPMENT & IMPROVEMENTS

### Sport Fields

The City of Sammamish currently provides sports fields in a number of their parks appropriate for a variety of sports, including fields suitable for soccer, lacrosse, cricket, baseball and softball. Additional fields have been developed in collaboration with Eastlake High School (Lake Washington School District) and Skyline Community Fields (Issaquah School District) as community sports fields used to support both school and community sports team programs.

Sammamish's existing and popular sport programs often exceed the capacity of current fields. With projected future population growth and growing participation in team sports, the City, local sport leagues and field providers will need to properly maintain existing field resources, use existing sites more effectively and acquire and develop additional field space to meet demands. Such actions will depend on continued active partnerships between the City, school districts, sports organizations and other recreation providers.

Athletic sports team stakeholders have identified the need for more fields and suggest that conversion to all-weather turf play surfaces would help meet that growing need for expanded field inventory. New parkland acquisitions should consider developable areas that could support sports fields with all-weather turf and field lighting to meet the growing need for athletic facilities.

The City should plan for at least an additional 2 baseball fields and 3 soccer fields to meet the community's future needs. If the City were able to secure a future site for a sports complex that could contain four ball fields and/or four soccer fields, the increased capacity could meet field needs as well as support tournament play that boosts the local economy and provision of recreational programming.

Few parks in the Pacific Northwest offer cricket fields. Klahanie Park's cricket field is appreciated by its local users but has minimal supportive amenities and could benefit from expansion when the park undergoes a master plan. As Sammamish acquires more parkland suitable for developed sports fields, consideration for the need and value of adding more cricket fields could provide a unique recreational identity within the system.

Some of Sammamish's sport fields could benefit from adding field lighting to extend hours of play. The sports fields at Beaver Lake Park, Pine Lake Park, East Sammamish Park and Klahanie Park do not currently have lighting. The potential for adding field lighting should be coordinated with the need to also add lighting to parking areas and support facilities, improvements in field conditions to allow for extended play and any needs to mitigate for impacts to adjacent residential neighborhood that could be affected by sports field lighting. If any park is being considered for the addition of all-weather turf and field lighting, an overall examination (or master plan) of the park facilities may be warranted to ensure a smooth transition to safely supporting evening activities.

Local sport leagues have benefited from the cooperative relationships formed between the City and both the Lake Washington School District (for Eastlake High School Community Fields) and the Issaquah School District (for Skyline High School Community Fields). These partnerships have been a crucial component of meeting field sport needs within the city. Going forward, the City should work closely with the school districts to actively explore opportunities for greater joint use and development of facilities. Agreements between the agencies should identify opportunities and define responsibilities regarding field planning, acquisition, development, improvement, maintenance and operations; as well as clarify scheduling, decision-making and revenue sharing objectives.

The City also should participate in periodic meetings with the various leagues and field providers within Sammamish to assist in field space planning and address other concerns related to inter-league coordination, field maintenance and protocols for addressing field issues. The City should continue to monitor the condition, investment needs and usage rates of its field facilities to best plan for long-term maintenance and capital needs. Field usage policies should be reassessed on a regular basis to ensure they continue to meet the needs of the City, user groups and neighbors. Field usage fees should also be updated periodically – and when significant field improvements are made - to address cost recovery and equity objectives. Such policies and fees should also address field scheduling for alternative uses, such as festivals, concerts and other community events.

## Sport Courts

Sammamish currently provides courts for basketball and tennis and a skatepark. The City has two outdoor tennis courts at East Sammamish Park, one outdoor tennis court at Ebright Creek Park and two tennis courts at NE Sammamish Park. A total of five outdoor basketball courts (mostly half courts) can be found at Ebright Creek Park, NE Sammamish Park, Sammamish Commons and one modified full court at Pine Lake Park. The inclusion of additional basketball and tennis, as well as future volleyball and pickleball, courts should be considered in the planning and development of future community parks. Half-court basketball courts, sports courts that contain funnel ball or a similar feature, or skate spots with one or two skate features, may be appropriate for inclusion in neighborhood parks, particularly in underserved areas or where there is expressed neighborhood interest. The growing popularity of pickleball could warrant a grouping of courts in a future park development to support the typical group activities associated with pickleball play.

## Water Play or Splash Pads

Spray grounds are water play features that are very popular and provide a means of integrating aquatics into parks at a relatively low cost. The expressed desire for more public waterfront access indicates the recreational need for water play during the warm summer months. Waterfront property is very difficult to acquire, and many communities incorporate splash pads and interactive fountains to help meet the need for water play. The popularity around the Sammamish Commons spray park demonstrates the community interest in such facilities. Sammamish should consider at least two more spray grounds to accommodate the local need and locate them in areas of the city that lack waterfront parks or existing water play features. Depending on the design and functionality, these amenities can draw significant numbers of visitors to the park; therefore, the siting of such a facility should consider access to parking and public restrooms.

## Nature Play

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. In the development of future park sites, the City should consider the incorporation of nature play features, such as in Big Rock Park, and look for ways to optimize nature play opportunities with the unique characteristics of future park sites.

## Water Access

Lake Sammamish is a defining feature of the City, yet public access to the lake is severely limited within Sammamish city limits. Access is challenging due to topography, private development and the road network. The City should aggressively capitalize on any remaining opportunities and explore ways to partner with King County, Forterra, local developers and land owners to enable and secure water access to and along Lake Sammamish.

## Community Gardens

Gardening is a popular recreational activity, and 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. Gardens are also popular with a diverse range of residents, and community input for this Plan suggested a need for garden facilities. The siting of additional community garden plots could be considered in the design and development of future neighborhood and community parks.



## Wayfinding, Identity & Signage

A good wayfinding system can provide a consistent identity and display effective and accessible information to orient the user. 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 user navigate the space and stay comfortably oriented.

The conditions assessment conducted as part of this Plan indicated that Sammamish parklands need clearer, more prominent identification and signs located at multiple entry points. Such signage should identify the City of Sammamish as the provider, to be distinguished from school or private property, and offer methods for accessing additional information (e.g., contacts, volunteering, other facilities, etc.) to inform park users and visitors.

Sammamish should pursue a comprehensive wayfinding program that includes both visual graphic standards and site furnishing standards. The use of consistent graphics and a coordinated hierarchy of sign types and sizes can provide park and trail users with wayfinding information to enhance their access and knowledge of the recreational system available for their enjoyment. Part of a good wayfinding system applies the “simpler is better” concept.

The City should consider a wayfinding and signage system that integrates all its parks and trails with similar ‘branding’ to help all park and trail users understand where they are, what they might need to know, how to get more information and who the provider is. An effective wayfinding system not only provides directional and locational information to the trail user. The combination of materials, color, specific sign types for conveying different information, unified font designs, and matching site furnishings (i.e., benches, bollards, drinking fountains, etc.) can all contribute to creating strong identifiers and that unique sense of place for Sammamish’s park system.

## Off-Leash Dog Area

Walking with a dog is a very popular recreational activity, and off-leash areas have become desired amenities for dog owners living in urban environments who may otherwise have limited opportunities to exercise their pets. The City of Sammamish currently has an off-leash dog area at Beaver Lake Park. Recreational trends and community input indicate a need for an additional off-leash area. It is recommended that the City provide an additional minimum, 2-acre site for this use within the next five years.

Appropriate sites should be safe, not isolated, and noise impacts on neighbors should be considered. Ideally, a dog park would be a component to a larger (future) community park, where infrastructure (e.g., parking, restrooms and garbage collection) exists and supports multiple activities.

The City also should continue and enhance signage and the enforcement of leash laws in parks or natural areas where only on-leash activities are allowed. Additionally, communities throughout the Northwest have relied on grassroots or non-profit organizations for the on-going operations and maintenance of such facilities.

## Environmental Education

Natural areas in many parks are signed with “certified wildlife habitat” signs indicating values promoted by the National Wildlife Federation. The City could celebrate these preserved environmental resources with a more proactive and engaged environmental education program. Interpretive signage added along the edges of those valued habitats could explain their qualities and ecosystem functions. Additional parks, such as Big Rock Park and several others, could be added to the National Wildlife Federation certification program or incorporated into an Audubon bird habitat. Park and recreation providers often partner with local chapters of Audubon, land trusts, and/or watershed conservancies to provide environmental education programming that further enhances the understanding and appreciation of parkland conservation and its community value.

## Asset Management

To continue to maintain a high level of public satisfaction in park and recreation facilities, Sammamish must continue to place a high priority on proactive maintenance and the renovation of park amenities. The Sammamish community has made a significant public investment in the park system over time, and this investment requires proper stewardship to ensure the park system continues to provide desired services for decades to come. To manage its recreation assets, the City should link lifecycle planning of park amenities and site design and development with ongoing operations.

## Lifecycle Planning

The foundation of a holistic asset management program is a comprehensive inventory and assessment of existing facilities and unmet needs. The City should continue to maintain standardized and systematic inventory documentation of park system infrastructure, including quantity, location and condition. By tracking installation and the expected useful life of assets, the City can plan for proactive maintenance and replacement of assets in the future. This planning should be further supplemented by ongoing condition assessments of assets – particularly those with a high consequence of failure. Such assessments can highlight urgent repair needs and can help the City fine-tune maintenance practices for Sammamish’s weather, wear and usage patterns. Such information can aid in future budgeting for capital repairs and overall asset management, as well as for predicting staffing requirements.

## Site Design and Development

Site master plans and individual development projects should address long-term maintenance and operation costs. Where possible, site design and facility choices should consider the impacts to and affects on on-going operations and maintenance budgeting. Park design standards can provide continuity in furnishings and construction materials, thereby providing consistency in the methods used to maintain, repair and replace them as they become worn or are damaged. This consistency can make the system more efficient to maintain and may improve aesthetic appeal and safety. The City also can make intentional choices in the design of parks to reduce energy and water use and lower the intensity of maintenance required. Both high- and low-tech strategies, ranging from high-efficiency machinery and equipment to planting native plants and reducing lawn areas, can help reduce long-term maintenance and operating expenses.

## PARK DISTRIBUTION – GAP ANALYSIS

Sammamish residents are fortunate to have access to great parks and trails; however, Sammamish's continued and projected growth will place further pressure on access to new recreational lands. Understanding the known gaps in the park system and evaluating the City's existing levels of service for parks will provide a foundation for strategic planning to ensure that tomorrow's residents have equitable access to a balanced distribution of parks, trails and recreation amenities to stay healthy and active.

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 neighborhood and community parks primarily serve these areas. Additionally, walksheds were defined for neighborhood parks 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 at each park. Walksheds for community parks were derived using ¼-mile, ½-mile, 1-mile and 2-mile travel distances to acknowledge that community parks serve a wider array of users and driving to such sites is typical.

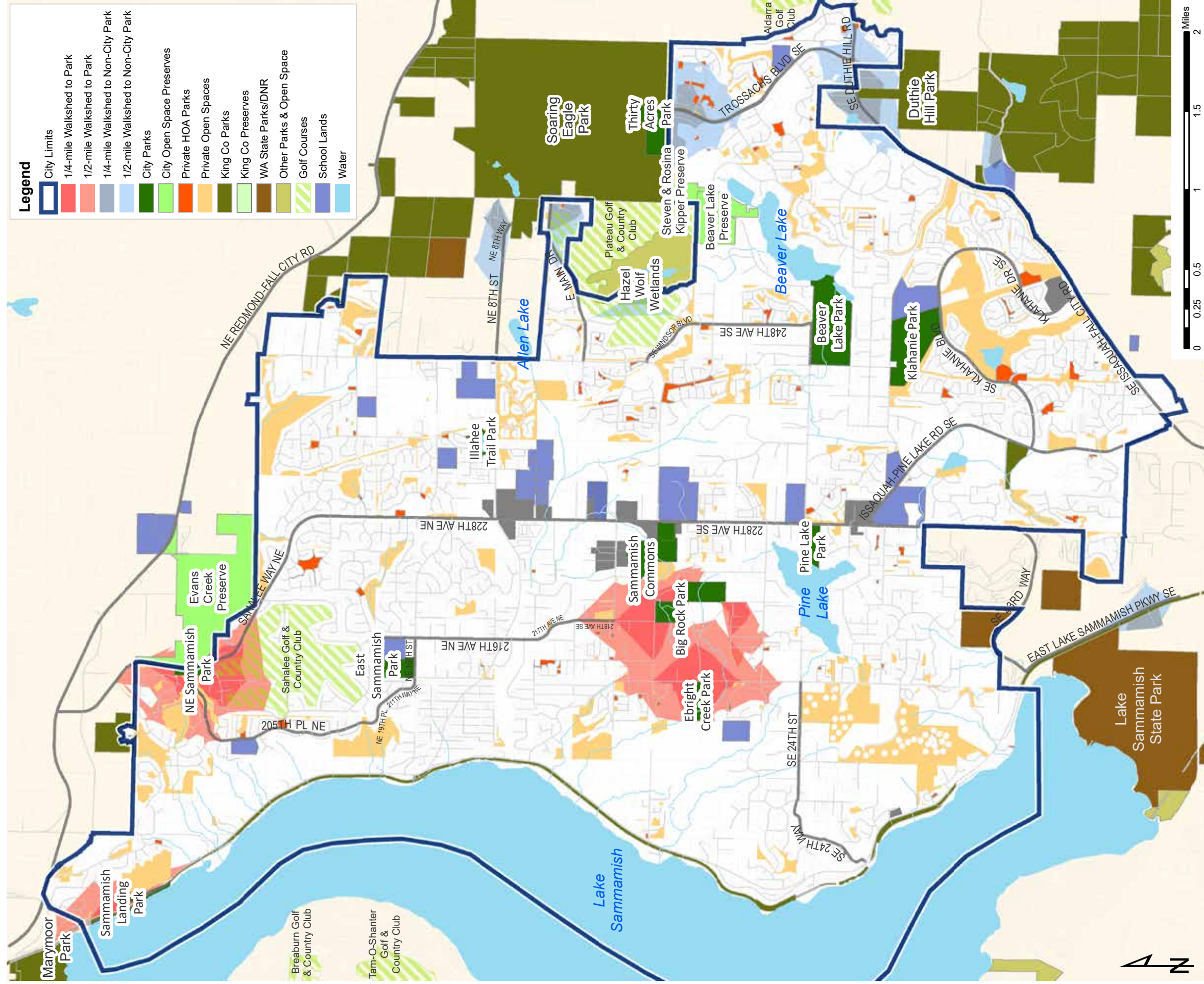
Maps 2 through 6 illustrate the application of the distribution criteria from existing parks. Areas in white do not have a public park within reasonable walking distance of their home. The illustrated 'walkshed' for each existing Sammamish park highlights that certain areas within the city do not have the desired proximity to a local park.

Striving to provide a neighborhood or community park within a reasonable walking distance (e.g., ½-mile) may require acquiring new park properties in currently underserved locations, improving multi-modal transportation connections to allow local residents to safely and conveniently reach their local park and evaluating the potential use of school sites as proxies for local neighborhood parks. As Sammamish 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. In concert with the search for developable park land, the City should continue to coordinate with proposed residential land development projects to consider when and how a public park could be incorporated into the planning of new residential communities.

Resulting from this assessment, potential acquisition areas are identified for future parks (Map 7) and are noted in the Capital Improvements Plan chapter of this Plan. The mapping targeted up to eight sites for future neighborhood parks and one general location vicinity for a new community park. An aggressive acquisition program should be actively pursued in Sammamish to capture opportunities that will be continually diminishing as residential growth continues to consume developable land.

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 Sammamish.

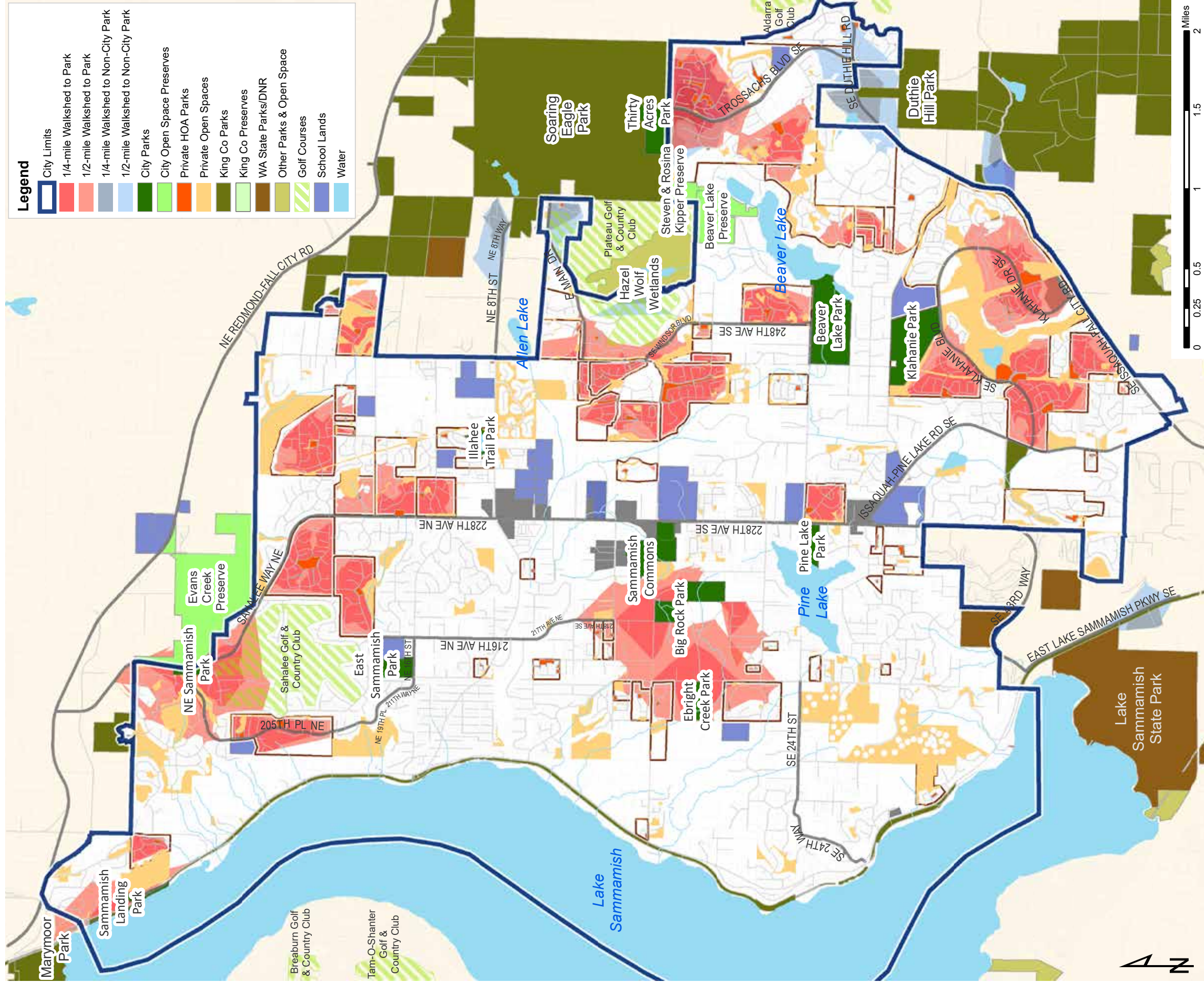




Map 2: Park Walkshed Map (Neighborhood Parks)

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Map 3: Park Walkshed Map (Neighborhood & HOA Parks)

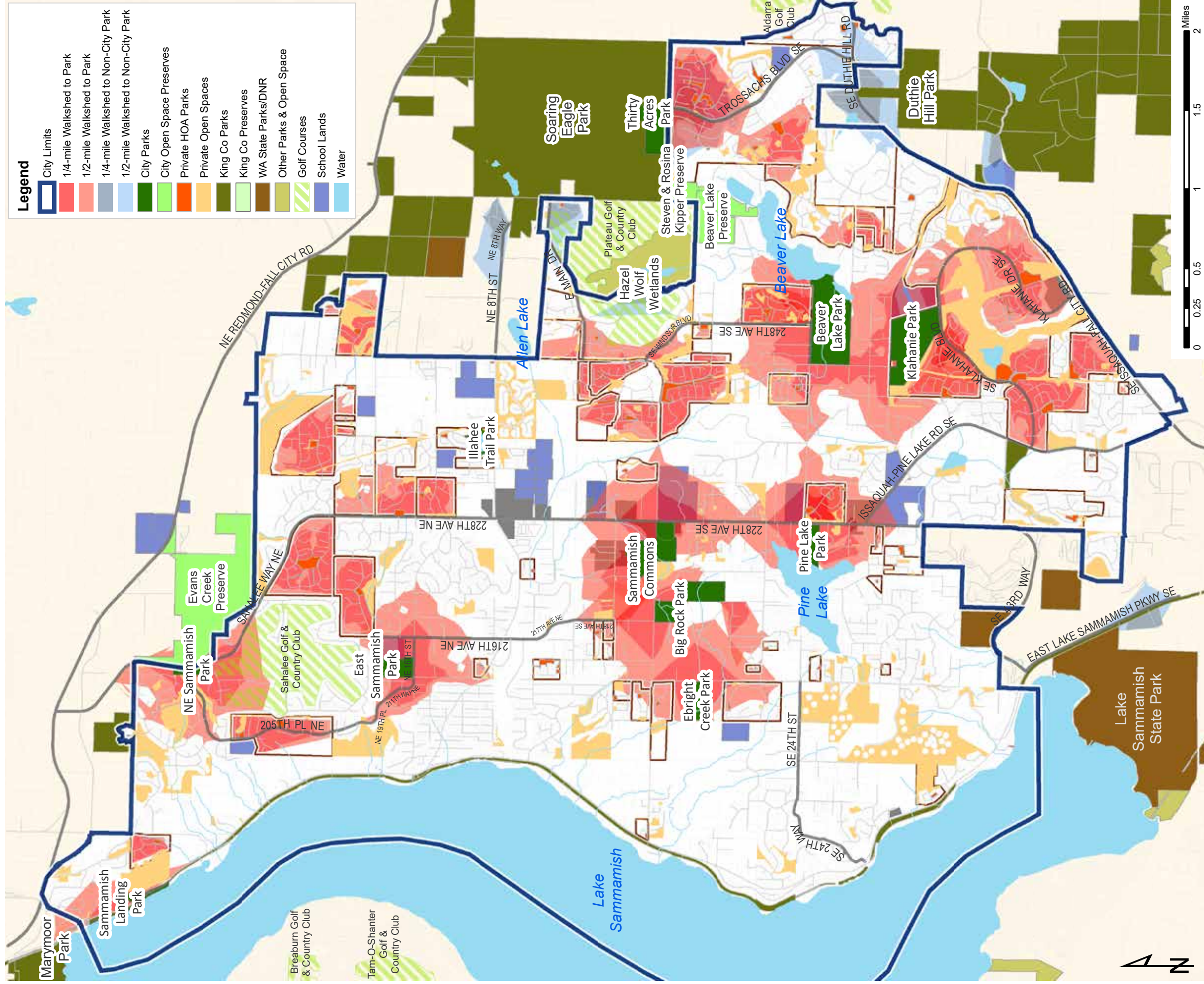


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Map 5: Park Walkshed Map (All Parks at 1/2-mile)

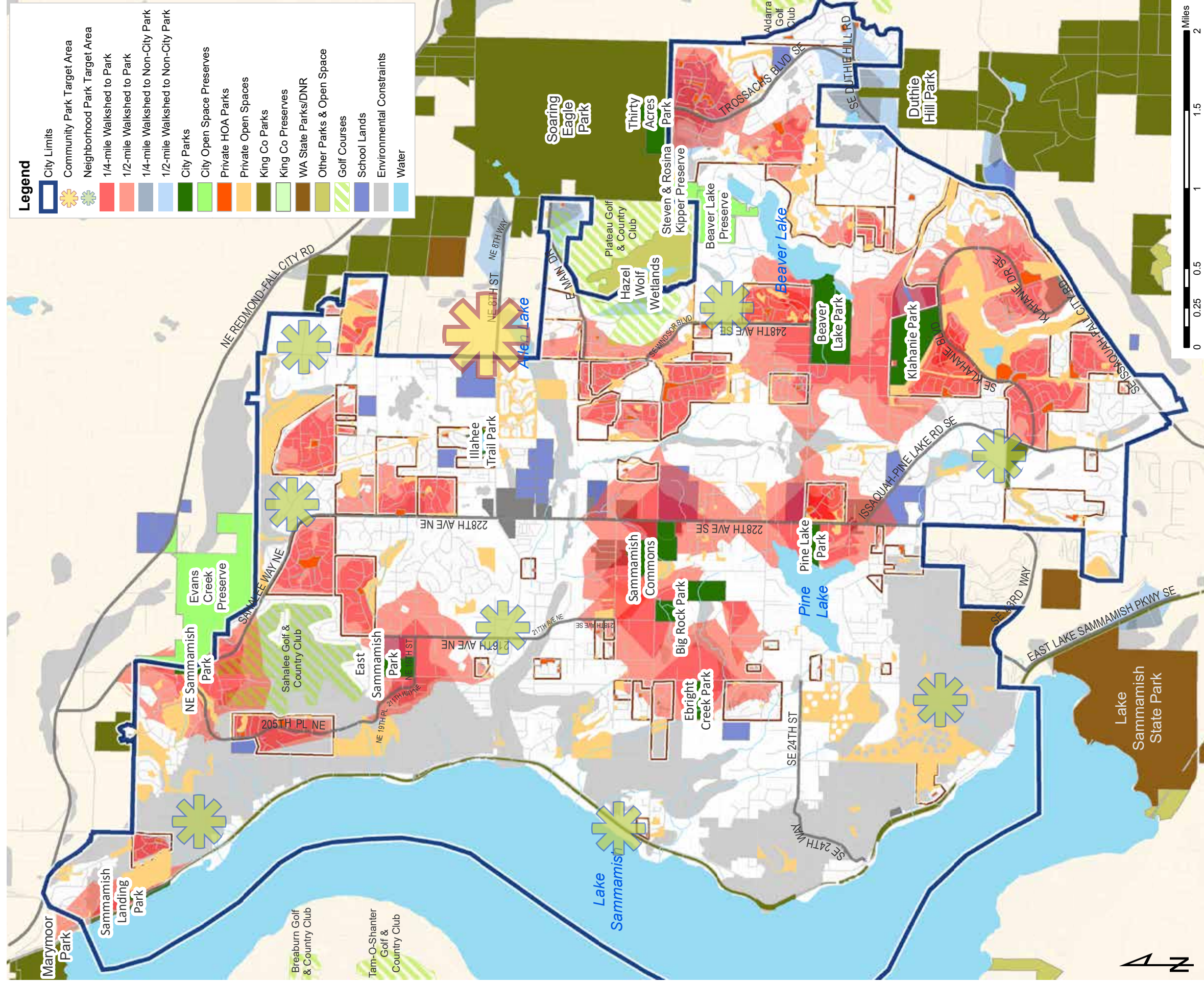
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# Map 7: Target Acquisition Areas

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## LEVELS OF SERVICE & STANDARDS

Service standards are the adopted guidelines or benchmarks the City is trying to attain with their parks system; the level of service is a snapshot in time of how well the City is meeting its adopted standards. As a measure of adequate provision of parks and recreation, a level of service (LOS) review was conducted to further understand the distribution and acreage needs for parkland to assess how well the community can access parks and open space.

Traditionally, the application of numeric standards for the provision of parks has applied an acreage of parkland per thousand residents as a target measurement for adopted benchmark standards. This evaluation can illustrate how the City and its park system measures up to park systems across the country with comparable population sizes, population densities and parkland acreages.

Historically, many park and recreation providers used the National Recreation and Park Association’s (NRPA) published park standards that primarily framed as parkland acres per capita. Today, many communities are developing guidelines that are customized to their unique, and often changing, park and recreation demands and needs. The use and application of standards continues to evolve and develop diverse approaches. This Plan evaluates the City’s current parkland level of service through a variety of metrics.

### Acreage-based Approach

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) prepared a report in 2015 using their Park and Recreation Operating Ratio and Geographic Information System (PRORAGIS) database that reflected the levels of service of park agencies across the country based on population density per square mile. The table below indicates the range of acres per 1,000 population from jurisdictions with less than 500 residents per square mile up to urban communities with over 2,500 persons per square mile. Based on the current estimated population of 62,240 residents, Sammamish’s population density is 2,585 persons per square mile for its 24.1 square miles of land area.

Figure 26. NRPA Population Density and Parkland Acreage per 1,000 Population

		Population Density per square mile			
	All Agencies	Less than 500	500 to 1,500	1,501 to 2,500	Over 2,500
Lower Quartile	<b>4.5 ac/1000</b>	4.8 ac/1000	6.3 ac/1000	7.5 ac/1000	3.3 ac/1000
Median	<b>9.9 ac/1000</b>	9.9 ac/1000	12.1 ac/1000	12.9 ac/1000	6.4 ac/1000
Upper Quartile	<b>17.5 ac/1000</b>	17.3 ac/1000	19.9 ac/1000	20.6 ac/1000	13.5 ac/1000

Note: The term 'ac/1000' represents 'acres per 1,000 population'

In reviewing the PRORAGIS data, Sammamish’s level of service would be above the median (in the upper quartile) for urban communities with 9.8 acres of total parkland per 1,000 population. It should be noted that diverse approaches are used to classify park lands when applied to meeting a level of service standard. Since the PRORAGIS database relies on self-reporting by municipalities, some agencies only include developed, active parks while others include natural lands with limited or no improvements, amenities or access. The comparative standards in the table below should be weighed with this variability in mind. Sammamish parklands, including open space sites and wetlands, were used in the above comparative park acreages total.

Sammamish’s current level of service is examined using the population data and existing park acreage. The combined acreage for community and neighborhood parks is 282.4 acres. The City is currently providing approximately 4.5 acres per 1,000 population for active-use community and neighborhood parks.

Considering the continued and future growth of Sammamish, additional park acreage may be needed to accommodate the estimated 2035 population of 75,400 residents (extrapolated from forecasted growth in housing units). If this current level of service for city-owned parks is maintained into the future, the resulting demand for additional active-use parklands will translate into the need for approximately 60 acres of community and neighborhood parks. The inclusion of private homeowner association (HOA) parks into the calculation upwardly adjusts the current level of service to 5.9 acres per 1,000 population. If this combined current level of service is held constant and applied to the projected population, the City would need to add approximately 78 acres of active-use parkland to its system to maintain today’s service levels.

The acreage-based discussion regarding levels of service represents a status quo approach to the City’s potential demand for parkland acreage relatable to today’s existing level of service. The assumption reflected in the chart (Figure 27) and the plan content preceding the chart is that today’s level of service would be held constant and used as a guide post to estimate the future demand for parkland acres to accommodate population growth. This section does not suggest or assume a higher level of service than is provided for the City’s current population.

Figure 27. Current Level of Service & Project Acreage Need

Metric	Measurement			
2017 Population (OFM)	62,240 residents			
2035 Population Forecast (King Co.)	75,400 residents			
<b>Parkland Acreage (Active-Use Parks Only)</b>	<b>City Only</b>		<b>City + HOA</b>	
City-owned & maintained	282.4 acres		282.4 acres	
Private HOA Neighborhood & Pocket Parks	acres		86.9 acres	
<b>Total</b>	<b>282.4 acres</b>		<b>369.3 acres</b>	
<b>Level of Service</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2035</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2035</b>
Effective Level of Service based on total acreage (acres/1,000 residents)	4.54	3.75	5.93	4.90
Acreage surplus (deficit) - at today's LOS		(59.92)		(77.82)

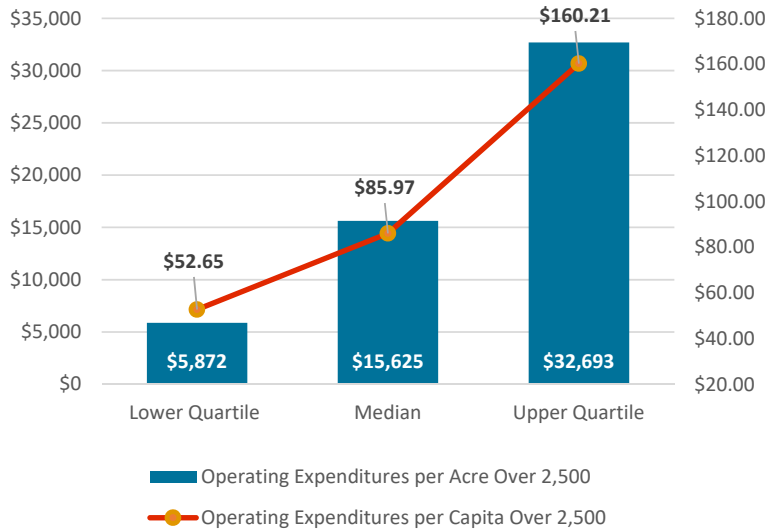
NOTE: Through future development agreements, additional parklands may be created within homeowner associations or otherwise to alleviate a portion of the above noted demand for parkland.

## Investment-based Approach

One level of service method the City of Sammamish uses is a valuation-based model comparing the investment of parks and recreation facilities maintenance and operations using both population and acres. This model is used in conjunction with projected population growth, population density, availability of non-city parks and open spaces and maintenance and operating costs as additional considerations in the measure of service needs. The average annual per capita cost for Parks, Recreation and Culture is \$81.31 per resident (as reported in the City of Sammamish Operating and Capital Budget).

The NRPA PRORAGIS data offers a comparison of park and recreation agencies and their operating expenditures per capita based on the population densities of the different jurisdictions. For communities with population densities greater than 2,500 people per square mile, similar to Sammamish, the median expenditure is \$85.97 per resident, which is only slightly higher than that budgeted by the City.

**Figure 28. NRPA Operating Expenditures per Acre and per Capita from PRORAGIS**



The PRORAGIS data also offers a comparison of park investment applying operating expenditures per parkland acreage. The range for communities with similar density to Sammamish extends from \$5,572 in the lower quartile to \$32,693 in the upper quartile. Using the total of 611 acres for the Sammamish park system and the current annual park operating (\$4,980,310) results in an approximate \$8,151 expenditure per acre. Sammamish park land expenditures per acre fall between the lower and the median of other park agencies in similar population densities across the country.

## Going Beyond Acreage Standards

Using a service standard for park acreage tied to a community’s population provides a common measure for guiding the amount of desired parkland. However, the acreage of parkland per capita method and the investment per capita methods provide only a limited measure of the value of recreational access and park amenities in demand for public uses. As the Sammamish park system matures with increasing residential density, other assessment techniques should be considered going forward to gauge the community’s need for additional lands, facilities and amenities.

## Park Pressure

Park 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’ use the park closest to them and that people visit their closest park more often than those farther away. Using GIS, the ‘parkshed’ is defined by a polygon or a park service area containing all households having the given park as their closest park. The population within this park service area can then be calculated, providing an estimate of



the number of nearby 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 identifies the adequacy of the park land (in acres per 1,000 residents) rather than simply the location and ‘walkability’ determined by the park accessibility metric. Depending on the amenities and attractions within the park, the higher the population within a parkshed will result in greater the use and potential increased maintenance and wear and tear.

## Park Amenity Mix

Providing unique outdoor experiences, while working to fulfill basic recreational park amenities, will result in parks with a variety of amenities. The variety and location of amenities available within a community’s parks and recreational facilities will create a range of different preferences and levels of park usage by residents. Park systems should ensure an equitable distribution and quantity of the most common amenities like playgrounds, picnic shelters, restrooms, sports courts, sports field and trails to help distribute the potential usage of load on individual parks. Park planners should also consider that many park users, particularly families, look for a variety of amenities in a park that will provide a range of outdoor recreation activities for every visit.

## Park Amenity Condition

In addition to understanding the quantity of park amenities, communities must also assess the condition of each park’s general infrastructure and amenities. 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, restrooms, drainage and irrigation, lighting systems and vegetation. Amenities can include picnic shelters, play equipment, site furnishings, sports courts, sports fields and other recreational assets. Deferred maintenance over a long time period can result in unusable amenities when perceived as unsafe or undesirable by park patrons. Compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines can also provide a measure of acceptable condition.

In general, the amenities in Sammamish parks are in good condition. Some improvements in providing universal access, removing architectural barriers and ensuring compliance with ADA guidelines should be considered as upgrades and capital repairs are scheduled in older parks and facilities.

# OPEN SPACE & NATURAL AREAS

## Existing Significant Natural Areas

Natural parks and open space areas are acquired to preserve the special natural and unspoiled character of a particular location, which are often important as local habitat conservation areas. Natural area protection in Sammamish commonly includes wetlands and wooded areas. Passive recreation uses are appropriate for these sites, such as walking, bird-watching, interpretive educational signage and non-motorized trail systems.

Sammamish parklands contain five preserves and natural lands totaling 328.6 acres as part of its public park system. The City of Sammamish owns 724 acres of open space that can include facilities and other public lands beyond the named natural areas and preserves.

These natural areas are significant not only for their size, but also for the diversity of habitat they provide – ranging from shorelines and adjacent wetlands, to streams and riparian areas, as well as upland forested areas. Large portions of the wetlands, floodplains and riparian areas throughout the city are in public ownership or are protected by development restrictions.

Open space is typically characterized by the environmental resources in need of protection and often contains lands that are not desirable for developed public recreation facilities. Since the need for open space can be highly variable due to diverse ecosystem traits (sensitive fisheries, wetlands, etc.) and regional physiographic qualities (mountains, lakes, etc.), few park and recreation providers have adopted standards for open space acreage. Instead, the need for open space is often dictated by the quality of a community's natural features that are clearly worth protecting. Sammamish is characterized by a wide range of natural lands, including coniferous forests, shoreline and aquatic habitats, wetlands, and upland corridors, supporting a variety of wildlife that could be considered for protection as additional open space.

An informal comparison was made of local open space acreage to reveal how the percentage of Sammamish open space measures up to its neighboring communities. As shown in the table below, Sammamish and Kirkland have similar 5% open space that is lower than the 12-20% open space amounts of other communities.

Figure 29. Open Space Acreage - Local Comparisons

CITY	OPEN SPACE (AC)	LAND AREA (AC)	% OPEN SPACE
Bellevue*	2,699.11	21,446.4	13%
Issaquah**	1606.7	7,993.6	20%
Kirkland	588	11,520	5%
Redmond	1,351.1	10,841.6	12%
Sammamish***	724	13,203.2	5%
Sammamish****	1,466	13,203.2	11%
Sammamish*****	2,172	13,909.2	16%

\* Bellevue open space acreage includes all publicly owned land, not necessarily all owned by Bellevue Parks.

\*\* Open space acreage as of December 2014. Issaquah is in the process of updating open space information and will provide information when available.

\*\*\* Acreage for City owned open space

\*\*\*\* Acreage for City owned open space plus land owned by other agencies within Urban Growth Area (UGA)

\*\*\*\*\* Acreage for City owned open space, plus land owned by other agencies within Urban Growth Area (UGA) plus Hazel Wolf Wetlands Preserve and Soaring Eagle Park

## Natural Area Preservation

While the City has acquired a number of significant natural areas for long-term protection as public open space, additional opportunities to protect key parcels may arise in the future. Preserving some of the remaining high value natural resources as the city develops can provide significant community, environmental and economic benefits. Natural areas with the following characteristics should be considered for acquisition or other protection (e.g. conservation easements) as they become available:

- High natural resource value, including habitat, water quality, hydrologic, and erosion control values
- Continuity with existing natural areas
- Cultural, historical or scenic significance

Particularly high value resources, or those that create important wildlife and recreation connections within the existing system, should be prioritized for preservation, potentially in partnership with community organizations.

## Environmental Education

The City's wealth of natural resources and open spaces provide an opportunity for enhanced environmental education, programming, experiential opportunities and interpretive information. Such programs and amenities can increase Sammamish residents' awareness and enjoyment of nature and the unique wildlife that share their city.

## Interpretive Signage

The City's parkland includes a diverse array of habitat and is home to a variety of urban wildlife. As a result, there are opportunities for interpretive education and signage in parks throughout the City's system. The installation and integration of interpretive signage that reflects Sammamish's history, culture, natural assets and wildlife populations can enable programmed or self-guided outdoor learning and support other types of passive recreation, such as viewpoints and wildlife viewing areas.

## Educational Programs

Continued and enhanced partnerships with Eastside Audubon Society, area school districts, King County and Washington State Parks can create opportunities for educational programs, walks and tours at the City's many natural area parks and other local resources. Also, the City could expand its partnerships with the school districts to explore ways to engage students in site restoration activities or in environmental education opportunities. Such programs can and do provide unique learning opportunities for school children and residents, while increasing awareness and support for the protection of native habitat and wildlife. Expanded education programs also could include residential-scale protection strategies, such as understanding and minimizing the impacts of fertilizers on aquatic habitats and water-related recreation and on pest management for home gardeners.



## Ecosystem Services

The City's natural areas and open spaces play key roles in supporting healthy, well-functioning ecosystems. These many benefits include maintaining air and water quality within the city and region, mitigating impacts of climate change, and providing recreational, scenic and spiritual values.

## Natural Green Infrastructure

Sammamish's natural resources are a critical component of the City's green infrastructure, which provides important ecosystem services functions. The City's urban forest, streams, wetlands and vegetated natural areas help manage stormwater, protect air and water quality and prevent erosion. Connection, protection and enhancement will improve their ability to provide these important services. This, in turn, can reduce the City's need for built infrastructure, such as stormwater conveyance and detention capacity, reduce risks from natural hazards like landslides and floods and protect the quality of Lake Sammamish, Beaver Lake and Pine Lake for generations to come.

## Stormwater Parks

The resurgence of integrated landscape design provides an opportunity to consider options to design and restore parks to naturally capture and filter stormwater to improve watershed health and enable environmental education and interpretation. Wetland restoration, visible stormwater features that collect the nitrogen and detain it prior to reaching the wetlands, and educational signage and design elements could improve watershed health and inform visitors about the impacts of pollutants (dog waste, pesticides and herbicides), and encourage more environmentally-friendly choices. Through coordination with the Public Works Department, the Parks & Recreation Department should explore opportunities to enhance existing and future sites to serve multiple public purposes, as appropriate.

## Productive Landscapes

The City could also consider locating demonstration gardens with native plantings, herb or sensory gardens in larger parks. Interpretive signage could provide educational opportunities, while partnerships with the school district could foster food-focused educational programs. Gardens could be developed and maintained in partnership with community organizations or educational programs, such as the Environmental Horticulture program at Lake Washington Institute of Technology.

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## NEEDS: PROGRAMMING

The recreation facilities and services available within Sammamish are a major community asset and support the physical, mental and social health of community members. The City currently offers or promotes programming, including fitness, education and general interest classes, outdoor recreation, day camps and special events to reflect the wide ranging diversity of the Sammamish community.

The City of Sammamish owns two major community facilities - the Sammamish Community & Aquatic Center and the Teen & Recreation Center - and both are operated by partner organizations. These centers have been heavily used for programs, and recent conversations with community members suggest a strong interest in expanding, or having access to additional recreation program offerings, especially for youth, teens and seniors.

## CURRENT TRENDS & PERSPECTIVES

### National and Regional Trends

#### 2016 Outdoor Participation Report

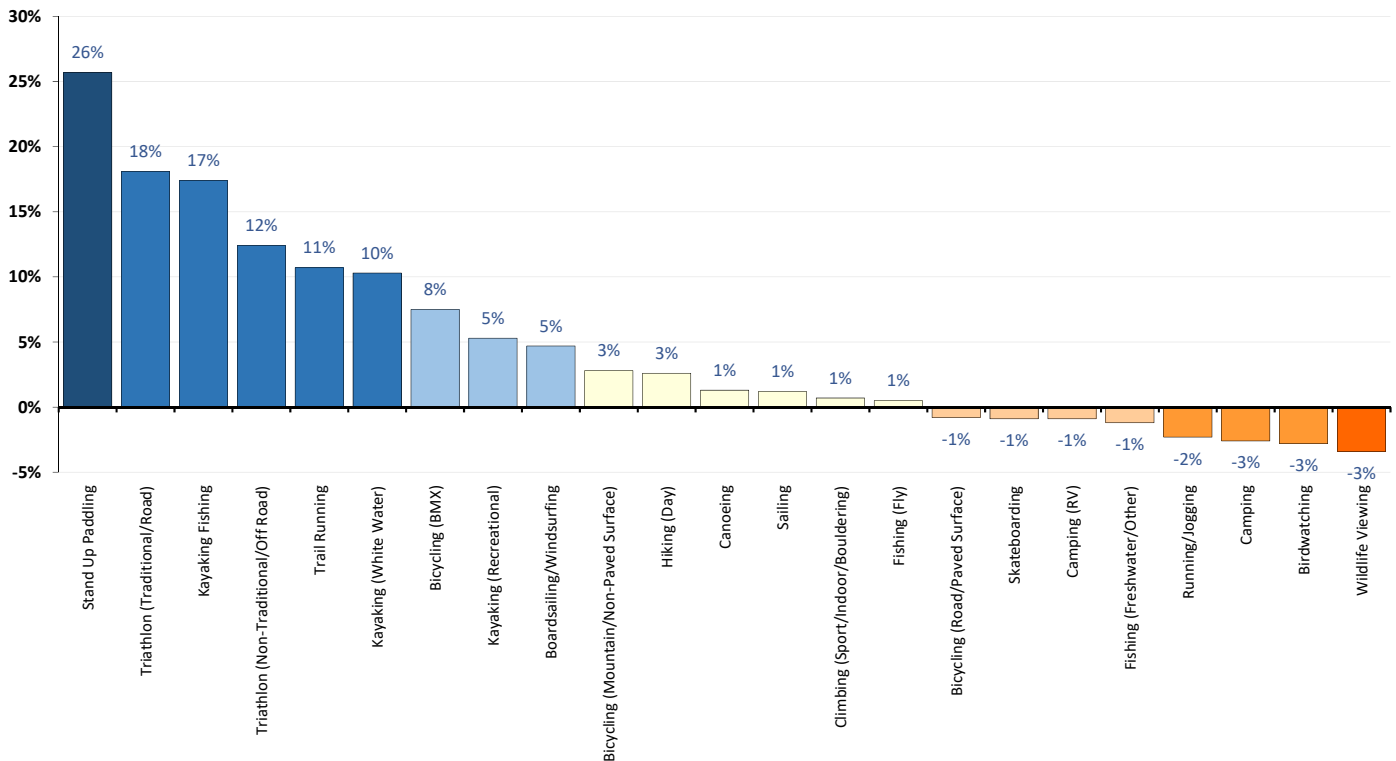
According to 2016 Outdoor Participation Report published by the Outdoor Foundation, participation in outdoor recreation, team sports and indoor fitness activities vary by an individual's age. Gender also plays a role in determining behaviors and participation trends. Figure 29 illustrates the three-year 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.
- 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.
- Participation rates drop for both males and females from ages 16 to 20. These rates climb back up slightly for females into their early 20's and males late 20's before gradually declining throughout life.

Figure 29. 3-Year Change in Outdoor Recreation Participation of Youth (6-24) (2016 Outdoor Foundation)



## 2016 Sports, Fitness & Leisure Activities Topline Participation Report

Prepared by a partnership of the Sports and Fitness Industry Association (SFIA) and the Physical Activity Council (PAC), this 2016 participation report establishes levels of activity and identifies key trends in sports, fitness, and recreation in the US. In terms of interest, all age groups continue to look at swimming as a means for future fitness followed heavily by outdoor activities (such as camping and biking). The trend shows that more Americans are interested in getting outside and being in natural settings.

Most adult age groups focus on fitness activities while team sports are more attractive to youth. Participants in the surveys conducted for this report shared that having someone else participating in any fitness activity was a strong motivator. A shortage of available

time and current health issues were cited as the biggest obstacles to more participation in active lifestyles.

Another revealing trend was the effect of physical education (PE) during school years on physical activities during school and post-school years. Participation in physical exercise during grade and high school influenced degree of engagement in team sports, outdoor recreation and fitness activities both during school years and after age 18. Those who did not have PE, only 15% also participated in team sports and outdoor recreation. 80% of adults ages 18+ who had PE in school were active compared to 61% of adults who didn't have PE in school.

The report surveyed spending on wearable devices for fitness tracking. Fitness trackers that sync with smartphones/tablets/computers increased from 8.4% of participants in 2014 to 12.9% in 2015. The interest in purchasing and using wearable technology in the future increased by 3.2% over the last year among active individuals.

## State of the Industry Report

Recreation Management magazine's 2016 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:

1. Educational programs (planned by 27.1 % of those who will be adding programs)
2. Fitness programs (26.1 %)
3. Mind-body/balance programs (25 %)
4. Teen programming (24.2 %)
5. Programs for active older adults (19.8 %)
6. Environmental education (19.7 %)
7. Arts & crafts (18.8 %)
8. Day camps and summer camps (18.3 %)
9. Sports tournaments and races (18.1 %)
10. Holiday events and other special events (17.7 %)

For most programming types, community centers are the ones most likely to be planning to add such programs. There was an increase of at least 2 percent from 2014 to 2015 in the number of respondents whose facilities included: playgrounds, Wi-Fi services, open spaces, park shelters, walking and hiking trails, bike trails, skateparks, fitness trails or outdoor fitness equipment, disc golf courses and dog parks.

## Other General Recreation Programming Trends

It is important to understand some of the trends that are being seen nationally with recreation programming over the last 10 years and how that might impact Sammamish. However, it should be noted that each community is unique, and the region of the country has a strong bearing on trends and other operational factors. Some of the keys to providing recreation programs and services include:

### *Programming Philosophy*

Essential to developing a comprehensive recreation program is strong administrative oversight of the process. It starts with the development of an overall philosophy that will

direct any programming efforts by the City and determine the role of other providers. The philosophy should emphasize areas of focus by age group as well as program areas and also prioritize future program development options. As part of the programming philosophy a determination must be completed regarding which programs and services will be offered directly by parks and recreation staff and which will be contracted to other individuals or organizations.

### ***Program Plan***

Based on the recreation program philosophy, the Department should develop a well-conceived plan for the delivery of recreation services. This plan should take into consideration the future direction of recreation services in the City along with the primary role of other organizations and recreation providers in the area. There needs to be clearly identified areas of programmatic responsibility to ensure that there is not overlap in resource allocation.

### ***Staffing***

In order to continue to grow the number of recreation programs and services that are offered to the community, adequate staffing is necessary to not only conduct the program itself but also to supervise and administer the activities of others. With staffing costs being the single greatest expense item for the parks and recreation department, attempt to minimize the number of full-time staff by continuing to contract for programs or partner with other providers for services for most programs. However, even with this approach, there still needs to be adequate full-time staff to oversee and coordinate such efforts. Part-time staff is still the backbone of most recreation departments and make up the vast majority of program leaders and instructors. Many departments have converted program instructors to contract employees with a split of gross revenues (usually 70% to the instructor and 30% to the city) or developed a truer contract for services that either rents facilities and/or takes a percentage of the gross from another organization.

### ***Program Development Trends***

Specific programming development trends include the following:

- Developing programs that are single day or no more than 4 sessions at a time.
- Developing programs for youth during non-school days, Christmas break, spring break and any other extended breaks.
- Providing a variety of summer camp options.
- Offering more Saturday programs and the introduction of some Sunday programming (especially in adult sports leagues).
- Introducing programs that are oriented toward specific ethnic groups.
- Developing a baseline of programs that appeal to the family unit.
- Staggering the days and times of similar programs that are offered at multiple locations.
- Bundling of programs for youth and adults so classes are offered at similar times.
- Offering more drop-in based, pay as you go classes, especially for fitness.
- Expanding senior programming to include a greater focus on the Baby Boomer generation which often means programs and services that are available in the evenings and on weekends (since many younger seniors still work), as well as more active based programs.



## Local Feedback & Interests

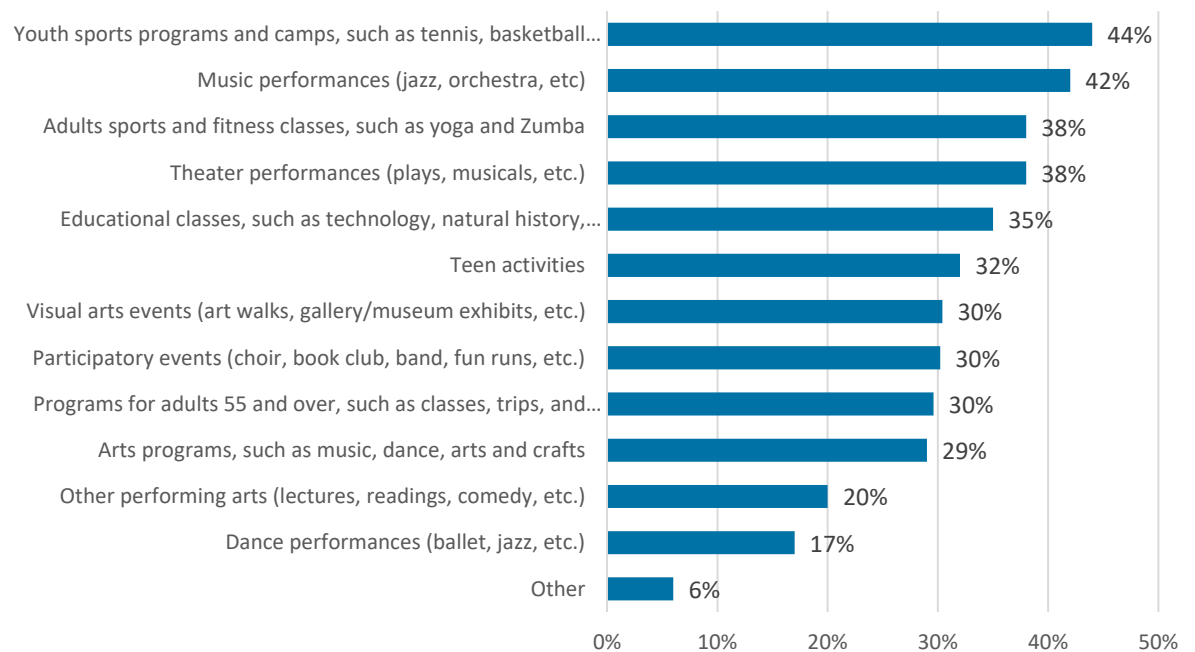
### Community Survey

The community survey conducted as part of this Plan included one key question pertaining to recreation programs. Figure 30 illustrates the responses about the recreation programs desired in Sammamish. Overall, the most desired additional recreational programs are as follows:

- Youth sports programs and camps, such as tennis, basketball and soccer (44%)
- Music performances (42%)
- Adult sports and fitness classes, such as yoga and Zumba (38%)
- Theater performances (38%)

In reviewing the demographic data of the survey, respondents who are longer term residents (those who have lived in Sammamish 10 years or more) generally have a greater interest in arts and culture programming and senior programs and activities. Also, respondents who were under 45 years of age generally favored more youth sport programs and camps and adult sports and fitness classes.

Figure 30. Relative Interest in Additional Recreation Program Offerings



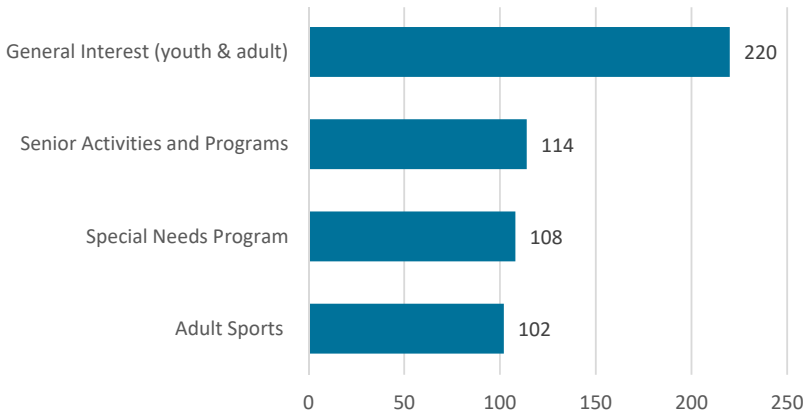
### Public Open House Input

Participants at the second open house in September were invited to take part in an allocation exercise to identify how they would allocate resources for programming. The board includes four different program areas with space provided next to each for participants to share their related feedback on post-it notes. The four program areas were:

- General Interest (youth and adult)
- Senior Activities and Programs
- Special Needs Programs
- Adult Sports

Attendees were given 10 coins and were asked to allocate based on their priorities for the four program categories.

Figure 31. Recreation Program Preference Results from September Open House



Participants thought that the General Interest (youth and adult) program area should be the highest priority based on double the number of coins allocated to this program group compared to the other three program types. Attendees also had the opportunity to provide additional thoughts on the types of programs they would like to see for each category.

- General Interest: Indoor field house, natural playground, squash, art center (x2), theater/performance all seasons, teen center (look at Redmond and Issaquah recreation programs for guidance), let outdoor pre-school use City parks
- Senior Activities: Make YMCA easier to use - \$\$, Dancing
- Special Needs: Special needs playground
- Adult Sports: Pickleball!, volleyball, tennis courts with lights

## SUMMARY OF CURRENT PROGRAM OFFERINGS

The City of Sammamish has a unique approach to providing recreation programs and services that is based on partnerships and agreements with other community based recreation providers or through contract with other independent instructors for services. The City sees this as the most viable model for their community and one that limits the role of the Parks and Recreation Department to offering special events and coordinating the services of other organizations and individuals.

- Like most cities in the United States, Sammamish faces challenges in the delivery of recreation parks and recreation facilities and services in a cost effective and efficient manner.

- The Parks and Recreation Department focuses its programming efforts on a variety of special events. It also operates an open swim beach that is guarded.
- The Department coordinates and promotes a wide variety of programs, services and facilities that are being provided by other organizations. The largest of these are the YMCA and Boys & Girls Club.
- The Department has a variety of parks and recreation facilities that are geographically spread across the city. This includes both indoor and outdoor facilities, parks, athletic field complexes and specialty facilities.

Appendix D provides a detailed summary of the recreation program analysis, which is summarized in this chapter.

### Special Events

The main recreation program area that is directly offered by Sammamish Parks and Recreation is special events. In addition to these events, there are a large number of special events that are provided by other organizations in partnership with the City of Sammamish.

- In 2017, the City hosted or co-hosted over 75 special events.
- The vast majority of special events are offered between May and the end of October.
- Most City events focus on holiday celebrations, youth and cultural events.
- Most of the co-hosted events are centered around the arts, outdoor recreation or holiday events.
- In 2018, the Parks and Recreation Department will staff and support in coordinating Sammamish Arts Commission events.

### Recreation Programs & Activities

The City relies on other providers for most of its recreation services. The YMCA and the Boys & Girls Club are the primary providers of most programs and services that are associated with indoor recreation, aquatics, fitness, athletics and youth services. There are also a significant number of youth sports organizations that serve the needs of the community.

In addition to the programs and services that are supplied to the community by other organizations, the Sammamish Parks & Recreation Department contracts directly with some individuals and businesses for a small number of programs that are promoted directly in the City’s Recreation Guide. The following is a list of the primary providers of recreation services.

Figure 32. Recreation Providers & Services Offered

Organization	Program / Service Focus
<b>General Programming</b>	
Sammamish Family YMCA	Operate the Sammamish Community & Aquatic Center which provides fitness/wellness, youth and adult sports, youth camps, teen programs, aquatics, senior services, special events and outdoor education.
Boys & Girls Club	Has provided in the past a variety of programs focused on youth and teens including youth sports. However, this may change in the near future.

(continued on following page)



### Youth Sports Organizations

Eastlake Little League	T-Ball, Baseball and Softball
Eastlake Youth Football Association	Football
Eastlake Youth Lacrosse	Lacrosse
Eastside Crusaders Lacrosse	Lacrosse
Eastside FC	Soccer
Field of Champions	Baseball
i9 Sports	Multiple Sports
ISD Women's Lacrosse Club	Lacrosse
Issaquah FC	Soccer
Issaquah Soccer Club	Soccer
Issaquah Swim Team	Swim Team
Issaquah Youth Lacrosse	Lacrosse
Lake WA Youth Soccer Association	Soccer
Lake Sammamish Lacrosse	Lacrosse
Lake Sammamish Baseball Association	Baseball
Puget Sound Premier League	Soccer
Sammamish Little League	T-Ball, Baseball and Softball
Seattle Starz Lacrosse	Lacrosse
Spartan Baseball Club	Baseball
Skyline Lacrosse Club	Lacrosse
Skyline Youth Football Association	Football
Super Six Lacrosse Club	Lacrosse
Washington Athletics Baseball	Baseball

### Adult Sports Organizations

Clean & Sober Softball Association	Softball
Greater Seattle Soccer Association	Soccer
Puget Sound Senior Baseball League	Baseball
Sammamish Men's Soccer	Soccer

### Private Fitness

Columbia Athletic Club- Pine Lake	Adult Fitness
Plateau Club	Adult Fitness
The Sculptor	Adult Fitness

### Sports

DC Speed Sports	Sports Camps & Training
Karate West	Martial Arts
True Martial Arts	Martial Arts

### Music / Dance

Glass House Dance	Dance
Issaquah Dance Theater	Dance
Seashell Music Together	Music

### Education

Central Washington University	Education- site for YMCA activities
Issaquah School District	Education/Sports
Lake Washington School District	Education/Sports
Snoqualmie Valley School District	Education/Sports
Kumon Math & Reading Center	Education
Kinder Mundo	Education (Pre-school, After School, Day Camps)

### Other

Pine Lake Community Club	Rental Facility
Sammamish Library	Youth Programs
Sammamish Saddle Club	Equestrian Activities
Boy Scouts	Youth/Outdoor Recreation
Girl Scouts	Youth
Camp Fire USA	Youth
Positive Ally	Youth, Sports, Education
Sammamish Arts Commission	Performances and Cultural Arts
Sammamish Heritage Society	Historic Preservation & Education

# ATHLETIC FIELDS & PROGRAMMING

## Athletic Fields

The City has a number of athletic fields that are located in various parks throughout the community. These fields are utilized by other organizations (primarily youth sports groups) for practices and games.

### City Fields

- Klahanie Park: Multi-use field area that can be used for baseball or softball (1), soccer or lacrosse (2). Overlaying these fields is a cricket field.
- Beaver Lake Park: 3 little league baseball/softball fields
- Pine Lake Park: Little league baseball or soccer field.
- East Sammamish Park: There are two little league baseball/softball fields that are overlaid with lacrosse fields and one separate soccer field.

In addition to the athletic fields that are owned and maintained by the City there are also a number of fields that are on school district property where the community has some use.

### School District Fields

#### *Artificial Turf*

- Eastlake Community Fields: 3 lighted multi-use fields (baseball, softball, lacrosse, football and soccer). These fields are located next to Eastlake High School and are a partnership with the Lake Washington School District.
- Skyline High School: 2 lighted multi-use field area (baseball, softball, lacrosse, football and soccer).
- Pine Lake Middle School: Rectangular sports (football, soccer, lacrosse) that has a track around it.

#### *Natural Turf*

- Margaret Mead Elementary: One youth little league baseball fields that is utilized and maintained by Eastlake Little League. This field is scheduled for demolition in the summer of 2018 with no plans for replacement.

A quick analysis of field utilization and scheduling data indicates a steady growth in the hours of use of natural turf fields over the last five years. This is being driven primarily by youth soccer, lacrosse, and cricket. The use of artificial turf fields has been more inconsistent but has generally increased as well during the time frame. Once again, this is primarily due to youth soccer and lacrosse.

- The City has access to one artificial turf field complex (Eastlake Community Fields) that has three multipurpose fields. These are the only lighted fields that are scheduled by the City.
- The City maintains four natural turf athletic field complexes that have a total of ten fields. Six can be utilized for baseball and softball and three strictly for soccer and lacrosse. None of these fields are lit.

- In total, the City has up to 8 soccer/football/lacrosse fields and 10 baseball/softball fields.
- The multi-use field concept is utilized to allow fields to be used for different sports.
- The two primary school districts in the community have artificial turfed fields that were paid for with some City funding. These fields provide use force for community groups after the needs of the schools have been met. The City has agreements with the schools that outline the conditions for use.
- The City assigns field use based on a block scheduling concept where organizations are given a permit for a field(s) per season for a designated period of time. The organization determines how the fields will be scheduled and used. The City has agreements with 30 different leagues for field use. Priorities for use are based on the percentage of Sammamish residents in the organization.
- The demand for sports fields point loads during the spring and fall for youth sports, increasing the demand for fields during these time periods.
- There has been a steady increase in the hours of use of existing athletic fields over the last five years.
- With continued growth in the population, a large youth population, and the rising popularity of sports such as lacrosse and cricket, there is more demand than what can be met with existing athletic fields. If more adult sports leagues are added, this will further increase demand.

## Athletic Field Recommendations

There currently is a need for additional athletic fields and the demand will only continue to grow as the population increases. This evidenced by the growth in field use numbers, as well as the requests for field time by local sports organizations. This will be further complicated by the loss of one existing school field (the baseball field at Margaret Mead Elementary) in 2018. If the number of adult sports are increased, this could place further strain on the number of athletic fields that are available. A specific demand and feasibility study for additional athletic fields should be conducted in the next two years.

- In the interim, there are a number of recommendations that can help expand the use of the existing fields. These include the following:
  - Continue with the multi-use concept for field use.
  - Convert as many existing fields to artificial turf as possible and light as many of these as well.
  - Move away from the concept of block scheduling and begin to schedule fields on a per use basis to maximize field utilization. It is recognized that this will require additional staff time.
  - Determine the maximum number of practices and games per team per week that will be scheduled for each sport.
  - Require that any expansion of seasons, addition of age groups, or new sports by sports organizations to be approved by the City with an assessment of available fields completed before permitting the change.
  - Emerging sports (such as cricket, lacrosse, rugby, etc.) are going to have increasing demands for fields and will need to be part of the allocation process.
  - Establish a Youth Sports Council that has youth sports field user groups meet on a quarterly basis to establish set sports seasons and field use schedules and priorities.



- Continue to partner with the two school districts on improvements to existing fields or the development of new facilities but only if there are use agreements that ensure community use on a consistent basis to justify the capital investment.
- Plan for the development of future athletic fields using the Eastlake Community Fields as a model. In the next ten to fifteen years, two other facilities of similar size will most likely be needed in the community. Any new fields should be developed as a complex with multi-use capabilities, utilizing artificial turf and lights.

## Indoor Fieldhouse Concept Considerations

The viability of an indoor fieldhouse is currently being explored by the City. Determining the specific need for such a facility will be critical as well as the building requirements. Some factors to consider include:

- An indoor fieldhouse requires a large area for the building and the required parking. Most successful fieldhouses have at least one large playing area (minimum of 180 x 75) and often two of these areas. The quality of the turf is the key.
- A fieldhouse is very busy during the evenings and weekends from late October until early April but generally receive a much lower level of use during the weekdays and during the “off-season”.
- A facility of this nature must have a regional draw to be successful. During the “high season” the fieldhouse can operate until midnight or later.
- There must be a strong level of programming in the facility from youth leagues, camps and clinics to adult leagues and tournaments. This is augmented by rentals to outside groups and organizations.
- While most fieldhouses have a certain sport focus (usually indoor soccer), it is important to serve a diversity of sports interests.
- A fieldhouse has the ability to cover its basic costs of operations through fees generated by the facility if it is placed in a strong enough market and “off-season” activities and programs can be maximized.

It is highly recommended that the City conduct a detailed feasibility study before undertaking a project of this magnitude. This would determine if there is an adequate market for a fieldhouse, the site requirements, probable construction costs, likely operating expenses and revenues, as well as the operating partner.

# RECREATION FACILITIES

The City has a variety of recreation facilities that are utilized for recreation programs and services.

Figure 33. Recreation Facilities by Type and Location

Facilities	Recreation Programs and Services
<b>Indoor</b>	
Sammamish Community & Aquatic Center	Operated by the YMCA, the center provides fitness/wellness, youth and adult sports, youth camps, teen programs, aquatics, senior services, special events and outdoor education.
Sammamish Teen & Recreation Center	Operated by the Boys & Girls Club, the facility provides a variety of programs focused on youth and teens. Youth sports activities are also provided in the schools.
Central Washington University-Sammamish	This building is owned by the City but leased by CWU for education purposes. The building does have gym and stage area that is used by the YMCA for recreation activities.
Lodge at Beaver Lake	Operated by the City, this is a site for some contracted programs, special events and rentals.
<b>Outdoor Parks &amp; Facilities</b>	
Beaver Lake Pavilion	This covered pavilion is primarily utilized for rentals.
Pine Lake Park	The park has athletic fields, is the site for concerts in the park and it has the only guarded beach in the City.
Klahanie Park	Hosts Shakespeare and KidsFirst! programs in the park.
Upper Sammamish Commons Park	The park is the site of a large plaza, a half-court basketball facility and a playground, the City's skate park, and also serves as the location for the farmers market and many special events.
Lower Sammamish Commons Park	The park serves as the site for festivals and events including the July 4th celebration. There is also a spray park at the site.
East Sammamish Park	Hosts KidsFirst! programs in the park.
<b>Other</b>	
Reard Freed House	Located in Big Rock Park, this relocated historic home is being restored. Its future use has not been determined but is limited by size and other factors.
Former Residence	Also located in Big Rock Park Parcel A, this home is not currently being utilized for any purpose. It is a large residence but would have to be significantly renovated for any form of public use.
Tree House	This unique facility is in Big Rock Park but is not currently being utilized for any purpose. Because it is a true tree house, there is limited access, no restrooms and no water.
Sween House	Located in Lower Commons Park, this remodeled residence is owned by the City but operated by another organization to provide youth counseling services.

- The primary indoor recreation facilities are owned by the City but operated and programmed by other organizations.
- The Lodge at Beaver Lake is the only indoor facility where the use and programming are controlled by the City.

- The majority of outdoor recreation programs and events occur at Sammamish Commons.
- The City has three indoor facilities in its inventory that are not currently being utilized for any type of recreation programming. These facilities will need improvements and changes if they are going to be utilized for any public functions.

## Facilities Recommendations

- If the Sammamish Teen and Recreation Center would no longer be utilized by the Boys & Girls Club for their youth and teen programs, the City should strongly consider utilizing this existing City building for similar Sammamish Parks and Recreation programs. This would require at least one dedicated full-time staff person plus a substantial number of part-time program staff and other operating costs.
- If recreation services that focus on cultural arts and seniors are going to be added in the future, the City, ideally in partnership with other organizations, may need to develop a cultural arts center and senior/active adults center. Before embarking on either one of these facilities, the City should complete a feasibility study that identifies specific needs, potential partners, determines a site and quantifies capital and operating costs. This is a lower priority, but the study may need to occur in the next five years.
- As has been noted the City will need to determine how the following existing structures in Big Rock Park will be utilized.
  - Reard Freed House – will most likely need to serve as office space or a museum for community historical interests. Leasing of the building at a minimal rate should be considered.
  - Parcel A Former Residence – it will be difficult to utilize this one story residence for many public functions without significant renovations, ADA upgrades and the development of an access road and parking. Possible uses include an outdoor education center or a small conference center. The City should further assess its facility needs and explore options for the future of this structure, which may include use as a maintenance office or removal of the building from the site.
  - Tree House – this unique feature needs to have a permanent use. It would be an ideal location for birthday parties, small weddings, interpretative programs or a small summer camp. However, with no power or water available in the structure and no permanent restrooms or ADA accommodations, this may be difficult and expensive to accomplish.
- The Sween House in Lower Commons Park is currently utilized by a community organization for youth counseling services, but this building could be eliminated in the future development of Town Center requiring a new location for these services.



## FUTURE PROGRAMMING DIRECTIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the information in the previous sections, the following are future directions and recommendations for the City of Sammamish and the Parks and Recreation Department in the delivery of recreation programs and services.

### Programming Administration

- The City's current Programming Philosophy is to utilize other organizations and providers as the primary sources for most recreation programs and services. However, recognize that Sammamish Parks and Recreation Department will need to step-in and provide some programs and services where other providers are not available or cannot adequately serve the needs of the community.
- Commit to having the Parks and Recreation Department take on a stronger role in coordinating recreation programs and services in the community to ensure that there is a broad base of programming options available. This will require strong communications with other providers to determine roles, tracking of programs offered and number of participants, plus actively promoting the availability of services.
- Develop a Program Plan for recreation services. This plan needs to take into consideration the needs of the community, the role of Sammamish Parks and Recreation, and the expectations and role of other organizations and recreation providers in the area. There should be clearly identified areas of programmatic responsibility to ensure that there is not overlap in resource allocation or that gaps in services are not present.
- Match Sammamish Parks and Recreation Department programming efforts with available staff and financial resources. Recognize that increasing the role of the Parks and Recreation Department in providing programs will require an increase in full and part-time staff.
- Determine and track actual costs and revenues generated by each special event that is offered by the Parks and Recreation Department. Determine total number of attendees when possible.
- Attempt to track use and attendance numbers for key events provided by others.
- Require that all contract service providers for the Parks and Recreation Department register their participants through the Department and transfer a minimum of 30% of gross revenues. If this is not possible, develop straight rental agreements for use based not only on the space being used but also on the number of participants and fee for the class.
- Add another Recreation Coordinator in the next one-two years to assist with program coordination, Sammamish Arts Commission activities and athletic field scheduling. A second Recreation Coordinator may be needed in the same time period to manage youth, teen, adaptive recreation and senior activities and programs if the City takes a larger role in this area.

## Programming

- Recognize the needs of a growing community and one that has the following characteristics:
  - 31% people of color
  - 55% of households have children
  - Increasing senior population
  - Highly educated
  - High income
  - Multi-generational households
  - Increasing number of people working from home
- Establish the goal of providing more of an emphasis on recreation programs that focus on:
  - Different ethnic groups
  - Family and multi-generational programming opportunities
  - Teen and senior age groups
  - Integrating recreation programming with educational pursuits

The focus should be partnering with other providers to meet this goal and the City being prepared to provide a base level of programming for teens and seniors (3 to 4 on-going activities per year with a growth of 2-3 year for 5 years).

- Work with other providers to increase the level of programming in the following areas:
  - Adult Sports
  - General Interest
  - Special Needs
  - Outdoor Recreation
  - Seniors

Other providers should be the primary providers of the activities and programs in these categories, but the City will need to outline specific program needs and expectations. The YMCA should be encouraged to increase programming for adult sports as well as other adult sports organizations. Finding specific providers and partnering for special needs, seniors and outdoor recreation will need to be a priority. Having 2-3 new programs in these areas should be a goal in the next three years.

- Also recognize the need to continue to grow programming in the areas of emphasis identified from the public input process:
  - Youth sports programs and camps
  - Fitness classes
  - Educational classes
  - Adventure or alternative sports
  - Cultural arts

There are already a considerable number of program offerings in each of these categories (with the exception of adventure or alternative sports) currently available in Sammamish but with an expressed desire to see more from the public, the City will need to work with existing providers to increase the level of offerings. For adventure or alternative sports, there will need to be an active effort to attract these types of providers to Sammamish.

It is also recognized that the Parks and Recreation Department is now going to be

supporting the Sammamish Arts Commission's programs and events for the City. This will allow for better partnerships to further cultural arts services in the community but will also require additional staff time.

- Based on current Parks and Recreation Department staffing levels, establish a maximum number of community wide special events per year/month that the Department can provide on their own. This should not exceed 15 per year or two per month. Additional special events would only be added if one existing event is dropped. Future special events should have a focus on fitness/wellness, community building and outdoor recreation.
- Consistent with the on-going partnership with the library, consider expanding youth focused educational and enrichment programs with the goal of adding 4 to 5 of these programs in the next two years.
- Be willing to add in-house or contract programming under the direction of the Parks and Recreation Department for specific program areas that cannot be adequately met by outside providers. As has been noted, this is likely to be in the area of youth, teen and senior services. Having a viable location for these activities could be a challenge if the Sammamish Community & Aquatic Center and/or the Sammamish Teen & Recreation Center is not utilized for this purpose.
- Establish a five-step process for determining the future needs and providers of recreation services:
  1. Assess the needs and desires of the community for specific recreation program needs. This will require that the Parks and Recreation Department staff conduct 4 to 5 focus groups a year, conduct an on-line programming survey at least every other year and keep up with programming trends on an annual basis.
  2. Establish a Sammamish Recreation Programming Council made up of organizations that are program providers in the Sammamish area to guide long term recreation programming decisions. This council should meet at least twice a year if not quarterly.
  3. Work with existing organizations to increase the types and number of recreation programs whenever possible.
  4. Recruit new organizations when existing providers cannot meet the demand for new programs.
  5. The City conducts programs and services when other providers are not willing or able.

## ARTS, CULTURE & HERITAGE

In 2003, the City of Sammamish formed the Arts Commission to support a variety of public art activities and goals on behalf of the City. In particular, the Commission is responsible for the following:

- Encourage, conduct, sponsor or cosponsor public programs to further the development and public awareness of, and interest in, the fine and performing arts, subject to City council approval
- Provide recommendations to City Council in connection with cultural and artistic endeavors and projects in which the City becomes involved and to act as a representative of the community in such matters



- Encourage donations, grants and other support to further expand the arts and cultural services and programs available to the citizens of Sammamish and members of the Sammamish community

Beginning in 2018, Sammamish Parks and Recreation staff will support the City's Arts Commission, whose mission is to integrate art and culture to create a sense of place, civic identity and unique character. The efforts of the Commission are framed by five guiding principles:

- **Artistic excellence:** We strive for artistic excellence by showcasing high caliber local, regional and national artistic programming that reflects the city's vision.
- **Accessibility:** We engage deeply and widely with all segments of city, striving to reach all members of the community and create an avenue for artists to bring their creativity to the public.
- **Collaboration:** We are committed to creating alliances and partnerships within and outside Sammamish to promote artistic excellence and accessibility. We work collaboratively with various state, regional and local agencies to enhance the effectiveness of the arts commission.
- **Community Design:** We focus our efforts to nurture and build 'creative capital' locally, including taking necessary risks, to realize the impacts of the arts in fostering a vibrant social economy.
- **Diversity:** We value diversity in artistic expressions and strive to promote arts as a universal language that binds people from different backgrounds and breathes life into our communities.

To further develop a future workplan and strategy, the City should consider developing an Arts & Culture Strategic Plan to provide a framework to allow the energy, dedication and passion of the Commission and the community to foster arts, culture and heritage in the coming years.

## Arts & Culture Programs

The Commission has led and promoted a variety of activities in the City to expose local residents to arts and culture. These programs and activities include the annual Sammamish Arts Fair, theatrical performances, exhibits, workshops, artist receptions and other events. Also, in recent months, the Commission has approached the City Council to explore the establishment of a Permanent Arts Fund independent of the current arts programming budget, in addition to the implementation of a 1% for Public Art program to support the purchase and installation of artworks in a variety of City settings.

## Public Art Collection

The City of Sammamish public arts collection includes a variety of local-known artists, a variety of media and varying effectiveness in terms of accessibility to the viewer. The media represented include paintings, works on paper, photography, fiber arts, sculpture and installations in various sizes. The City's current inventory of public art is small and contains 15 works that are valued at over \$110,000. Examples of public art include the totem poles by David Boxley (Tsimshian tribe) at Beaver Lake Park, the "Confluence" sculpture by Deb Young and the four seasons mosaic mural at Sammamish Commons Park Plaza. Other pieces are located in City Hall.

## Promoting Sammamish's Heritage

Sammamish recognizes that its future will be enhanced by creating a unique identity and sense of place. These characteristics which will define Sammamish as a great place to live can arise from the special identities from its historical heritage. The City should continue to explore ways to highlight and preserve local historical assets and the role interpretation can play in defining Sammamish. When feasible, the Parks & Recreation Department should protect and highlight the historical and cultural resources related to park facilities. For example, the City is working with the Sammamish Heritage Society to preserve the landmarked Reard-Freed House, a historic farmhouse now located at Big Rock Park, and renovate the house for potential use as a local museum. Across the park system, the inclusion of historical information with the design, development and operations of parks and open spaces could help Sammamish further foster its unique sense of place.



Trails are critical links in Sammamish’s active transportation network – connecting people to parks, schools and other key destinations and creating opportunities for active lifestyles. The provision of non-motorized access to public places and routes is a critical piece of infrastructure for a healthy and livable community.

## **FUTURE CONNECTIONS TO A COMPLETE NETWORK**

Sammamish residents desire to have connecting routes to local places that include home, work, school, shopping, play and access to nature. This need for healthy, recreational corridors requires a complete hierarchy of trails that range in scale from regional, multi-use paved trail to local park pathways. The recreational trail system also will connect to public sidewalks and urban plazas that function within public rights-of-way. The future target for Sammamish will be a connected recreational trail network that is integrated into the City’s active transportation system to provide seamless access throughout the community.



## CURRENT TRENDS & PERSPECTIVES

### National and Regional Trends

According to the 2016 Outdoor Participation Report published by the Outdoor Foundation, 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. Running was also the most popular outdoor activity for all ethnic groups. Walking for fitness is the most popular crossover activity. The biggest motivator for outdoor participation was getting exercise. For these outdoor recreation trends and preferences, trails are a required infrastructure.

The National Park Service (NPS) and the Center for Disease Control (CDC) collaborated to create the “Parks, Trails and Health Workbook”, a tool for planners, parks & recreation professionals and health practitioners. The workbook provides explicit recognition of public health connections in relation to the provision and access to parks and trails and their health benefits.

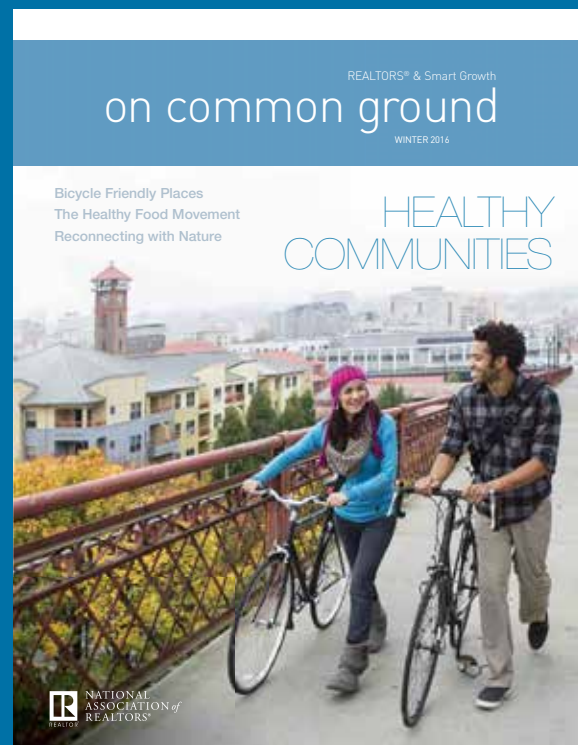
The draft 2018 Washington Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) confirmed that outdoor recreation is still an integral part of life for most Washington residents, 90% participate in the most popular category of activities, which includes walking and hiking, demonstrating the pervasiveness of outdoor recreation in Washington’s culture. From the draft 2018 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 benefitting both residents and the natural environment.

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.





The Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) developed an Active Transportation Plan to build on the policies from the VISION 2040 and Transportation 2040 with the purpose to help implement active transportation policies and provide guidance for local jurisdictions for developing their bicycle and pedestrian elements. The plan illustrates the region's commitment for the development of a more efficient and accessible public transportation system serving compact, walkable and livable communities.

One of the key strategies from the 2016-2020 Mountains to Sound (MTS) Greenway Trust Strategic Plan is to facilitate the implementation of trail and recreation access projects. Planning for future connections across the communities from Ellensburg to the Sound, MTS is a key player in promoting the regional greenway system that encompasses a 1.5 million acre landscape. Trails in greenways with east-west connections contribute directly to this sustainable vision.

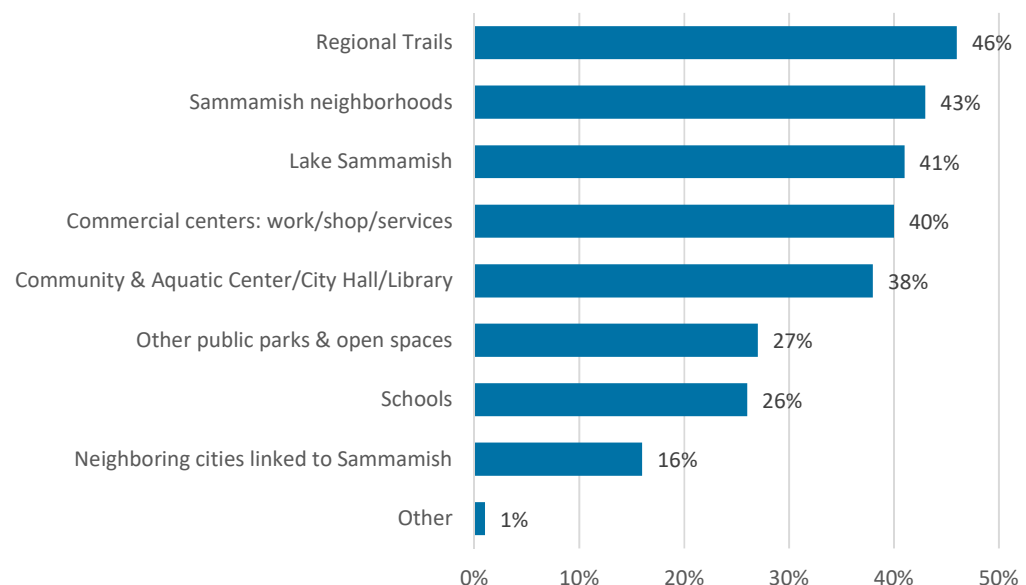
The 2016 King County Open Space Plan states one of its four goals as the need to improve regional trails system and regional mobility. King County's long-term capital program for expansion and enhancement of its regional trails system is detailed further in the King County Regional Trails Needs Report.

## Local Public Input

The citizens of Sammamish identified trails as a top priority in their park system. From the community survey conducted as part of this PRO Plan update, the highest response regarding the main reasons for visiting local parks in the last year was walking using trails, jogging and/or running (76%). When asked about the desired increases in infrastructure that supports passive use, increased trails for walking and biking were rated with the highest level of importance.

When asked to consider the important connections for future walking and biking trails, most of the destinations for connections were considered by almost two-fifths or more of the respondents. Regional trails, residential neighborhoods, lakefront locations, commercial destinations and the primary civic center area were the top chosen destinations. Figure 34 below lists the preferential rating for future trail connections.

Figure 34. Most Important Future Trail Connections

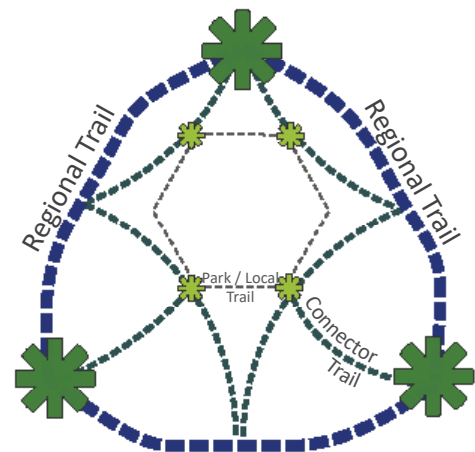


During the May 2017 public open house held for the PRO Plan update, five topic areas surfaced as the highest priority considerations across the small table group discussions: trail connectivity, land acquisition, sports fields, nature play and tree canopy protection. In the September 2017 open house, participants identified the important high-priority projects to be pursued: new parkland acquisitions, natural open space preservation and trail connections. Additionally, the need to increase trail connectivity was recognized by participants in comment forms and on project boards.

## TRAIL INVENTORY & CLASSIFICATIONS

Trails provide people with valuable links between neighborhoods, parks, schools and other public facilities, commercial centers and other regional non-motorized facilities. Map 8 indicates the current existing trails, shown in purple solid lines, within the city limits of Sammamish.

As part of an active transportation plan, the recreational trail system can contribute by providing for alternative transportation modes of both walkability and cycling. A typical 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 users volumes and intensity. A connected network with a hierarchy of trail types forms this community-wide system. Some regional trails can provide alternative transportation connections between communities, primarily utilized by biking commuters. To be effective in an active transportation plan, trails must connect across the network and provide access to target destinations. There are opportunities to create pleasant greenways and trails that stretch across the community and that connect residents to the wealth of parks, natural areas, recreation facilities and other amenities Sammamish has to offer.



The Sammamish recreational trail classification system is based on a tiered network and includes three primary trail categories: Regional, Connector and Park/Local trails. The differences between trail classifications are based on purpose, intensity of use and influence the trail width, material and recommended support facilities.

Figure 35. Sammamish Trail Classifications

Classification	Function	Use Type	Users	Surfaces	Width
<b>Regional Trail</b>	Major connections through community and beyond	Multi-use	Pedestrians, cyclists, skaters. Equestrians (where feasible)	Asphalt, concrete, boardwalk.	12 - 18'
<b>Connector Trail</b>	Connects parks, trails, neighborhoods and destinations	Multi-use	Pedestrians, cyclists, skaters.	Asphalt, concrete, boardwalk. Gravel, possible.	8 - 12'
<b>Park / Local Trail</b>	Interior loops or point-to-point routes in public spaces	Multi- or single use	Pedestrians, cyclists, skaters. Equestrians (where feasible)	Asphalt, concrete, boardwalk. Gravel, possible.	4 - 10'
<b>Foot Path / Nature Trail</b>	Interior loops or connections in public spaces	Single use	Pedestrians	Firm soil	2 - 4'





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For Sammamish recreational trails, a simple classification system that identifies the functions and types of trails in the city contributes to the City's transportation system and network of pedestrian and bicycling pathways and circulation. This trail system also identifies future trail connections necessary to complete an integrated network of trails.

## Regional Trails

Regional trails act as the spine of the trail network and provide major connections to adjacent communities and significant natural features, such as rivers and streams, public facilities and areas of interest. These trails extend beyond the City limits of Sammamish and serve as continuous recreational corridors and may be identified as regional trails in the King County trail network. Regional trails are paved, multi-use routes that accommodate pedestrians, cyclists and skaters and are typically separated from the public road right-of-way (ROW) for exclusive use. In cases where there is not sufficient ROW for a separated trail, sidewalks may be widened to function as segments of regional trails. Regional trails are typically between 12' and 18' wide, and these corridors should provide the highest level of trail amenities, including trailheads, parking, signage, and restrooms. Trail width may be reduced depending on specific site conditions, such as environmental constraints or slopes. The East Lake Sammamish Trail is the City's first Regional Trail.

Figure 36. Regional Trail Cross Section



### REGIONAL TRAIL

Provides major connections through community and beyond

Multi-use: pedestrians, cyclists, skaters, & equestrians.

Width 12-18' concrete, asphalt, or boardwalk.

## East Lake Sammamish Trail

Sammamish is fortunate to have the East Lake Sammamish Trail as a starting point for a potentially diverse array of premier multi-use trails. Undergoing current design and construction to a fully paved regional trail, the ELST will be a "regional trail" for Sammamish. The ELST forms a main north-south 'spine' or axis along the western boundary of the city following the edge of the Lake. Following a former railroad corridor the regional trail connects for 11 miles from Redmond through Sammamish to Issaquah. King County provides the lead role in implementing the regional-wide trail system and has designated the ELST as part of a 44-mile-long regional urban trail corridor, the "Lakes to Locks Corridor", from Seattle's Ballard neighborhood to Issaquah.

## Emerald Necklace Trail

For Sammamish residents and trail users, the opportunity to create a loop trail system along the perimeter of the city limits has been identified as a potential “Emerald Necklace”. Referring to the original Frederick Law Olmsted plan for Boston’s green spaces, the Emerald Necklace evokes a circular greenway encompassing an urban center. Using the existing ELST as the western portion of the ‘necklace’ loop, the future Emerald Necklace Trail would be a regional trail providing a recreational loop trail experience and a connection to numerous destinations around the city. Along the eastern edge of Sammamish, the trail corridor would link Duthie Hill Park and Grand Ridge Park with Soaring Eagle Park, then extend northwest to other public lands, including DNR property and Evans Creek Preserve, to connect to the ELST between Sammamish Landing and Marymoor Parks.

## Plateau Trail (Utility Corridor Trail)

This partial constructed trail corridor, which follows an existing gas line easement and overhead utility line easement, runs north/south across the Sammamish plateau stretching from the Klahanie community toward Evans Creek Preserve. It is one of the very few opportunities for a major, multi-use trail through Sammamish and provides connections to many destinations in the city, including Evans Creek Preserve, Beaver Lake Park, Klahanie Park and several schools adjacent to the corridor.

## Sammamish Commons & Town Center Trail

With the planned and pending development of the Sammamish Town Center, the City envisions a pedestrian ‘Green Spine’ that connects to Sammamish Commons and links outward toward the surrounding neighborhoods. As described in the Town Center Infrastructure Plan, preserving connectivity throughout the Green Spine is critical to its success, and the Plan requires an unobstructed north to south pedestrian corridor of 12 feet be maintained for the entire length. Ten foot wide pedestrian connections from one edge of the spine to the other are required every 40 feet along the length of the Green Spine. With the development of Town Center, the City has an opportunity to create trail corridor that links not only to the Commons, but could be expanded to connect to Big Rock Park and eastward to the Plateau Trail.

## Connector Trails

Connector trails provide recreational benefits by linking regional trails, as well as important land uses and areas of interest, often within a neighborhood, typically along street right-of-way. They also create recreation loops to parks, natural areas and other environmental destinations. These trails support the regional trail corridors and serve smaller residential, commercial and employment areas. Connector trails are typically between 8’ and 12’ wide and are often paved, multi-use corridors that can be located on- or off-street.

Figure 37. Connector Trail Cross Section



### CONNECTOR TRAIL

Connects parks, trails and other destinations

Multi-use: pedestrians, cyclists, skaters.

Width 8-12' paved or firm, crushed rock surface

## Park / Local Trails

Park trails are interior loops or point-to-point routes within parks or natural areas and include paved or unpaved walking paths, rustic hiking trails and equestrian trails. Local trails are used as neighborhood link trails. These multi-use trails can be paved or soft surface and located within a public easement or public right-of-way. Depending on use, location and underlying conditions, the trail surface material may be concrete, asphalt, gravel or crushed rock, native soil, forest duff or wood chips. Examples of park and local trails include Big Rock Park and Lower Commons.

Figure 38. Park Trail Cross Section



### PARK / LOCAL TRAIL

Provides interior loops and access to park amenities

Multi-use: pedestrians, cyclists, skaters, & equestrians.

Width 4-10' concrete, asphalt, boardwalk, or other firm surface.

## Nature Trails

Nature Trails are soft surface trails used by pedestrians and often built within natural environments that are constrained with steep terrain and/or critical areas. Nature trails are generally between 2' and 6' wide. An example of a nature trail includes Beaver Lake Preserve.



## Water Trails

A water trail is a network of access points, resting places and attractions for users of human-powered water craft on lakes and rivers. Water trails enable people to personally explore the City’s natural and cultural heritage from a distinctly unique vantage point – one of “sitting on” the water – and bring the user into contact with the ecology of the trail corridor. The design of launch facilities should provide adequate parking and other support amenities, including pedestrian access, protected sand beach and functional elements such as signing, seating, and waste receptacles.

### Lakes-to-Locks Water Trail

Sammamish has one existing lakefront park on Lake Sammamish. Sammamish Landing provides access to the Lake and should be considered as part of the Lakes-To-Locks Water Trail, a day-use water trail in the greater Seattle metropolitan area with over 100 public places to reach the water. The Lakes-To-Locks Trail connects sites along Lake Washington, Lake Sammamish and Lake Union along shorelines, sloughs, cuts and waterways. The trail culminates at the Hiram M. Chittenden Locks, where the fresh water of these lakes meets the salt water of the Puget Sound. Sammamish Landing offers kayakers, canoeists and other non-motorized water craft opportunities to launch their craft and enjoy recreational amenities along the shoreline.

## Other Linkages

### Green Streets & Right of Way Connections

The City’s Parks and Recreation Department could partner with the Public Works and Community Development Departments to identify opportunities to integrate park, greenway, green infrastructure, stormwater and active transportation planning and projects. For example, there could be opportunities to link green streets for stormwater management, on-street neighborhood greenways, and off-street trails to create a network of pleasant, treed and environmentally friendly active transportation connections throughout the city.

# TRAIL SYSTEM DESIGN GUIDELINES

Establishing and reinforcing a recreational trail classification enables a framework for trail design and facilitates the prioritization of proposed trail enhancements and development.

## Access & Alignments

The future growth of the trail network will need to balance between alignments that are optimal from trail user, trail experience and connectivity perspectives and those that are practical from cost, regulatory and availability perspectives. Future consideration should be given toward finding alignment options that can accommodate different trail use

types (i.e., commuter vs. recreational/destination oriented), as well as potentially interim solutions that rely on wider sidewalks to serve trail users or routing that utilizes existing or planned sewer lines or utility corridors. The Proposed Recreational Trails System map (page 137) indicates potential alignments that can vary depending upon landowner willingness, along with environmental constraints and design considerations.

## Trail System Design

The primary purpose of recreation trails is to provide a recreational experience that allows for movement across the community as an additional objective. Whenever feasible, recreational trails should be located off-street; however, streets should be used in order to complete connections, wherever necessary. The following are sound tenets of recreational trail system design.

- Develop a high-quality system of multi-use trails that connect significant local landscapes, public facilities, neighborhoods and the downtown core.
- Create a network of interconnected, single- and multi-use trails for walking, running and cycling to promote connectivity between parks, neighborhoods and public amenities or destinations.
- Provide a comprehensive trail system that will interconnect the recreational trail systems and non-motorized transportation systems including sidewalks and bike lanes.
- Increase connectivity between parks and trails and prioritize the creation or completion of loops that provide a range of recreation options and experiences.
- Integrate the siting of proposed trail segments into the land development review process.
- Require development projects along designated trail routes to be designed to incorporate the trail as part of the project. Sensitive area buffers within proposed subdivisions and short-subdivisions shall be widened to accommodate additional open space and a public easement for future trails.
- Require the installation of safe, convenient and dedicated pedestrian paths by new development where minimizing travel distance has the potential for increasing pedestrian use.
- When possible, trails should be constructed prior to or concurrent with development or with the improvement of public facilities.
- Work with state, county and local agencies, utilities and private landholders to secure trail corridors and access to complete the recreational trail system through methods including land dedication, purchase, use of vacated rail lines and other rights-of-way, land donations, and public easements or use agreements.

## Trailheads

Safe, convenient and formal entryways to the trail network expand access for users and are a necessary component of a strong, successful system. A trailhead typically includes parking, kiosks and signage and may include site furnishings such as trash receptacles, restrooms, seating and bicycle parking. Trailheads may be located on public park land and natural areas or provided via interagency agreements with partner organizations (i.e., King County, Lake Washington School District, Issaquah School District, etc.) to increase use and reduce duplication of support facilities. Specific trailhead design and layout should be created as part of planning and design development for individual projects and take into account the intended user groups and unique site conditions.

## Trail Wayfinding

The City of Sammamish could benefit from enhanced wayfinding and signage in support of both City and community partners' parks and facilities. As the trail system continues to grow in the future, the City should implement a comprehensive approach to directional and identification signage to park and trail facilities. Better signage and consistency in brand identification could increase awareness for residents and visitors of nearby recreational opportunities, such as City parks and recreation facilities, and county, state and partner facilities. Signage, in conjunction with publicly-available maps of parks and trails, can also improve the enjoyment and understanding of the parks system and encourage visitors to experience more sites within the City.

The proposed trail system will provide connections to key destinations and neighborhoods throughout the city. These trails and connections should be easy to access and convenient to use. This Plan recommends the implementation of detailed trail signage standards, route and wayfinding signage for trails and associated facilities and informational maps and materials identifying existing and planned trail facilities.

## GOING BEYOND LINES ON A MAP

### Trails for Connectivity

As with roadway system and transportation planning, planning for recreational trails should be geared toward connectivity, rather than mileage. Considering a mileage standard for recreational trails within the Sammamish park system would provide an isolated and inadequate assessment of need for the community and its plans for growth and better connectivity. This Plan recommends a connectivity goal that re-states and reinforces the desire to improve overall connections across the City and enhance off-street linkages between parks and major destinations, as feasible.

### Trails for Community 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 and that 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 and 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.

## RECOMMENDED TRAIL NETWORK

Sammamish should develop a system of multi-use, recreational trail linkages and, in conjunction with on-street bicycle and pedestrian facilities, seek to establish a comprehensive network of access linking major activity areas and destinations for recreational, as well as alternative transportation, purposes. The following maps conceptualize the recreational trail network, and the on-street linkages should relate to the non-motorized elements of the City’s Transportation Master Plan.

A regional trail loop, heralded as the Emerald Necklace, should encircle the City and provide access to more distant destinations from a web of connector and park trails. A specific focus should be toward connecting the recreational trail corridors with the King County regional trail system, emphasizing east-west to the ELST and north-west connections to the Redmond Ridge and Issaquah-Preston trails. Connector trails will need to be combined with sidewalks and pathways within right-of-way corridors to complete the linkages between parks and other destinations. Park trails will provide recreation, relaxation and access to other outdoor activities and spaces within parks. Priority trail locations and connections include the following:

- Emerald Necklace Trail - connecting Soaring Eagle to Lake Sammamish to the northwest
- Sammamish Commons & Town Center Trail - linking Big Rock Park, Commons and Town Center
- Plateau Trail (Utility Corridor Trail) - completing missing sections along corridor
- Town Center to Plateau Trail - connecting near high school
- Town Center to Lake Sammamish - linking along SE 8th Street

It is recognized that significant challenges exist to bring many of these recreational trail connections to fruition, and coordination with the Public Works Department will be crucial. Steep slopes and narrow, windy street corridors will make east-west connections especially difficult in the western half of Sammamish. With this consideration, the City should aim to accommodate ADA guidelines for trails where it is reasonable.

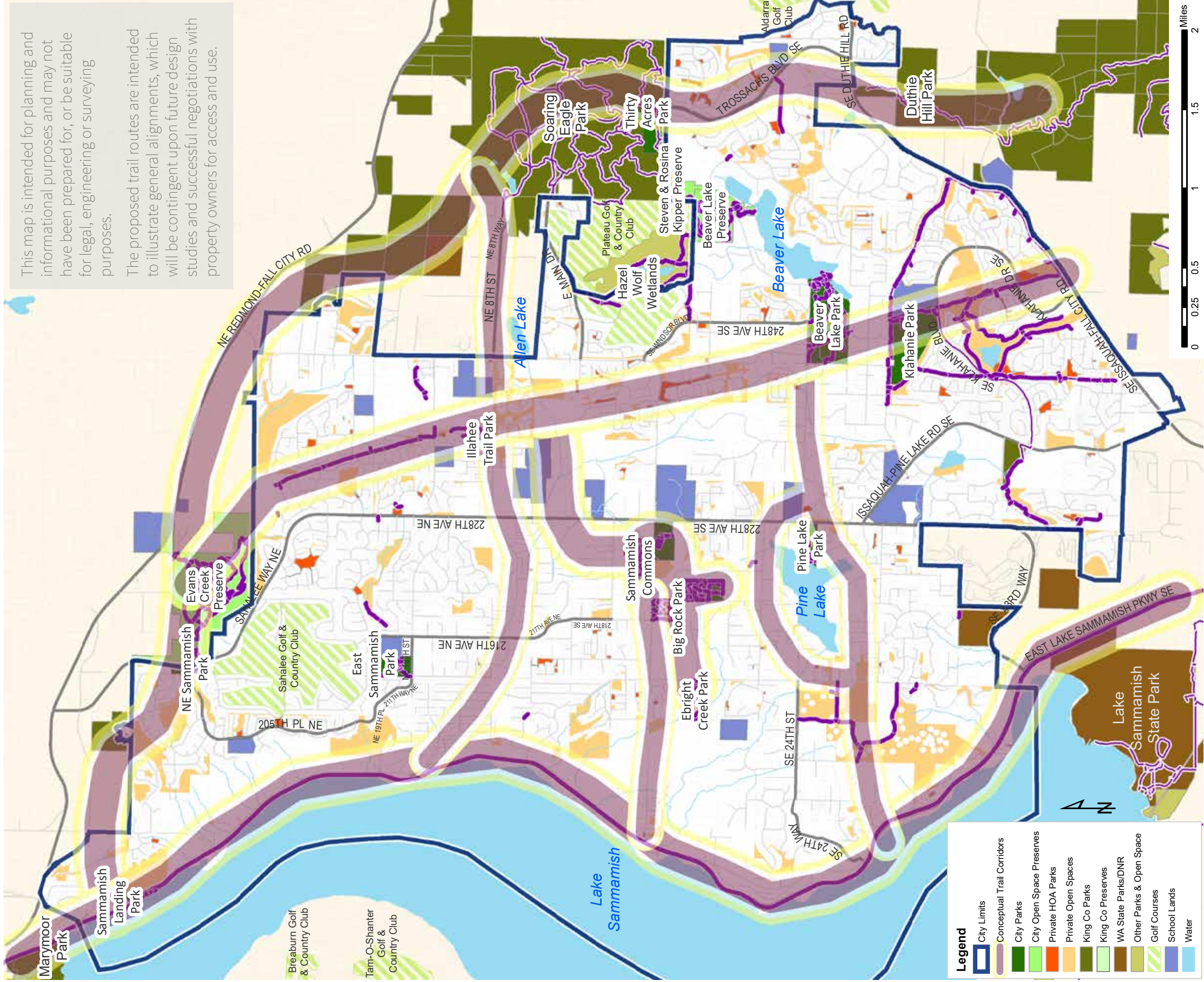


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This map is intended for planning and informational purposes and may not have been prepared for, or be suitable for legal, engineering or surveying purposes.

The proposed trail routes are intended to illustrate general alignments, which will be contingent upon future design studies and successful negotiations with property owners for access and use.



Map 9: Conceptual Linkages for Recreational Trails



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This map is intended for planning and informational purposes and may not have been prepared for, or be suitable for legal, engineering or surveying purposes.

The proposed trail routes are intended to illustrate general alignments, which will be contingent upon future design studies and successful negotiations with property owners for access and use.



Map 10: Proposed Recreational Trail Segments



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## 8 | GOALS & OBJECTIVES

The goals and objectives described in this chapter define the park and recreation services Sammamish provides and aims to achieve. These goals and objectives were derived from input received throughout the planning process, from city staff and officials, the Parks and Recreation Commission, community members and stakeholders.

Taken together, the goals and objectives provide a framework for the PRO 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. Objectives are specific actions intended to implement and achieve the goals and are contained in subsequent chapters of the Plan. The Sammamish Comprehensive Plan outlined a number of policy statements pertinent to the provision of parks and recreation and for land stewardship and were a starting reference for the detailed policies and objectives in this Plan.

## VISION, MISSION & VALUES

A clear vision statement guides the Sammamish Parks and Recreation Department.

*“Sammamish’s Parks and Recreation system is an integral part of our healthy and sustainable community by connecting people to nature, play and culture.”*

The Department’s mission statement is held in the context of the City of Sammamish’s Comprehensive Plan’s framework for health and sustainability - inspiring the Department to evolve over time to greater service for the residents of Sammamish.

*“Sammamish’s Parks and Recreation system contributes to the quality of life for the community by creating a legacy of diverse and quality parks, exceptional recreation programs and protected natural resources.”*

The Department’s mission is in alignment with the National Recreation and Parks Association’s (NRPA) Three Pillars, which are foundational concepts adopted by the national organization in 2012. These 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 our communities’ natural resources and wildlife habitats, which offer significant social and economic benefits. Local park and recreation agencies are leaders in protecting our 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 underserved youth and adults, our work is at the forefront of providing solutions to these challenges.
- Social Equity – We believe universal access to public parks and recreation is fundamental to all, not just a privilege for a few. Every day, our members work hard to ensure all people have access to resources and programs that connect citizens, and in turn, make our communities more livable and desirable.

This vision and mission of the Department and the values represented in the Three Pillars guided the development of the goals and policies for this Plan.

The 2015 Comprehensive Plan outlined a number of policy statements in its Parks and Recreation Element and provides the foundation reference for the goals and objectives outlined in this Plan. 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 objectives are further articulated through targeted action strategies that will translate directly into capital facilities projects.







## ENGAGEMENT & PROMOTION

### **Goal 1: Encourage and support active and ongoing participation by diverse community members in the planning and decision-making for parks and recreational opportunities.**

- 1.1 Involve residents and stakeholders in park and recreation facility planning and design and recreation program development in order to solicit community input, facilitate project understanding and engender public support.
- 1.2 Continue to support and promote the Parks & Recreation Commission as the forum for public discussion of park and recreation issues.
- 1.3 Conduct periodic joint sessions between the Parks & Recreation Commission and other standing City boards, such as the Planning and Arts Commissions, and with the City Council to improve coordination and discuss policy matters of mutual interest pertaining to recreational resources, opportunities and funding.
- 1.4 Encourage and promote volunteer park improvement and maintenance projects from a variety of individuals, service clubs, local non-profits, faith organizations and businesses.
- 1.5 Develop and expand volunteer programs for office and highly skilled volunteers, including the continued development of internships and creation job-shadowing opportunities.
- 1.6 Continue to use a variety of methods and media to publicize and increase resident awareness about recreational opportunities available in local neighborhoods and citywide.
- 1.7 Develop and install a wayfinding and signage system to include directional signs to and within parks and trails and interpretive signs highlighting natural systems, community and history.



## PARKS & OPEN SPACE

**Goal 2: Provide a diversified, interconnected network of parks, trails, active recreation facilities, and open spaces that delivers a variety of active and passive recreational opportunities that are easily accessible to the Sammamish community.**

- 2.1 Proactively seek parkland identified within this Plan, in both developed and undeveloped areas, to secure suitable locations for new parks and open spaces.
- 2.2 Utilize guidelines from the Land Acquisition Strategy and prioritize lands for inclusion in the parks and open space system based on factors such as contribution to level of service, connectivity, geographic distribution, preservation and scenic or recreational opportunities for residents.
- 2.3 Utilize the resources of national, regional, state and local conservation organizations, corporations, non-profit associations and benevolent entities to identify and partner in the acquisition of land for park and recreation needs.
- 2.4 Coordinate with the Department of Community Development for Parks & Recreation Department staff review and comment on development proposals to improve park siting and community planning; update the development code as necessary to accommodate development review for park infrastructure.
- 2.5 Continue to explore opportunities to work with land developers for parkland set-asides and the potential for parklands to be deeded to the City.
- 2.6 Evaluate opportunities to acquire lands declared surplus by other public agencies for park and recreation use if such land is located in an area of need or can expand an existing City property.
- 2.7 Periodically coordinate with King County and adjacent cities to strategize for the acquisition of parks and open spaces within or in close proximity to the Sammamish urban growth boundary.



## PARKS & OPEN SPACE

### **Goal 3: Design and develop high-quality parks and recreation facilities to ensure the safety and enjoyment of users and maximize recreational experiences.**

- 3.1 Design and maintain parks and facilities to offer universal accessibility for residents of all physical capabilities, skill levels and age as appropriate; assess planned and existing parks and trails for compliance with the adopted Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Standards for Accessible Design for requisite upgrades.
- 3.2 Develop a long-term ADA transition plan for all Sammamish parks to include updates to playgrounds and other highly-utilized park amenities.
- 3.3 Develop park sites based on master plans, management plans, or other adopted strategies to ensure parks reflect local needs, community input, recreational and conservation goals and available financial resources.
- 3.4 Provide amenities such as restrooms, lighting, seating, drinking fountains, trash receptacles, bicycle racks and shelters when possible, feasible and appropriate to extend hours of use and service quality.
- 3.5 Continue to partner with the local school districts and other providers to convert natural-turf fields to synthetic-turf fields with lights.
- 3.6 In regards to athletic field development, prioritize conversion of existing natural-turf to synthetic-turf fields (with lights when possible) to increase playability and to serve multiple athletic programs.
- 3.7 Perform other field improvements, including the installation of under-drainage systems at all natural-turf fields to improve athletic field playing surfaces and reduce the number of rain-outs and the time required for turf rehabilitation.
- 3.8 Explore opportunities to partner with local organizations to develop and manage specialized facilities, ensuring continued public use and community benefit.
- 3.9 Encourage the development of specialized facilities that generate revenues to offset the cost of their operation and maintenance.



## MAINTENANCE & SUSTAINABILITY

### Goal 4: Maintain Sammamish parks and recreation facilities to ensure longevity of assets, a positive aesthetic and sensory experience, preservation of habitat and natural systems, and safety for park patrons.

- 4.1 Maintain all parks and facilities in a manner that keeps them in safe and attractive condition; repair or remove damaged components immediately upon identification.
- 4.2 Maintain an inventory of assets and their condition; update the inventory as assets are added, updated or removed from the system and periodically assess the condition of park and recreation facilities and infrastructure.
- 4.3 Standardize the use of graphics and signage to establish a consistent identity at all parks and facilities.
- 4.4 Standardize park furniture (trash cans, tables, benches, fencing) to reduce inventory costs and improve appearance of, and maintenance consistency within, parks.
- 4.5 Incorporate sustainable development and green building practices into park design and construction, including green demolition and disposal practices, use of local and recycled products when feasible, and incorporation of low-impact development techniques (such as green roofs, solar solutions, etc.).
- 4.6 Conserve and reduce water use through design and renovation of parks including minimizing wide expanses of green lawn to reduce irrigation needs, utilizing gray-water methods where appropriate and safe, installing drought-tolerant plantings and designing water features to recirculate.
- 4.7 Utilize, as appropriate, native vegetation for landscaping in parks to minimize maintenance requirements, and control invasive vegetation through removal and other environmentally responsible means.
- 4.8 Establish a plant salvage program, in coordination with local non-profits, volunteer groups and developers, that will support ecological restoration and public landscaping within the city of Sammamish, and that could include space for salvaged plants to be stored, watered and possibly propagated.
- 4.9 Incorporate sustainable practices into park maintenance procedures by reducing use of pesticides and herbicides, maintaining equipment in good working order, purchasing green maintenance equipment when feasible, replacing existing lighting fixtures with high-efficiency fixtures, and keeping systems (irrigation, lighting, HV AC, etc.) updated and fully functional for maximum performance and efficiency.
- 4.10 Provide maintenance and operations support for recreation programs, special events, and other city-sponsored activities.
- 4.11 Develop a park stewardship program to help maintain and oversee park programs and to support a variety of specialty tasks and programs.
- 4.12 Support the implementation of the Urban Forest Management Plan and the management practices to ensure the long-term health of the urban forest.
- 4.13 Promote environmental learning through interpretive signage programs in City parks and preserves, including native plant identification signs in and around restoration projects in city parks.
- 4.14 Promote sustainability with users by encouraging waste minimization, litter control and recycling/composting.



## TRAILS & CONNECTIVITY

### **Goal 5: Develop a network of non-motorized recreational trails to expand connectivity between parks, neighborhoods and public amenities.**

- 5.1 Integrate the planning for and prioritization of recreational trails with the City's Transportation Master Plan, utilizing the classifications and conceptual alignments provided within this Plan.
- 5.2 Periodically review and coordinate for revisions, as appropriate, to the Public Works Standards pertaining to trails to ensure consistency with this Plan and to meet typical design requirements for recreational trails.
- 5.3 Connect and coordinate the City's recreational trail and bicycle network with King County's regional trail system.
- 5.4 Provide key connections to regional trails by continuing coordination with King County and other regional partners to complete the Emerald Necklace Trail system.
- 5.5 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.
- 5.6 Establish a maximum spacing standard for trail linkages within new residential developments, such that multiple entry points to a trail corridor are provided to improve access and convenience for residents.
- 5.7 Expand the system of off-street recreational trails by utilizing parks, utility corridors and sensitive areas as appropriate.
- 5.8 Work with local agencies, utilities and private landholders to secure trail easements and access to open space for trail connections.
- 5.9 Identify, catalogue and map trail easements granted to the City but not currently in use.
- 5.10 Provide trailhead accommodations, as appropriate, to include parking, wayfinding signage, benches, restrooms and other amenities.
- 5.11 Design and construct new trails with consideration of and attention to users safety and a priority to accommodate multiple trail uses, when appropriate.

## RECREATION PROGRAMMING

### **Goal 6: Provide recreation opportunities and support partnerships that support lifelong play, active living, health and wellness, discovery, creativity and learning for individuals and families.**

- 6.1 Identify and implement partnerships that support efficient and effective delivery of recreation services and programs.
- 6.2 Continue to support special events, festivals, concerts and cultural programming to promote arts, health and wellness, community identity, tourism, the benefits of recreation, and to foster civic pride.
- 6.3 Leverage City resources by forming and maintaining partnerships with other public, non-profit and private recreation providers to deliver recreation and cultural services and secure access to existing facilities for community recreation.
- 6.4 Explore options to expand the City's role as a provider of recreation programs and services and increase programming to meet changing demographics and growing community needs.
- 6.5 Explore options to diversify and expand programs offered, focusing on programs that are in high demand or serve a range of users.
- 6.6 Continue to expand partnerships with the school districts, private non-profit agencies, private fitness clubs and the local businesses to provide recreation services.
- 6.7 Monitor local and regional recreation trends to ensure community needs and interests are addressed by available programming.
- 6.8 Support the goals and initiatives of the Arts Commission; support the installation of permanent art pieces in public spaces, including City Hall and parks.
- 6.9 Continue to develop and support partnerships with local arts organizations and provides for the promotion and delivery of cultural arts programs in Sammamish.
- 6.10 Coordinate with public, private and non-profit providers, such as organized sports leagues, to plan for projects to expand facilities for athletic fields.
- 6.11 Evaluate field usage data and modify and review field scheduling processes to maximize community use and ensure system wide coordination.
- 6.12 Continue to coordinate field scheduling with leagues and school districts to ensure a balanced use of fields during peak and non-peak seasons. Peak season field utilization rates should be at or above 70 percent on all fields when conditions allow.





## RECREATION FACILITIES

### **Goal 7: Provide indoor recreation facilities that are able to accommodate a variety of active and passive recreational opportunities to the Sammamish community.**

- 7.1 Recognizing that the City does not have to own and operate all the recreation facilities that it utilizes for recreation programs and services, actively pursue the establishment of equity partnerships to develop or expand indoor recreation facilities. Equity partnerships may include capital development, operations and service delivery.
- 7.2 Examine the need for additional community facility space to meet indoor recreation needs for athletics, recreation classes, arts and cultural programming and meeting space.
- 7.3 Enhance partnerships with local school districts 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.
- 7.4 Provide barrier-free (ADA-compliant) facilities, where readily achievable, by modifying existing facilities or when designing or constructing new facilities.
- 7.5 Establish a maintenance and operations plan for all indoor facilities, including leased facilities. Operating plans shall address staffing levels, program and service delivery, maintenance and marketing.

## FUNDING & OPERATIONS

### **Goal 8: Identify and pursue financing strategies and partnerships for the development and operations of parks and recreation facilities to serve the citizens of Sammamish.**

- 8.1 Seek funding for new parks and facilities and renovations through a variety of sources including capital reserves, real estate excise tax, bonds or levies, private donation, sponsorships, partnerships, state and federal grant sources, among others.
- 8.2 Periodically review and update the Park Impact Fee rates and methodology and utilize impact fees to accommodate growth through the expansion of the parks system.
- 8.3 Actively pursue the establishment of equity partnerships to develop or expand indoor recreation facilities. Equity partnerships may include capital development, operations, and service delivery.
- 8.4 Establish and maintain a fee policy for indoor facility use and rental rates that supports the direct operational requirements of the facility and market demand for use. Consider cost-recovery goals for each facility.
- 8.5 Establish a pricing strategy for rented facilities that aligns with comparable market rates and supports cost recovery of maintenance and operations costs associated with those facilities.
- 8.6 Update and adopt a six-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) every two years to remain current with local recreational interests and account for the capital needs of the parks and recreation system.

### **Goal 9: Provide leadership and management of the park, recreation and open space system throughout the City.**

- 9.1 As the park system expands, provide sufficient financial and staff resources to maintain the overall parks and recreation system to high standards.
- 9.2 Maximize operational efficiency to provide the greatest public benefit for the resources expended, including potentially considering contracted services for landscaping, waste management or other needs.
- 9.3 Use parks and recreation staff, when prudent and appropriate, to provide project cost savings by designing, managing, and constructing capital projects in-house, and making minor repairs and other park improvements.
- 9.4 Promote professional development opportunities for staff, Parks & Recreation Commission members and key volunteers.
- 9.5 Periodically evaluate user satisfaction and statistical use of parks, facilities and programs, including trail counts.



## 9 | PROJECTS & STRATEGIES

A number of strategies exist to enhance and expand park and recreation service delivery for the City of Sammamish; however, clear decisions must be made in an environment of competing interests and limited resources. A strong community will is necessary to bring many of the projects listed in this Plan to life, and the Sammamish City Council has demonstrated its willingness to support parks and recreation, parkland acquisitions and a high quality of life.

The recommendations for park and recreation services noted in this Plan may trigger the need for funding beyond current allocations and for additional staffing, operations and maintenance responsibilities. Given that the operating and capital budget of the Parks and Recreation Department is finite, additional resources may be needed to leverage, supplement and support the implementation of proposed objectives, programs and projects. The following implementation strategies are presented to offer near-term direction to realize these projects and as a means to continue dialogue between City leadership, local residents and partners.

Additionally, a review of potential implementation tools is included as Appendix G, which addresses local financing, federal and state grant and conservation programs, acquisition methods and others.



## KEY PROJECT RECOMMENDATIONS

The following is a summary of key project recommendations which will require commitment from the City, its residents and partners to continue to support a healthy parks, trails and recreation system that preserves and enhances the safety, livability and character of the community.

### Acquisitions for Open Space Preservation & to Fill Gaps

Building on the momentum created through the public process for the Land Acquisition Strategy and City Council's commitment to secure additional open spaces, the City should continue to refine and target its efforts toward acquiring properties to preserve as public open space and to secure lands for active-use, outdoor recreation for the community. As residential growth and expansion continue, opportunities to acquire large park sites will be more difficult and require Sammamish to pursue an aggressive acquisition program, as well as think creatively and foster partnerships to provide desired public parkland with sufficient room for park amenities. To implement a successful acquisition program, the City may need to contract for acquisition specialists to expedite the focused effort to secure future parcels. In addition, the possibility may exist for other public land management agencies, such as the local school districts, King County and Forterra, to become partners in acquiring mutually beneficial public lands. The near-term goal is to acquire sufficient acreage for one community park and three to four neighborhood parks to fill major gaps and have sufficiently large sites for future park development. Specific target acquisition areas are noted on Map 7 on page 87.



### Park & Trail Connections

Recreational trail connections, improvements and relationships to streets, sidewalks and bike lanes have been developing as Sammamish has grown. The City should continue to plan for and implement the recreational trails identified within this Plan and coordinate trail-related projects with transportation system planning or related public works projects. There may also be opportunities to explore trail development partnerships with local user groups and pursue additional trail segments and connections, as appropriate.



### Recreation Programming

Expanded recreational and community programming has been an identified need as the City grows and matures. Exploration is warranted for potential partnerships and arrangements with school districts and contract vendors for the provision of recreation programs focusing on youth, teens and seniors. The development of youth summer and school break camps are current needs; the City could foster agreements or partnerships with potential programming partners as it considers its role in providing recreation services for the community. The Parks and Recreation Division should continue to act as the clearinghouse for recreation program information available in the City.





## Sports Fields Enhancements

Sport fields, particularly all-weather turf fields with lighting that allow more reliable scheduling through spring and fall, will be desirable as families continue to locate in Sammamish. Existing fields could be upgraded or converted to artificial turf and new fields could be developed as part of future parks. The proposed community park should include sports fields in its mix of outdoor recreation amenities.



## ADA Enhancements & Park Enhancements

Minor improvements to access, such as providing ramped entrances, for site furnishings are necessary to conform to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and ensure universal accessibility. Also, the City should evaluate the play equipment and its signage for code compliance and replace outdated equipment, as appropriate. The Capital Improvement Program includes a line item for covering small upgrades and improvements to remove barriers and improve universal access. In general, the City should make improvements to existing parks as needed to ensure proper maintenance, usability and quality of park features and grounds.



## Wayfinding & Signage

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, including directional signs to and within parks, has been identified in this Plan (see chapters 5 & 7). Sammamish should pursue a comprehensive wayfinding program that includes both visual graphic standards and site furnishing standards. Colors, sign types, and information can help park and trail users navigate the outdoor recreation experiences offered by the City.



## Communications & Promotions

To broaden public awareness, the City's website should be expanded to facilitate quick links to popular destinations and be designed with mobile users in mind, either through a mobile-friendly site or a web-based application. The website should include easy-to-access park system and facility maps, trail maps and an up-to-date listing of park sites and amenities to enhance the experience of the on-the-go user. The City should consider introducing and utilizing QR codes on signage as a means to share with or receive information from visitors about maintenance, restoration or monitoring data.

# IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

## 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.

### Inter-Departmental Coordination

Internal coordination with the Public Works and Community Development Departments can increase the potential of discrete actions toward the implementation of the proposed recreational trail network, which relies in part on street right-of-way enhancements, and in the 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.

### Programming Partnerships

Coordination with the YMCA, Boys & Girls Club, library, local school districts and private fitness vendors should be ongoing to assess the range and type of recreation programs offered in the city and to maximize use of community facilities, such as fields, gymnasiums and other indoor spaces. The City may need to find and coordinate with other recreation program vendors for new programs and services to meet the interests of the community and address current gaps in program coverage. Interlocal agreements with the school districts should be periodically revisited and amended to advance the potential for extended community use of indoor gymnasium space for recreation programs or classes.

The City should continue to facilitate discussions with local youth and adult sport leagues and staff from local school districts for the purposes of sport field planning and consideration for new multi-fields. The inclusion of sport fields in a future community park acquisition should be a strong consideration when conducting site feasibility and design. A complex of four fields or more potentially could provide field rental revenue, as well as tourism revenue, from leagues or sport clubs interested in hosting tournaments.

### Promoting Health Benefits

Sammamish also should explore partnership opportunities with regional health care providers and services, such as Providence, Swedish, Kaiser Permanente, Overlake Medical and the King County Health Department, to promote wellness activities, healthy living and communications about the benefits of parks and recreation. For example, this group could more directly cross-market services and help expand communications about local wellness options, and they could sponsor a series of organized trail walks throughout Sammamish as a means to expand public awareness of local trail opportunities and encourage residents to stay fit. For example, other communities in the Pacific Northwest have been successful with funding requests to regional hospitals for the development and printing of community walking guides that highlight the health benefits of walking and include trail system maps and descriptions.



## Property Owner Outreach

The City should continue to explore opportunities to expand public access and ownership along Lake Sammamish. This could include outreach to and negotiations with landowners with frontage along the lake, as well as opportunities for expanded or improved road ends (albeit limited) approaching the lake.

The City should reach out to the property owners of certain private open space tracts that were set aside through the land development process for the potential to utilize some of these lands for trail linkages. Also, in areas where no other options exist to secure stand-alone parklands, these existing private open space tracts may offer an opportunity to provide trail connections or limited park amenities, as appropriate depending on critical area ordinance limitations or specific land use restrictions from the time of platting.

## Relationship Building & Management

Developing or strengthening these types of partnerships will be essential for reaching the goals of the Plan and meeting the needs of the future park system. Such partnerships may allow the City to share responsibilities for the financial, planning, development and operational activities; however, partnerships, like many relationships, require time to establish the mutual values that keep the partners at the table, leverage resources and enable successful project implementation. City staff may need to grow to allow for the capacity to capture stronger partnerships.

## 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 parkland acquisition, planning and/or development. They cannot be used for operations and maintenance of parks and facilities. The City of Sammamish currently assesses impact fees, but the City should review its PIF ordinance and update the methodology and rate structure, as appropriate, to be best positioned to obtain future acquisition and development financing from the planned growth of the community. The City should prioritize the usage of PIF to secure new park properties and finance park or trail development consistent with the priorities within this Plan.

## 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 urban growth boundary. 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. Sammamish has been fortunate to have been gifted many parcels for parks and open space from very generous community members. Also, parkland dedication by a developer could occur in exchange for Park Impact Fees 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. Any potential dedication must be vetted by the Department to ensure that such land is located in an area of need or can expand an existing City property and can be developed with site amenities appropriate for the projected use of the property.

## **Volunteer & Community-based Action**

Volunteers and community groups already contribute to the improvement of parks and recreation services in Sammamish. Volunteer projects include wildlife habitat enhancement, invasive plant removal, tree planting, trail building and community event support, among others. Sammamish 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. While supporting organized groups and community-minded individuals continues to add value to the Sammamish parks and recreation system, volunteer coordination requires a substantial amount of staff time, and additional resources may be necessary to more fully take advantage of the community's willingness to support park and recreation efforts.

## **King 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. 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**

Several state and federal grant programs are available on a competitive basis, including WWRP, ALEA, LWCF and Fast-Act. Pursuing grants is not a panacea for park system funding, since grants are both competitive and often require a significant percentage of local funds to match the request to the granting agency, which depending on the grant program can be as much as 50% of the total project budget. Sammamish 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 the likelihood for appropriations could be increased if multiple partners are collaborating on projects.

## **Other Implementation Tools**

Appendix F identifies other implementation tools, such as voter-approved funding, grants and acquisition tactics, that the City could utilize to further the implementation of the projects noted in the CIP.

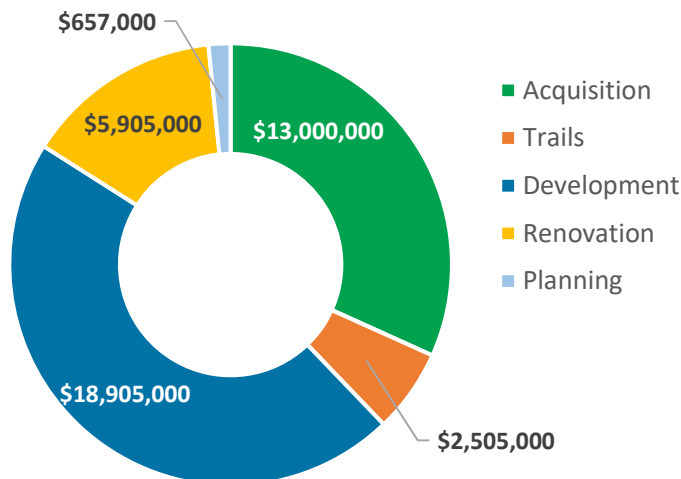
## CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PLAN

The Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) 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.

The CIP on the following pages lists the park and facility projects considered for the next six years. The majority of these projects entail the acquisition and development of parks, renovating or enhancing existing facilities, and expanding trail corridors. The CIP provides brief project descriptions for those projects with priority ranking to assist staff in preparing future capital budget requests.

The projects were selected based on the need to address 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 2018-2023 CIP by park types for the next six years. A full CIP funding schedule follows later in this chapter.

Figure 39. Capital Improvements Plan Expenditures Summary





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Sammamish Parks Six-Year Capital Improvement Plan (2018-2023)

PRIORITY	# (2017-2022 CIP)	PROJECT	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	6-year Total
<b>PARKS CIP PROJECTS</b>									
1	A	<b>Mystic Lake - Trail Extension</b> City to design and pay construction costs over \$15K, wetland buffer mitigation, developer to construct trail of approx. 650 lf.	\$25,000						\$25,000
2	A	<b>Big Rock Park - Site B - Phase I Improvements</b> ROW improvements, driveway and parking lot, utilities, tree house ADA and general site improvements to allowing opening of Parcel B.	\$200,000	\$2,000,000					\$2,200,000
3	A	<b>Inglewood Middle School - Phase I - Synthetic Turf &amp; Field Overlay</b> Upgrade existing football field with synthetic turf and lights. Includes restroom, soccer/lacrosse overlay, new drainage, irrigation.		\$30,000	\$390,000	\$2,800,000			\$3,220,000
4	A	<b>Beaver Lake Park - Athletic Fields</b> Reconfigure 3 existing natural turf softball fields to 3 artificial turf little league baseball fields, drainage, irrigation, fencing. One multi-use rectangular synthetic field with lighting.				\$500,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$3,500,000
5	A	<b>Beaver Lake Park - Westside Plaza</b> New restroom, picnic shelter, sports plaza & play area between fields. Requires 3 baseball field reconfiguration.				\$250,000	\$1,000,000	\$750,000	\$2,000,000
6	B	<b>Plant Salvage Program/Facility</b> Location and development of a facility to storage, water and maintain salvaged plant material for restoration/planting projects.	\$50,000						\$50,000
7	B	<b>East Sammamish Park - Playground</b> New playground		\$100,000	\$1,000,000				\$1,100,000
8	B	<b>East Sammamish Park - Parking &amp; Access Improvements</b> Parking lot expansion, frontage improvements, pedestrian lighting, tennis court access and trail to Margaret Mead.		\$75,000	\$675,000				\$750,000
9	B	<b>Pine Lake Park - Field Upgrades</b> Replacement irrigation in outfield, new infield surface and drainage, safety fencing, replacement backstop		\$350,000					\$350,000
10	B	<b>East Sammamish Park - Baseball Field Rehab</b> Infield/outfield remodel and drainage, natural turf replacement, potential new amenities			\$640,000				\$640,000
11	B	<b>Off-leash Dog Park - site TBD</b>					\$50,000		\$50,000
12	B/C	<b>Beaver Lake Park - Lakeside Improvements</b> Swim beach/shoreline improvements, parking lot expansion, new playground, stormwater, landscape and irrigation.	\$100,000	\$1,350,000	\$1,350,000				\$2,800,000
13	B/C	<b>Evans Creek Preserve - Trail System &amp; Habitat Improvements</b> Completion of internal trail system and habitat improvements.			\$25,000		\$25,000		\$50,000
14	C	<b>Lower Sammamish Commons - Restroom</b> Permanent restroom building with adjacent maintenance storage space. Sewer connection provided via Town Center developer		\$550,000					\$550,000
15	C	<b>Skate Park - Rehabilitation/Repairs</b> Minor repairs to concrete, address design issues with planter boxes, expand skate bowl on north end of Skate Park.		\$300,000					\$300,000
16	C	<b>Big Rock Park - Site A - Phase II - Restroom</b> Site A: Permanent restroom and septic field upgrade.		\$35,000	\$350,000				\$385,000
17	C	<b>Evans Creek Preserve - Highway 202 Access</b> Connect Alcott Elementary via a soft surface trail through the North Property and an enhanced crosswalk on 202.			\$130,000				\$130,000
18	C	<b>Eastlake Community Sports Field 3 - Synthetic Turf Replacement</b> Turf and infill replacement. Includes new pad and anticipated coated crumb rubber infill material or suitable alternate. (9-year estimate)				\$100,000	\$1,300,000		\$1,400,000
19	C	<b>East Sammamish Park - Pickleball Courts</b>			\$150,000				\$150,000
<b>(A) SUBTOTAL PARKS CIP PROJECTS</b>			<b>\$375,000</b>	<b>\$4,790,000</b>	<b>\$4,710,000</b>	<b>\$3,650,000</b>	<b>\$3,875,000</b>	<b>\$2,250,000</b>	<b>\$19,650,000</b>

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PARKS PLANNING PROJECTS		2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	6-Year Total
20	A	PK-n	YMCA Property Development Plan Preliminary plan for recreation facility improvements for property meeting YMCA/City lease agreement requirements.	\$100,000				\$100,000
21	A	PK-34	Klahanie Park Master Plan Complete Master Plan for Klahanie Park. Includes consultant, site analysis, public engagement and final plan.	\$50,000	\$200,000			\$250,000
22	A	PK-n	Athletic Field Study Complete a community-wide gap analysis and prioritized implementation plan for outdoor athletic facilities.	\$50,000				\$50,000
23	A	PK-n	Park Systemwide Wayfinding Program Unified directional signage for wayfinding to and through parks.	\$12,000	\$45,000			\$57,000
24	B	PK-n	Lower Commons - Master Plan Update Update to reflect changed use with Town Center, Green Spine, Regional Stormwater	\$25,000	\$75,000			\$100,000
25	C	PK-46	Indoor Field House - Feasibility Study Feasibility study to include an operations analysis for an indoor field house to be considered on the YMCA/Pine Lake Property.		\$100,000			\$100,000
26	C	PK-n	Environmental Interpretation/Habitat Certification Interpretative and habitat certification signage within the parks			\$25,000		\$25,000
<b>(B) SUBTOTAL PARKS PLANNING PROJECTS</b>			<b>\$420,000</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$682,000</b>

OTHER PARKS CIP PROJECTS		2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	6-Year Total
27	A	PK-C	Community Garden Placeholder for future community garden(s) with 40 to 50 planting beds in a location to be determined.	\$50,000				\$100,000
28	A	PK-D	Land Acquisition Placeholder to acquire land for future parks and open spaces as opportunities become available.	\$8,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$13,000,000
29	A	PK-E	Capital Repair/Replacement Program (includes ADA upgrades) This ongoing program allocates funds for the repair and replacement of parks structures and equipment.	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$1,200,000
30	A	PK-F	Capital Contingency Reserve (based on projects) 10% contingency for Parks CIP projects	\$37,500	\$479,000	\$471,000	\$387,500	\$1,965,000
31	A	PK-64	Sammamish Commons Trail Connection Phase 1 Lower Sammamish Commons to Big Rock Park Trail	\$100,000	\$200,000			\$300,000
32	B	PK-A	Future Trail Connections Placeholder for future trail projects to be determined upon completion of the PRO Plan and TMP. (Includes \$500k carryforward from 2016 and 2017).	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000		\$2,000,000
33	B	PK-B	Town Center Park Projects Placeholder for future Town Center projects to include urban plaza, central green, playground relocation and/or other projects.	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$175,000		\$2,075,000
<b>(C) SUBTOTAL OTHER PARKS CIP PROJECTS</b>			<b>\$2,579,000</b>	<b>\$3,921,000</b>	<b>\$2,240,000</b>	<b>\$1,587,500</b>	<b>\$1,425,000</b>	<b>\$20,640,000</b>
<b>(D) TOTAL PARKS CIP EXPENDITURES (A+B+C)</b>			<b>\$7,789,000</b>	<b>\$8,656,000</b>	<b>\$5,890,000</b>	<b>\$5,462,500</b>	<b>\$3,675,000</b>	<b>\$40,972,000</b>

PARKS CIP REVENUE		2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	6-Year Total
Real Estate Excise Tax (REET)		\$2,450,000	\$2,200,000	\$2,200,000	\$2,200,000	\$2,200,000	\$2,200,000	\$13,450,000
Park Impact Fees		\$1,985,000	\$1,985,000	\$1,985,000	\$1,985,000	\$1,985,000	\$1,985,000	\$11,910,000
King County 2014-2019 Levy Funding		\$120,000	\$120,000	-	-	-	-	\$240,000
King County TDR		-	-	-	-	-	-	\$0
Operating Contribution - General Fund		\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$30,000
Investment Interest		-	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$150,000
Anticipated Grants		\$4,560,000	\$4,360,000	\$4,190,000	\$4,240,000	\$4,190,000	\$4,240,000	\$25,780,000
<b>(E) TOTAL PARKS CIP REVENUE</b>		<b>\$2,018</b>	<b>\$2,019</b>	<b>\$2,020</b>	<b>\$2,021</b>	<b>\$2,022</b>	<b>\$2,023</b>	<b>\$12,320,715</b>
<b>PARKS CIP FUND 6-YR OVERVIEW</b>		<b>\$17,077,715</b>	<b>\$12,138,215</b>	<b>\$8,709,215</b>	<b>\$4,243,215</b>	<b>\$2,593,215</b>	<b>\$1,320,715</b>	<b>\$27,593,215</b>
Beginning Fund Balance		\$4,560,000	\$4,360,000	\$4,190,000	\$4,240,000	\$4,190,000	\$4,240,000	\$25,780,000
Revenue - E)		\$9,499,500	\$7,789,000	\$8,656,000	\$5,890,000	\$5,462,500	\$3,675,000	\$40,972,000
Expenditures - D)		\$12,138,215	\$8,709,215	\$4,243,215	\$2,593,215	\$1,320,715	\$1,320,715	\$27,593,215

**ENDING FUND BALANCE**

NOTES:  
 This CIP identifies planning-level cost estimates and does not assume the value of volunteer or other non-city contributions. Detailed costing may be necessary for projects noted.  
 This CIP is not an official budget and intended as a guiding document for City staff in the preparation of departmental budgets.

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# APPENDIX A COMMUNITY SURVEY SUMMARY



## City of Sammamish Land Acquisition Survey -- Topline Results (weighted by age) Subject to Revisions

q2 - When it comes to meeting the needs of the community, would you say there are...

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	More than enough parks and recreation opportunities in Sammamish	76	8.9	9.0	9.0
	About the right number of parks and recreation opportunities in Sammamish	389	45.4	46.3	55.4
	Not enough parks and recreation opportunities in Sammamish	337	39.4	40.2	95.5
	Don't Know	37	4.4	4.5	100.0
	Total	839	98.1	100.0	
Missing	System	17	1.9		
	Total	856	100.0		

### q3 -- Priorities for Sammamish Parks & Recreation Department

	Mean
Conduct maintenance on existing facilities	32.88
Buy land for future park use and open space	33.16
Develop new parks and recreation facilities on undeveloped sites	25.43
Improve and upgrade existing city parks	29.47

q4 - Do you think the City should acquire more land for parks, recreation, open space, and other public uses?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No	187	21.8	22.0	22.0
	Yes	663	77.4	78.0	100.0
	Total	850	99.2	100.0	
Missing	System	6	.8		
	Total	856	100.0		

### q4.1 -- What should be the focus for land acquisition?

		Count	Column Response % (Base: Count)
focusoflandacquisition	Active Use / Recreation (play fields, playgrounds, sports courts, etc.)	311	47.0%
	Passive Use (walking trails, wildlife viewing, etc.)	513	77.6%
	Preservation (natural open space areas)	455	68.9%
	Other	43	6.5%
	Total	661	200.1%

Multiple responses allowed. Percentages may add up to more than 100.



**q4.1.1 - Active Use/Recreation Desired Increases**

		Count	Column Response % (Base: Count)
ActiveRecreation	Playgrounds	180	57.9%
	Athletic fields	176	56.8%
	Sports courts	147	47.4%
	Waterfront recreation	171	55.1%
	Indoor recreation	133	42.8%
	Other	24	7.6%
	Total	310	267.6%

Multiple responses allowed. Percentages may add up to more than 100.

**q4.1.2 -- Passive Use Desired Increases**

		Count	Column Response % (Base: Count)
PassiveUse	Picnic areas (shelters, tables)	239	45.5%
	Trails (walking & bicycle)	502	95.6%
	Wildlife viewing	325	62.0%
	Cultural/historic sites	172	32.8%
	Community gardens	242	46.1%
	Other	36	6.9%
	Total	525	288.8%

Multiple responses allowed. Percentages may add up to more than 100.

**q4.1.3 -- Preservation Desired Increases**

		Count	Column Response % (Base: Count)
Preservation	Preserving tree canopy	412	88.7%
	Linking streams and fish/wildlife corridors	364	78.3%
	Proximity to existing open spaces	215	46.2%
	Wetlands and sensitive areas with ecological benefit	372	80.1%
	Other	15	3.2%
	Total	465	296.4%

Multiple responses allowed. Percentages may add up to more than 100.

**q5 -- Areas for More Open Space and Land Acquisition**

		Count	Column Response % (Base: Count)
AreasForAcquisition	NE quadrant (north of SE 8th Street and east of 228th Avenue SE)	279	38.3%
	NW quadrant (north of SE 8th Street and west of 228th Avenue SE)	273	37.5%
	SE quadrant (south of SE 8th Street and east of 228th Avenue SE)	335	46.1%
	SW quadrant (south of SE 8th Street and west of 228th Avenue SE)	279	38.4%
	None of the above	151	20.8%
Total		728	181.0%

Multiple responses allowed. Percentages may add up to more than 100.

**q6 - Thinking about last Spring & Summer, about how often did someone from your household visit a city park in Sammamish?**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No one visited a park	55	6.4	6.5	6.5
	About once a week or more	428	50.0	50.5	57.0
	About two or three times a month	184	21.5	21.7	78.7
	About once a month	93	10.9	11.0	89.7
	Once or twice over the spring/summer season	80	9.4	9.5	99.2
	Don't Know	7	.8	.8	100.0
Total		847	98.9	100.0	
Missing	System	9	1.1		
Total		856	100.0		

**q7 -- Parks visited in the last year**

		Count	Column Response % (Base: Count)
ParksVisited	Beaver Lake Park	585	68.6%
	Beaver Lake Preserve	252	29.5%
	Big Rock Park	190	22.3%
	East Sammamish Park	259	30.3%
	Ebright Creek Park	274	32.2%
	Evans Creek Preserve	238	27.9%
	Ilahee Park Trail	70	8.2%
	Klahanie Park	297	34.9%
	NE Sammamish Park	127	14.9%
	Pine Lake Park	641	75.2%
	Sammamish Commons	466	54.7%
	Sammamish Landing	269	31.5%
	None of the above in the last year	54	6.3%
Total	853	436.4%	

Multiple responses allowed. Percentages may add up to more than 100.

**q8 -- Reasons for Visiting Parks**

		Count	Column Response % (Base: Count)
VisitParkReasons	Relaxation	482	60.4%
	Fitness	210	26.3%
	Walk/trails/jog/run	606	76.0%
	Athletic fields	146	18.3%
	Playgrounds	313	39.2%
	Events/concerts/festivals/ac tivities	246	30.8%
	Other	106	13.2%
	Total	798	264.2%

Multiple responses allowed. Percentages may add up to more than 100.



**q9 -- Travel Mode to Parks**

		Count	Column Response % (Base: Count)
ModeToPark	Walk	344	40.9%
	Bicycle	140	16.6%
	Drive	780	92.8%
	Public transportation	2	0.3%
	Other	8	1.0%
	Total	840	151.6%

Multiple responses allowed. Percentages may add up to more than 100.

**q10 - If you were to walk, how long would it take you to walk to the city park nearest to your home?**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Less than 5 minutes	61	7.1	7.2	7.2
	5 to 10 minutes	221	25.8	26.1	33.3
	More than 10 minutes	518	60.5	61.1	94.4
	Not sure	47	5.5	5.6	100.0
	Total	847	98.9	100.0	
Missing	System	9	1.1		
Total		856	100.0		

**q11 - How would you rate the Quality of Sammamish parks? Use a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 means poor and 10 means excellent.**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	0 - POOR	1	.1	.1	.1
	2	1	.1	.1	.2
	3	5	.6	.6	.9
	4	7	.8	.8	1.7
	5	30	3.5	3.7	5.4
	6	54	6.3	6.7	12.0
	7	177	20.7	21.7	33.8
	8	300	35.0	36.8	70.6
	9	146	17.1	17.9	88.5
	10 - EXCELLENT	94	11.0	11.5	100.0
Total		815	95.2	100.0	
Missing	System	41	4.8		
Total		856	100.0		

**q12 -- Desired Additional Recreational Programs**

		Count	Column Response % (Base: Count)
AdditionalRecPrograms	Participatory events (choir, book club, band, fun runs, etc.)	232	29.9%
	Visual arts events (art walks, gallery/museum exhibits, etc.)	236	30.5%
	Other performing arts (lectures, readings, comedy, etc.)	154	19.8%
	Music performances (jazz, orchestra, etc)	324	41.8%
	Theater performances (plays, musicals, etc.)	298	38.4%
	Dance performances (ballet, jazz, etc.)	130	16.8%
	Programs for adults 55 and over, such as classes, trips, and drop-in activities	231	29.9%
	Teen activities	250	32.2%
	Educational classes, such as technology, natural history, safety and health	271	34.9%
	Arts programs, such as music, dance, arts and crafts	225	29.0%
	Adults sports and fitness classes, such as yoga and Zumba	298	38.5%
	Youth sports programs and camps, such as tennis, basketball and soccer	340	43.9%
	Other	50	6.4%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>775</b>	<b>391.9%</b>

Multiple responses allowed. Percentages may add up to more than 100.

**q13 -- Desired Destinations for Additional Walking and Biking Trails**

		Count	Column Response % (Base: Count)
TrailDestinations	Community & Aquatic Center/City Hall/Library	311	37.6%
	Lake Sammamish	336	40.6%
	Commercial centers: work places, shopping, and services	328	39.7%
	Neighboring cities linked to Sammamish	130	15.8%
	Sammamish neighborhoods	355	43.0%
	Schools	215	26.0%
	Regional trails (such as King County's East Lake Sammamish Trail)	377	45.6%
	Other public parks and open spaces	223	27.0%
	Other	10	1.2%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>827</b>	<b>276.6%</b>

Multiple responses allowed. Percentages may add up to more than 100.

**Q14 -- Priority Level for Park and Recreation Services**

	Not a priority		Low priority		High priority		Top priority		Don't Know		Total	
	Count	Row N %	Count	Row N %	Count	Row N %	Count	Row N %	Count	Row N %	Count	Row N %
Fields for cricket	463	56.8%	257	31.5%	35	4.3%	6	0.8%	53	6.6%	815	100.0%
Senior Center	120	14.8%	262	32.1%	306	37.6%	71	8.7%	57	6.9%	815	100.0%
Mountain bike trails/Pump track	183	22.6%	338	41.6%	203	25.1%	58	7.2%	28	3.5%	811	100.0%
Performing arts/Cultural arts facility	135	16.7%	277	34.4%	293	36.4%	59	7.3%	41	5.1%	805	100.0%
Fields for baseball or softball	186	23.1%	340	42.3%	226	28.1%	34	4.3%	18	2.2%	804	100.0%
Picnic shelters	57	7.1%	262	32.3%	417	51.3%	68	8.3%	8	1.0%	812	100.0%
Fields for soccer/lacrosse/football	144	18.4%	310	39.5%	243	31.0%	70	8.9%	17	2.2%	784	100.0%
Skateboarding or BMX areas	291	36.1%	386	48.0%	91	11.4%	18	2.2%	19	2.3%	805	100.0%
Community gardens	108	13.4%	274	34.0%	320	39.7%	89	11.1%	14	1.8%	805	100.0%
Gymnasiums for indoor sports (basketball/volleyball)	195	24.2%	271	33.7%	245	30.4%	73	9.1%	21	2.6%	805	100.0%
Splash pads/Spray Parks	190	23.7%	261	32.6%	218	27.2%	108	13.4%	25	3.1%	802	100.0%
Restrooms in parks	17	2.0%	107	12.9%	425	51.4%	273	33.0%	5	0.7%	826	100.0%
Walking & hiking trails	21	2.5%	62	7.5%	390	46.8%	357	42.9%	2	0.3%	833	100.0%
Off-leash dog areas (dog parks)	166	20.6%	283	35.1%	217	26.9%	122	15.1%	19	2.4%	808	100.0%
Sports courts for basketball, tennis and Pickleball	154	19.1%	305	37.9%	261	32.4%	72	9.0%	13	1.6%	805	100.0%
New lands for access to Lake Sammamish	108	13.2%	155	19.0%	289	35.3%	249	30.4%	18	2.2%	818	100.0%
Indoor soccer fields	316	39.4%	284	35.4%	124	15.5%	61	7.6%	18	2.2%	804	100.0%
Other	3	5.2%	2	2.8%	6	9.7%	50	78.0%	3	4.3%	64	100.0%

**q15 - What is your age?**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid 18 – 24	74	8.6	8.6	8.6
25 – 34	98	11.4	11.4	20.1
35 – 44	236	27.6	27.6	47.6
45 – 54	231	27.0	27.0	74.6
55 – 64	131	15.3	15.3	89.9
65 – 74	59	6.9	6.9	96.8
75+	27	3.2	3.2	100.0
Total	856	100.0	100.0	

**q16 - Which of the following best describes your household at this time:**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Couple with children under 18 at home	455	53.1	53.6	53.6
	Couple with no children under 18 at home	310	36.2	36.6	90.2
	Single with children under 18 at home	16	1.8	1.9	92.1
	Single with no children under 18 at home	67	7.8	7.9	100.0
	Total	847	99.0	100.0	
Missing	System	9	1.0		
Total		856	100.0		

**q17 - How long have you lived in the City of Sammamish?**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Less than 2 years	93	10.9	10.9	10.9
	2 – 5 years	191	22.3	22.4	33.4
	6 – 9 years	90	10.6	10.6	44.0
	10 or more years	477	55.7	56.0	100.0
	Total	851	99.4	100.0	
Missing	System	5	.6		
Total		856	100.0		

**q18 - Does your household own or rent your home?**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Own	784	91.6	92.5	92.5
	Rent	64	7.5	7.5	100.0
	Total	848	99.0	100.0	
Missing	System	8	1.0		
Total		856	100.0		

**q19 - Other comments regarding parks, recreation, and open spaces**

Answers to this open end question are currently being coded.



Draft 1

# City of Sammamish Land Acquisition Survey

## *Comprehensive Report*

4/13/2017



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## Purpose and Methods

### Purpose

The City of Sammamish is developing a land acquisition strategy (LAS) to accommodate ongoing community needs, increases in development, and a desire to proactively acquire more land. The City is focused not only on developing new parks and trails, but also on capturing the environmental benefits of preserving natural resources, wildlife corridors, and tree canopy. The City is also in the process of updating its Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PRO) Plan.

The City conducted a public survey to gather information and input from the community to help inform the LAS and the PRO Plan update. The survey was designed to measure a variety of variables, including, but not limited to:

- Satisfaction with the number of parks and recreation opportunities
- Priorities for the Sammamish Parks and Recreation Department
- Opinions about acquiring more land for parks, recreation, open space, and other public use
- Frequency of using local parks
- Which parks are used and for what purposes
- Opinions about the quality of Sammamish parks
- Desired additional recreational programs
- Preferred destinations for future trail connections
- Top priorities for future parks and recreation services

### Methods

PRR conducted a statistically valid, address-based survey from March 6, through March 30, 2017, using the following methods:

- Mailed a paper copy of the questionnaire to a random sample of 4,000 households in the City of Sammamish. 62 envelopes were returned by the Post Office as undeliverable, resulting in a base of 3,938.
- The questionnaire could be completed using the paper version or the online version. A unique ID ensured that the questionnaire was completed only once for each household.
- A total of 856 households completed the questionnaire:
  - 598 on paper
  - 258 online
- The response rate was 22%.
- The margin of error is +/- 3.4%.
- All reported relationships are statistically significant at the 95% confidence level.

## Are there enough parks and recreation opportunities in the City of Sammamish?

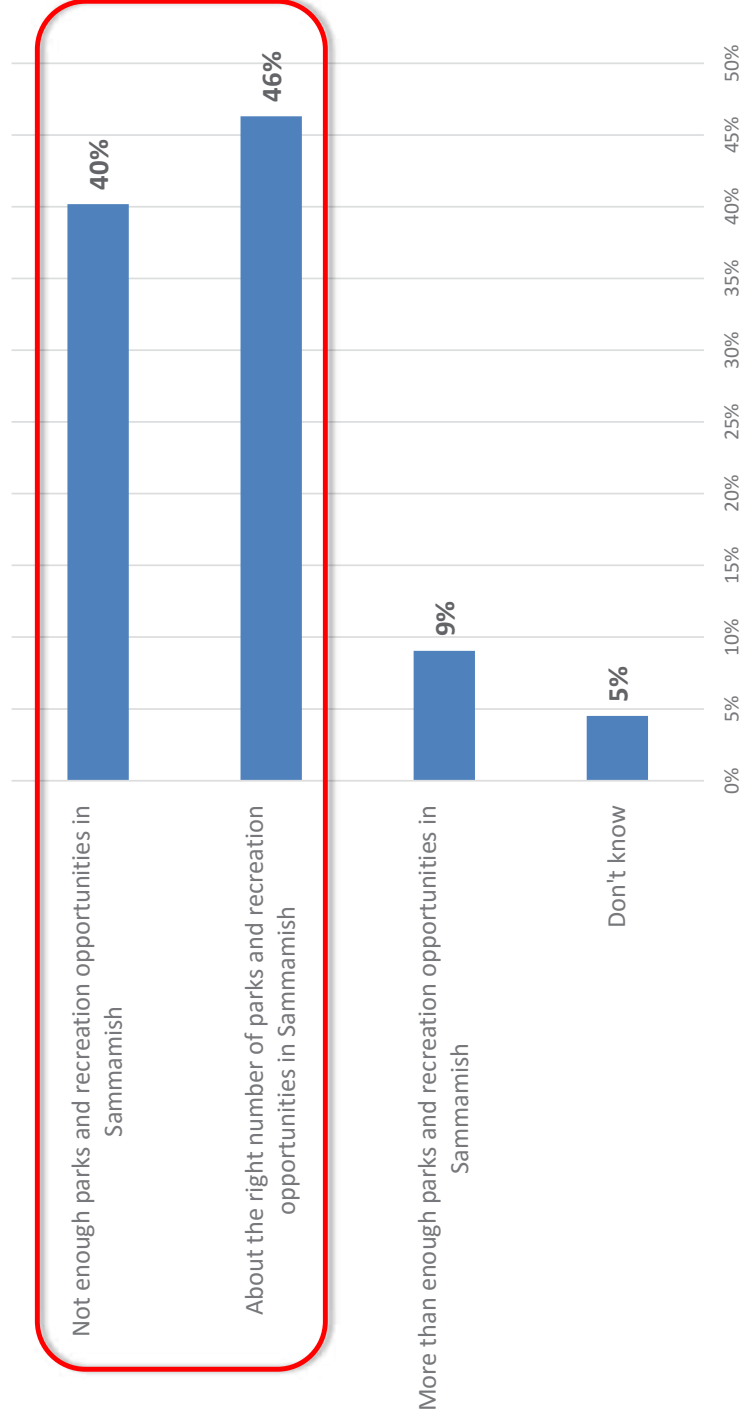
- Although almost half (46%) think that there are enough parks and recreation activities to meet the needs of the community, another two-fifths (40%) think that there are not.
- Only about a tenth (9%) think that there are more than enough parks and recreation activities to meet the needs of the community.

Cross-tabulation analysis indicated those more likely to think there were not enough parks and recreation activities were those who:

- Are 38-64 years of age
- Are couples or singles with children under 18 living at home
- Have lived in Sammamish less than 10 years
- Own their home

### When it comes to meeting the needs of the community, would you say:

Base = all respondents (n=839)





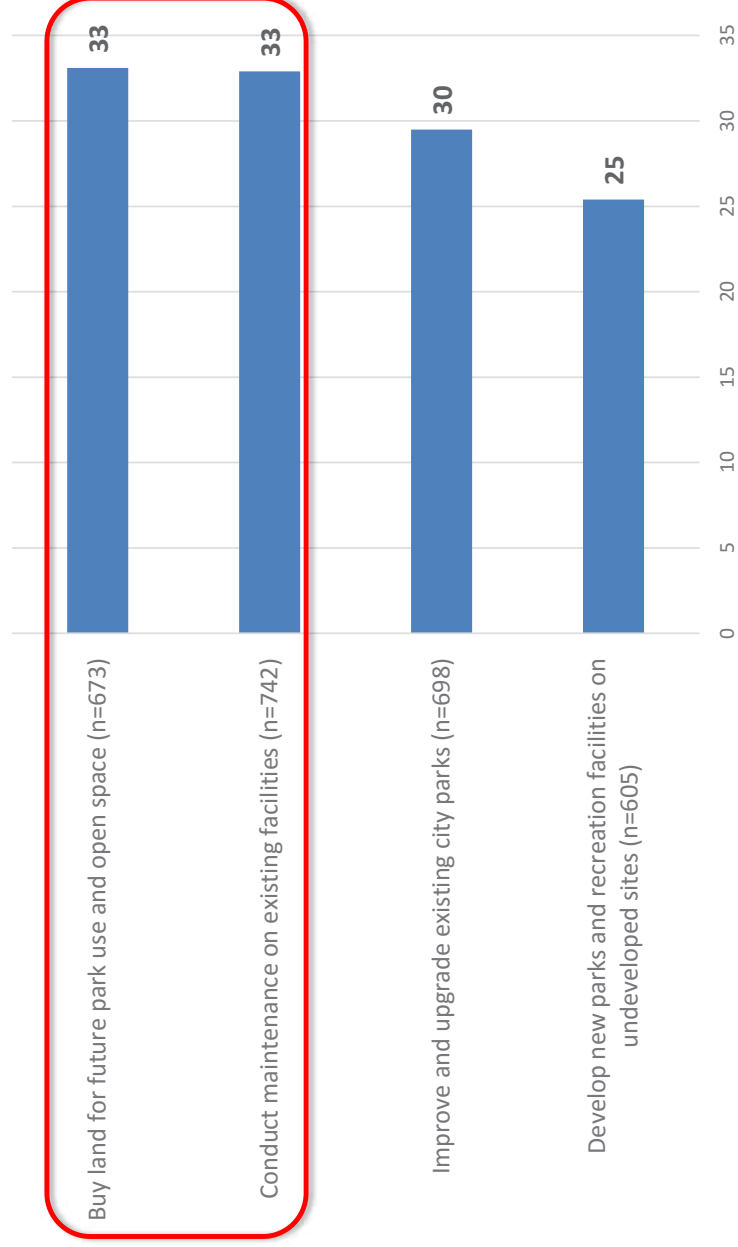
## What are the priorities for the Sammamish Parks and Recreation Department?

- When considering the four priorities presented to survey respondents, all received between 25 and 33 priority points out of 100, indicating a fairly even split across the four priorities.
- However, two priorities were considered slightly higher:
  - Buying land for future park use and open space
  - Conducting maintenance on existing facilities

### Priorities for Sammamish Parks and Recreation Department

Expressed in average points out of 100

Base = all respondents





## What should be the focus for land acquisition?

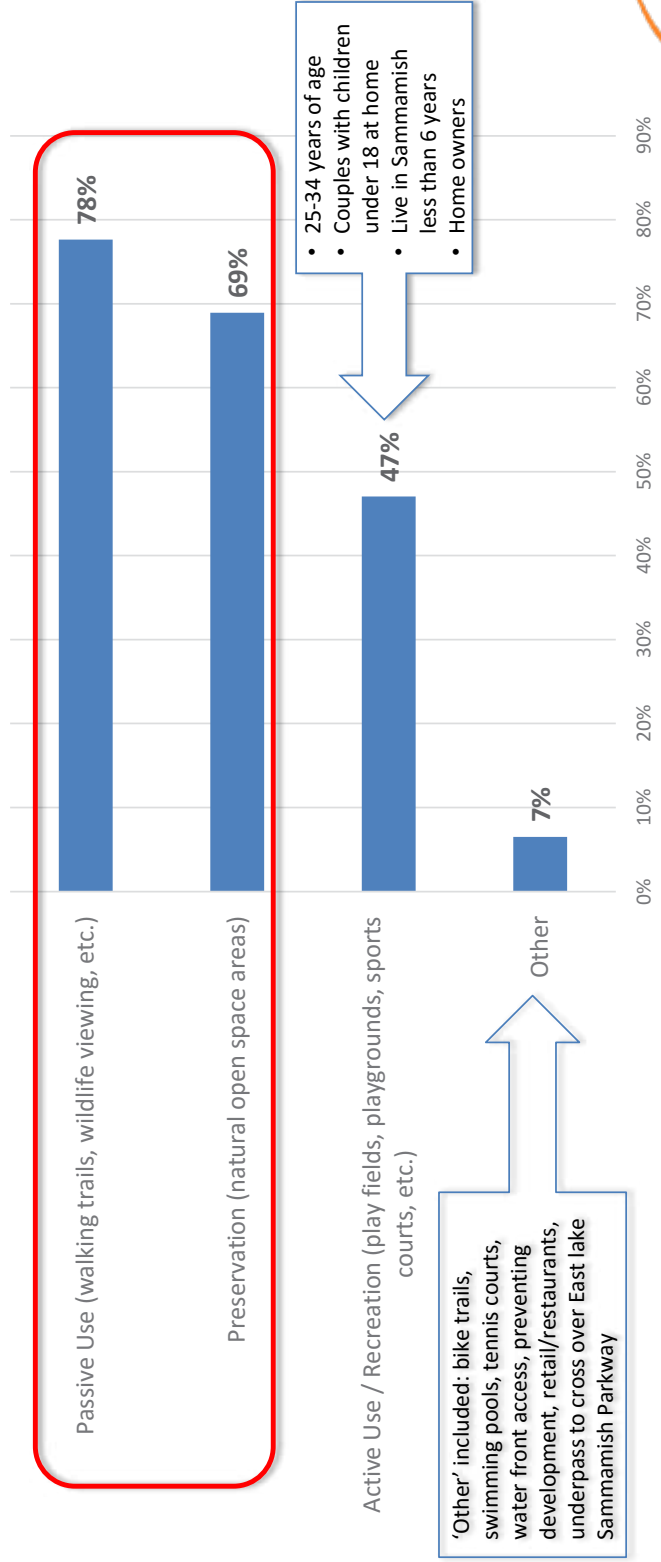
- More than three-quarters (78%) think the city should acquire more land for parks, recreation, open spaces, and other public uses.
- Two-thirds or more of residents think that the two major foci for land acquisition should be:
  - Passive use areas, such as walking trails, wildlife viewing, etc. (78%)
  - Preserving natural open space areas (69%)

Cross-tabulation analysis indicated those more likely to think the city should acquire more land were those who:

- Are 18-44 years of age
- Are couples or singles with children under 18 living at home
- Have lived in Sammamish less than 6 years

### What should be the focus for land acquisition?

Base = all who said the city should acquire more land for parks, recreation, and open spaces (n=661)  
Multiple responses allowed. Percentages may add up to more than 100.



## What active use/recreation increases are desired?

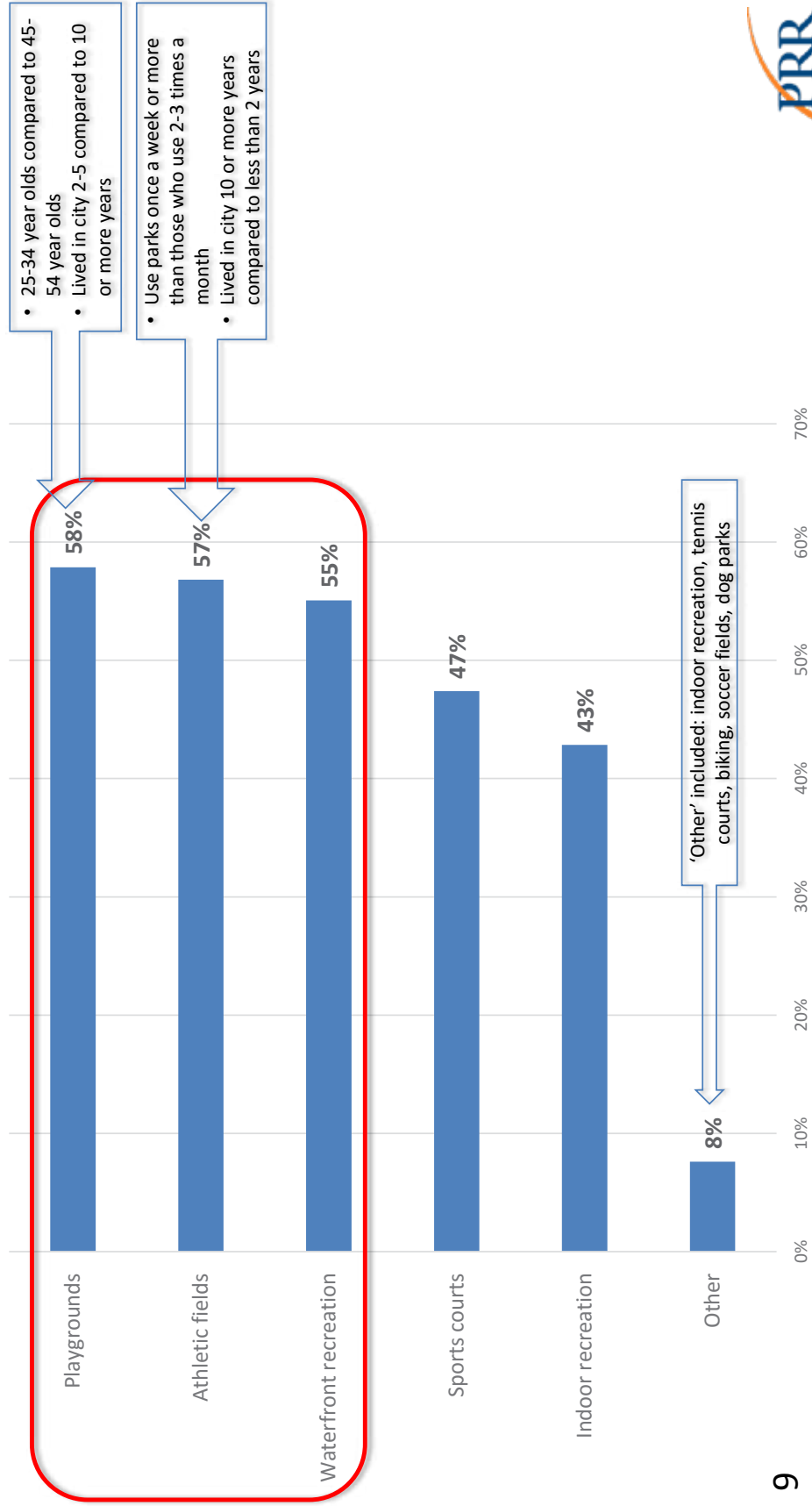
The top three desired increases in active use/recreation infrastructure are:

- Playgrounds (58%)
- Athletic fields (57%)
- Waterfront recreation (55%)

### Desired Increases for Active Use/Recreation

Base = all who supported active use/recreation focus (n=310)

Multiple responses allowed. Percentages may add up to more than 100.





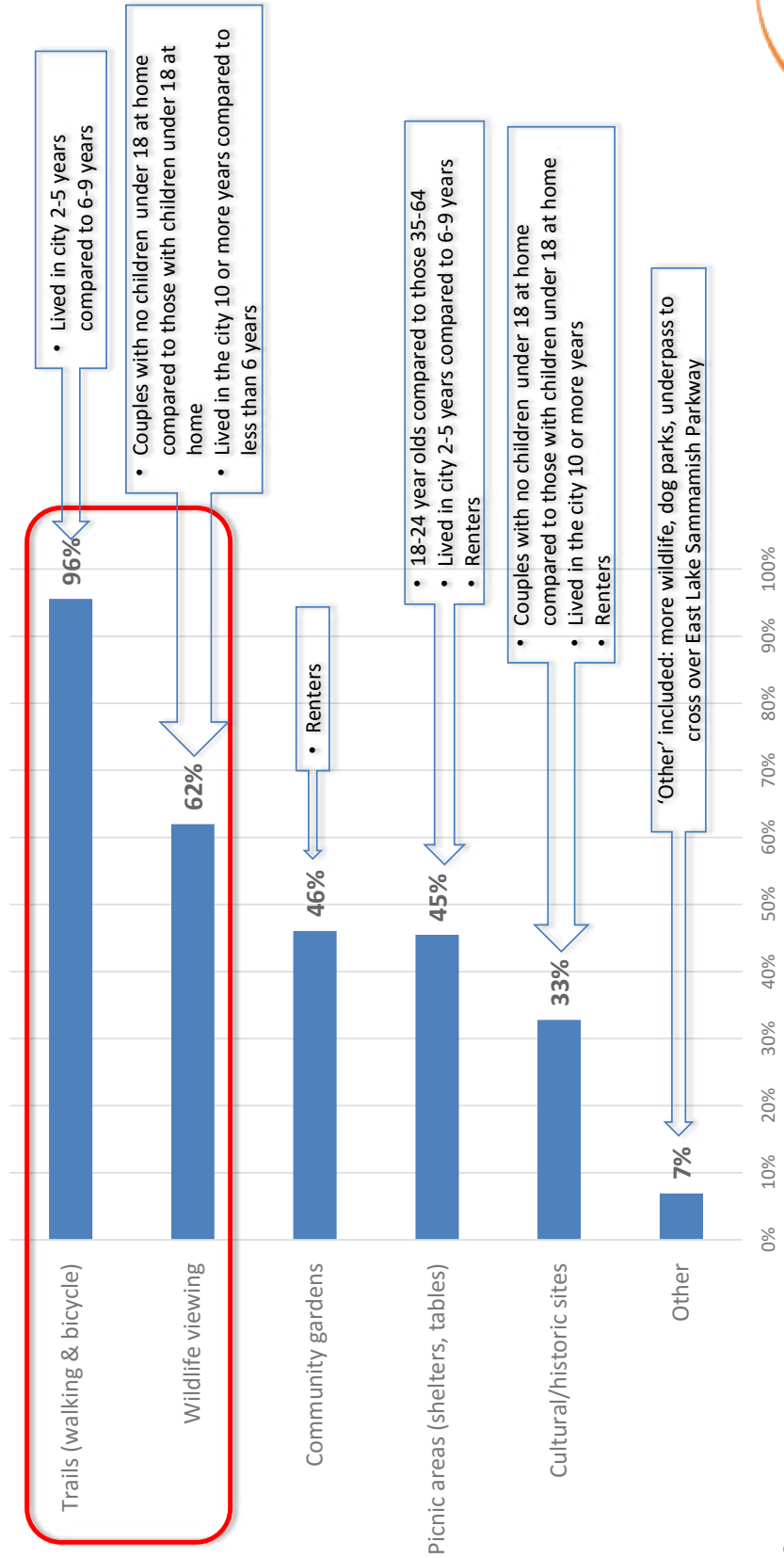
## What passive use increases are desired?

- The top two desired increases in passive use infrastructure are:
  - Trails for walking and biking (96%)
  - Wildlife viewing (62%)

### Desired Increases for Passive Use

Base = all who supported passive use focus (n=525)

Multiple responses allowed. Percentages may add up to more than 100.



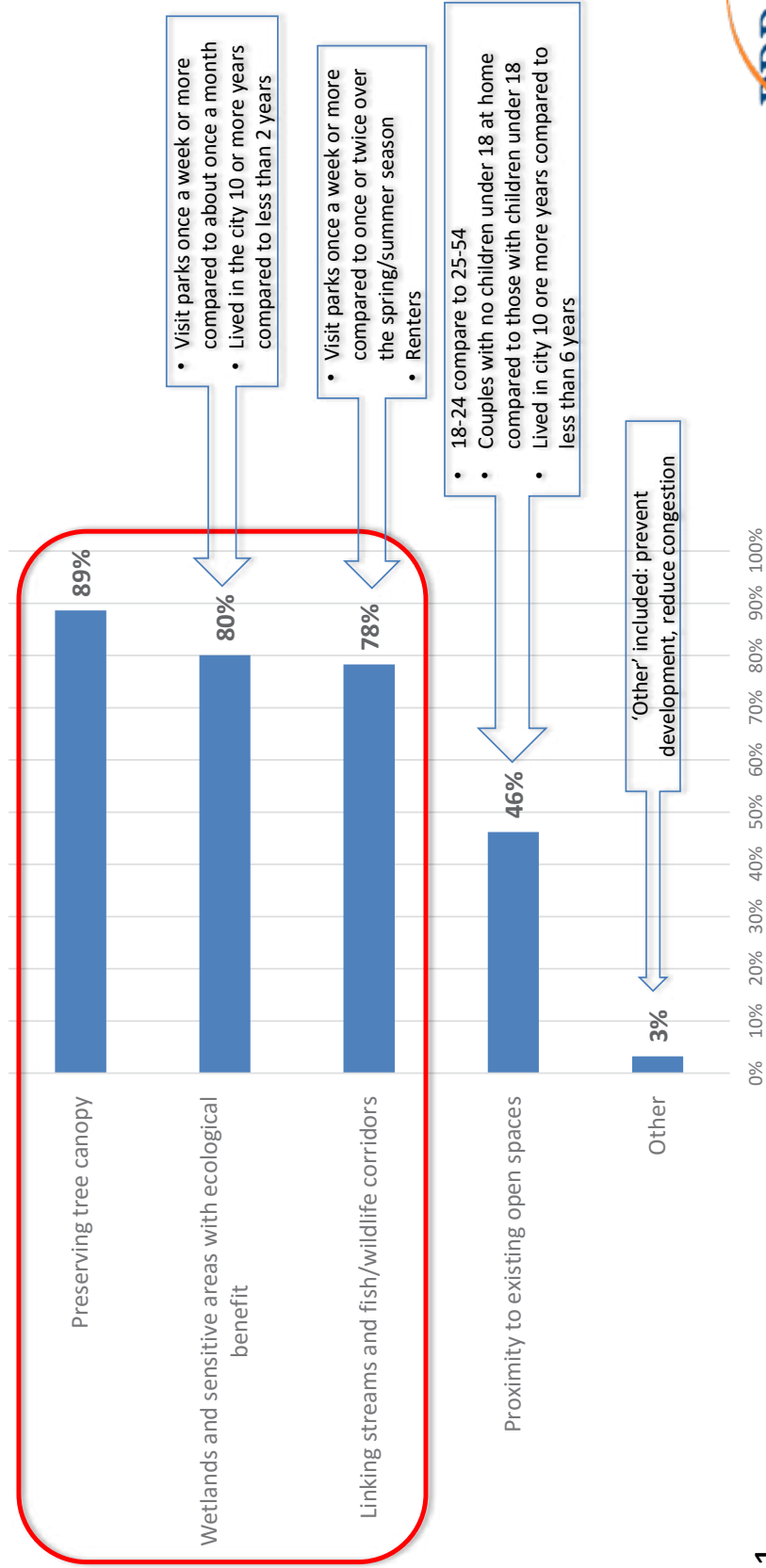


## What preservation increases are desired?

- The top three desired increases for preservation are:
  - Preserving tree canopy (89%)
  - Wetlands and sensitive areas with ecological benefit (80%)
  - Linking streams and fish/wildlife corridors (78%)

### Desired Increases for Preservation

Base = all who supported preservation focus (n=465)  
Multiple responses allowed. Percentages may add up to more than 100.





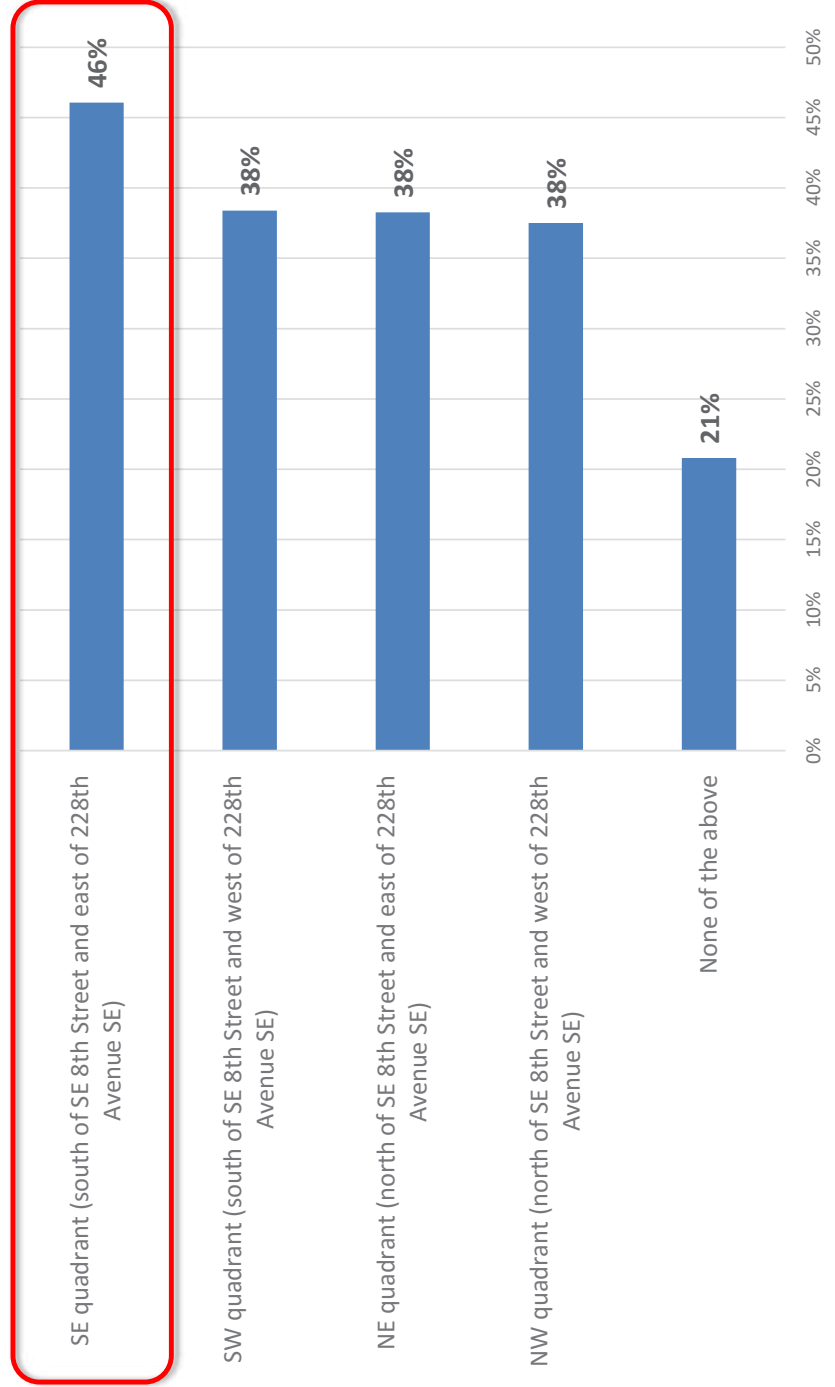
## What are the preferred areas for more open space and public land acquisition?

- About a fifth (21%) said that none of the areas presented in the survey were preferred for more open space and public land acquisition.
- Of those who had a preference for areas for more open space and land acquisition, all four areas presented in the survey received support by almost two-fifths or more, with the SE quadrant (south of SE 8<sup>th</sup> Street and east of 228<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE) receiving the most support (46%)

### Preferred areas for more open space and public land acquisition

Base = all respondents (n=728)

Multiple responses allowed. Percentages may add up to more than 100.



## How frequently do residents use city parks in the Spring and Summer?

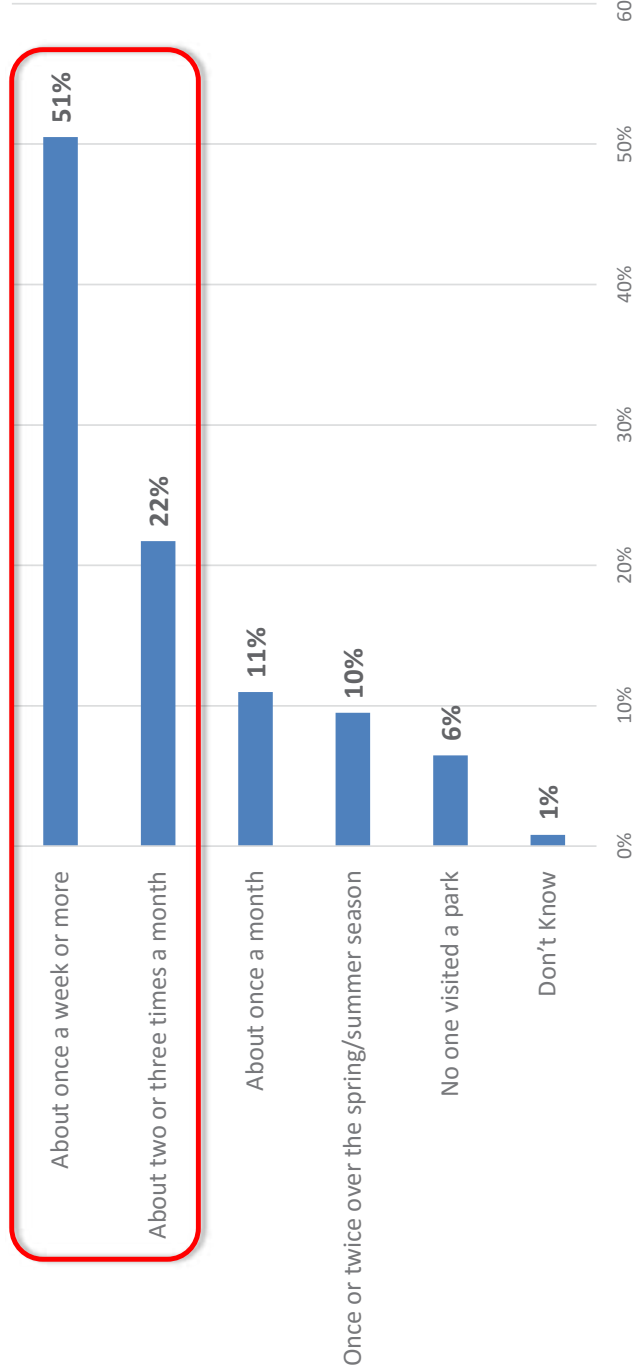
- About half (51%) reported that someone from their household visited a Sammamish city park about once a week or more during the last Spring and Summer seasons.
- Almost another quarter (22%) reported visiting about two to three times a month.
- Many live fairly close to city parks, with a third (33%) living 10 or fewer minutes walking distance to a park. However, three-fifths (61%) live more than 10 minutes walking distance to their closest park.
- Most residents travel to city parks they typically get their by driving (92%) and/or walking (41%). Another 17% bike to the parks.

Cross-tabulation analysis indicated those more likely to visit city parks more frequently were those who:

- Are 18-54 years of age
- Are couples, especially those who have children under 18 living at home
- Are single with children under 18 living at home
- Have lived in Sammamish less than 10 years
- Rent their home

## How often did someone from your household visit a Sammamish city park over the last Spring and Summer?

Base = all respondents (n=847)





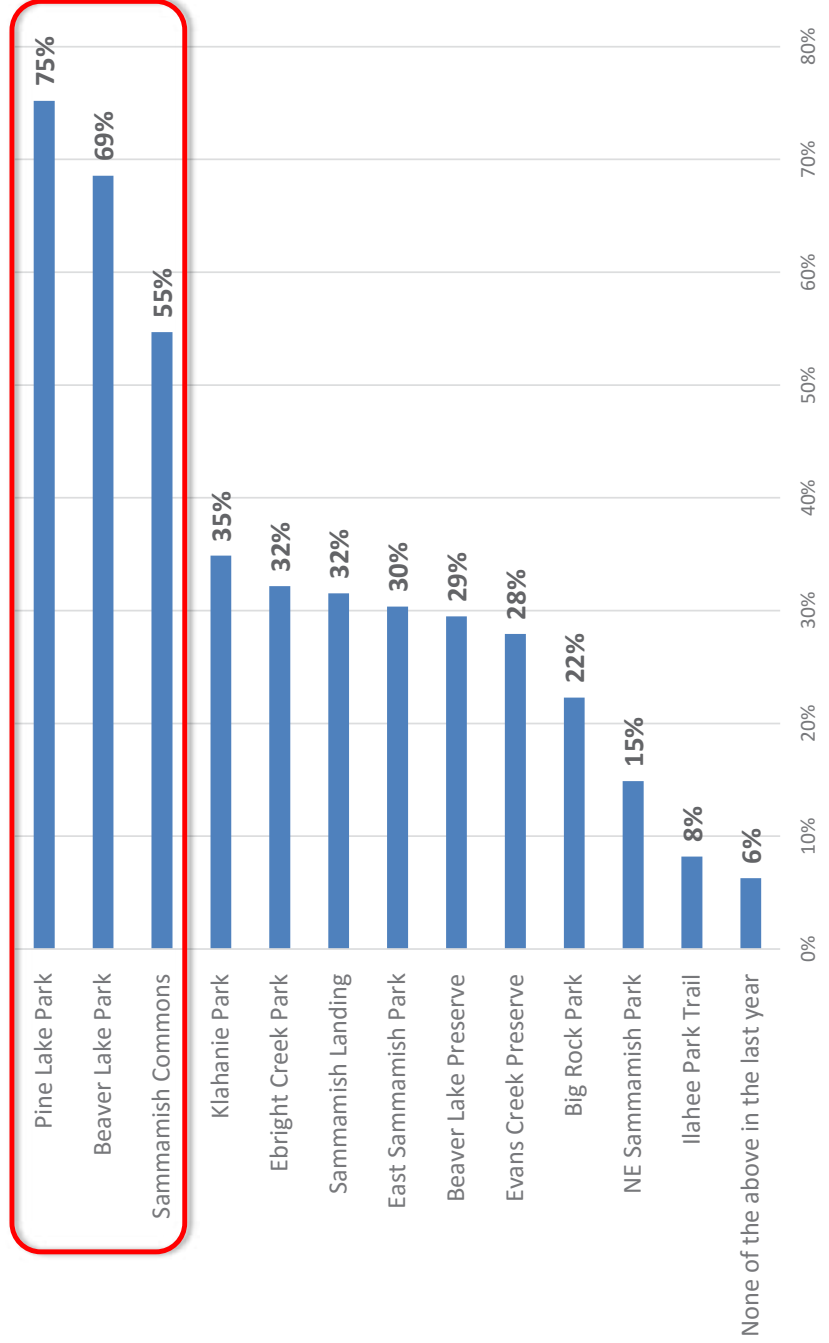
## What parks were visited most frequently in the last year?

- Sammamish parks were visited by most (94%) of Sammamish households in the last year.
- Three parks stood out as the most frequently visited in the last year:
  - Pine lake Park (75%)
  - Beaver Lake Park (69%)
  - Sammamish Commons (55%)

### Sammamish parks visited in the last year

Base = all respondents (n=853)

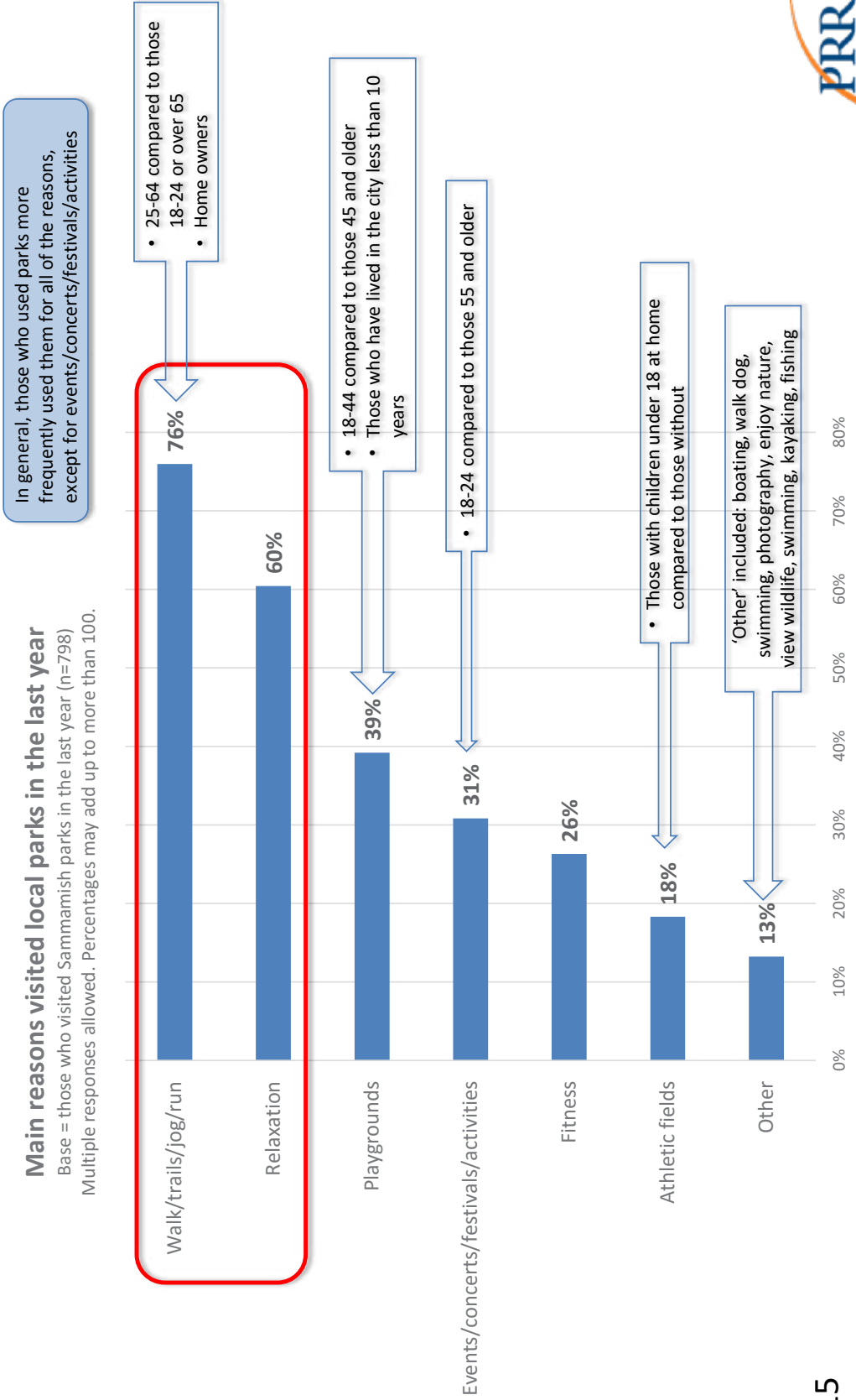
Multiple responses allowed. Percentages may add up to more than 100.





## What were the main reasons residents visited local parks in the last year?

- Residents visited local parks in the last year for many reasons, with the following two being the most frequently mentioned:
  - Walking, using trails, jogging, and/or running (76%)
  - Relaxing (60%)





## How do residents rate the quality of Sammamish parks?

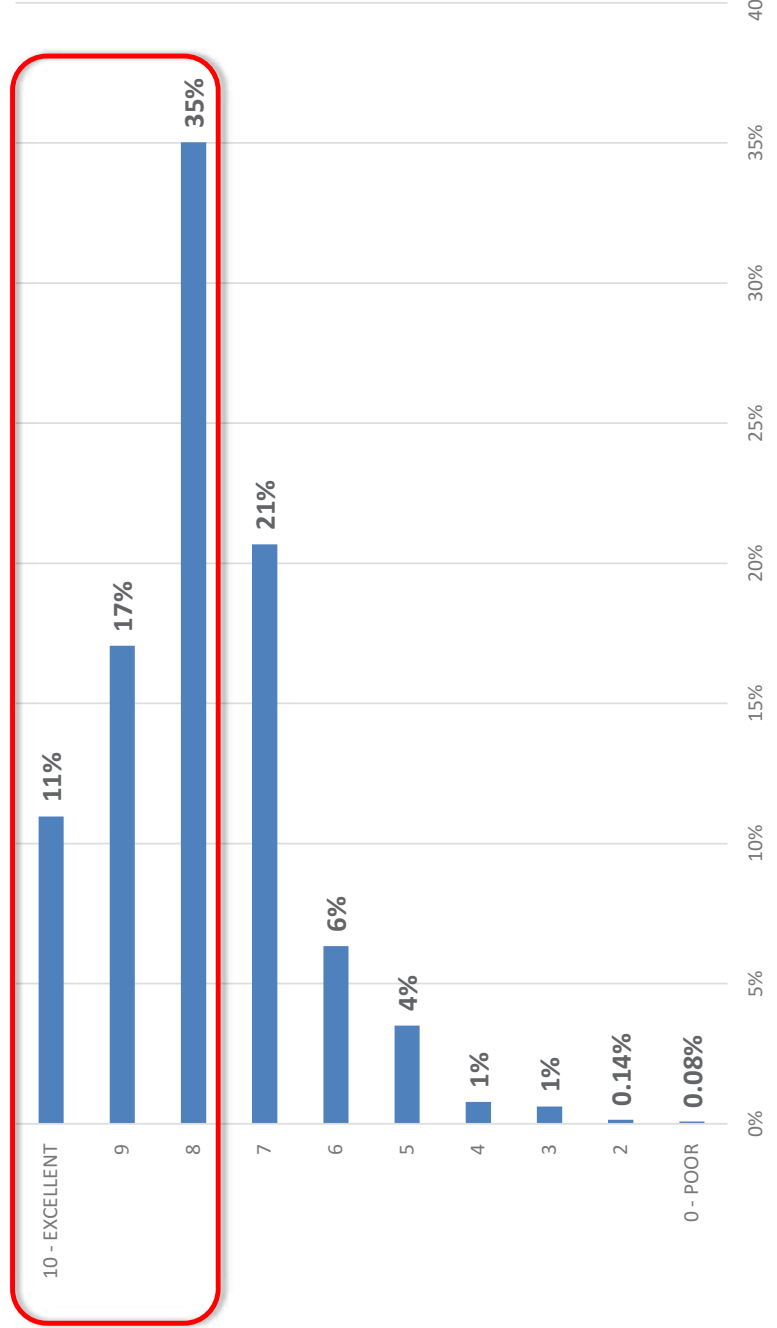
- Sammamish parks received fairly high marks on quality, with almost two-thirds rating them 8 or better on a scale of 0 to 10.
- However, only about a tenth (11%) rated the parks as excellent.

Cross-tabulation analysis indicated those more likely to rate the quality of Sammamish parks higher were those who:

- Lived less than 5 minutes from the closest park
- Couples with children under 18 living at home
- Have lived in Sammamish less than 10 years
- Own their home

### How would you rate the quality of Sammamish parks on a scale of 0 to 10?

Base = all respondents (n=815)



## What additional recreational programs are desired?

- The most desired additional recreational programs are:
  - Youth sports programs and camps, such as tennis, basketball and soccer (44%)
  - Music performances (42%)
  - Adults sports and fitness classes such as yoga and Zumba (38%)
  - Theater performances (38%)

In general, the following were more likely to be desired by those who have lived in the city 10 or more years compared to 2-5 years; and who are 25 and older:

- Participatory events
- Visual arts events
- Other performing arts
- Theater performances
- Programs for adults 55 and older

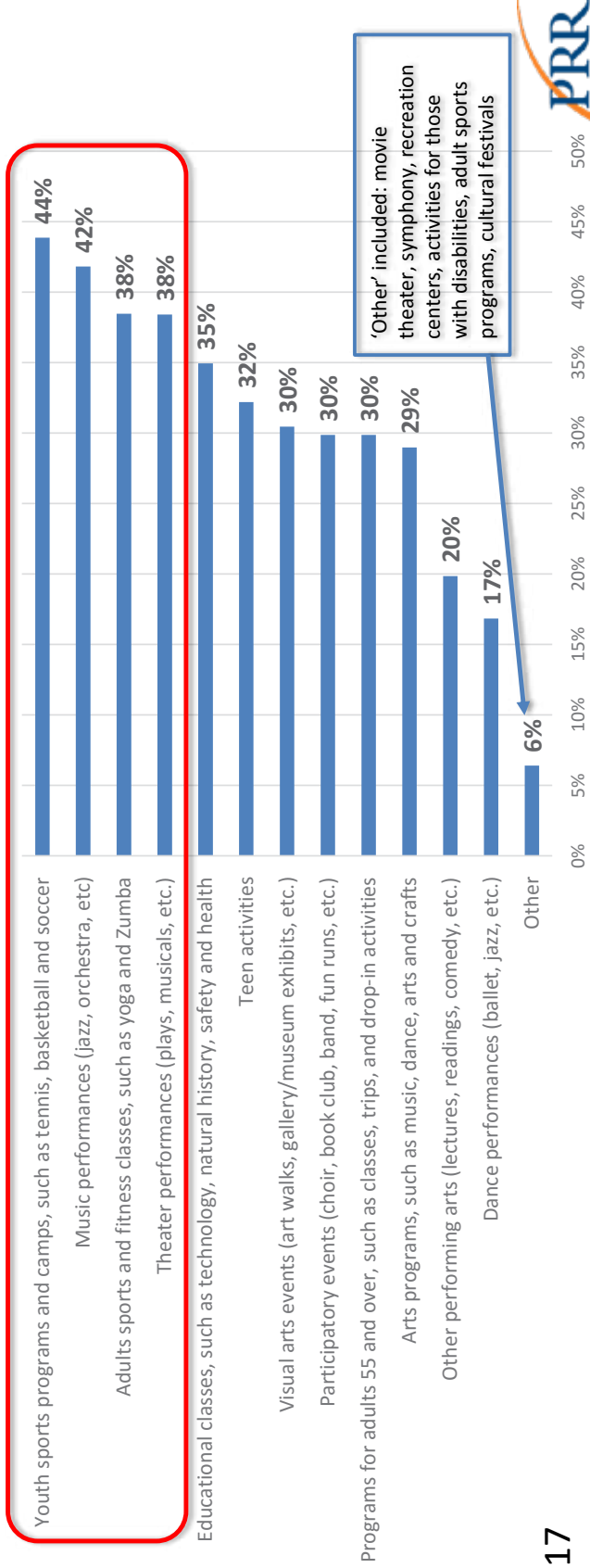
The following were more likely to be desired by those who have lived in the city less than 10 years and under 45 years of age:

- Adult sports and fitness classes
- Youth sports programs and camps

## What additional recreational programs are desired?

Base = all respondents (n=775)

Multiple responses allowed. Percentages may add up to more than 100.





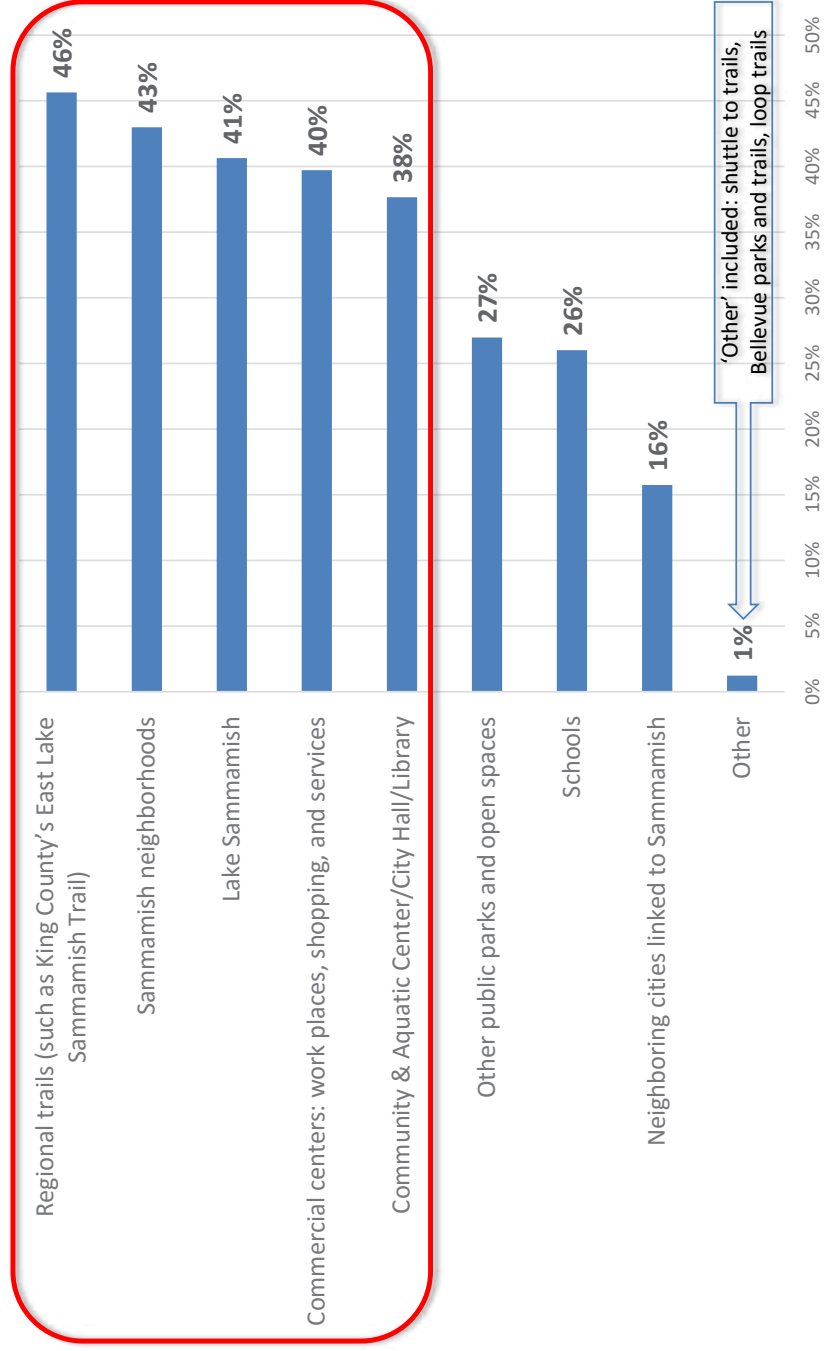
## What are considered important connections for future walking and biking trails?

- Most of the destinations for connections with future walking and biking trails were considered important by almost two-fifths or more of the respondents.
- Perhaps more important were destinations that were considered less important. These included:
  - Other public parks and open spaces (27%)
  - Schools (26%)
  - Neighboring cities linked to Sammamish (16%)

### Important destinations for connections by future walking and biking trails

Base = all respondents (n=827)

Multiple responses allowed. Percentages may add up to more than 100.

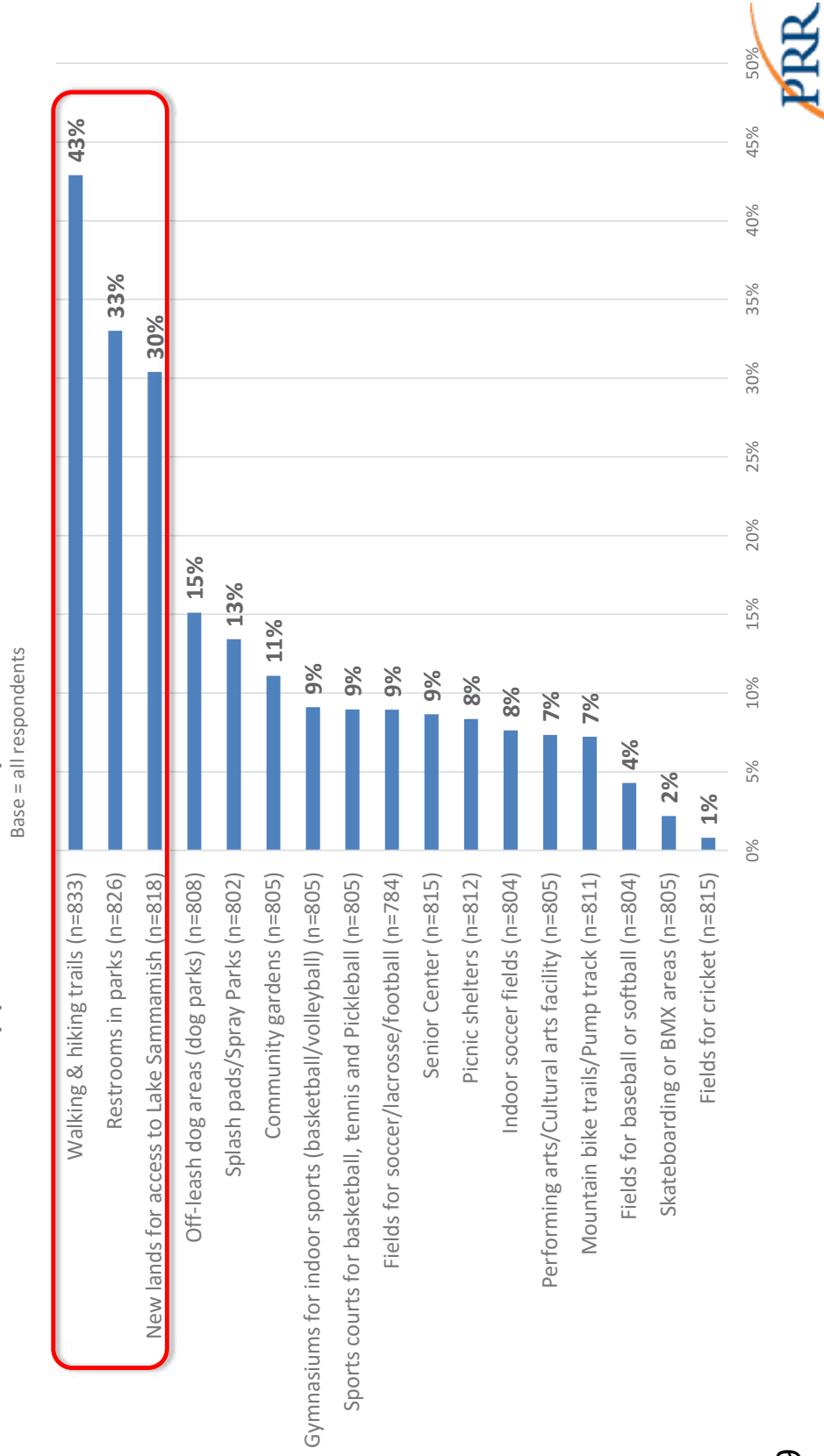




## What are the top priorities for future park and recreation services?

- The top priorities for future park and recreation services included:
  - Walking and hiking trails (43%) - especially among home owners
  - Restrooms in parks (33%) - especially among home owners
  - New lands for access to lake Sammamish (30%) - especially among couples (with and without kids at home) and renters
- It should also be noted that when asked what other future park and recreation services priorities were important to them, 50 people responded, more than half of them (28) mentioning an ice rink.

**Top priorities for future park and recreation services**



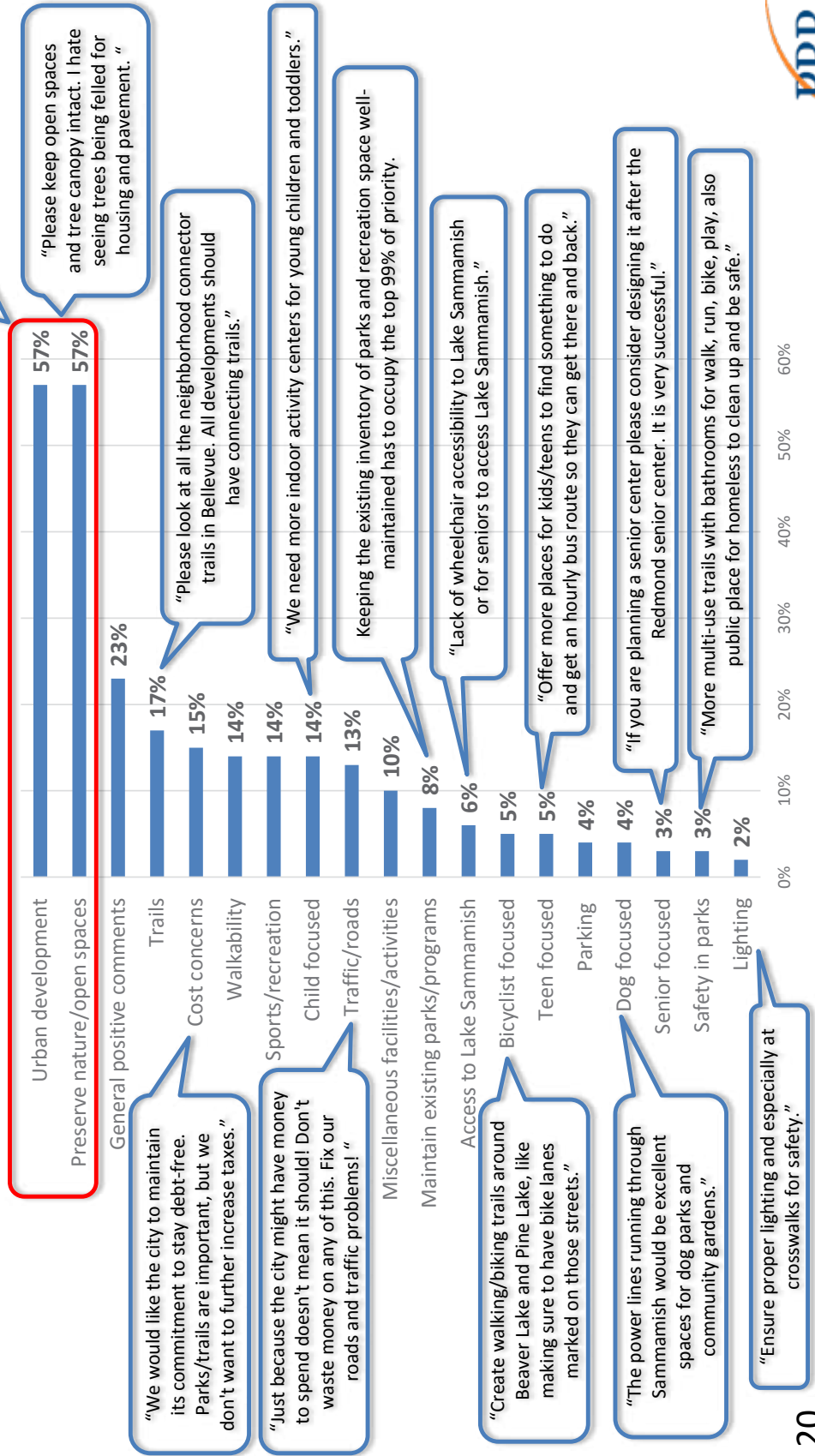


## Additional comments regarding parks, recreation, and open spaces

- The categories of comments with the most comments were focused on the challenges of urban development (57%) and preserving nature/open spaces (57%).

### Comments regarding parks, recreation, and open spaces

Base = all respondents (n=335)



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The image shows a modern, multi-level indoor facility, likely a community center or library. The foreground features a curved walkway with a blue railing. In the background, there are large windows and a bright, open space. The text "APPENDIX B VIRTUAL TOWN HALL SUMMARY" is overlaid on the image in a white, sans-serif font with a thin black outline.

# APPENDIX B VIRTUAL TOWN HALL SUMMARY



## Sammamish PRO Plan

### Virtual Town Hall

#### Question Responses

**Question 1: Thinking about big picture priorities for the future, please rank the following list from most important to least important (1= most important, 6 = least important).**

<u>Item</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Average Score</u>
Buy land for future parks and open space	1	2.38
Maintain existing facilities	2	2.58
Develop new parks and facilities	3	2.77
Improve existing parks	4	2.78
Offer more programs	5	4.19

**Question 2: Thinking about the recreation parks, programs, facilities, trails and open space that currently exist in the City of Sammamish, can you tell us what you would like to see more of in the future? Please rank the following list from most important to least important (1= most, 13 = least important).**

<u>Item</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Average Score</u>
Trails	1	3.31
Open space	2	4.43
Waterfront recreation	3	4.68
Athletic Fields	4	5.56
Picnic areas (shelters, tables, etc.)	5	5.59
Wildlife viewing	6	5.77
Playgrounds	7	6.12
Sports courts (tennis, basketball, etc.)	8	6.51
Indoor recreation	9	6.73
Community Gardens	10	6.83
Programs	11	7.53
Cultural/historic sites	12	7.73

**Question 3: Thinking about environmental preservation and protection, please rank the following list from most important to least important (1= most important, 5 = least important)?**

<u>Item</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Average Score</u>
Connecting streams and fish/wildlife corridors	1	2.17
Tree canopy	2	2.31
Natural areas	3	2.42
Wetlands	4	2.9

## Sammamish PRO Plan

### Virtual Town Hall

#### Open-Ended Responses (unsorted)

I wonder if an open-space linkage, either physical or visual could be made available to most neighborhoods in Sammamish. Our parks plans (maps) seem to need an overall theme or vision rather than the spottiness portrayed.

a connected trail network including designated bike paths/walking paths to connect them

Education of the people using the facilities

We need more fields for our kids to participate in their sports.

More ways to access trails, e.g. currently need to drive or bike to get to NE Sammamish Park or Evans Creek Preserve because there's no sidewalk

Turf baseball fields

Year round playable fields (TURF)

Places to connect with nature and build community...acquire the land while we can, so we can have more trails and places to gather for recreation.

One or two astro turf fields for baseball, flag football, soccer, and other sports. We get so much rain that the fields are useless for 50% of the baseball season.

It would be nice to have some wooded trails that run through the city, so as one wouldn't have to walk along all the busy roads.

We do not have youth sports (turf) fields for baseball. We have lots of school age children in Sammamish, and it rains a lot in the spring. After rain, we may wait for a day or two to play on fields such as in ESP. We were rained out a lot every two years due to lack of good fields. Even if it does not rain, we max out on existing school fields or pack fields, so we have to go through a lot of trouble to reschedule or make up. We do not have enough fields to practice on either, especially indoor fields. Please provide fields for the boys and girls (softball similar) to enjoy. Redmond has some turf fields, and we do not seem to have any.

We really need turf baseball and softball fields. We have strong programs for both baseball and softball but our facilities are falling far behind our neighboring communities.

Turf Baseball Fields

multi-purpose Turf Fields at ESP and Beaver Lake

Our athletic fields are an embarrassment to the community (specifically the lack of adequate and proper baseball and softball fields). The fact of the matter is not only that neighboring and towns in greater Seattle area have much better baseball & softball fields (both grass and turf) which on one level is a real head-scratcher given that 99% of these towns don't have the economic resources of Sammamish (both from a tax base perspective as well as town budget). Regardless, our lack of suitable baseball & softball fields leave our teams at a competitive disadvantage.

non-road connector trails/paths between neighborhoods and parks/recreation sites

The fields at ESP should be turf. They are not used during the baseball season due to weather which hinders kids and their baseball season. Turf would mitigate this.

Baseball fields preferably turf

Partnerships with local schools. The fields at the schools are terrible and often unable to be used due to weather. A partnership with schools to upgrade to turf or maintained grass fields would allow use of existing space for kids during school and the public when school is not in session.

Artificial turf on our ball fields

Turf fields

Athletic fields with good drainage, playable even with the rain we get, working score boards, etc.

more preservation of undeveloped spaces

More guided nature walks

trails that connect throughout the city and to the Emerald necklace

Need a broad, city wide trail system (green space trails) that links to regional trails

Off leash dog areas

Not enough basketball ball and tennis courts

Website schedule of available park, field or facilities by date and time

fewer trails

Space for the wildlife. Safe passage for wildlife to travel.

wildlife corridors

More covered picnic and court areas in existing parks

City run recreational programs, not programs run by other companies (i.e. money-making opportunities for others), like those offered by smaller population cities like Redmond.

Turfed baseball fields for our youth in little league programs.

The city needs larger wetland buffers. This would also allow for adding trail access to more wetlands.

Many of the programs at the YMCA are very full, which means they are popular. How to increase the existing programming, in partnership with the Y

Trails/walkways/pathways connecting parks throughout the city

Connecting trails between parks

More nature play areas - for bigger kids, age 4 -12 and even for adults! Lots of natural items to build, imagine, play, slide and swing. Huge treehouse interspersed within the natural wood environment.

Outdoor spray park with a variety of interactive play features (buckets, multiple players' sprayers, slide etc.).

Would be nice to have large grassy picnic area around a splash park where parents can relax watching their kids play and socialize with other kids. Splash park can be turned on manually by anyone for a set time for water preservation.

Outdoor Education (Preschool)

Outdoor Education Program (preschool)

Dog park

Historic programs/events

Athletic fields and open space to run around or play ball

ADA Accessibility

Connection of trails (as per Sammamish friends' emerald necklace plan)

city rec leagues for all ages. we have to go to Issaquah or through a separate program to do things locally, which is expensive.

programs for toddlers and preschoolers NOT thru private providers - see Redmond and Issaquah rec programs for examples

Recreation programs are limited, or not visible and publicized as I don't know about any other than through the YMCA and the Easter egg hunt.

Remove fees for Issaquah residents to use Lake Sammamish Park - it's a gem that is underutilized due to the need for a Discover Pass. Make it free for Issaquah residents!

Boys Baseball fields in the area are significantly better setup/condition than softball/fastpitch

Picnic areas

Community center without membership fee

Community events

This survey could use a link to a map for people to refer

<https://www.sammamish.us/attachments/pagecontent/43704/ParksMap2016.pdf>. Plant more trees everywhere.

More recreational sport opportunities at all ages (including youth/tween and adult) as opposed to competitive

We need to preserve more of the tree canopy and wildlife habitat

Preservation of additional open space

Neighborhood and park connectivity through trails.

There is a large population of kids and adults with disabilities on the Plateau. We need programming, indoors and outdoors for this population. The Issaquah and Redmond programs are often full before non-residents can register.

Baseball turf fields

Adequate parking

Open space has disappeared far too rapidly and traffic has increased at a horrifying rate.

Enhance volunteer opportunities & community involvement to assist with outdoor projects

Mountain bike trails, especially for kids

No link between open/natural areas for wildlife to move/populate

Preservation of rural character

compare to Redmond recreation, I think Sammamish has fewer programs (zumba class, affordable sport classes for summer, etc. )

tree buffers between new developments and roads

Respect for the abundant wildlife which is declining and dying because of over development.



summer camps

No more clear-cutting for housing developments.

Preserve the natural environment between roads and new developments.

I want to clarify that when I talk about "open spaces" above, I mean natural spaces where all of the trees and wildlife are left alone. There are almost no places like this left.

We need more waterfront parks as the existing ones get very crowded in the summer.

Walking trails with associated parking areas

I feel there is a lack of community play fields in general. Softball, baseball and soccer. These areas would also double as open space with BBQ areas and playgrounds. Parking is always an issue and allowing for enough parking space is key to an enjoyable afternoon

With the increase in housing development, something needs to be done to preserve the natural areas that we have left.

Dedicated area for dogs.

Outdoor spaces designed for working out, yoga, Tai chi, whatever under a pavilion covering for when it is raining most of the winter months (most Sammamish pavilions have bolted down picnic tables under the coverings and are not suitable for multiple. Use even though picnics in winter are rare and so the impermeable roof surface investment is wasted)

Sammamish needs pedestrian interconnection. Neighborhoods and paths should be interconnected. I.e. connect the commons with Big Rock Park with Ebright. Stop building cul de sacs without pedestrian connections.

wildlife corridors

Dedicated bike lanes and paths

Commute to recreation, parks, facilities is the prerequisite and highest priority concern. Connect new roads and expand lanes in existing roads.

Connecting trail system

I would love to see more bike trails\lanes

Parking at the sites.

The town does not have the level of services that you would expect for a population of over 60,000. Things such as a gym kids to play in, outdoor pools, and more things like tennis and basketball courts.

Programs to teach environmental awareness and appreciation

Natural areas with trails and interpretive information. No clear-cutting by developers! Acquire land for natural areas, conservation, and passive recreation.

Tennis Courts

Put sand back on the beach at Pine Lake park. Tots eat the gravel and it's uncomfortable to walk on.

More theater/performance space

Need more tennis courts. A public indoor facility would be great

50 meter pools for high school swim teams & the ability to offer water polo & diving

More outdoor educational facilities/ programs

While I didn't rank sports fields as a high priority, I do think we need to plan for that. When my kids played sports, we had a hard time getting field time in Sammamish.

#### Playgrounds

Development of safe biking lanes. There is no "safe" route to get down off the plateau to the East Lake Sammamish trail, or the Preston trail. Development of Iss/Falls City should include good bike lanes.

A sports complex that hosts baseball fields and other sport field options. Youth sports is a HUGE entity up here on the plateau, but there just isn't enough places for them to play. ELL will lose a baseball field next spring due to the new Margaret Mead and that will be a big blow to how they will play games.

#### Transportation infrastructure

There seem to be no, or minimal, protections for open space. It's difficult to find a chunk of land without a blue "notice" sign on it.

Controlling off leash dogs in parks where dogs NEED to be on leash for the sake of the environment and others using the parks

We need to install turf on certain fields- baseball and softball

Baseball fields with lights

Maintain existing fields

create more safe and fun places for families and teens to hang out and recreate--Pine Lake Park is a gem and always busy! Love to see what we have get used.

More hiking and running trails interconnected between the parks

Usable scoreboards for Little League games.

To echo comment above, indoor field or play places will be great for pacific northwest weather. We do not see neighbors from Oct to April, as everyone is in door. To build a vibrant community, please consider the rain and how we can overcome that.

#### Turf Baseball Fields

upgrade of facilities

So the citizens of Sammamish voted against the Sammamish Landing park. But the city decided to ignore those results and carried forth spend our money on this project anyway. Can someone please and explanation and justification for this?

Small size artificial turf sport courts

Bathroom facilities at ball fields

Bathroom facilities at many parks/fields in missing or poorly maintained (for example, the bathrooms near city hall during the Farmer's Market are disgusting!)

more playing fields for all sports

Bike path(s) on/off the plateau

Managed Social media (like a city-only version of Meetup dot com) ways to connect with others interested in hiking, recreation etc.

parks distributed throughout the city

More open space and natural areas

More community events

Not enough things for kids to do outside

fewer parks

Preservation of our forests.

more trails and open spaces

Finish paving the Eastlake bike trail so all can use it!

Parking is insufficient at all parks because the population of the city has outgrown the capacity of the recreational areas.

Sammamish could use more basketball courts - outside and inside. They are hard to find when season is in play.

The connection between human services and recreation. Healthy eating, community gardens, programs for the low-income and homeless - programming - they are inter-related. In Sammamish they seem to be in their own silos

Ability to safely ride a bike throughout the city

Tennis courts free to use by citizens

Trail interconnectivity - bringing the trails together throughout city of Sammamish. And, connecting trails down to the lakeshore.

Sammamish community center that offers information about city and it's amenities to residents and newcomers; that provides recreational programs and offers space for rent to individuals (including self-employed teachers for providing fitness classes and educational activities). Would be nice to have tot & parent community gym drop-in times with ride-ons and toys at no/low cost (great for rainy winter time activities and socializing).

Outdoor Education (Adult Classes)

Outdoor Education Program (summer camps)

Improve parking by the trails

camps

Covered playground areas

regular maintenance of our parks facilities.

trails that connect neighborhoods

more playground equipment at each park, particularly Beaver Lake

Traffic areas around parks are inadequate. The new park on East Lk. Sam. Parkway is missing reflectors and with the deviation in the road, is a traffic hazard in poor visibility.

Playgrounds

Theater/cinema

More events centered around teens

The trees need to be maintained for example in the Commons Area as you go down the hill there are several older mature trees that are showing signs of distress with bare branches

More art and other fun classes and clubs

Protect remaining forested land from development

Additional community garden space.

Waterfront recreation areas

bicycle trails

Public pool

Parks should be a buffer between developments

Emphasis on walking, biking, bus and non-auto movement in and out of city

Waterfront public areas

More open/natural spaces. If needed, tax to buy open spaces or enable/encourage land donations.

I worry about the lack of space for the wildlife that co-exists with us in Sammamish. With all of the construction, we are limiting their habitat.

Useful indoor community space. Community centers with basketball courts swimming pool and other space for workout classes and children's enrichment programs are needed on a larger scale.

I think we could do more to increase the usage of some of the athletic fields that we currently have. Putting down more artificial turf at ESP or at Inglewood school would allow us to make more use of the facilities that we already have.

Pullup bars located near parks and trails for hiit circuit training workouts

wetland protection

Waterfront access

Balanced budget is the fundamental.

Additional playgrounds

I would love to see more picnic opportunities in Sammamish

While I appreciate the construction of the YMCA, its capacity for swim classes has already seemed to have reached its capacity. Residents of Sammamish shouldn't be forced to go to Issaquah to take swim classes.

Place to hold community campfires

Sport Courts

Looks like we need another pool. The YMCA facility is great but already over booked.

Ice hockey arena

Green space in new subdivisions

We need to preserve natural spaces, tree canopy, and trails. With so much development, those spaces and natural vegetation are disappearing.

Off leash dog areas

Keep Beaver Lake Park open to people other than the Conservative Right Wing Christian Church on Sundays. This property should be open to all Citizens not a few non-residents with extreme ideas.

More practice fields for sports

More fields.

Would be nice to have a loop trail like they do in Klahanie and Bellevue with access to places like Met Market and Starbucks so we don't always have to walk along the roads.



Turf Baseball Fields

Indoor athletic fields

Partnerships with schools and local athletic leagues would allow ALL stakeholders to be involved in fundraising efforts to improve fields for all kids and programs.

Education/lecture series about nature, outdoors, etc...

park dept that offers adult-older adult programs

Biking and walking trails on and off the Sammamish plateau

Improved restroom facilities

Entertainment center (bowling, indoor golf, movie theatre, etc.)

connecting trails between parks

More baseball fields that could host tournaments.

Linkages between parks - like Big Rock park and the commons behind City Hall

Frisbee golf course

Water fountains throughout Sammamish - i.e., for runners, walkers, people on the trails.

Covered playground to increase time spending outdoors with kids during rainy seasons.

Outdoor Education (Elementary Programs)

Sitting areas at the park

trails

parks concerts with children and/or seniors in mind - no loud rock music!

There isn't an open area in Sammamish similar to the 60 acre park in Redmond. Few places for kites, model rockets, etc.

Trails

Department Store like Target or Home depot

We did a good job planting natives around the new Y more of this please

More connected trails and fun places for kids to play

Canopy preservation.

More protection to natural areas, a lot of building going on!

Why are we talking about parks and trails when many of our streets aren't safely walkable?

Senior activities

Stop construction industry influence.

This should be a top priority for present and future plans. Turfing ALL ballfields and soccer areas. We are in a wet climate and we could better use our facilities and plan more activities if the conditions are such that weather won't always dictate ability to enjoy. Also, maintenance and durability is cheaper and longer lasting with a high level of usage and time "open"

I would like to see the city expand on what is available for dogs. either a larger off-leash park at Beaver Lake or make it more trails available for dogs.

Relax hours of use for parks or add lights for winter use so it can be more like Marymoor usage patterns... I think it is a misdemeanor to use park after dusk but in Fall winter months after I get back from work it is dark when I leave for work and dark when I get back this means I am inside all. Day no chance to put a flashlight on and go fora night hike or run at our city parks with my kids like I can legally do during summer those same hours. I realize it is a balance for safety but it makes after work use of our parks super hard for me a big portion of the year sadly. .

natural areas

Parking capacity needs to be considered.

Ways to link groups like Scouting and YGuides to carefully use parks

Picnic/BBQ areas

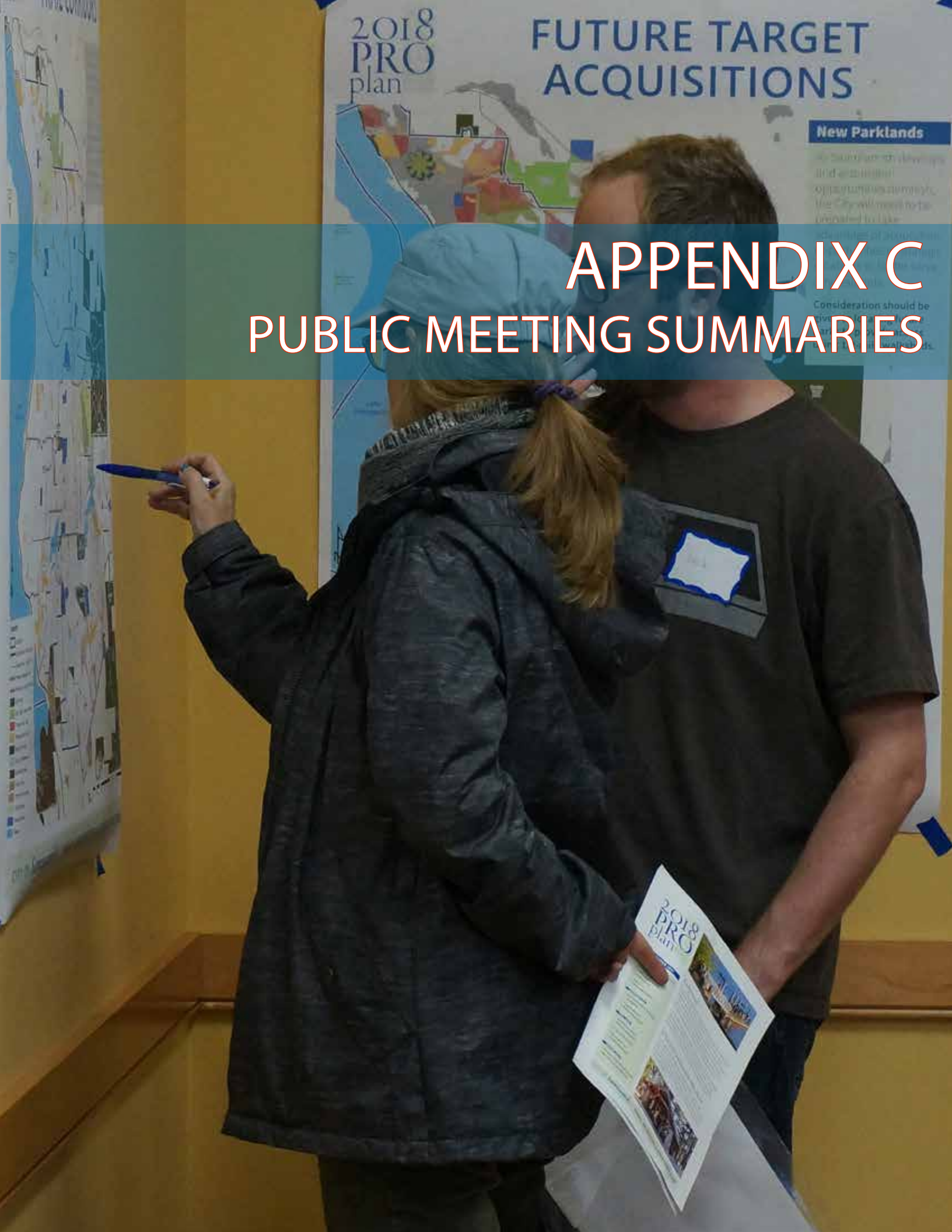
Not enough usable athletic fields for the rapidly increasing size of our city.

Better and more affordable sports recreation programs

Community events at city parks might encourage people to enjoy and preserve these places and vote for purchasing more park areas.

Trails that connect parks

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# APPENDIX C PUBLIC MEETING SUMMARIES

2018  
PRO  
plan

## FUTURE TARGET ACQUISITIONS

### New Parklands

In accordance with city goals and a number of opportunities exist, the City will need to be prepared to take

Consideration should be given to the following parklands.

2018  
PRO  
plan





# **Sammamish Parks, Recreation & Open Space (PRO) Plan**

**Public Meeting**

**May 23, 2017**

*Summary*

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## INTRODUCTION

The City of Sammamish’s first Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PRO) Plan was adopted in May of 2012. The PRO Plan is a component of the City’s Comprehensive Plan and is updated every six years to ensure its responsiveness to the needs of the community, its compliance with Growth Management Act (GMA) requirements, and maintenance of the City’s eligibility for grant programs through the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO).

The update is also needed to assess community needs, account for changes in policies, foster consistency with recent citywide plan updates, address new development and annexations, and reflect the community’s evolving priorities for parks, open space, and recreation facilities and programs.

The 2018 PRO Plan will serve a roadmap for the improvement and expansion of City recreation facilities, amenities and parks for the next five to ten years. It will identify funding needs and program objectives and will provide a long-range vision for the City, clear action items, and strategies for implementation.

## PURPOSE

On May 23, 2017, the City of Sammamish Parks and Recreation Department hosted a public meeting from 6 to 8 p.m. at Sammamish City Hall to kick off the planning process for the 2018 PRO Plan. The purpose of the meeting was to:

**Inform** the community about the Parks, Recreation & Open Space (PRO) Plan

**Provide** opportunities for the public to give input on:

- What should be included in the plan
- What parks, recreation and open space issues are most important
- What is missing and what the community would like to see more of

**Answer** questions about the PRO Plan

This summary describes the nature of this community meeting, how it was promoted, and feedback received from the community.

## PROMOTION

A variety of methods were used to inform the public about the meeting:

- **Email:** Community meeting notification was sent via email to 2,947 subscribers of the “News Updates”, “Parks & Rec News” and the “Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan Update” categories.
- **Social Media:** The PRO Plan project was promoted several times on the City’s Facebook page. A couple of postings specific to the Public Meeting were done including one the day of as a reminder.
- **City Newsletter:** January 2017 had half page story about the PRO Plan on page 5, April 2017 PRO Plan meeting listed on page 7 calendar and in May there was a Box Ad for the PRO Plan meeting as well as listed on page 7 calendar.

- **City's website:** had a posting about meeting on starting on May 16 under Community News. Stayed there through meeting. Another posting under Upcoming Events tab and both website postings were visible on the home page. In addition, the meeting notification was listed within the project website and the City Calendar.

## MEETING FORMAT

Approximately 12 people attended the community meeting on May 23. Participants were greeted at a sign-in table and encouraged to pick up a project fact sheet and a comment form. The meeting consisted of the following elements:

**Presentation:** Project team members made a presentation that provided an overview of the Sammamish PRO Plan

**Q&A:** The project team answered questions from meeting participants

**Small group sessions:** Meeting participants broke up into small self-facilitated groups to discuss questions provided to them

**Report out/Next steps:** Each small group summarized its discussion for the larger group, and the project team outlined next steps and ways to stay involved

## PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK

Participants were provided with multiple ways to provide their feedback, including asking the project team questions, writing on flip charts during small group sessions, and writing on comment forms.

### General Questions

One participant asked a question during the question and answer period following the presentation:

- Will you look at how the City of Sammamish compares to other cities with regard to parks and programs?

### Small Group Session Comments

Participants were divided into two small groups. Each group was provided with markers and flip charts, and adhesive dots were distributed to each participant. The two groups were instructed to record on the flip charts their answers to a series of questions intended to identify and prioritize issues and opportunities.

The instructions were as follows:

- *Brainstorm and write down a list of issues, areas and ideas that you think need to be addressed in the plan*
- *Place a dot next to the three things on the list that are most important to you*
- *For the items on the list that have the most dots, write down why those things are important to you*
- *Brainstorm a list of things related to programs, facilities, parks, etc., that you think are missing or would like to see more of in the future*



- Place a dot on the list next to the top three things you think are missing or would like to see more of

**Group One**

What are the issues, areas, and ideas that need to be addressed in the plan and which of those are most important to you (indicated by the number of dots)?

Need to Address	1 dot	2 dots	3 dots	4 dots	5 dots
Ballfields					
Artificial turf					
Community/awareness programs after school					
Mentoring programs					
Outdoor preschool					
Links between trails (that lead to Lake Sammamish)					
More trails					
Parks along Lake Sammamish					
Restrooms in parks larger than 5 acres					
Garden (Japanese/Perennials)					
Multi-purpose sports field					
Protect natural areas/habitats					
Picnic shelters					
Land acquisition					
Water park					
Working with city/Permits/Partnerships					
Financial partnership with sports organizations and the city					
Community events – cultural, runs					

Why are the items on the list that have the most dots important to you?

**Ballfields (baseball)**

- Quality
- Quantity
- Lights
- Restroom
- Concession
- Covered batting cages
- Community building
- Artificial turf
- Seating area

**Land Acquisition**

- Limit overdevelopment
- Wildlife corridor
- Tree canopy
- Community soul
- Bond (to raise money for acquisition)

**Trails**

- Less traffic
- Connections
- Information
- Communicating about trails
- Signage

Is there anything you think is missing or you would like to see more of in the future and which of those are most important to you (indicated by the number of dots)?

Missing/See more of	1 dot	2 dots	3 dots	4 dots	5 dots	6 dots
Ballfields						
Open mic cultural events/ Town Hall lecture series						
Amphitheater						
Adult foreign language classes						
Festival of Cultures/ ex. Festival						
Theater (film/plays/film festivals) – outdoor						
Public restrooms						
Loop/circulator bus						
Senior center						
Teen hangout/coffee houses						
Neighborhood nights out/gatherings						
Indoor arena for sports						
Picnic shelters						
Land acquisition						
Frisbee golf						
More round tables						
Post office						
BPA Free public parks						
Water stations						
Young kids’ programs (3 to 5 yrs and 8 to 10 yrs)						
Santa pics						

**Group Two**

What are the issues, areas, and ideas that need to be addressed in the plan and which of those are most important to you (indicated by the number of dots)?

Need to Address	1 dot	2 dots	3 dots	4 dots	5 dots
Nature play					
Land acquisition					
Sand play					
More protection of tree canopy					
Trail connectivity, community art in nature/parks					
More bike-friendly city					
More walkable					
Sports complex – outdoor/multi-use					
Meet-up activities (like nature)					
Nature club					
Park history					
Other (boot camp)					
Outdoor amphitheater					
Winter activities					
Making things multi-use					
Spray park/splash park					
Zip lines					
Community gardens					
Edible planting					
Swim areas in lakes					

Why are the items on the list that have the most dots important to you?

**Nature Play**

- Get people to appreciate nature
- Environmental education
- Variety in what we have
- Encourages creative/fun play
- Water w/native play – so it can be used all year
- Work w/the rain

**Protect Tree Canopy**

- Protect character of Sammamish
- Air quality

- Storm water management
- Pretty
- Wildlife

**Non-motorized connectivity (trails, walk (bike))**

- Less traffic
- Less pollution
- Healthier people - physical and mental
- Sustainability
- Increase sense of community
- More connections to jogger trails and park

**Is there anything you think is missing or you would like to see more of in the future and which of those are most important to you (indicated by the number of dots)?**

Missing/See more of	1 dot	2 dots	3 dots	4 dots	5 dots
Intra-city public transit to parks/activities, city-sponsored rec leagues (non-competitive)					
More community gardens					
More sports fields					
Advertising/communicating what's available					
Summer Camps					
Not just sports					
Nature camps					
Swimming/walking					
Outdoor exercise class					

**Comment Forms**

Comment forms at the meeting gave attendees the opportunity to provide their feedback. The comment form, included in Appendix A, included several questions to help focus participant input. By asking these questions, the project team aimed to gain insight on:

- Participants' big picture priorities for the future
- Recreation, parks, programs, facilities, trails and open space opportunities that participants would like to see more of
- What's important to participants with regard to environmental protection and preservation



Below are the verbatim answers from respondents:

**Thinking about big picture priorities for the future, what is the most important to you (identify up to 5 priorities)?**

- Preserving natural spaces
- More nature play parks, trail connectivity, meet-up activities, e.g., nature clubs, environmental education
- Acquisition of additional property parks, particularly on Lake Sammamish
- Maximizing grant and NGO support for parks
- Protection of natural areas
- Balanced recreational opportunities that reflect changing community
- Creating links between existing trails, particularly on Lake Sammamish

**Thinking about recreation parks, programs, facilities, trails and open space that currently exist in the City of Sammamish, can you tell us what you would like to see more of in the future?**

- Open spaces, ballfields
- More summer camps (particularly non-sports camps)
- All parks larger than 5 acres should have a public restroom
- Links to ELST from trails on the plateau, completion of ELST
- After school hangout for teens - library is now proving this works which makes it very loud in the afternoon

**Thinking about environmental preservation and protection, can you tell us what is important to you and what you think we should focus on?**

- Protecting open spaces, preserving tree canopy, preserving community character
- Preservation of tree canopy and sensitive areas. More native plants and environmental education.
- Open space acquisition to preserve natural areas

**Is there anything else you'd like to share with us (feel free to use the back of this form)?**

- Water stations! Particularly at athletic fields

## FEEDBACK HIGHLIGHTS

The following summary highlights the feedback provided by participants during the small group session portion of the public meeting. The feedback on the comment forms completed by individuals largely reflects what was heard during the small group discussions.

- The two groups identified different priorities about what was most important to them—Group 1 ranked land acquisition and ballfields most highly, while Group 2 prioritized protecting the tree canopy and trail connectivity, community art in nature/ parks—but both groups identified

trails as important. They cited trails' contributions to reducing traffic and pollution, connecting the community, and improving health and fitness as reasons trails are important.

- There were a number of commonalities on the two groups' lists of issues, area, and ideas that need to be addressed in the plan. It was apparent that both groups think the plan should address:
  - Making parks and facilities more multi-purpose/use
  - Protecting existing natural areas
  - Acquiring more land for parks and open space
  - Expanding programs and activities (e.g., after school programs, mentoring programs, winter activities, nature-based activities, and community gardens)
- The groups identified a number of things they think are missing or would like to see more of. Of those, both groups said it was important to provide:
  - Some form of transit to parks and programs
  - More ballfields
  - Programs/camps (e.g., young kids' programs, summer camps)



## Appendix A: Comment Form

May 23, 2017

COMMENT FORM

*Please leave this form in the box at the sign-in table before leaving.*



Thinking about **big picture priorities for the future**, what is most important to you (identify up to 5 priorities)?

Thinking about the **recreation parks, programs, facilities, trails and open space** that currently exist in the City of Sammamish, can you tell us what you would like to see more of in the future?

Thinking about **environmental preservation and protection**, can you tell us what is important to you and what you think we should focus on?

Is there anything else you'd like to share with us (feel free to use the back of this form)?

You can also share your input using our Virtual Town Hall (Open until June 14)  
<https://www.peakdemocracy.com/5021>

Yes, sign me up to receive PRO Plan updates: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email address

**Thank you for participating!**

CITY OF *Sammamish* | PARKS, RECREATION & OPEN SPACE PLAN



# **Sammamish Parks, Recreation & Open Space (PRO) Plan**



**Open House Summary  
September 20, 2017**



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## INTRODUCTION

The City of Sammamish's first Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PRO) Plan was adopted in May of 2012. The PRO Plan is a component of the City's Comprehensive Plan and is updated every six years to ensure its responsiveness to the needs of the community, its compliance with Growth Management Act (GMA) requirements, and maintenance of the City's eligibility for grant programs through the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO).

The update is also needed to assess community needs, account for changes in policies, foster consistency with recent citywide plan updates, address new development and annexations, and reflect the community's evolving priorities for parks, open space, and recreation facilities and programs.

The 2018 PRO Plan will serve as a roadmap for the improvement and expansion of City recreation facilities, amenities and parks for the next five to ten years. It will identify funding needs and program objectives and will provide a long-range vision for the City, clear action items, and strategies for implementation.

## PURPOSE

On September 20, 2017, the City of Sammamish Parks and Recreation Department hosted a public open house from 4 to 8 p.m. in Sammamish City Hall's Council Chambers<sup>1</sup> to inform the community about progress on the PRO Plan and to gather feedback about what is important to the community regarding Parks and Natural Areas, Programs, Trails and Preservation. The purpose of the open house was to:

- Raise awareness** about the PRO Plan and what it means
- Provide** information about the PRO Plan process, schedule and ways to get involved
- Get feedback** on options for the future of parks, recreation and open space

This summary describes the nature of this public open house, how it was promoted, and feedback received from the community.

## PROMOTION

A variety of methods were used to inform the public about the meeting:

- **Email:** Open house notification was sent via email to 2,947 subscribers of the "News Updates", "Parks & Rec News" and the "Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan Update" categories.
- **Social Media:** The PRO Plan project was promoted several times on the City's Facebook page.



<sup>1</sup> The open house was originally planned to be held outside in a tent at the Farmers market but was moved indoors due to the weather.

- **City newsletter:** The August 2017 City newsletter (which is mailed to all Sammamish addresses) had an article about the open house.
- **City's website:** Information about the open house was provided on the PRO Plan webpage
- **Farmers market:** the open house was promoted at the September 13 Sammamish Farmers Market and during the September Farmers Market. Several handcrafted, "PRO Plan This Way" footprints were placed on the ground, leading market-goers to the public meeting space, and encouraging market visitors to come into the chambers. A sandwich board advertising the meeting was placed outside of the space as well.



## MEETING FORMAT

Approximately 60 people attended the public open house on September 20<sup>th</sup>. Participants were greeted at a sign-in table and encouraged to pick up a project fact sheet and a comment form. The open house consisted of the following elements:

**Project Boards:** Participants were encouraged to visit project boards placed throughout the open house room. For the duration of the event, the project team was available to answer questions from meeting participants. The project information boards were: *PRO Plan Introduction, Community Survey, Trails & Connections, Trails & Connections (Map), Parks & Open Spaces, Give Us Your Comments, Targeting Future Park Acquisition Areas (Map), Recreation & Culture: Existing Programming & Providers, Project Priorities and Recreation and Culture*. The *Project Priorities* and *Recreation and Culture* boards included activities, which are described below.

**Project Priorities Board (prioritization exercise):** Participants were invited to take part in an exercise to identify community project priorities. This board included a table with 8 different projects listed vertically and 3 categories (Most Important, Important and Less Important) listed horizontally—participants ranked the projects using dot stickers.

**Recreation and Culture Board and Table (allocation exercise):** Participants were invited to take part in an allocation exercise to identify how they would allocate resources for programming. The board includes four different program areas with space provided next to each for participants to share their related feedback on post-it notes.

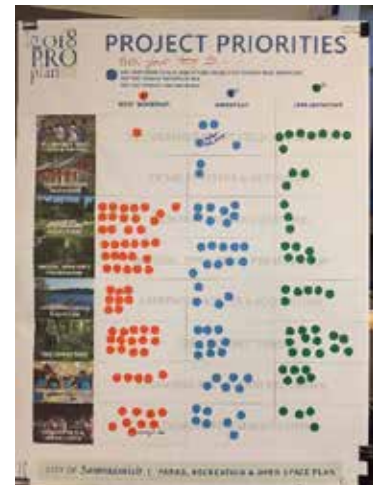
## PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK

Participants could provide their feedback in multiple ways, including talking with the project team, writing comments directly on project boards, post-it notes, and comment forms, and participating in the coin and dot exercises to help identify community priorities.

### Project Priorities Board

Meeting attendees were encouraged to participate in the dot exercise to help identify community needs and priorities. Each person was provided with three dots (red, blue, and green) and given with the following instructions:

- Use your three dots to identify one project you think is ‘most important’, one you think is ‘important’, and one you think is ‘less important’.



Below are the results of the dot exercise activity:

Project	Most Important	Important	Less Important	Total
New parkland acquisitions	17 dots	12 dots	3 dots	32 dots
Natural open space preservation	16 dots	10 dots	11 dots	37 dots
Trail connections	14 dots	9 dots	13 dots	36 dots
Cultural arts and senior center	9 dots	7 dots	5 dots	21 dots
Lakefront access and acquisition	8 dots	4 dots	6 dots	18 dots
All-weather sport fields & lighting	7 dots	4 dots	8 dots	19 dots
Expanding recreation programs	5 dots	6 dots	6 dots	17 dots
Picnic shelters and restrooms	0 dots	2 dots	3 dots	5 dots

In summary, participants thought that new parkland acquisitions, natural open space preservation and trail connections were the most important projects to pursue.

### Recreation and Culture: Program Area Priorities Table:

Meeting attendees were encouraged to participate in an allocation activity to help identify community priorities for program areas. The four categories of program areas were:



- General Interest (youth and adult)
- Senior Activities and Programs
- Special Needs Programs
- Adult Sports

Attendees were given 10 coins and were asked to allocate based on their priorities for programs; they were given the following instructions:

*Allocate your coins to the labeled containers based on how you think program areas should be prioritized.*

**Below are the results of the coin activity:**

Program Area Priorities	Coins
General Interest (youth and adult)	220
Senior Activities and Programs	114
Special Needs Program	108
Adult Sports	102

In summary, participants thought that the General Interest (youth and adult) program area should be the highest priority.

### Board Comments

Attendees were also encouraged to write comments on a number of other open house boards. The comments attendees wrote on each board are provided below.

#### Recreation and Culture Board

*Instructions: Add your ideas for programs on the board*

- **General Interest:** Indoor field house, natural playground, squash, art center (x2), theater/performance all seasons, teen center (look at Redmond and Issaquah recreation programs for guidance), let outdoor pre-school use City parks
- **Senior Activities:** Make YMCA easier to use - \$\$, Dancing
- **Special Needs:** Special needs playground



- **Adult Sports:** Pickleball!, volleyball, tennis courts with lights

### **Parks and Open Space Map Board**

*Instructions: It's okay to write on this board!*

- More waterfront parks
- Finish ELST!
- Another lakefront park (at Pine Lake)
- Connect trails between Big Rock Park and Sammamish Commons
- Add trail along north edge of Beaver Lake to connect public lands
- Move proposed neighborhood park (at northeast edge of city) further south to be more accessible for more people
- Yes! (to proposed neighborhood park in southwest corner of city) – trail potential

### **Trails Map Board**

*Instructions: It's okay to write on this board!*

- Link trails to new light rail station east of Marymoor Park
- Finish ELST!
- Connect Soaring Eagle Park with Evans Creek Preserve
- Safe access to and between high schools
- Connections between Big Rock Park, Ebright and Sammamish Commons
- Add trail on north side of Beaver Lake
- Connect 230<sup>th</sup> Way SE westward to ELST
- Connect 240<sup>th</sup> Ave SE southward to ELST

### **General Comments**

*Instructions: Priorities? Anything missing?*

- Maybe a second park on Lake Sammamish, south of existing park?
- More toddler-oriented play equipment
- A proper community center for various teen activities, including drama, music, talent, art and classes. The teen center is now a daycare center. Teens are hanging out loitering behind stores and apartment. This is dangerous. (Agreed by another).
- Why did the previous teen center not work? Need to ask teenagers
- A place for kids to come, like a community center, since the teen center isn't open for us.
- Horse trails, community arena. A way to preserve our community open spaces and foster youth independence.
- Please turn the pond north of Eastlake High School into a lake. The cost would be low and the impact high! (NE 8<sup>th</sup> St and 235<sup>th</sup> Ave NE)
- Community center/theater to use (indoor) and have summer programs on the plateau
- I'd love to see some futsal courts in the city. Indoor soccer – given the amount of rain

- Make ADA enhancements to parks for connectivity, especially at Sammamish Landing
- Add an ADA trail between Big Rock Park and Lower Commons
- Keep Facebook page updated with current issues/closure info
- More bike racks in all parks
- We need more recreational programming! Our Parks & Rec catalog is 2 pages! Why do we have to go to Issaquah and Redmond for programming?  
We need some races – community building events – open the parks to events like this (i.e., trail runs)
- The YMCA is absolutely flooded with community use because we are desperate for local programs for all ages. Let’s build on that and offer more recreational opportunities in our city.
- Water level stability in Lake Sammamish
- Plateau runoff water treatment prior to draining into lake
- More all-weather sports fields. This is where kids and their families build community and exercise (building healthy habits). Our dirt fields are unusable much of the year.

### Comment Forms

The comment forms gave participants the opportunity to provide additional ideas or comments about the PRO Plan. A total of six completed comment forms were received at the open house. Feedback from the comment forms emphasized the importance of trail connectivity, the creation of a performing arts and community center for teens and coordination of more community events. The feedback also highlighted the need for programming that suits the city’s age demographics and for the city to take on more programming responsibility. The form is included in Appendix A and the verbatim feedback from the completed forms is included in Appendix B.

### FEEDBACK HIGHLIGHTS


- Coin activity participants identified “General Interest (youth and adult)” as the highest priority among program areas.
- The implementation of a community center for teens and children was noted on project boards, comment forms and the dot exercise as a high priority.
- Trail connectivity was recognized in comment forms, project boards and in the dot exercise results as a high priority.
- Results of the dot exercise identified the three most important project areas were Natural Open Space Preservation, New Parkland Acquisitions and Trail Connections.

## Appendix A: Comment Form

September 20, 2017

***Please leave this form in the box at the sign-in table before leaving.***

COMMENT FORM



Please share any additional ideas or comments about the PRO Plan below:

Yes, sign me up to receive PRO Plan updates: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email address

**Thank you for participating!**

CITY OF *Sammamish* | PARKS, RECREATION & OPEN SPACE PLAN



## Appendix B: Comment Form Feedback

- Love the civic engagement exercise you're doing
- I'd love to learn more about and /or see more of rec activities for toddlers and youths- like music, tumbling, sports.
- I think you're all doing terrific
- Need more ADA trails
- Need better communication about Sammamish Landing Closures/construction
- Trail connectivity between parks civic/business centers and neighborhoods
- Safe ways to walk/bike everywhere!!
- "Regional" trails connectivity to Sound Transit Station. Marymoor from Snoqualmie Valley Trail (east) and Tolt Pipeline Redmond Ridge Trails (north)
- We really need a performing arts/community center for Sammamish. It rains and is cold 9 months out of the year. There is no place for community classes, events, or performances to take place. We always have to leave Sammamish to do anything!
- Our community has grown and changed needs programming that matches that. If 1/3 of Sammamish is under 18 years old, why does our parks and Rec catalog have nothing? We have beautiful parks – let's use them! Also, our community events are generally well attended, so let's have more! We love Sammamish!
- We have enough ballfields. They just need to be utilized better. Rental rates are too laugh which drive people/teams away to other options
- We need the city to take responsibility for programming and stop relying on outside vendors- they aren't providing and when they want to the city won't let them (EX: outdoor pre-school)
- Trail connections make parks bigger and open up many more possibility for uses. Hazel Wolf - Beaver lake Preserve - Soaring Eagle is AWESOME!
- Maybe a second park on Lake Sammamish, south of existing park?
- More toddler-oriented play equipment
- A proper community center for various teen activities, including drama, music, talent, art and classes. The teen center is now a daycare center. Teens are hanging out loitering behind stores and apartment. This is dangerous. (Agreed by another).
- Why did the previous teen center not work? Need to ask teenagers
- A place for kids to come, like a community center, since the teen center isn't open for us.

# APPENDIX D STAKEHOLDER MEETING SUMMARIES





# Stakeholder Interviews Summary Final Report

**May 31, 2017**

**Prepared by:**

**S&A Communications**

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## Introduction

As part of its effort to engage the community in the early stages of the 2018 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PRO) Plan Update, the City of Sammamish conducted three stakeholder group interviews in May 2017. The City identified three stakeholder interest areas to be represented at the interviews— environmental, athletic, and programming—and conducted outreach to individuals representing each area to participate in the group interviews. The outreach consisted of an initial email invitation to a number of groups and organizations to solicit interest and a follow-up email to confirm the meeting date and time with interested parties. The group interviews were conducted as indicated below:

Group	Date	Time	# of attendees
Environmental	Monday, May 15	5 – 6:30 p.m.	8
Athletic	Monday, May 15	7 – 8:30 p.m.	4
Recreational	Wednesday, May 17	6:30 – 8 p.m.	9

## Participants

The following groups were represented at the meetings:

### Environmental

- Friends of Lake Sammamish State Park
- IATC
- Sammamish Friends
- Sammamish Heritage Society
- Sammamish Community Wildlife Habitat group
- Save Sammamish

### Athletic

- Eastlake Little League
- Sammamish Cricket Club
- Sammamish Little League

### Programming

- Boys and Girls Club
- India Association of Western Washington
- Kiwanis
- Parents of sports players (not an organized group)
- Rotary
- YMCA

## Meeting Format

Each of the three meetings began with an overview of the PRO Plan by Angie Feser, Director of the City of Sammamish Parks & Recreation Department. Chris Hoffman, PRO Plan consultant team member, described the agenda, introduced the interview questions, and invited meeting participants to introduce themselves. He then led each group in a discussion that answered each of the questions identified on the agenda. Chris recorded responses to the questions on flip charts. Each group's questions were slightly different, to address the specific areas of interest of each group. The agendas (with the questions) for each meeting are provided in Appendix A of this report.

## Summary Results

While each of the three groups had different responses to many of the questions, there were several themes that ran through the three groups. These are summarized below:

- All three of the groups commended the Parks & Recreation Department for fostering positive working relationships. Parks' staff were cited as very collaborative and Parks was given high marks for maintaining and building partnerships with other organizations and creating a culture of community.
- The Programming and Environmental groups both said that Parks could improve upon their communication, saying that they could do a better job raising awareness about programs and educating the community about the environment. Some specific suggestions included developing a City recreation app and a mobile-friendly website.
- The Athletics and Programming groups both cited a shortage of fields and said that existing fields need to be improved. They also said that converting fields to turf would help overcome the weather-related challenges currently being experienced on grass fields.
- All groups cited the challenges being faced by the city as a result of its growth and evolving demographics and encouraged Parks to understand and account for those challenges in the PRO Plan.
- All groups mentioned the need for a balanced approach, with Programming and Environmental participants indicating concern about the trend toward sports specialization. They advocated more opportunities for kids to engage in informal, unstructured and unscheduled play activities, both on fields and in parks.

## Group-Specific Results

The notes for each of the groups are presented in their entirety in Appendix B. The following sections provide a summary of the most important issues, ideas and priorities of each group.

### Environmental

This group said that preserving existing open space and natural areas and acquiring more land for preservation were among its top priorities. They recommended that the City be strategic about acquiring and preserving land and made a number of suggestions, including:

- Create a sustainability position within the City
- Proactively educate landowners about donating, selling or providing easements to the City

- Build relationships with land trusts (that can act as a conduit for purchasing land and that can be nimbler than the City when it comes to acquisition)
- Engage with developers to get their ideas, to work collaboratively on preservation, and to identify preservation incentives that work

The group also highlighted the importance of: staying ahead of development; passive recreation; connecting green spaces and providing wildlife corridors; City departments working together on preservation of green space; and educating and raising awareness about open spaces and their importance.

### Athletic

This group said that developing new fields and improving the quality of existing fields were their top priorities. They indicated that they are willing to play a role in achieving these priorities through partnerships with other entities (cities, school districts and state parks) and through helping with funding field improvements.

They also said that fields could be creatively managed to maximize usage (allocating smaller spaces, allowing longer blocks of time to be reserved, creating batting practice areas, etc.) should be considered. Converting existing fields to turf was also a topic that came up several times during the meeting. Lastly, the group said that coordination among organizations could be improved and said that pre-season meetings would be helpful.

### Programming

This group said that providing more programs for seniors and increasing the diversity of programs were two of its top priorities. The group identified a number of programs and types of programs that they would like to see. These included:

- Water activities (canoe, kayak rentals)
- ADA activities
- Gardening
- Alternative sports and activities (frisbee, geocaching, parkour, night hikes, art, wildlife, etc.)

The group also said that they felt a lot of the city's parks were similar in nature and that the city should consider diversifying the mix of parks, programs, and activities within parks. They had a number of ideas for this, including: events that travel to different parks; chalk art competitions in parks with concrete surfaces; creating a park exploration "game"; hosting bigger events (5k run or other races).

## Appendix A: Group Agendas



|  
**City of Sammamish**  
**Environmental Stakeholder Meeting**  
**Monday, May 15, 2017**  
**5- 6:30 p.m.**

**Agenda**

5:00 – 5:10	Welcome and PRO Plan Overview	Angie Feser
5:10 – 5:20	Introductions and Meeting Overview	Chris Hoffman
5:20 – 6:00	Priority Questions Discussion  What are your main interests? What's going well? What could be improved? Are parks and natural areas adequate in size and connectivity? What's needed to achieve a green(er) Sammamish?	All
6:00 – 6:25	2 <sup>nd</sup> Priority Questions  Other examples you'd like to see here? What are the most important issues? City's role in providing for active recreation and natural area restoration? Any concerns about open space management or working with Parks?	All
6:25 – 6:30	Wrap Up and Next Steps	Angie Feser





**City of Sammamish**  
**Athletics Stakeholder Meeting**  
**Monday, May 15, 2017**  
**7- 8:30 p.m.**

**Agenda**

7:00 – 7:10	Welcome and PRO Plan Overview	Angie Feser
7:10 – 7:20	Introductions and Meeting Overview	Chris Hoffman
7:20 – 8:00	Priority Questions Discussion  What are your main Interests? What's going well? What could be improved? What's the current state of fields (quality, quantity, etc.)? What are the current trends? Coordination between leagues? Any field improvements needed? What should be 5-10 year focus?	All
8:00 – 8:25	2 <sup>nd</sup> Priority Questions  Other examples you'd like to see here? What's the most important issue? How is access to fields (well-distributed, adequate)? Are there opportunities for more collaboration? Any concerns about scheduling, maintenance, working with City?	All
8:25 – 8:30	Wrap Up and Next Steps	Angie Feser



**City of Sammamish**  
**Programming Stakeholder Meeting**  
**Wednesday, May 17, 2017**  
**6:30 - 8 p.m.**

**Agenda**

6:30 – 6:40	Welcome and PRO Plan Overview	Angie Feser
6:40 – 6:50	Introductions and Meeting Overview	Chris Hoffman
6:50 – 7:30	Priority Questions Discussion  What are your main interests? What's the biggest opportunity, idea or unmet need? What's going well? What could be improved? What recreation opportunities are missing? Are there programs that could be improved, changed, offered less often or eliminated? Are the specific age groups that need attention? What facilities, programs or activities are most needed?	All
7:30 – 7:55	2 <sup>nd</sup> Priority Questions  Do you have any expectations for the PRO Plan? Are there examples from other communities you'd like to see here? Do you have ideas about how to increase awareness about programs and parks? What else can/should be done to promote programs? What should be the focus for the next 5 years??	All
7:55 – 8:00	Wrap Up and Next Steps	Angie Feser

## Appendix B: Group Notes

### **Environmental Stakeholder Group**

#### **What are your main interests?**

- Land acquisition/ preservation
- Balance of everything (sports, open space, tree canopy, etc.)
  - Realize there are limited resources and have to do what's practical
- Preservation of green space
  - Natural habitat
  - Wildlife corridors
  - Trails – help raise awareness
- Regional connectivity
  - Soft surface trails
- Balancing different users
- Regional detention – mitigation banks
- Historic Resource Mapping and Preservation
- Need signage
  - Interpretive
  - Educational
  - Directional – on 228<sup>th</sup>

#### **What's going well?**

- Evans Creek - but too many trails crisscrossing habitat
- Beaver Lake Preserve
  - Accessible trails
- Quality of trails
  - Well-maintained
- Maintenance
- The City is on the right path with regard to preserving open space
  - Long-term
- Ethan Jones - excellent Volunteer Coordinator
- Stewardship
- Work parties – partnerships w/WTA
- City has done phenomenal job in its short existence
- Multi-faceted uses of land
  - Stormwater

### **What could be improved?**

- Take on conceptual ownership of Soaring Eagle Park
- Document heritage sites existing conditions
- Create a sustainability coordinator position with the City of Sammamish
- More strategic and proactive acquisition
- Inventory of undeveloped/under-developed land (and what's buildable)
- Education of landowners about option of donating/selling land to city
- Incentives to landowners to allow easements
  - Conservation easements
- Communication and education
- Right of first refusal (for City to buy property)
- Pause in development to give city chance to catch up

### **Are natural areas adequate in size and connectivity?**

- No, but the City has come a long way
- Inventory wildlife areas – not connected
- Wildlife areas –corridor in plan – look at before developers get to it
- Corridors can be multi-purpose
- Need to protect headwaters
- Make more accessible to kids
- Design review/partnership with developers to help corridor
- Increase width of corridors
- Public Works and Parks – more cooperation to look for multiple benefits
- Realize that increased population and density put pressure on future (need to preserve now)

### **What's needed to achieve a green(er) Sammamish?**

- Look 50-100 years down the road
- Look for ways to work in conjunction with other plans
- Requiring developers to preserve trees is problematic; look for ways to provide incentives or work with them
- Greater emphasis on ease of walking and biking safety
- Choices for biking/trails
  - Safety and ease of access to schools
- City departments talking to one another
- Require developers to buy and protect wetlands – mitigation
- Education on the value of being green
- Mechanism within the City to create open space
- Trade-offs for density



- Engage w/developers to ask their ideas
- Incentives to help smart developers succeed
  - Upzone?
- “Bake” into city job positions
- Need to establish vision first

### **Are there examples from elsewhere you’d like to see here?**

- City of Prineville Park
  - Manages wastewater
- Parkour (in urban spaces) – there is demand here
- City of Vancouver
  - Funds from public works department into parks for stormwater management
- Redmond- historic presentation
- King County trail integration
  - Regional Trails
  - SE 43<sup>rd</sup> St.
- Forest City Idea (China)
- Parks on top of buildings
  - Add green to development
- P-Patches
- Willamette River Open Space Vision and Action Plan example
  - Ask the right questions
  - What do you want?
  - Alternatives futures

### **What are the most important issues?**

- Financial allocation system
  - Be nimble to take advantage of opportunities as they come up
- Build relationships with trusts: they can be conduit for purchasing land – have to be intertwined with city

### **What should be the City’s role in providing active recreation and natural areas restoration?**

- Programming to get kids out in nature
- Interacting with schools
  - Field trips

## **Do you have any concerns about open space management or working with Parks?**

- Need another dog park
- Kokonee Initiative
  - Acquisition
- City departments working together
- Need other partners in city
- Working with Native Plants so they can salvage plants when developers come in
- Need a City greenhouse
- HOA's typically don't last – need to plan for this, determine City's role in acquiring their parks over time

## **What's missing?**

- Athletic fields for non-organized sports
- Open gym time
- Non-structured play
- Frisbee golf
- Areas for older kids

## **Athletic Stakeholder Group**

### **What are your main interests?**

- Finding fields for 700-800 kids
- More opportunities for kids
- Dealing with greater demand/ dwindling supply
- Availability
- Turf fields and/or better drainage
- Partnership with school district
- Reducing number of days we can't use fields
- Practice facilities
  - Batting cages
- Growing the sport of cricket

### **What's going well?**

- Positive working relationships with City staff
- Mike Keller very collaborative w/field guys
  - Maintenance, Parks and Recreation Supervisor all great
- Good relationship with City as a whole
- Love East Sammamish Park (ESP)
  - Convert to turf complex
  - Preserves trademark
  - Great job making it ready to play

### **What could be improved?**

- Partnership with Schools and the County
- Longer blocks of time – 10 am to 4 or 5 pm for cricket
- Getting projects done quicker – need to understand the how and why
  - How to navigate city process
  - How to get the things they want
- More fields
- Improve existing fields – drainage challenges at ESP
- Other areas have turf
  - Opportunities to expand
- Improve experience at fields
  - Concession stands
  - Reduce taxes/fees
  - PA systems
  - Black and white rules are too restrictive – need some leeway

- Scoreboards
- Sammamish fields are barely suitable for regional events

### **What's the current state of fields (quality, quantity, etc.)?**

- Field quantity is the #1 issue in baseball's end-of-season participant survey
  - #2 issue is quality of fields
- Not enough fields for cricket
  - 267 Sammamish kids playing cricket
- Could you partner with state parks?
- We have funds and are willing to work with City on these issues

### **What are the current trends?**

- Participation: varies up and down
- Up last 2 years
- Trends in other areas?
- Cricket: participation maxed out, can't take any more with current field availability
- Cost of fields (rental), especially during slow periods
- Use fields space creatively
- School district reducing number of fields
  - Made fields smaller

### **Is there coordination between leagues?**

- Yes, but need better coordination (management and scheduling) between School Districts and City
- Opportunity to partner with Issaquah and other cities
  - More fields
- Coordination between leagues can help leverage hours
- Ongoing with other leagues
  - Ex. Fees
- All leagues want turf

### **Are there any field improvements needed?**

- Batting cages for cricket
- Rent fields to multiple sports at one time
- Area of run up so grass is not damaged (cricket specific)

### **What should be the 5-10 year focus?**

- Find a good balance



- More fields
- Make fields more usable
- Serve demand
- Redmond Ridge
  - Youth sports complex
- Economics
- Lighted facilities
  - Ability to have tournaments (need to improve fields to do so)
  - They would be a huge draw
- Managing growth
  - This is an issue bigger than parks
- More action-oriented
- Like: General use parks
  - Make Sammamish what it is

### **Are there examples from elsewhere that you'd like to see here?**

- Redmond Ridge
- Hartman Park
- Mercer Island
- Central Park
- Turf infields only
  - Balance
  - Make more feasible
  - Lower cost
- LA – Wang Field (practice pitches)
  - Marymoor
- Everest Park in Kirkland
  - Stands
  - Dirt field

### **How is access to fields (well-distributed, adequate)?**

- Good access, just wish it was a little easier
- Small mower for leagues to use the drag fields
- Leagues willing to volunteer labor
- Parking- ESP lot filled at peak periods on weekends

### **Are there opportunities for more collaboration?**

- Conduct meeting of all leagues before each season
  - Could help fill gaps and overcome conflicts

- Would like to understand where we could help
  - Have funds but don't have bandwidth to do it (permits, etc.)
- Always looking for little wins – they go a long way

**Do you have any concerns about scheduling, maintenance, working with the City?**

- City staff is very good
  - Easy to work with
  - Trust teams to do the right thing
- Maintenance cooperative
- Could do a better job of keeping track of rainouts
  - End up paying for unused slots
  - Have to tell city that field was rained out when the city is the one who rains it out
  - Tracking: Scheduler and rain-out line are not always on the same page

## **Programming Stakeholder Group**

### **What are your main interests?**

- Covered fields
- Lit and unlocked facilities (fields, play areas)
- Senior programming
- Water activities (sailing, kayak etc.)
  - Programs
- Racket sports
  - Indoors

### **What is the biggest opportunity, idea or unmet need?**

- After-school programs
  - Transportation
  - Space
- Facilities
- Senior programming
- Outdoor Programs (tai chi, yoga)
- P-Patch
- Covered outdoor meeting space

### **What's going well?**

- Farmers' Market
- YMCA - heart of Sammamish
- Partnerships – not competition
  - Assistance from city
- Volunteer opportunities
- Culture of community
- Big events
  - 4<sup>th</sup> of July
  - Sammamish days and nights
  - Kids' concerts

### **What could be improved?**

- Communication
  - Raise awareness
- Diversity of activities
  - Many parks are similar in nature
  - Have a boat rental program
- History of area incorporated into parks
  - Train

- Staged historical celebration
- More visible
- Weave market idea into other aspects of the community

### **What recreation opportunities are missing?**

- Interim care
  - Transportation to sports practices/program
- Understanding who's not using recreation spaces and why
- Cricket
- Net ball
- Skiing
- Diversify parks to create more opportunities
- Edible plants in public space program
- Squash
- Pick your own fruit
- Wildlife educational programs
  - Night hikes
  - Connection to nature
- Gardening clubs
- Artwork programs
  - Public art educational programs

### **Are there programs that could be improved, offered less often or eliminated?**

- Less often: Don't spend all resources on biking promotion
- Improved: Recreational athletic programs
  - Access to them
  - Free or low cost
- Improved: Access to parks
  - Walking
  - Biking
- Improved: Un-programmed play opportunities
  - Pick-up sports – fields don't have to be reserved
- Broader discussion on youth sports
  - Specializing versus alternative sports

### **Are there specific age groups that need attention?**

- Seniors
  - Provide senior bus?
- Populations with limited access to facilities



- Cultural
- Language
- Can't drive
- Young mothers
- Teens
  - Help to stay healthy and active

### **What facilities, programs or activities are most needed?**

- Recreation directed at seniors
- People with access issues
  - Transportation
  - Cultural
- ADA sports
- Covered off-leash area
- Covered athletic fields
- Water activities
  - At Beaver Lake or Pine Lake?
- Covered meeting area space

### **Do you have any expectations for PRO Plan?**

- Continued enhancement and growth of partnerships
- Inter-city partnerships
- Parks and programs need to grow with city

### **Are there examples from other communities you'd like to see here?**

- Magnusson Park sailing
- Redmond, Bellevue -- more facilities
- Event and meeting space
- Junior Lifeguard program at a lake
- Community Center
  - Space for classes
- Kirkland Performing Arts Center

### **Do you have ideas about how to increase awareness about programs and parks?**

- City Recreation app
- Mobile-friendly website
- Events that move around to different parks
- Geocaching
- Game of exploring parks and activities

- Chalk art competition in parks with concrete surfaces
- 5k run or other race

### **What else can/should be done to promote programs?**

- Facebook
  - Recreation group
- What's App
- Some central organizing space in social media
- Form a HOA/neighborhood liaison group
- Find advocates to help with promotion
- Reduce barriers to programs
  - Language
  - Cultural

### **What should be the focus for next 5 years?**

- Scaling up as a department to keep up with city's growth
- Electronic reader board
- Account for changing demographics

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# APPENDIX E RECREATION PROGRAM ANALYSIS





## Sammamish Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan

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### **Recreation Program Analysis**

#### **Current Situation**

The City of Sammamish has a unique approach to providing recreation programs and services that is based on partnerships and agreements with other community based recreation providers or through contract with other independent instructors for services. The City sees this as the most viable model for their community and one that limits the role of the Parks and Recreation Department to offering special events and coordinating the services of other organizations and individuals.

- Like most cities in the United States, Sammamish, faces challenges in the delivery of recreation parks and recreation facilities and services in a cost effective and efficient manner.
- The Parks and Recreation Department focuses its programming efforts on a variety of special events. It also operates an open swim beach that is guarded.
- The Department coordinates and promotes a wide variety of programs, services and facilities that are being provided by other organizations. The largest of these are the YMCA and Boys & Girls Club.
- The Department has a variety of parks and recreation facilities that are geographically spread across the city. This includes both indoor and outdoor facilities, parks, athletic field complexes and specialty facilities.

**Special Events:** As noted above, the main recreation program area that is offered by Sammamish Parks and Recreation is special events. The following is a list of events that are conducted directly by the Department in 2017.

#### **2017 City Special Events**

<b>Event</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Total Attendance</b>
Summer Concerts	8	1,500	12,000
Fourth on the Plateau	1	10,000	10,000
Rig-A-Polooza	1	1,500	1,500
KidsFirst!	6	500	3,000
Shakespeare in the Park	2	600	1,200
Very Merry Sammamish	1	2,500	2,500
Halloween Happening	1	1,500	1,500
Sammamish Days	1	1,200	1,200
Skate Competition	1	250	250
Earth Day Celebration	1	250	250
<b>Total</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>19,800</b>	<b>33,400</b>

## Sammamish Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan

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In addition to these events, there are a large number of special events that are provided by other organizations in partnership with the City of Sammamish. This includes the following events that are scheduled for 2017.

### 2017 Special Events Provided by Other Organizations

Sponsor	Event
Sammamish Symphony	Glowing & Radiant: Dvorak's Sixth
	Romantic Exotica
	A Joyful Fanfare Beethoven's 2 <sup>nd</sup> Symphony
Sammamish Kiwanis	Jumpin' Jive to Thrive
	Ski & Sport Swap
Friends of Lake Sammamish State Park	Walk 'n Wag
	Get Outdoors Expo
	Parkadilly at Lake Sammamish
Sammamish YMCA	Eggstravaganza
	Healthy Kids Day
	Family Fun Nights
Sammamish Friends	Sammamish Walks
Sammamish Chamber of Commerce	Farmers Market
	Celebrating Women in Business
	Sammamish Nights
	Sammamish Classic Car Show
Boys & Girls Club	Teen Fest
Sammamish Rotary Club	Nightmare at Beaver Lake
	Family Scavenger Hunt
Sammamish/Issaquah Rotary Clubs	Challenge Series Race
National Night Out	Sammamish Night Out
Sammamish Arts Commission	Sammamish Arts Fair
	Bollywood Dance/Garba
	Gen-Thriller
	Art Reception
	"Acceptance" Art Exhibit
	Artist Opening Reception
	Hansel & Gretel Performance
	Build it Sammamish
	Make it a Glass Day
	"Slash and Burn" Art Exhibit
	Art Reception for "Slash and Burn"
	Au-Some Artists
	Keiko Hara Art Exhibit
	Theater of Possibility
Gen-Fusion	

## Sammamish Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan

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### Summary:

- In 2017 the City hosted or co-hosted over 75 special events.
- The vast majority of special events are offered between May and the end of October.
- Most City events focus on holiday celebrations, youth and cultural events.
- Most of the co-hosted events are centered around the arts, outdoor recreation or holiday events.
- In 2018 the Parks and Recreation Department will staff and support in coordinating Sammamish Arts Commission events.

### Other Recreation Programs and Activities

The City relies on other providers for most of its recreation services. The following is a list of the primary providers of these services.

Organization	Program/Service Focus
Sammamish Family YMCA	Operate the Sammamish Community & Aquatic Center which provides fitness/wellness, youth and adult sports, youth camps, teen programs, aquatics, senior services, special events and outdoor education.
Boys & Girls Club	Operate the Recreation Center which provides a variety of programs focused on youth and teens including youth sports.
<i>Youth Sports Organizations</i>	
Eastlake Little League	T-Ball, Baseball and Softball
Eastlake Youth Football Association	Football
Eastlake Youth Lacrosse	Lacrosse
Eastside Crusaders Lacrosse	Lacrosse
Eastside FC	Soccer
Field of Champions	Baseball
i9 Sports	Multiple Sports
ISD Women's Lacrosse Club	Lacrosse
Issaquah FC	Soccer
Issaquah Soccer Club	Soccer
Issaquah Swim Team	Swim Team
Issaquah Youth Lacrosse	Lacrosse
Lake WA Youth Soccer Association	Soccer
Lake Sammamish Lacrosse	Lacrosse
Lake Sammamish Baseball Association	Baseball
Puget Sound Premier League	Soccer
Sammamish Little League	T-Ball, Baseball and Softball

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<b>Organization</b>	<b>Program/Service Focus</b>
Seattle Starz Lacrosse	Lacrosse
Spartan Baseball Club	Baseball
Skyline Lacrosse Club	Lacrosse
Skyline Youth Football Association	Football
Super Six Lacrosse Club	Lacrosse
Washington Athletics Baseball	Baseball
<i>Adult Sports Organizations</i>	
Clean & Sober Softball Association	Softball
Greater Seattle Soccer Association	Soccer
Puget Sound Senior Baseball League	Baseball
Sammamish Men's Soccer	Soccer
<i>Private Fitness</i>	
Columbia Athletic Club- Pine Lake	Adult Fitness
Plateau Club	Adult Fitness
The Sculptor	Adult Fitness
<i>Sports</i>	
DC Speed Sports	Sports Camps & Training
Karate West	Martial Arts
True Martial Arts	Martial Arts
<i>Music/Dance</i>	
Glass House Dance	Dance
Revolution Dance Factory	Dance
Issaquah Dance Theater	Dance
Seashell Music Together	Music
<i>Education</i>	
Central Washington University	Education- site for YMCA activities
Issaquah School District	Education/Sports
Lake Washington School District	Education/Sports
Snoqualmie Valley School District	Education/Sports
Kumon Math & Reading Center	Education
Kinder Mundo	Education (Pre-school, After School, Day Camps)
<i>Other</i>	
Pine Lake Community Club	Rental Facility
Sammamish Library	Youth Programs
Sammamish Saddle Club	Equestrian Activities
Boy Scouts	Youth/Outdoor Recreation
Girl Scouts	Youth/Outdoor Recreation
Camp Fire USA	Youth
Positive Ally	Youth, Sports, Education
Sammamish Arts Commission	Performances, Cultural Arts, Special Events & Permanent Art



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*Summary:*

- The YMCA and the Boys & Girls Club are the primary providers of most programs and services that are associated with indoor recreation, aquatics, fitness, athletics, and youth services.
- There are a significant number of youth sports organizations that serve the needs of the community.
- Other than the YMCA and Boys & Girls Club, if other providers are utilizing City owned facilities for their programs, they are paying a rental fee for their use. This results in an annual rental income of nearly \$500,000 per year.

**Contract Recreation Service Providers:** In addition to the programs and services that are supplied to the community by other organizations, the Sammamish Parks & Recreation Department contracts directly with some individuals and businesses for a small number of programs that are promoted directly in the City’s Recreation Guide. These include programs in the following areas:

Tai Chi, Qi Gong
Skyhawks Youth Sports Camps
Science Camps - STEM

*Summary:*

- With the exception of youth sports, science and general camps, there are relatively few direct contract programs being offered.
- Contract recreation services either pay a percentage of gross revenues (currently 20%), or there is a rental fee for the space being utilized.

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**Recreation Programming Provider Classifications:** The categories below represent the major areas of focus for current Sammamish recreation programs and services (regardless of the provider) by categories commonly found in parks and recreation agencies nationally. Program provider classifications are based on a review of class and program offerings for 2017, that were provided by the Department, other organizations or contractors.

Area	Focus	City Program	Other Organizations	Contract Provided
<b>Sports</b>	Youth Sports			
	Adult Sports			
<b>Fitness</b>	Youth			
	Adult			
<b>Cultural Arts</b>	Youth			
	Adult			
<b>Aquatics</b>	Youth			
	Adult			
<b>Education</b>	Youth			
	Adult			

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Area	Focus	City Program	Other Organizations	Contract Provided
General Interest	Youth			
	Adult			
Special Needs	Youth			
	Adult			
Special Events				
Outdoor Recreation				
Seniors				
Teens				
Self-Directed	Youth			
	Adult			

*Program Area Definitions:*

*Sports* – Team and individual sports including camps, clinics and tournaments. Also includes adventure/non-traditional sports.

*Fitness* – Group fitness classes, personal training, education and nutrition.

*Cultural Arts* – Performing arts classes, visual arts classes, music/video production and arts events.

*Aquatics* – Learn to swim classes, aqua exercise classes, competitive swimming/diving, SCUBA, and other programs (synchro, water poll, etc.).

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*Youth* – Before and after school programs, summer/school break camps, and preschool.

*Education* – Language programs, tutoring, science (STEM) classes, computer and financial planning.

*General Interest* – Personal development classes.

*Special Needs* – Programs for the physically and mentally impaired. Also, inclusion programs.

*Special Events* – City wide special events that are conducted throughout the year.

*Outdoor Recreation* – Environmental education, hiking, camping, kayaking, and other activities.

*Seniors* – Programs and services that are dedicated to serving the needs of seniors. This can include all of the activity areas noted above plus social service functions.

*Teens* - Programs and services that are focused on serving the needs of teens. This can include all of the activity areas noted above (except seniors).

*Self-Directed* – This includes the opportunities for individuals to recreate on their own. This can include activities such as open-gym, use of weight/cardio space and lap/recreational swimming. Although not an organized program, time and space must be allocated for this purpose.

*Summary:*

- This table indicates that Other Organizations are the largest providers of recreation services in Sammamish.
- While the City of Sammamish has a very limited role in recreation programming, other entities have been the main providers of services.
- While the table indicates where services are available by category and provider, it does not indicate the actual level of programming that is available.

**Current Program Assessment:** The following chart identifies and summarizes the actual level of programming that is available in each category (regardless of who is providing the program) based on the categories of minimal, average or strong.

- *Minimal Number of Programs* – there are only a few programs available in the category.
- *Average Number of Programs* – there an average number of programs available in the category.



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- *Strong Number of Programs* – there are a considerable number of programs available in the category.

<b>Programs</b>	<b>Minimal</b>	<b>Average</b>	<b>Strong</b>
Youth Sports			
Adult Sports			
Fitness/Wellness			
Cultural Arts			
Aquatics			
Youth			
General Interest			
Education			
Special Needs			
Special Events			
Outdoor Recreation			
Seniors			
Teens			
Self-Directed			

*Summary:*

- There a strong number of programs being offered in six program categories:
  - *Youth Sports* – primarily through the traditional youth team sports organizations.
  - *Fitness/Wellness* – this is the result of the Sammamish YMCA.
  - *Aquatics* – this is also being done through the YMCA.
  - *Youth* – both the YMCA and the Boys & Girls Club are the primary providers of general youth programs.
  - *Education* – these services are being provided by the school districts as well as other providers.
  - *Special Events* – the City provides most of the events with other organizations augmenting this number.
  
- There are four areas that have a minimal number of activities being offered:
  - *Adult Sports*
  - *General Interest*
  - *Special Needs*
  - *Seniors*

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### **Other Factors Impacting Recreation Program and Service Delivery**

There are a number of other factors that impact the delivery of recreation programs and services in the City of Sammamish. The major factors are examined below:

#### **Recreation Facilities:**

The City has a variety of recreation facilities that are utilized for recreation programs and services.

<b>Facilities</b>	<b>Recreation Programs and Services</b>
<i>Indoor</i>	
Sammamish Community & Aquatic Center	Operated by the YMCA, the center provides fitness/wellness, youth and adult sports, youth camps, teen programs, aquatics, senior services, special events and outdoor education.
Sammamish Teen & Recreation Center	Operated by the Boys & Girls Club, the facility provides a variety of programs focused on youth and teens. Youth sports activities are also provided in the schools.
Central Washington University-Sammamish	This building is owned by the City but leased by CWU for education purposes. The building does have gym and stage area that is used by the YMCA for recreation activities.
Lodge at Beaver Lake	Operated by the City, this is a site for some contracted programs, special events and rentals.
<i>Outdoor Parks &amp; Facilities</i>	
Beaver Lake Pavilion	This covered pavilion is primarily utilized for rentals.
Pine Lake Park	The park has athletic fields, is the site for concerts in the park and it has the only guarded beach in the City.
Klahanie Park	Hosts Shakespeare and KidsFirst! programs in the park.
Upper Sammamish Commons Park	The park is the site of a large plaza, a half-court basketball facility and a playground, the City's skate park, and also serves as the location for the farmers market and many special events.
Lower Sammamish Commons Park	The park serves as the site for festivals and events including the July 4 <sup>th</sup> celebration. There is also a spray park at the site.
East Sammamish Park	Hosts KidsFirst! Programs in the park.

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<i>Other</i>	
Reard Freed House	Located in Big Rock Park, this relocated historic home is being restored. Its future use has not been determined but is limited by size and other factors.
Former Residence	Also located in Big Rock Park this home is not currently being utilized for any purpose. It is a large residence but would have to be significantly renovated for any form of public use.
Tree House	This unique facility is in Big Rock Park but is not currently being utilized for any purpose. Because it is a true tree house, there is limited access, no restrooms and no water.
Sween House	Located in Lower Commons Park, this remodeled residence is owned by the City but operated by another organization to provide youth counseling services.

*Summary:*

- The primary indoor recreation facilities are owned by the City but operated and programmed by other organizations.
- The Lodge at Beaver Lake is the only indoor facility where the use and programming are controlled by the City.
- The City has several large parks, one of which provides the location for outdoor recreation programs and events.
- The City has three indoor facilities in its inventory that are not currently being utilized for any type of recreation programming. These facilities will need improvements and changes if they are going to be utilized for any public functions.

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### Athletic Fields:

The City has a number of athletic fields that are located in various parks throughout the community. These fields are utilized by other organizations (primarily youth sports groups) for practices and games.

### City Fields

Location	Field
<i>Natural Turf</i>	
Klahanie Park	Multi-use field area that can be used for baseball or softball (1), soccer or lacrosse (2). Overlaying these fields is a cricket field.
Beaver Lake Park	3 little league baseball/softball fields
Pine Lake Park	Little league baseball or soccer field.
East Sammamish Park	There are two little league baseball/softball fields that are overlaid with lacrosse fields and one separate soccer field.

In addition to the athletic fields that are owned and maintained by the City there are also a number of fields that are on school district property where the community has some use.

### School District Fields

Location	Field
<i>Artificial Turf</i>	
Eastlake Community Fields	3 lighted multi-use fields (baseball, softball, lacrosse, football and soccer). These fields are located next to East Lake High School and are a partnership with the Lake Washington School District.
Skyline High School	2 lighted multi-use field area (baseball, softball, lacrosse, football and soccer).
Pine Lake Middle School	Rectangular sports (football, soccer, lacrosse) that has a track around it.
<i>Natural Turf</i>	
Margaret Mead Elementary	One youth little league baseball fields that is utilized and maintained by East Lake Little League. This field is scheduled for demolition in the summer of 2018 with no plans for replacement.

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**Field Use Requests:** The table below indicates the months of the year that the different sports organizations in the Sammamish area are requesting fields from the City for practices, games and post season play.

League Name		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>Youth</b>	Eastlake Lacrosse												
	Eastlake Samm Baseball League												
	Issaquah Youth Lacrosse												
	Skyline Lacrosse Club												
	WA Schoolgirls Lacrosse Assoc												
	Eastlake Little League												
	Lake Samm Baseball Assoc												
	Lake Samm Lacrosse Club												
	Sammamish Little League												
	i9 Sports												
	Issaquah Soccer Club - Select												
	Eastside FC												
	Eastlake Youth Football												
	Issaquah Soccer Club												
	Lake WA Youth Soccer Assoc												
	Skyline Youth Football Assoc												
	<b>Adult</b>	Greater Seattle Soccer Assoc											
Puget Sound Soccer League													
WA State Women's Soccer Assoc													
Clean & Sober League													
International Soccer League													
ICWSL													
Liga Hispana del Noroeste													
Puget Sound Senior Baseball													
La Liga de WA													

It is important to note the demand for fields point loads during the spring and fall of the year for youth sports but is more evenly spread over the year for adults.



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### Athletic Field Utilization History:

The following is a summary of the rate of utilization of community athletic fields by the type of sport over the last five years. The figures represent the number of hours of use.

Sport	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Natural Turf</b>						
Softball - Youth	4	12	89	2	11	47
Softball - Adult	226	218	141	173	208	210
Baseball - Youth	3,859	3,996	2,462	3,224	2,776	3,462
Soccer - Youth	837	698	779	798	1,657	1,421
Lacrosse - Youth	197	36	102	144	400	345
Cricket - Adult					170	13
Cricket - Youth					386	1,348
Football - Youth	74	16.5	3	62	41	186
Recreation Class	678	607	499	585	456	365
Other	22	42	21	6	12	27
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,897</b>	<b>5,626</b>	<b>4,096</b>	<b>4,994</b>	<b>6,116</b>	<b>7,424</b>
<b>Artificial Turf</b>						
Softball - Youth		38	8		6.5	
Baseball - Adult	210	322	267	578	166	251
Baseball - Youth	629	831	883	761	747	988
Soccer - Adult	242	235	272	201	212	197
Soccer - Youth	1,184	1,362	1,813	1,585	1,947	2,113
Football - Youth	718	793	617	621	678	319
Lacrosse - Youth	1,199	1,350	1,543	1,213	1,399	1,515
Recreation Class	41	178	121	211	426	48
School Function	493	721	562	1,164	680	698
Other	2		4		2	
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,718</b>	<b>5,830</b>	<b>6,090</b>	<b>6,334</b>	<b>6,264</b>	<b>6,129</b>

A quick analysis of the figures indicates a steady growth in the hours of use of natural turf fields over the last five years. This is being driven primarily by youth soccer, lacrosse, and cricket. The use of artificial turf fields has been more inconsistent but has generally increased as well during the time frame. Once again this is primarily due to youth soccer and lacrosse.

#### Summary:

- The City has access to one artificial turf field complex (East Lake Community Fields) that has three multipurpose fields. These are the only lighted fields that are scheduled by the City.

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- The City maintains four natural turf athletic field complexes that have a total of ten fields. Six can be utilized for baseball and softball and three strictly for soccer and lacrosse. None of these fields are lit.
- Total the City has up to 8 soccer/football/lacrosse fields and 10 baseball/softball fields.
- The multi-use field concept is utilized to allow fields to be used for different sports.
- The two primary school districts in the community have artificial turfed fields that were paid for with some City funding. These fields provide use force for community groups after the needs of the schools have been met. The City has agreements with the schools that outline the conditions for use.
- The City assigns field use based on a block scheduling concept where organizations are given a permit for a field(s) per season for a designated period of time. The organization determines how the fields will be scheduled and used. The City has agreements with 30 different leagues for field use. Priorities for use are based on the percentage of Sammamish residents in the organization.
- The demand for sports fields point loads during the spring and fall for youth sports, increasing the demand for fields during these time periods.
- There has been a steady increase in the hours of use of existing athletic fields over the last five years.
- With continued growth in the population, a large youth population, and the rising popularity of sports such as lacrosse and cricket there is more demand than what can be met with existing athletic fields. If more adult sports leagues are added, this will further increase demand.

### **Staffing and Maintenance:**

Essential to backing successful recreation programs and services is having a parks and recreation department that is able to provide operations and maintenance support.

*Staffing* – With a focus on having other organizations and agencies be the primary provider of recreation programs and services, the City’s recreation division has only four full-time staff. These consist of a Recreation Manager, Recreation Coordinator, Volunteer Coordinator and an Office Assistant/Facility Supervisor. The primary role of these positions is conducting and managing the many special events that are offered by the Department, coordinating the recreation services of the contract providers as well as the other organizations, managing the lifeguards at Pine Lake Park, facility rentals and providing volunteers for activities. In addition, the Recreation personnel staff and support the Arts Commission and Sammamish Youth Board. It should be recognized that any further growth in programs and services (either internally or externally) will require additional staff hours to manage.

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*Maintenance* – Much like recreation programming, many of the maintenance tasks associated with parks and recreation facilities that are managed by the City are contracted. Contracted services include facility custodial/maintenance, mowing and landscaping. One of the main functions that is handled in-house is sports field maintenance, preps and lining. The other primary function is supporting the many special events and activities that occur in the community.

*Summary:*

- The Sammamish Parks and Recreation Department has a low level of staffing for recreation purposes in keeping with the concept of having other organizations providing most services.
- Many maintenance functions are contracted out and in-house efforts focus on athletic field maintenance and supporting special events.
- Being responsible for managing additional programs and services will require increased staffing levels.

### **Overall Current Program Summary**

The following points summarize the current recreation program and service delivery situation for the City of Sammamish

- The City of Sammamish’s approach to providing recreation programs and services is dependent on other organizations being the primary source for most services.
- While the City works to promote the programs and services of other groups and organizations, there is not a coordinated approach to managing these efforts or an attempt to identify areas of focus or need.
- There are a significant number of program areas where there are limited services available. This includes adult sports, general interest, special needs, seniors and social services.
- There are a large number of special events that are either offered directly by the City or one of their partners. The number of events that can be produced and managed by the City appears to be at its maximum limit based on current resources.
- The primary facilities for indoor recreation are owned by the City but managed and operated by other organizations. However, the City has conditions within operating agreements that allow for some free use and program access to one facility. The City has little influence on the particular types of programs that actually occur in these facilities.
- The Parks and Recreation Department will need to determine how to best utilize the three facilities that are located in Big Rock Park.

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- While the City has a number of athletic fields in its parks and has access to some school fields, the demand for field usage is continuing to grow and will continue to be a significant concern moving forward.
- If there is an increase in the level of recreation programs and services that will have to be managed by the Sammamish Parks and Recreation Department in the future, there will need to be an increase in the current level of staffing.

### Recreation Programming Trends

It is important to understand some of the trends that are being seen nationally with recreation programming over the last 10 years and how that might impact Sammamish. However, it should be noted that each community is unique, and the region of the country has a strong bearing on trends and other operational factors.

Some of the keys to providing recreation programs and services include:

*Programming Philosophy* - Essential to developing a comprehensive recreation program is strong administrative oversight of the process. It starts with the development of an overall philosophy that will direct any programming efforts by the City and determine the role of other providers. The philosophy should emphasize areas of focus by age group as well as program areas and also prioritize future program development options.

As part of the programming philosophy, a determination of which programs and services will be offered directly by parks and recreation staff and which will be contracted to other individuals or organizations must be determined.

*Program Plan* – Based on the program philosophy of recreation, the Department should develop a well-conceived plan for the delivery of recreation services. This plan should take into consideration the future direction of recreation services in the city, along with the primary role of other organizations and recreation providers in the area. There needs to be clearly identified areas of programmatic responsibility to ensure that there is not overlap in resource allocation.

*Staffing* - In order to continue to grow the number of recreation programs and services that are offered to the community, adequate staffing is necessary to not only conduct the program itself but also to supervise and administer the activities of others. With staffing costs being the single greatest expense item for the parks and recreation department, attempt to minimize the number of full-time staff by continuing to contract for programs or partner with other providers for services for most programs. However, even with this approach there still needs to be adequate full-time staff to oversee and coordinate such efforts. Part-time staff is still the backbone of most recreation departments and make up the vast majority of program leaders and instructors. Many departments have converted program instructors to contract employees with a split of gross revenues (usually 70% to the instructor and 30% to the city) or developed a truer contract for services that either rents facilities and/or takes a percentage of the gross from another organization.

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Programming areas and trends within these areas have been identified in the following tables.



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### General Program and Services Trends by Area

Area	Programs
Sports	Youth
	Adult
	Team
	Individual
	Camps and Clinics
	Tournaments
	Adventure/Non-Traditional
	Sports Specific Training
	Fitness/Wellness
Personal/Small Group Training	
Education	
Nutrition	
Wellness Special Events	
Cultural Arts	Performing Arts (dance, theater, music, etc.)
	Visual Arts (painting, ceramics, pottery, etc.)
	Arts Events
Youth	Before and After School
	Summer Camps/School Break Camps
	Preschool
	Teen
Education	Language
	Tutoring
	English as a Second Language (ESL)
	Science
	Camps
Outdoor	Outdoor Education
	Outdoor Adventure
	Environmental Events
Seniors	Fitness/Wellness
	Cultural Arts
	Self Improvement
	Education
	Trip Programs
	Social Service Programs
Aquatics	Lessons
	Fitness
	Competitive (Swim/Dive/Water Polo)
	Therapy
	Specialty Classes (SCUBA, etc.)
General Interest	Personal Development
	Specialty

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Area	Programs
Special Needs	Inclusion Programs
Special Events	Community Wide Events
	Facility Based Events
Self Directed	Activities organized and conducted by the participant themselves

### *Specific Recreation Program and Service Trends*

Area	Specific Programs
Sports	Youth Lacrosse
	Adult Soccer
	Adult Cricket
	Youth & Adult Rugby
	Pickleball
	Youth Camps and Clinics
	Individual Sports (Fencing)
	Adventure/Non-Traditional (BMX, Mountain Biking, Disc Golf, Ultimate Frisbee)
Fitness/Wellness	Youth Sports Specific Training
	Functional Training Classes
	Personal/Small Group Training
	Yoga
	Nutrition
Cultural Arts	Healthy Lifestyle Education
	Music Production for Youth
	Digital Media
Youth	Before and After School Programs at Recreation Centers, Specialty Summer Camps
Education	Camps
	Outdoor Preschools
Outdoor	Eco-Tourism
	Environmental Education
Seniors	Fitness/Wellness
	Baby Boomer Focused Activities
Aquatics	Therapy
	Triathlon Training
General Interest	Personal Finance
Special Events	Community Wide Events

### *Other*

- The Parks and Recreation Department needs to serve as a coordinating agency and a clearinghouse for the large number of recreation organizations and providers, in an effort to bring a comprehensive scope of recreation programs to the community. This should also

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increase the number of partnerships that are in place to deliver a broader base of programs in a more cost-effective manner.

- There needs to be a stronger emphasis on revenue production and raising the level of cost recovery to minimize tax dollar use to offset recreation programming.

- Specific programming development trends include:

Developing programs that are single day or no more than 4 sessions at a time.

Developing programs for youth during non-school days, Christmas break, spring break and any other extended breaks.

Providing a variety of summer camp options.

Offering more Saturday programs and the introduction of some Sunday programming (especially in adult sports leagues).

Introducing programs that are oriented toward specific ethnic groups.

Developing a baseline of programs that appeal to the family unit.

Staggering the days and times of similar programs that are offered at multiple locations.

Bundling of programs for youth and adults so classes are offered at similar times.

Offering more drop-in based, pay as you go classes, especially for fitness.

Expanding senior programming to include a greater focus on the Baby Boomer generation which often means programs and services that are available in the evenings and on weekends (since many younger seniors still work) as well as more active based programs.

- Program characteristics (performance measures) that should be tracked include:
  - Rates of fill for programs and activities (capacity vs. actual numbers).
  - Participation numbers and comparisons to past years/seasons.
  - Rate of program cancellations.
  - Financial performance including cost per participant.
  - Evaluations from participants.

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### **Future Programming Directions and Recommendations**

Based on the information in the previous sections, the following are future directions and recommendations for the City of Sammamish and the Parks and Recreation Department in the delivery of recreation programs and services.

#### **Programming Administration:**

- Endorse the existing *Programming Philosophy* of other organizations and providers being the primary sources for most recreation programs and services. However, recognize that Sammamish Parks and Recreation Department will need to step-in and provide some programs and services where other providers are not available or cannot adequately serve the needs of the community.
- Commit to having the Parks and Recreation Department take on a stronger role in coordinating recreation programs and services in the community to ensure that there is a broad base of programming options available. This will require strong communications with other providers to determine roles, tracking of programs offered and number of participants, plus actively promoting the availability of services.
- Develop an actual *Program Plan* for recreation services. This plan needs to take into consideration the needs of the community, the role of Sammamish Parks and Recreation, and the expectations and role of other organizations and recreation providers in the area. There should be clearly identified areas of programmatic responsibility to ensure that there is not overlap in resource allocation or that gaps in services are not present.
- Match Sammamish Parks and Recreation Department programming efforts with available staff and financial resources. Recognize that increasing the role of the Parks and Recreation Department in providing programs will require an increase in full and part-time staff.
- Determine and track actual costs and revenues generated by each special event that is offered by the Parks and Recreation Department. Determine total number of attendees when possible.
- Attempt to track use and attendance numbers for key events provided by others.
- Require that all contract service providers for the Parks and Recreation Department register their participants through the Department and keep a minimum of 30% of gross revenues. If this is not possible, develop straight rental agreements for use based not only on the space being used but also on the number of participants and fee for the class.
- Add another Recreation Coordinator in the next one-two years to assist with program coordination, Sammamish Arts Commission activities and athletic field scheduling. A second Recreation Coordinator may be needed in the same time period to manage youth,

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teen, adaptive recreation and senior activities and programs if the City takes a larger role in this area.

### Programming:

- Recognize the needs of a growing community and one that has the following characteristics:
  - 31% people of color
  - 55% of households have children
  - Increasing senior population
  - Highly educated
  - High income
  - Multi-generational households
  - Increasing number of people working from home
- Establish the goal of providing more of an emphasis on recreation programs that focus on:
  - Different ethnic groups
  - Family and multi-generational programming opportunities
  - Teen and senior age groups
  - Integrating recreation programming with educational pursuits

The focus should be partnering with other providers to meet this goal and the City being prepared to provide a base level of programming for teens and seniors (3 to 4 on-going activities per year with a growth of 2-3 year for 5 years).

- Work with other providers to increase the level of programming in the following areas:
  - Adult Sports
  - General Interest
  - Special Needs
  - Outdoor Recreation

Other providers should be the primary providers of the activities and programs in these categories, but the City will need to outline specific program needs and expectations. The YMCA should be encouraged to increase programming for adult sports as well as other adult sports organizations. Finding specific providers for special needs and outdoor recreation will need to be a priority. Having 2-3 new programs in these areas should be a goal in the next three years.

- Also recognize the need to continue to grow programming in the areas of emphasis identified from the public input process:
  - Youth sports programs and camps
  - Fitness classes
  - Educational classes
  - Adventure or alternative sports
  - Cultural arts



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There are already a considerable number of program offerings in each of these categories (with the exception of adventure or alternative sports) currently available in Sammamish but with an expressed desire to see more from the public, the City will need to work with existing providers to increase the level of offerings. For adventure or alternative sports, there will need to be an active effort to attract these types of providers to Sammamish.

It is also recognized that the Parks and Recreation Department is now going to supporting the Sammamish Arts Commission's programs and events for the City. This will allow for better partnerships to further cultural arts services in the community but will also require additional staff time.

- Based on current Parks and Recreation Department staffing levels, establish a maximum number of community wide special events per year/month that the Department can provide on their own. This should not exceed 15 per year or two per month. Additional special events would only be added if one existing event is dropped. Future special events should have a focus on fitness/wellness, community building and outdoor recreation.
- Coordinate with the library for some additional youth focused educational and enrichment programs. There should be a goal of adding 4 to 5 of these programs in the next two years.
- Be willing to add in-house or contract programming under the direction of the Parks and Recreation Department for specific program areas that cannot be adequately met by outside providers. As has been noted, this is likely to be in the area of youth, teen and senior services. Having a viable location for these activities could be a challenge if the Sammamish Community & Aquatic Center and/or the Sammamish Teen & Recreation Center is not utilized for this purpose.
- Establish a five-step process for determining the future needs and providers of recreation services:
  1. Assess the needs and desires of the community for specific recreation program needs. This will require that the Parks and Recreation Department staff conduct 4 to 5 focus groups a year, conduct an on-line programming survey at least every other year and keep up with programming trends on an annual basis.
  2. Establish a Sammamish Recreation Programming Council made up of organizations that are program providers in the Sammamish area to guide long term recreation programming decisions. This council should meet at least twice a year if not quarterly.
  3. Work with existing organizations to increase the types and number of recreation programs whenever possible.
  4. Recruit new organizations when existing providers cannot meet the demand for new programs.
  5. The City conducts programs and services when other providers are not willing or able.

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### Recreation Facilities:

- If the Sammamish Teen and Recreation Center would no longer be utilized by the Boys & Girls Club for their youth and teen programs, the City should strongly consider utilizing this existing City building for similar Sammamish Parks and Recreation programs. This would require at least one dedicated full-time staff person plus a substantial number of part-time program staff and other operating costs.
- If recreation services that focus on cultural arts and seniors are going to be added, in the future, the City, ideally in partnership with other organizations, may need to develop a cultural arts center and senior/active adults center. Before embarking on either one of these facilities, the City should complete a feasibility study that identifies specific needs, potential partners, determines a site and quantifies capital and operating costs. This is a lower priority, but the study may need to occur in the next five years.
- As has been noted the City will need to determine how the following existing structures in Big Rock Park will be utilized.
  - *Reard Freed House* – will most likely need to serve as office space or a museum for community historical interests. Leasing of the building at a minimal rate should be considered.
  - *Parcel A Former Residence* – it will be difficult to utilize this one story residence for many public functions without significant renovations, ADA upgrades and the development of an access road and parking. Possible uses include an outdoor education center or a small conference center. The best use may simply be for a maintenance office or to remove the building from the site.
  - *Tree House* – this unique feature needs to have a permanent use. It would be an ideal location for birthday parties, small weddings, interpretative programs or a small summer camp. However, with no power or water available in the structure and no permanent restrooms or ADA accommodations, this may be difficult and expensive to accomplish.
- The Sween House in Lower Commons Park is currently utilized by a community organization for youth counseling services, but this building could be eliminated in the future development of Town Center requiring a new location for these services.

### Athletic Fields:

- There currently is a need for additional athletic fields and the demand will only continue to grow as the population increases. This is evidenced by the growth in field use numbers as well as the requests for field time by local sports organizations. This will be further complicated by the loss of one existing school field (the baseball field at Margaret Meade Elementary) in 2018. If the number of adult sports are increased, this could place further strain on the number of athletic fields that are available. A specific demand and feasibility study for additional athletic fields should be conducted in the next two years.

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In the interim, there are a number of recommendations that can help expand the use of the existing fields. This includes:

- Continue with the multi-use concept for field use.
  - Convert as many existing fields to artificial turf as possible and light as many of these as well.
  - Move away from the concept of block scheduling and begin to schedule fields on a per use basis to maximize field utilization. It is recognized that this will require additional staff time.
  - Determine the maximum number of practices and games per team per week that will be scheduled for each sport.
  - Require that any expansion of seasons, addition of age groups, or new sports by sports organizations to be approved by the City with an assessment of available fields completed before permitting the change.
  - Emerging sports (such as cricket, lacrosse, rugby, etc.) are going to have increasing demands for fields and will need to be part of the allocation process.
  - Establish a Youth Sports Council that has youth sports field user groups meet on a quarterly basis to establish set sports seasons and field use schedules and priorities.
- Continue to partner with the two school districts on improvements to existing fields or the development of new facilities but only if there are use agreements that ensure community use on a consistent basis to justify the capital investment.
  - Plan for the development of future athletic fields using the Eastlake Community Fields as a model. In the next ten to fifteen years, two other facilities of similar size will most likely be needed in the community. Any new fields should be developed as a complex with multi-use capabilities, utilizing artificial turf and lights.

### Indoor Fieldhouse

- The viability of an indoor fieldhouse is currently being explored by the City. Determining the specific need for such a facility will be critical as well as the building requirements. Some factors to consider include:
  - An indoor fieldhouse requires a large area for the building and the required parking. Most successful fieldhouses have at least one large playing area (minimum of 180 x 75) and often two of these areas. The quality of the turf is the key.
  - A fieldhouse is very busy during the evenings and weekends from late October until early April but generally receive a much lower level of use during the weekdays and during the “off-season”.
  - A facility of this nature must have a regional draw to be successful. During the “high season” the fieldhouse can operate until midnight or later.
  - There must be a strong level of programming in the facility from youth leagues, camps and clinics to adult leagues and tournaments. This is augmented by rentals to outside groups and organizations.
  - While most fieldhouses have a certain sport focus (usually indoor soccer), it is important to serve a diversity of sports interests.

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- A fieldhouse has the ability to cover its basic costs of operations through fees generated by the facility if it is placed in a strong enough market and “off-season” activities and programs can be maximized.
- It is highly recommended that the City conduct a detailed feasibility study before undertaking a project of this magnitude. This would determine if there is an adequate market for a fieldhouse, the site requirements, probable construction costs, likely operating expenses and revenues, as well as the operating partner.





# APPENDIX F PAST COMMUNITY PLANS



## REVIEW OF PAST COMMUNITY PLANS

Past community plans and other relevant documents were reviewed for policy direction and goals as they pertain to the provision and planning for parks, trails and recreation opportunities in Sammamish. The development of each involved public input and adoption by their respective responsible legislative body.

### City of Sammamish 2012 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

The 2012 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan (PRO) outlines the goals and policies to provide for strategic growth, development and improvement of the parks and recreation system and is consistent with the city's overall comprehensive plan goals for supporting a sustainable and healthy community. The City's park system has grown rapidly from 44 acres to 490 acres since its 1999 incorporation when several King County parks were transferred to the city. Sammamish parks and facilities are classified as community park, neighborhood park, mini park, special use park, school/city partnership park, open space/natural area and trails. The park system uses a level of service standard that measures the overall park investment person (valuation based model) as the basis for its park impact fee. The valuation based model is used in conjunction with projected population growth, population density, availability of non-city parks and open spaces and maintenance and operating costs as additional considerations in the measure of service needs. The capital improvement plan (CIP) provides a six-year projection for specific projects, funding sources and project timelines to achieve the goals and objectives of the identified system-wide needs. The projects in the CIP include development, renovation, repair/maintenance and acquisition. Funding for the CIP projects is primarily derived from the real estate excise tax and park impact fees. The six-year CIP typically gets updated with each biennial year to reflect completed and sequenced projects.

### Sammamish 2015 Comprehensive Plan: Parks, Recreation & Open Space Element

The City of Sammamish Comprehensive Plan placed a strong emphasis on developing goals and policies that support sustainability and healthy community principles. The Parks, Recreation and Open Space Element of the comprehensive plan contains goals and policies that are consistent with the framework for sustainability and healthy communities recognizing that parks and recreation play an important role in promoting good public health. The parks element outlines how parks will be acquired, designed, managed and programmed and is consistent with the City Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan. The

overarching goal in the parks element of the comprehensive plan is to provide a network of parks, trails, athletic fields, and open spaces that deliver a variety of active and passive recreational opportunities to the Sammamish community. The other goals within the parks element support the attainment of this system-wide goal by identifying financing strategies for development and operations for both outdoor and indoor recreation facilities, pursuing acquisition and development of additional parkland, ensuring adequate maintenance of existing facilities, constructing new athletic fields with emphasis on all-weather multi-purpose facilities, improving existing athletic fields to increase capacity, ensuring the provision of adequate indoor recreation facilities to meet current and future recreational needs, and developing additional pavilions and shelters.

## **Sammamish 2015 Comprehensive Plan: Capital Facilities Element**

The Comprehensive Plan's Capital Facilities Element is charged with ensuring that expectations for quality of service (measured as "adopted level of service") will be met to support the development planned in the land use element of the plan. Through this capital facility element, the comprehensive plan seeks to provide adequate capital facilities that address past deficiencies, meet the needs of growth and annexations and enhance the quality of life through acceptable levels of service. The capital facilities element established the levels of service for City-provided facilities and services. These levels of service are the minimum thresholds necessary to adequately serve future development, as well as the minimum thresholds to which the City will strive to provide for existing development. For local parks, the current level of service was measured as the valuation of the existing parkland and recreational facilities inventory that make up the City of Sammamish park system divided by the current population. Based on 2013 population, the park valuation per capita is \$1,587.

## **Sammamish Parks & Recreation Six-Year Parks Capital Improvement Program**

Adopted in June 2016 by City Council, the Parks 2017-2022 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) outlines the anticipated revenues and expenditures for park capital project over a six-year period. The CIP follows closely with the recommendations from the Park, Recreation and Open Space (PRO) Plan and is consistent with the city comprehensive plan to address the physical infrastructure needs of the city parks, trails, recreation and open space system. Over the six-year time frame, the park project expenditures are estimated at over \$26 million, including park, trail, planning, and acquisition projects and a capital replacement program. The CIP allows the City to coordinate planning efforts with other capital needs within the city, maintain park impact fees and pursue grant funding for parks projects.

## **Sammamish Trails, Bikeways and Paths Plan**

The City's Trails, Bikeways and Paths Plan, adopted in 2004, was prepared to provide the vision for the local trail network and consider opportunities for regional connections where appropriate. The Plan is considered a comprehensive and long-term plan for the development of recreational trails and non-motorized transportation facilities within the city. The plan's vision was to create an integrated system across recreation and

transportation and a range of user types.

Key aspects of the plan include the following:

- Provide safe access to schools: sidewalks and bike lanes
- Provide connectivity along arterial road corridors and utility corridors
- Provide a variety of facility types to enhance recreational opportunities
- Provide a significant increase in recreational trail opportunities within the city
- Provide better access to parks, commercial areas, transit and civic spaces
- Provide access to the future East Lake Sammamish Trail (regional trail)
- Provide safe routes and facilities to manage topographic conditions on the plateau

The planning process identified the physical, property ownership, maintenance and funding challenges to community connectivity. Basic overall trail corridors (recreational and transportation) were identified for east/west and north/south connectivity through the city. A hierarchy of pathways and trail types, ranging from multi-use trails to primitive soft-surface trails and including sidewalks, as well as bicycle facility types was created to address the needs on the Sammamish Plateau. The plan identified and prioritized implementation projects and aligned them with anticipated funding sources.

## Sammamish Town Center Plan

Adopted in 2008 by City Council, the Sammamish Town Center Plan outlined principles and community planning intentions for the area identified as the future “heart of the city”. The plan is intended to guide development patterns in a 240-acre Town Center Study Area. The preferred town center concept includes a variety of civic and community benefits (recreational, cultural and educational activities), retail and office opportunities (shopping and businesses), residential choices (4-6 story multi-family, townhouse, cottages) and environmental functions and values (low-impact development and other techniques) for Sammamish residents. The plan concept most relevant to this park system planning effort is to

“Create a comprehensive system of parks, open space, and trails. Building on the Sammamish Commons and protected stream and wetland corridors, the plan includes a system of parks, open spaces, trails, and natural areas that provide a wide variety of recreational opportunities. Pedestrian and bicycle links and environmental enhancements will serve the Town Center and the city as a whole. Trail construction is an especially critical aspect of this element to physically connect the various quadrants within the center, and enhancement of forested corridors and views will likewise connect the center visually.”

Goals and recommendations within the plan are intended to be integrated to ensure efficiency and viability. For example, parks, open space and trails recommendations are intimately connected to environmental management and restoration goals. The plan also recognized that further analysis and planning work was needed for the mixed-use subarea. This effort was accomplished through the Sammamish Town center Infrastructure Plan summarized below.

## Sammamish Town Center Infrastructure Plan 2009

The 2009 Sammamish Town Center Infrastructure Plan focused on the Core Mixed Use area in an approximate ¼ mile area. This civic zone and its streetscape is intended to develop as an urban, pedestrian oriented, family-friendly, civic center encompassing a full mix of land uses, which are connected by a network of public open spaces and pathways. The outdoor spaces are defined by buildings and their proportion to streets and openings with walkability as a key component and “green spine” concept that connects a public open space system to adjacent neighborhoods. The Town Center Plan provides guidance for the private development that will create the developments spacing the town center by identifying the design objectives and illustrating the desired development pattern through a series of conceptual diagrams depicting land use, circulation, open space and landscapes.

## City of Sammamish Sustainability Strategy, 2011

Sammamish’s vision is to become an environmentally and economically sustainable community by crafting and implementing an achievable, multi-faceted and measurable strategy that maximizes opportunity and efficiency while minimizing cost. Sammamish expects to contribute toward larger regional and global goals, such as mitigating the effects of climate change, to make the community an even better place to live, work and play.

## City of Sammamish Operating and Capital Budget

The City of Sammamish 2017-2018 Operating and Capital Budget includes improvements to Parks and Recreation to create/maintain a park system and programs. The budget includes the update for this Parks and Open Space Plan as well as improvements to the Beaver Lake Park beach, restroom installation in the Lower Commons and the acquisition of land for parks and open space. The operating budget ensures regular maintenance of parks and sports fields. Total operating expenditures for Parks, Recreation & Culture are up from \$8,121,889 in the 2015-2016 budget to \$9,960,620 for 2017-2018. The Parks capital projects for 2017-2018 are estimated at \$17,686,500 compared to \$29,943,482 in the 2015-2016 budget year. The average annual per capita cost for Parks, Recreation and Culture is \$81.31 per resident. The services provided by Parks, Recreation and Culture include planning for, constructing, and maintaining active and passive parks, field and facility rentals, organizing cultural activities such as 4th on the Plateau, Holiday Lighting, Teen Fest, and a summer concert series, and an Arts program that includes rotating art displays in City Hall. These services are partly paid for by field use and recreation program fees. Specific highlighted capital projects include:

- Beaver Lake Park: Lakeside improvements slated for Beaver Lake Park include the swim beach and shoreline, expansion of the parking lot, new playground equipment, landscaping and irrigation. The total projected cost of the improvements is \$2,800,000.
- Field Turf Replacement: The city and the Issaquah School District will share in the expected \$1,400,000 cost of field turf and infill replacement at Skyline High School. Funding for the city’s portion will come from monies set aside for this purpose.
- East Sammamish Park: Two projects are planned for this park. One project will install a new playground and spray park. The second project will include a parking lot expansion, frontage improvements, pedestrian lighting, tennis court

access, and a trail to Margaret Mead Elementary School. The projected cost of both projects is \$1,850,000.

- Klahanie Park Field Repairs: \$300,000 of athletic field drainage and turf repairs are scheduled for Klahanie Park.

Completed improvements highlighted from the 2015-2016 biennium include:

- Community and Aquatics Center: Completed construction of the Community and Aquatics Center. Citizen surveys for several years rated a Community and Aquatics Center as a high priority. This facility has been a very busy place since its opening in April 2016.
- Big Rock Park: Big Rock Park is being donated to the city in phases by a very generous resident. Construction of phase I (15 acres) including trail work, an interpretive center, and parking was completed in 2016. An additional 20 acres was donated to the city effective January 1, 2017.
- Sammamish Commons Park: ADA trail improvements added switchbacks to a steep trail leading to the Lower Commons from City Hall to allow wheelchair access.

## 2016 King County Open Space Plan: Parks, Trails, and Natural Areas

The King County Open Space Plan is organized around the major watersheds that shape King County's open space system. Sammamish is within the Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed that covers 692 square miles and contains two major river systems (Cedar and Sammamish), three large lakes (Washington, Sammamish, and Union), and numerous creeks including Issaquah and Bear Creeks. It is the most densely populated watershed in Washington, with approximately 55 percent of the watershed's population inside the Urban Growth Area. The watershed's projected population for 2022 is 1.6 million.

The Open Space Plan articulated four primary goals: 1) Take care of what we have; 2) Grow/connect regional open space and natural lands; 3) Improve regional trails system and regional mobility; and 4) make parks more accessible. To achieve those goals the Plan's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) outlines objectives for planning, acquisition, design and development, and asset management. The CIP project list contains the proposed six-year timing and cost estimates for regional open space acquisition, major maintenance and infrastructure repair and community grants and partnerships. King County's long-term capital program for expansion and enhancement of its regional trails system is detailed further in the King County Regional Trails Needs Report.

## VISION 2040

Adopted in April 2008, by the Puget Sound Regional Council as dictated by Washington's Growth Management Act, the VISION 2040 contains policy guidance, concrete actions and objectives to assist the Puget Sound region's cities, towns businesses and organizations towards growth management that shares a future vision for environmental conservation and land use planning. Relative to environmental stewardship, VISION 2040 emphasized the need for planning approaches at all levels that consider the complexities of the region's ecosystems. VISION 2040 called for a regional green space strategy and for an action plan to address climate change. The plan urged cities and counties to coordinate their efforts to protect critical areas, maintain healthy habitat and ensure good water quality.



## Puget Sound Regional Council Open Space Plan

The Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) is a governmental entity composed of representatives from Pierce, Kitsap, King and Snohomish Counties, its cities, and other governments that develops policies and plans and makes decisions on regional issues. Under the U.S. Department of Transportation, PSRC is also the Metropolitan Planning Organization responsible for regional transportation planning and implementation. The Regional Open Space Conservation Plan being led by PSRC will help implement regional policies and actions in VISION 2040. Vision 2040 (PSRC's regional growth strategy) called for identifying, preserving and enhancing significant regional open space networks and linkages across jurisdictional boundaries. PSRC is building on the ROSS efforts by developing a regional open space conservation plan which will knit together open space and related plans from counties, tribes, resource agencies, salmon recovery groups, and other organizations. The plan will prioritize and elevate these open space needs to attract funding and support. The draft plan is scheduled for release in spring 2018 with a final version to be completed by fall 2018.

## Active Transportation Plan

An active transportation plan was developed by the Puget Sound Regional Council to build on the policies from the VISION 2040 and Transportation 2040. The active transportation plan is purposed to help implement active transportation and provides guidance for local jurisdictions for developing their bicycle and pedestrian elements. The active transportation plan shows the region's commitment for the development of a more efficient and accessible public transportation system serving compact, walkable and livable communities. The Active Transportation Plan is also an update to the 2003 Bicycle and Pedestrian Implementation Strategy. The Plan seeks to increase use of active transportation, increase safety and comfort of users, connect the network of active transportation routes across jurisdictional and levels of accessibility and provide guidance for measuring/monitoring active transportation systems and promoting investment in active transportation projects.

## Regional Open Space Strategy (ROSS)

Over a five-year period, the University of Washington's Green Futures Lab led a collaborative research and planning initiative for the central Puget Sound region conducted with a broad network of open space experts. Entitled the Regional Open Space Strategy (ROSS), the planning effort revealed that existing actions were fragmented, funding was inadequate, and open space protections were disconnected and not scaled to regional conservation. The analyses suggested that the coordination and integration of open space conservation in the Central Puget Sound region needed a more collective approach to be successful in the face of current and future regional growth.

In an effort to create and ensure a robust connected multifunctional regional open space system, the ROSS approach is being encouraged as a collaborative effort to integrate and elevate the many activities underway to conserve and enhance the ecological, economic, recreational, and aesthetic vitality of the Central Puget Sound Region. Regional Open Space Strategies (ROSS) encompass four counties, eight watersheds and an approach to encouraging experts to work across jurisdictional boundaries and technical "silos".

## Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust Strategic Plan 2016-2020

The Mountains to Sound (MTS) Greenway is the 1.5 million –acre landscape that extends from Seattle across the Cascade Mountains to Ellensburg. The MTS Greenway Trust is working to conserve a healthy and sustainable relationship between land and people to preserve the heritage of working forests, local agricultural, places for outdoor recreation, nature and wildlife while embracing strong economies in vibrant urban communities.

The Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust Strategic Plan describes the overarching goals of the Greenway Trust and the strategies that will be employed to achieve those goals over the next 3-5 years. Those six strategies listed below are targeted towards priority initiatives in five Greenway locations including urban and edge communities, the Snoqualmie River Valley, Middle Fork Snoqualmie, and Upper Yakima Basin as well as the pursuit of a national heritage area designation for a region of the Greenway.

MTS Greenway Trust 2016-2020 Plan Strategies:

- Promote a relevant, holistic vision that raises public awareness and motivates other to act
- Lead inclusive coalitions for collective action
- Implement key habitat restoration, trail, and recreation access projects
- Engage people of all ages and all backgrounds in outdoor education and volunteer stewardship
- Creatively assemble, secure, and leverage resources that support action
- Engage with agencies and property owners in planning for the future.



# APPENDIX G IMPLEMENTATION TOOLS





## LOCAL FUNDING OPTIONS

The City of Sammamish possesses a range of local funding tools that could be accessed for the benefit of growing, developing and maintaining its parks and recreation program. The sources listed below represent likely potential sources, but some also may be dedicated for numerous other local purposes which limit applicability and usage. Therefore, discussions with City leadership are critical to assess the political landscape to modify or expand the use of existing City revenue sources in favor of park and recreation programs.

### Councilmanic Bonds

Councilmanic bonds may be sold by cities without public vote. The bonds, both principal and interest, are retired with payments from existing city revenue or new general tax revenue, such as additional sales tax or real estate excise tax. The state constitution has set a maximum debt limit for councilmanic bonds of 1½% of the value of taxable property in the city.

### General Obligation Bond

<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=84.52.056>

For the purposes of funding capital projects, such as land acquisitions or facility construction, cities and counties have the authority to borrow money by selling bonds. Voter-approved general obligation bonds may be sold only after receiving a 60 percent majority vote at a general or special election. If approved, an excess property tax is levied each year for the life of the bond to pay both principal and interest. The state constitution (Article VIII, Section 6) limits total debt to 5% of the total assessed value of property in the jurisdiction.

### Excess Levy – One Year Only

<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=84.52.052>

Cities and counties that are levying their statutory maximum rate can ask the voters, at any special election date, to raise their rate for one year (RCW 84.52.052). As this action increases revenue for one-year at a time it is wise to request this type of funding for one-time uses only.

### Regular Property Tax - Lid Lift

<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=84.55.050>

Cities are authorized to impose ad valorem taxes upon real and personal property. A city's maximum levy rate for general purposes is \$3.375 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. Limitations on annual increases in tax collections, coupled with changes in property value, causes levy rates to rise or fall; however, in no case

may they rise above statutory limits. Once the rate is established each year, it may not be raised without the approval of a majority of the voters. Receiving voter approval is known as a lid lift. A lid lift may be permanent, or may be for a specific purpose and time period.

A levy lid lift is an instrument for increasing property tax levies for operating and/or capital purposes. Taxing districts with a tax rate that is less than their statutory maximum rate may ask the voters to “lift” the levy lid by increasing the tax rate to some amount equal to or less than their statutory maximum rate. A simple majority vote of citizenry is required.

Cities and counties have two “lift” options available to them: Single-year/basic or Multi-year.

**Single-year:** The single-year lift does not mean that the lift goes away after one year; it can be for any amount of time, including permanently, unless the proceeds will be used for debt service on bonds, in which case the maximum time period is nine years. Districts may permanently increase the levy but must use language in the ballot title expressly stating that future levies will increase as allowed by chapter 84.55 RCW. After the initial “lift” in the first year, the district’s levy in future years is subject to the 101 percent lid in chapter 84.55 RCW. This is the maximum amount it can increase without returning to the voters for another lid lift.

The election to implement a single-year lift may take place on any election date listed in RCW 29A.04.321.

**Multi-year:** The multi-year lift allows the levy lid to be “bumped up” each year for up to a maximum of six years. At the end of the specified period, the levy in the final period may be designated as the basis for the calculation of all future levy increases (in other words, be made permanent) if expressly stated in the ballot title. The levy in future years would then be subject to the 101 percent lid in chapter 84.55 RCW.

In a multi-year lift, the lift for the first year must state the new tax rate for that year. For the ensuing years, the lift may be a dollar amount, a percentage increase tied to an index, or a percentage amount set by some other method. The amounts do not need to be the same for each year. If the amount of the increase for a particular year would require a tax rate that is above the maximum tax rate, the assessor will levy only the maximum amount allowed by law.

The election to implement a multi-year lift must be either the August primary or the November general election.

The single-year lift allows supplanting of expenditures within the lift period; the multi-year lift does not, and the purpose for the lift must be specifically identified in the election materials. For both single- and multi-year lifts, when the lift expires the base for future levies will revert to what the dollar amount would have been if no lift had ever been done.

The total regular levy rate of senior taxing districts (counties and cities) and junior taxing districts (fire districts, library districts, etc.) may not exceed \$5.90/\$1,000 AV. If this limit is exceeded, levies are reduced or eliminated in the following order until the total tax rate is at \$5.90.

1. Parks & Recreation Districts (up to \$0.60)  
Parks & Recreation Service Areas (up to \$0.60)  
Cultural Arts, Stadiums & Convention Districts (up to \$0.25)
2. Flood Control Zone Districts (up to \$0.50)
3. Hospital Districts (up to \$0.25)  
Metropolitan Parks Districts (up to \$0.25)  
All other districts not otherwise mentioned



4. Metropolitan Park Districts formed after January 1, 2002 or after (up to \$0.50)
5. Fire Districts (up to \$0.25)
6. Fire Districts (remaining \$0.50)
  - Regional Fire Protection Service Authorities (up to \$0.50)
  - Library Districts (up to \$0.50)
  - Hospital Districts (up to \$0.50)
  - Metropolitan Parks Districts formed before January 1, 2002 (up to \$0.50)

## Sales Tax

<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=82.14>

Paid by the consumer, sales tax is a percentage of the retail price paid for specific classifications of goods and services within the State of Washington.

Governing bodies of cities and counties may impose sales taxes within their boundaries at a rate set by state statute and local ordinances, subject to referendum.

Until the 1990 Legislative Session, the maximum possible total sales tax rate paid by purchasers in cities was 8.1 percent. This broke down as follows: state, 6.5 cents on the dollar; counties, 0.15 cents; cities, 0.85 cents; and transit districts, a maximum of 0.6 cents (raised to 0.9 cents in 2000). Since then multiple sales options were authorized. Those applicable to Parks and Recreation include: counties may ask voters to approve a sales tax of up to 0.3 percent, which is shared with cities. At least one-third of the revenue must be used for criminal justice purposes.

Counties and cities may also form public facilities districts, and these districts may ask the voters to approve a sales tax of up to 0.2 percent. The proceeds may be used for financing, designing, acquisition, construction, equipping, operating, maintaining, remodeling, repairing, and reequipping its public facilities.

Revenue may be used to fund any essential county and municipal service.

If a jurisdiction is going to change a sales tax rate or levy a new sales tax, it must pass an ordinance to that effect and submit it to the Department of Revenue at least 75 days before the effective date. The effective date must be the first day of a quarter: January 1, April 1, July 1 or October 1.

## Business and Occupation Tax

<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=35.102>

Business and occupation (B&O) taxes are excise taxes levied on different classes of business to raise revenue. Taxes are levied as a percentage of the gross receipts of a business, less some deductions. Businesses are put in different classes such as manufacturing, wholesaling, retailing, and services. Within each class, the rate must be the same, but it may differ among classes.

Cities can impose this tax for the first time or raise rates following referendum procedure.

B&O taxes are limited to a maximum tax rate that can be imposed by a city's legislative body at 0.2 percent (0.002), but grandfathered in any higher rates that existed on January 1, 1982. Any city may levy a rate higher than 0.2 percent, if it is approved by a majority of voters (RCW 35.21.711). Beginning January 1, 2008, cities that levy the B&O tax must allow for allocation and apportionment, as set out in RCW 35.102.130.

## Admissions Tax

<http://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=35.21.280>

Purpose:

An admissions tax is a use tax for entertainment. Both cities and counties may impose this tax through legislative action.

Cities and/or counties may levy an admission tax in an amount no greater than five percent of the admission charge, as is authorized by statute (cities: RCW 35.21.280; counties: RCW 35.57.100). This tax can be levied on admission charges (including season tickets) to places such as theaters, dance halls, circuses, clubs that have cover charges, observation towers, stadiums, and any other activity where an admission charge is made to enter the facility.

If a city imposes an admissions tax, the county may not levy a tax within city boundaries.

The statutes provide an exception for admission to elementary or secondary school activities. Generally, certain events sponsored by nonprofits are exempted from the tax; however, this is not a requirement. Counties also exempt any public facility of a public facility district for which admission is imposed. There are no statutory restrictions on the use of revenue.

## Impact Fees

<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=82.02.050>

Development impact fees are charges placed on new development in unimproved areas to help pay for various public facilities that serve new development or for other impacts associated with such development.

Both cities and counties may impose this tax through legislative action.

Counties that plan under the GMA, and cities, may impose impact fees on residential and commercial development activity to help pay for certain public facility improvements, including parks, open space, and recreation facilities identified in the county's capital facilities plan. The improvements financed from impact fees must be reasonably related to the new development and must reasonably benefit the new development. The fees must be spent or encumbered within ten years of collection.

## Real Estate Excise Tax

<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=82.46.010>

Excise tax levied on all sales of real estate, measured by the full selling price, including the amount of any liens, mortgages, and other debts given to secure the purchase. Both cities and counties may impose this tax through legislative action.

REET 2 must be approved by majority vote if the county chooses to fully plan under the Growth Management act (GMA); it may be approved by legislative action if the county is required to plan under the GMA.

The state levies this tax at the rate of 1.28 percent; a locally-imposed tax is also authorized. Counties and cities may levy a quarter percent tax (REET 1); a second quarter percent tax (REET 2) is authorized. First quarter percent REET (REET 1) must be spent on capital projects listed in the city's capital facilities plan element of their comprehensive plan. Capital projects include planning, acquisition, construction, reconstruction, repair, replacement, rehabilitation, or improvement of parks, recreational facilities, and trails.

The second quarter percent REET (REET 2) must also be spent on capital projects, which includes planning,

construction, reconstruction, repair, rehabilitation, or improvement of parts. Acquisition of land for parks is not a permitted use of REET 2. Both REET 1 and REET 2 may be used to make loan and debt service payments on projects that are a permitted use of these funds.

## Lodging Tax

<http://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?Cite=67.28.180>

The lodging tax is a user fee for hotel/motel occupation. Both cities and counties may impose this tax through legislative action.

Cities and/or counties may impose a “basic” two percent tax under RCW 67.28.180 on all charges for furnishing lodging at hotels, motels and similar establishments for a continuous period of less than one month.

This tax is taken as a credit against the 6.5 percent state sales tax, so that the total tax that a patron pays in retail sales tax and hotel-motel tax combined is equal to the retail sales tax in the jurisdiction. In addition, jurisdictions may levy an additional tax of up to two percent, or a total rate of four percent, under RCW 67.28.181(1). This is not credited against the state sales tax. Therefore, if this tax is levied, the total tax on the lodging bill will increase by two percent.

If both a city and the county are levying this tax, the county must allow a credit for any tax levied by a city so that no two taxes are levied on the same taxable event. These revenues must be used solely for paying for tourism promotion and for the acquisition and/or operating of tourism-related facilities. “Tourism” is defined as economic activity resulting from tourists, which may include sales of overnight lodging, meals, tours, gifts, or souvenirs; there is no requirement that a tourist must stay overnight.

## Real Estate Excise Tax - Local Conservation Areas (King County)

<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=82.46.070>

Boards of County Commissioners may impose, with majority voter approval, an excise tax on each sale of real property in the county at rate not to exceed 1% of the selling price for the purpose of acquiring and maintaining conservation areas. The authorizing legislation defines conservation areas as “land and water that has environmental, agricultural, aesthetic, cultural, scientific, historic, scenic, or low-intensity recreational value for existing and future generations...” These areas include “open spaces, wetlands, marshes, aquifer recharge areas, shoreline areas, natural areas, and other lands and waters that are important to preserve flora and fauna.” King County does not currently assess a Conservation REET.

## Conservation Futures Tax (King County)

<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=84.34>

The Conservation Futures Tax (CFT) is provided for in Chapter 84.34 of the Revised Code of Washington. King County imposes a Conservation Futures levy at a rate of \$0.0625 per \$1,000 assessed value for the purpose of acquiring open space lands, including green spaces, greenbelts, wildlife habitat and trail rights-of-way proposed for preservation for public use by either the county or the cities within the county. Funds are allocated annually, and cities within the county, citizen groups and citizens may apply for funds through the county’s process. The CFT program provides grants to cities to support open space priorities in local plans and requires a 100% match from other sources.

# FEDERAL & STATE GRANTS AND CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

## Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program

<http://www.nps.gov/orgs/rtca/index.htm>

The Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program, also known as the Rivers & Trails Program or RTCA, is a technical assistance resource for communities administered by the National Park Service and federal government agencies so they can conserve rivers, preserve open space and develop trails and greenways. The RTCA program implements the natural resource conservation and outdoor recreation mission of NPS in communities across America.

## Community Development Block Grants

These funds are intended to develop viable urban communities by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment, and by expanding economic opportunities, principally for low and moderate income persons. Snohomish County, in partnership with 18 cities and towns within the county through an interlocal agreement, receives CDBG funds on an entitlement basis as an Urban County Consortium. The county administers this funding on behalf of the consortium through the Snohomish County Office of Housing and Community Development (OHCD). CDBG funds can be used for a wide variety of projects, services, facilities and infrastructure.

## North American Wetlands Conservation Act Grants Program

<http://www.fws.gov/policy/524fw1.html>

The North American Wetlands Conservation Act of 1989 provides matching grants to organizations and individuals who have developed partnerships to carry out wetland conservation projects in the United States, Canada, and Mexico for the benefit of wetlands-associated migratory birds and other wildlife. Two competitive grants programs exist (Standard and a Small Grants Program) and require that grant requests be matched by partner contributions at no less than a 1-to-1 ratio. Funds from U.S. Federal sources may contribute toward a project, but are not eligible as match.

The Standard Grants Program supports projects in Canada, the United States, and Mexico that involve long-term protection, restoration, and/or enhancement of wetlands and associated uplands habitats.

The Small Grants Program operates only in the United States; it supports the same type of projects and adheres to the same selection criteria and administrative guidelines as the U.S. Standard Grants Program. However, project activities are usually smaller in scope and involve fewer project dollars. Grant requests may not exceed \$75,000, and funding priority is given to grantees or partners new to the Act's Grants Program.

## Recreation and Conservation Office Grant Programs

[www.rco.wa.gov](http://www.rco.wa.gov)

The Recreation and Conservation Office was created in 1964 as part of the Marine Recreation Land Act. The RCO grants money to state and local agencies, generally on a matching basis, to acquire, develop, and enhance wildlife habitat and outdoor recreation properties. Some money is also distributed for planning grants. RCO grant programs utilize funds from various sources. Historically, these have included the Federal

Land and Water Conservation Fund, state bonds, Initiative 215 monies (derived from unreclaimed marine fuel taxes), off-road vehicle funds, Youth Athletic Facilities Account and the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program.

### **Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA)**

This program, managed through the RCO, provides matching grants to state and local agencies to protect and enhance salmon habitat and to provide public access and recreation opportunities on aquatic lands. In 1998, DNR refocused the ALEA program to emphasize salmon habitat preservation and enhancement. However, the program is still open to traditional water access proposals. Any project must be located on navigable portions of waterways. ALEA funds are derived from the leasing of state-owned aquatic lands and from the sale of harvest rights for shellfish and other aquatic resources.

### **Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP)**

The RCO is a state office that allocates funds to local and state agencies for the acquisition and development of wildlife habitat and outdoor recreation properties. Funding sources managed by the RCO include the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program. The WWRP is divided into Habitat Conservation and Outdoor Recreation Accounts; these are further divided into several project categories. Cities, counties and other local sponsors may apply for funding in urban wildlife habitat, local parks, trails and water access categories. Funds for local agencies are awarded on a matching basis. Grant applications are evaluated once each year, and the State Legislature must authorize funding for the WWRP project lists.

### **Land and Water Conservation Fund**

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) provides grants to buy land and develop public outdoor facilities, including parks, trails and wildlife lands. Grant recipients must provide at least 50% matching funds in either cash or in-kind contributions. Grant program revenue is from a portion of Federal revenue derived from sale or lease of off-shore oil and gas resources.

### **National Recreational Trails Program**

The National Recreational Trails Program (NRTTP) provides funds to maintain trails and facilities that provide a backcountry experience for a range of activities including hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, motorcycling, and snowmobiling. Eligible projects include the maintenance and re-routing of recreational trails, development of trail-side and trail-head facilities, and operation of environmental education and trail safety programs. A local match of 20% is required. This program is funded through Federal gasoline taxes attributed to recreational non-highway uses.

### **Youth Athletic Facilities (YAF) Program**

The YAF provides grants to develop, equip, maintain, and improve youth and community athletic facilities. Cities, counties, and qualified non-profit organizations may apply for funding, and grant recipients must provide at least 50% matching funds in either cash or in-kind contributions.



## Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration Fund

Grants are awarded by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board for acquisition or restoration of lands directly correlating to salmon habitat protection or recovery. Projects must demonstrate a direct benefit to fish habitat. There is no match requirement for design-only projects; acquisition and restoration projects require a 15% match. The funding source includes the sale of state general obligation bonds, the federal Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund and the state Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration Fund.

## STP/CMAQ Regional Competition - Puget Sound Regional Council

<http://psrc.org/transportation/tip/selection/>

Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds are considered the most “flexible” funding source provided through the federal Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient, Transportation Equity Act (SAFETEA-LU). Many types of projects are eligible, including transit, carpool/vanpool, bicycle/pedestrian, safety, traffic monitoring/management, and planning projects, along with the more traditional road and bridge projects. The purpose of the Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) program is to fund transportation projects or programs that will contribute to attainment or maintenance of the national ambient air quality standards for ozone, carbon monoxide and particulate matter. The two goals of improving air quality and relieving congestion were strengthened under SAFETEA-LU by a new provision establishing priority consideration for cost-effective emission reduction and congestion mitigation activities when using CMAQ funding. The King County Growth Management Planning Council serves as the countywide board in the allocation of some federal transportation grant funds to projects within King County, through the Puget Sound Regional Council.

## King County Grant Exchange

<http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wlr/pi/grants.htm>

The Grant Exchange is a clearinghouse of grant and technical assistance programs offered by the King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks with the goals of protecting and enhancing the environment, increasing community stewardship, and providing expertise and consultation to projects. Grants and technical support are an important way in which King County increases opportunities for community stewardship of natural resources. These funds are leveraged by developing and strengthening partnerships with community organizations and local governments. On average, every dollar invested through grants is matched by three dollars in cash and in-kind contributions.

## Wild Places in City Spaces

<http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wlr/pi/grant-exchange/wildplaces.htm>

Wild Places in City Spaces provides grants up to \$10,000 to volunteer organizations, community groups and government agencies for projects reforesting urban areas and restoring habitat within the urban growth area of King County. Funds are available under the Urban Reforestation and Habitat Restoration Grants Program. Grants support projects to reforest urban areas, remove invasive non-native plant species or provide wildlife habitats.

## Natural Resource Stewardship Network

<http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wlr/pi/grant-exchange/NRSN.htm>

The Natural Resource Stewardship Network assists urban forestry and watershed stewardship projects and provides grants and technical assistance to projects that involve communities and youth in improving neighborhood green spaces and forests. Grants of up to \$20,000 are available for projects within the urban

growth area of King County that enhance, protect and manage urban forest, soil and water resources and will reimburse up to 50% of labor and materials costs. Inner-city and low income communities receive priority for support. Funds are provided by the King County Forestry Program and the King Conservation District.

## WaterWorks Grants

<http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wlr/pi/grant-exchange/waterworks.htm>

Individual grants up to \$50,000 are available for community projects that protect or improve watersheds, streams, rivers, lakes, wetlands and tidewater. Projects must have a demonstrable positive impact on the waters of King County and provide opportunities for stewardship. A minimum of 10 percent cash match is required for awards more than \$2,500.

## King County Youth Sports Facilities Grant (YSFG)

The Youth Sports Facilities Grant Program is intended to facilitate new athletic opportunities for youth in King County by providing matching grant funds to rehabilitate or develop sports fields and facilities. The maximum award is \$75,000 and projects should be located on public land or have public access for the proposed youth sports use.

## King County Cultural Heritage Grants through 4Culture

<https://www.4culture.org/grants-artist-calls/>

As the cultural funding agency for King County, 4Culture offers grants and cultural support in four program areas – arts, heritage, historic preservation and public art. Funding is provided from lodging tax and 1% for Art funds. The City of Sammamish should continue to support the Sammamish Heritage Society and other community partners in cultural grant funding efforts.

# OTHER METHODS & FUNDING SOURCES

## Metropolitan Park District

<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=35.61>

Metropolitan park districts may be formed for the purposes of management, control, improvement, maintenance and acquisition of parks, parkways and boulevards. In addition to acquiring and managing their own lands, metropolitan districts may accept and manage park and recreation lands and equipment turned over by any city within the district or by the county. Formation of a metropolitan park district may be initiated in cities of five thousand population or more by city council ordinance, or by petition, and requires majority approval by voters for creation.

## Park and Recreation District

<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=36.69>

Park and recreation districts may be formed for the purposes of providing leisure-time activities and recreation facilities (parks, playgrounds, pools, golf courses, paths, community centers, arboretums, campgrounds, boat launches, etc.) and must be initiated by petition of at least 15% percent of the registered voters within the proposed district. Upon completion of the petition process and review by county commissioners, a proposition

for district formation and election of five district commissioners is submitted to the voters of the proposed district at the next general election. Once formed, park and recreation districts retain the authority to propose a regular property tax levy, annual excess property tax levies and general obligation bonds. All three of these funding types require 60% percent voter approval and 40% percent voter turnout. With voter approval, the district may levy a regular property tax not to exceed sixty cents per thousand dollars of assessed value for up to six consecutive years.

## Park and Recreation Service Area (PRSA)

<http://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=36.68.400>

Purpose to finance, acquire, construct, improve, maintain or operate any park, senior citizen activities center, zoo, aquarium and/or recreation facilities; and to provide higher level of park service.

## Business Sponsorships/Donations

Business sponsorships for programs may be available throughout the year. In-kind contributions are often received, including food, door prizes and equipment/material.

## Interagency Agreements

State law provides for interagency cooperative efforts between units of government. Joint acquisition, development and/or use of park and open space facilities may be provided between Parks, Public Works and utility providers.

## Private Grants, Donations & Gifts

Many trusts and private foundations provide funding for park, recreation and open space projects. Grants from these sources are typically allocated through a competitive application process and vary dramatically in size based on the financial resources and funding criteria of the organization. Philanthropic giving is another source of project funding. Efforts in this area may involve cash gifts and include donations through other mechanisms such as wills or insurance policies. Community fundraising efforts can also support park, recreation or open space facilities and projects. The Community Foundation of Snohomish County also offers small grants (\$500 - \$5,000) to qualified non-profit organizations (501(c)(3)) or public agencies such as local government, schools, libraries or parks.

# ACQUISITION TOOLS & METHODS

## Direct Purchase Methods

### Market Value Purchase

Through a written purchase and sale agreement, the city purchases land at the present market value based on an independent appraisal. Timing, payment of real estate taxes and other contingencies are negotiable.

## Partial Value Purchase (or Bargain Sale)

In a bargain sale, the landowner agrees to sell for less than the property's fair market value. A landowner's decision to proceed with a bargain sale is unique and personal; landowners with a strong sense of civic pride, long community history or concerns about capital gains are possible candidates for this approach. In addition to cash proceeds upon closing, the landowner may be entitled to a charitable income tax deduction based on the difference between the land's fair market value and its sale price.

## Life Estates & Bequests

In the event a landowner wishes to remain on the property for a long period of time or until death, several variations on a sale agreement exist. In a life estate agreement, the landowner may continue to live on the land by donating a remainder interest and retaining a "reserved life estate." Specifically, the landowner donates or sells the property to the city, but reserves the right for the seller or any other named person to continue to live on and use the property. When the owner or other specified person dies or releases his/her life interest, full title and control over the property will be transferred to the city. By donating a remainder interest, the landowner may be eligible for a tax deduction when the gift is made. In a bequest, the landowner designates in a will or trust document that the property is to be transferred to the city upon death. While a life estate offers the city some degree of title control during the life of the landowner, a bequest does not. Unless the intent to bequest is disclosed to and known by the city in advance, no guarantees exist with regard to the condition of the property upon transfer or to any liabilities that may exist.

## Gift Deed

When a landowner wishes to bequeath their property to a public or private entity upon their death, they can record a gift deed with the county assessors office to insure their stated desire to transfer their property to the targeted beneficiary as part of their estate. The recording of the gift deed usually involves the tacit agreement of the receiving party.

## Option to Purchase Agreement

This is a binding contract between a landowner and the city that would only apply according to the conditions of the option and limits the seller's power to revoke an offer. Once in place and signed, the Option Agreement may be triggered at a future, specified date or upon the completion of designated conditions. Option Agreements can be made for any time duration and can include all of the language pertinent to closing a property sale.

## Right of First Refusal

In this agreement, the landowner grants the city the first chance to purchase the property once the landowner wishes to sell. The agreement does not establish the sale price for the property, and the landowner is free to refuse to sell it for the price offered by the city. This is the weakest form of agreement between an owner and a prospective buyer.

## Conservation and/or Access Easements

Through a conservation easement, a landowner voluntarily agrees to sell or donate certain rights associated with his or her property (often the right to subdivide or develop), and a private organization or public agency agrees to hold the right to enforce the landowner's promise not to exercise those rights. In essence,

the rights are forfeited and no longer exist. This is a legal agreement between the landowner and the city that permanently limits uses of the land in order to conserve a portion of the property for public use or protection. The landowner still owns the property, but the use of the land is restricted. Conservation easements may result in an income tax deduction and reduced property taxes and estate taxes. Typically, this approach is used to provide trail corridors where only a small portion of the land is needed or for the strategic protection of natural resources and habitat. Through a written purchase and sale agreement, the city purchases land at the present market value based on an independent appraisal. Timing, payment of real estate taxes and other contingencies are negotiable.

## Park or Open Space Dedication Requirements

Local governments have the option to require developers to dedicate land for parks under the State Subdivision Law (Ch. 58.17 RCW) and the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) (Ch. 43.21C RCW). Under the subdivision law developers can be required to provide the parks/recreation improvements or pay a fee in lieu of the dedicated land and its improvements. Under the SEPA requirements, land dedication may occur as part of mitigation for a proposed development's impact.

## Landowner Incentive Measures

### Density Bonuses

Density bonuses are a planning tool used to encourage a variety of public land use objectives, usually in urban areas. They offer the incentive of being able to develop at densities beyond current regulations in one area, in return for concessions in another. Density bonuses are applied to a single parcel or development. An example is allowing developers of multi-family units to build at higher densities if they provide a certain number of low-income units or public open space. For density bonuses to work, market forces must support densities at a higher level than current regulations.

### Transfer of Development Rights

The transfer of development rights (TDR) is an incentive-based planning tool that allows land owners to trade the right to develop property to its fullest extent in one area for the right to develop beyond existing regulations in another area. Local governments may establish the specific areas in which development may be limited or restricted and the areas in which development beyond regulation may be allowed. Usually, but not always, the “sending” and “receiving” property are under common ownership. Some programs allow for different ownership, which, in effect, establishes a market for development rights to be bought and sold.

### IRC 1031 Exchange

If the landowner owns business or investment property, an IRC Section 1031 Exchange can facilitate the exchange of like-kind property solely for business or investment purposes. No capital gain or loss is recognized under Internal Revenue Code Section 1031 (see [www.irc.gov](http://www.irc.gov) for more details). This option may be a useful tool in negotiations with an owner of investment property, especially if the tax savings offset to the owner can translate to a sale price discount for the City.

### Current (Open Space) Use Taxation Programs

Property owners whose current lands are in open space, agricultural, and/or timber uses may have that land valued at their current use rather than their “highest and best” use assessment. This differential assessed



value, allowed under the Washington Open Space Taxation Act (Ch.84.34 RCW) helps to preserve private properties as open space, farm or timber lands. If land is converted to other non-open space uses, the land owner is required to pay the difference between the current use annual taxes and highest/best taxes for the previous seven years. When properties are sold to a local government or conservation organization for land conservation/preservation purposes, the required payment of seven years worth of differential tax rates is waived. The amount of this tax liability can be part of the negotiated land acquisition from private to public or quasi-public conservation purposes. Snohomish County has four current use taxation programs that offer this property tax reduction as an incentive to landowners to voluntarily preserve open space, farmland or timber land on their property. More information is available at:

[http://dor.wa.gov/Docs/Pubs/Prop\\_Tax/OpenSpace.pdf](http://dor.wa.gov/Docs/Pubs/Prop_Tax/OpenSpace.pdf)

## Other Land Protection Options

### Land Trusts & Conservancies

Land trusts are private non-profit organizations that acquire and protect special open spaces and are traditionally not associated with any government agency. Forterra (formerly called the Cascade Land Conservancy) is the regional land trust serving the Sammamish area, and their efforts have led to the conservation of more than 234,000 acres of forests, farms, shorelines, parks and natural areas in the region ([www.forterra.org](http://www.forterra.org)). Other national organizations with local representation include the Nature Conservancy, Trust for Public Land and the Wetlands Conservancy.

### Regulatory Measures

A variety of regulatory measures are available to local agencies and jurisdictions. Available programs and regulations include: Critical Areas Ordinance, Sammamish; State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA); Shorelines Management Program; and Hydraulic Code, Washington State Department of Fisheries and Department of Wildlife.

### Public/Private Utility Corridors

Utility corridors can be managed to maximize protection or enhancement of open space lands. Utilities maintain corridors for provision of services such as electricity, gas, oil, and rail travel. Some utility companies have cooperated with local governments for development of public programs such as parks and trails within utility corridors.



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