



INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUM

TO: **Planning Commission**

FROM: **Nancy Eklund, AICP, Long Range Planning Manager**

DATE: **August 14, 2023**

SUBJECT: **Tukwila 2024-2044 Comprehensive Plan – Draft Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Element**

BACKGROUND

The Tukwila Comprehensive Plan (“Comp Plan”) includes a Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Element. Although a parks and recreation element is listed in RCW 36.70A.070 as a “mandatory element,” it is not required because the state did not provide funding to assist in developing local elements when this provision was added to the GMA, although park and recreation facilities are considered important to plan for and fund (RCW 36.70A.070(8)).

Tukwila’s Parks Department has historically funded development of a Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan (PROS). The PROS Plan identifies how conditions have changed; identifies new needs and priorities for parks, recreation, and open space; and aligns recommendations with available resources for building, maintaining, and managing the system. The PROS plan was last updated in 2020. The Parks Element goals and policies correspond directly to those developed for the PROS plan.

The Park Commission recently reviewed the proposed changes to the Element and has forwarded this draft on to the Planning Commission for their review. Changes proposed are noted in “track changes” and justifications for those changes are shown in footnotes. The Element includes the following proposed changes:

- The inventory of parks facilities has been modified to be more clearly presented. The Department will be reviewing this section over the next few months and may make additional updates to present clearly which facilities are the responsibility of the City, which are jointly managed with community partners, and which are owned and maintained by external agencies/entities.
- Text that is no longer current in the Element (e.g., population information, etc.) has been updated.
- The Issues section reflecting public input received during the 2020 PROS Plan’s development has been updated in the element to reflect the themes that guided the update to the PROS goals and policies.
- The goals and policies in the Parks Element have been updated to be consistent with the 2020 PROS Plan goals and policies. In one or two instances, language may have been added to ensure the required regional policies have been included in the City’s 2024 Comprehensive Plan update.

Over the next few months, the Parks Department will review the Implementation Strategies to update them. In 2029, the City will be required to report how well it is doing in implementing **5**

its Comprehensive Plans goals and policies. To facilitate this reporting, the strategies in this Plan are being augmented with information on who will be implementing the strategies and on what timeline the strategies are expected to be completed. The Park Commission will review the strategies developed before forwarding the final Parks Element to the Planning Commission for their review.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Planning Commission consider the draft element and approve it as forwarded by the Park Commission at this time.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. PROS Element (Edits)
- B. PROS Element (Clean)

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE

- ★ Provide references (source, date, page) for all data added

Existing Comprehensive Plan (with proposed changes)

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE¹

WHAT YOU WILL FIND IN THIS CHAPTER:

- A description of the existing facilities, operations of the system, and intergovernmental coordination;
- A summary of issues; and
- The goals, policies and implementation strategies to guide development of the desired future parks, recreation and open space system.

PURPOSE

Tukwila's parks, recreation and open space system provides opportunities for all residents and workers, all ages, and all cultures and language groups to enjoy nature, gather together and exercise. This system supports healthy lifestyles, community interaction and identity, while supporting economic vitality. This system also provides for interaction with nature, protection and conservation of the environment, and a walking and biking network for physical activity and transportation.

The Parks, Recreation and Open Space Element guides decision-making that is consistent with Washington's Growth Management Act, community priorities, and related planning efforts and policies, which in turn are the basis for determining the future of Tukwila's parks, recreation, and open space system. State requirements and local aspirations are fulfilled by the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Background Report and the Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Comprehensive Plan, which is incorporated by reference in Tukwila's Comprehensive Plan.

EXISTING SYSTEM AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION

Park Lands²

~~There are 32 park properties in the City's inventory, totaling 273 acres. The Existing System Map shows the location of all parks and recreation resources in the system, comprising developed and undeveloped park lands. Trails, schools and recreation sites owned by other providers are also part of this system and add to the number of resources available in the City. There are also nearly 29 acres of open space lands. (Figure 1)~~

¹ Changes to text found in original Comprehensive Plan have been edited to reflect the 2020 PROS plan and the policies found there. Where information was out of date or inaccurate, it has been updated. Proposed revisions are shown in "track changes" format. Formatting for the document will be finalized at a later date, including formatting of the maps, tables, and figures within the entire document.

² Changed format to present information as a table rather than text.

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~~Tukwila has three different types of park land.~~ In total, there are 33 park properties in the City's inventory, totaling 260.7 acres of parks and open space, classified as either a Local Park, Special Use Park or Open Space, as shown in **Table X**.

- Local parks are mostly located in residential areas and range in size from 0.1 acres (Riverton Mini Park) to 10+ acres and provide places to play, gather, and/or experience nature.
- Special use parks have a single purpose such as the golf course at Foster Golf Links, or feature a unique facility or feature that is intended for the entire community, such as Codiga Park or Duwamish Hill Preserve. As noted below, some sites are owned or operated by other providers.
- Open space (and undeveloped parcels) Parks are intended for natural green space preservation, habitat restoration or protection, or similar purpose.

Table X – Public Park Facilities in Tukwila³

Park Type	Number of Parks	Acres
Local Parks	10	47.7
Special Use Parks	11	182.4
Open Space	12	30.6
	33	260.7

Source: City of Tukwila Parks, Recreation, and OpenSpace Plan, March 2023

Of the park and recreation facilities available within the City, several are provided through agreements and easements with other entitles, such as the Tukwila School District, Highline School District, King County, and special districts such as the Tukwila Municipal School District.

Another recreational resource within Tukwila is its trail corridors. Trail Corridors^{4 5} are linear parks that facilitate pedestrian and bicycle movement via trails in an attractive open space setting. Trails range in length and width and may be located in utility corridors, along street rights of way, in riparian/natural corridors, or in conjunction with other easements.

³ Provided information on the quantity and types of city parks, identifying ownership and maintenance responsibility.

⁴ Called out trails to address in a specific paragraph.

⁵ For Trails: See Pages C7 & C8 of PROS Plan Supplement. Walk and Roll Plan is noted as default resource.

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The existing System Map⁶ (Figure 1) shows the location of all parks and recreation resources in the system, comprising developed and undeveloped park lands. Trails, schools, and recreation sites owned by other providers are also part of this system and add to the number of resources available in the City. ~~There are also nearly 29 acres of open space lands.~~⁷

(Figure 1)

Open Space Network

Although not officially mapped, there is an informal and varied network of undeveloped land, made up of the river channel and its banks, creek corridors, landscaped yards and public street trees, and steep valley hills, such as the State highway rights-of-way. This undeveloped open space creates a green network that softens the impact of the urban environment in which we live and work. Much of this informal open space network exists and will be maintained due to community standards and environmental regulations.

Programs and Services

The City of Tukwila offers a wide range of recreational programs and public services. The Tukwila Community Center serves a vital role by providing the majority of public recreation programming and support services in the city. Along with the City-sponsored programs, the number of park- and recreation-related opportunities available to Tukwila residents is expanded through neighboring communities, public schools, private providers and non-profits. Starfire Sports, SeaTac Community Center, Tukwila Pool, and the Matt Griffin YMCA provide additional programs in and around Tukwila.

Intergovernmental Coordination

Tukwila relies on partnerships with several organizations and local governments to provide services to area residents and to ensure coordination with land use policies. At the crossroads of the regional trail system, Tukwila coordinates with the neighboring cities of Renton and SeaTac, and other governments including King County, to plan, develop and manage the regional trail system. Managing the city's Green/Duwamish River frontage also requires coordination with local, King County and Statewide environmental policies and regulations.

The City partners with area schools to increase access to sport fields and playgrounds in areas that lack parks. The Highline and Tukwila School Districts partner with the City by leasing

⁶ Map will be updated.

⁷ Open Space was described earlier; and trails were moved to a separate paragraph.

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former school sites for park uses. In general, public schools also present an opportunity for access to recreation activities since they are well distributed in the City, especially in areas without access to park land.

In 2011, Tukwila residents voted to create the Tukwila Metropolitan Park District to fund and operate the Tukwila Pool. This independent entity provides aquatics programming at the pool facility located on Tukwila School District property. The City also works with King County to expand park and recreation opportunities.

ISSUES⁸

Several community priorities and key needs ~~key issues~~ emerged as a result of outreach and engagement activities associated with the 2020 PROS Plan. These ~~, and include:~~ are considered in the development of the parks, recreation and open space system over the planning period.

Connection and Access

~~The city's sloping terrain, the Green/Duwamish River, and presence of busy streets and major highways all lead to physical barriers for pedestrians and cyclists. Although there is untapped recreational potential in the Green/Duwamish River, there are limited connections to the waterfront and a need to expand river access opportunities.~~

~~These issues may be addressed either by creating additional and non-traditional opportunities in underserved neighborhoods and/or finding ways to increase transportation alternatives to serve existing recreational sites.~~

Disconnected and Limited Open Space Network

~~Open spaces are undeveloped areas that offer natural system benefits and/or provide for public use such as trail activities and water access. These sites include riverfront lands, wooded areas and/or steeply sloped hillsides. The environmental benefits of open spaces are also discussed in the Natural Environment element.~~

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~~Green spaces and waterways are important to the City's environmental and community health, and residents value the protection of these resources. If and when acquisition of property is not appropriate, maintaining open space through regulation is an option. Encouraging and supporting voluntary community stewardship efforts to further restore and preserve these areas builds community and support for that network.~~

⁸ The list of issues provided in the existing Comprehensive Plan Parks element was from the previous PROS plan and has been deleted. The new text below is from the 2020 Parks Plan.

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE

Chapter 6

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Existing Comprehensive Plan (with proposed changes)

Community Gathering Spaces

~~Many residents come from cultures that especially value community gathering places. Having open and welcoming places for small and large groups to come together fosters a sense of community.~~

~~Activities could range from socializing and celebrating to farmers markets and even gathering places in the event of emergencies.~~

~~There are currently limited areas that can accommodate large public gatherings within the park system. A large site acquisition could address this need, as well modifying existing parks to accommodate larger group activities. All the spaces will need to be well located, safe and accessible for a wide range of ages and abilities, and contribute to the City's identity. A community wide process could help identify the location of a large public gathering place.~~

Reinvigorated Quality of Existing Parks and Facilities

The community has expressed a desire to elevate the quality of existing parks and facilities to make them more inviting, comfortable, and stimulating. Reinvesting and maximizing use of existing resources resonated strongly with residents.

- Enhance basic comfort and safety.
- Stimulate park activities and formats- upgrade or expand features within existing parks (e.g., community gardens, playgrounds, and areas for dogs).
- Address barriers — increase maintenance and repair/restoration practices, incorporate sustainable practices and artistic elements into parks.

Safe, Family-Friendly Places

Concern for safety often keeps community members from enjoying parks and trails. When asked to identify barriers within the park system, respondents most frequently cited feeling unsafe in certain areas. Respondents also frequently cited needed maintenance and upgrades to equipment and facilities as key issues. Overall, community members are seeking changes to support safe, family-friendly parks throughout Tukwila.

Affordable, Stimulating Experiences For All Ages

Community feedback also noted many opportunities for parks to offer greater stimulation across all age groups- providing for more things to do and the introduction of new features, facilities, or activities. Suggestions pointed to a need for a rich variety of elements to support multiple types of activities, especially those catering to young children, older youth, teens, adults, and seniors. The Older Adults Recreational Services Needs Assessment (2019) also highlighted a need to address social isolation among older adults, which can lead to significant health issues. Community members are looking for better activation of spaces and

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more stimulating experiences. They also noted affordability as an important quality to maintain.

Close Interaction With Nature

Getting out in nature is the top reason respondents indicated for spending time in Tukwila parks. Whether getting out to observe, relax, or exercise, community members enjoy close interaction with nature. Further, participants identified providing natural, low impact places that support wildlife habitat as the top idea for improving parks and recreation in the city. Community members value Tukwila's abundant natural elements: forests, Tukwila Pond, the Green/Duwamish River, native plants, and animals (particularly salmon). Another high priority was expanding programs and activities related to nature and outdoor recreation activities, such as wildlife watching, guided hikes, and Wildlife Fairs.

Fun Fitness Opportunities

Exercising, playing, and dog walking are among the most popular activities that draw residents to Tukwila's parks. Community members also value open grass areas for play and pick-up sports. Overall, features and programs that support fitness are an important part of Tukwila's system. Beyond competitive sport facilities, participants are looking for fun play and fitness activities that bring exercise regimes to parks, expand or close gaps in the trail network (specifically east-west connectors and loops), and respond to current trends. Providing a variety of enjoyable ways to stay fit and healthy is particularly crucial in Tukwila, where recent studies show fewer people exercise as compared to the King County average.

Expanded Parks/Preserved Open Space

Community members conveyed a sense of urgency around preserving sufficient open space for future generations to enjoy. Residents appreciate convenient access to parks and green space for fresh air, exercising, socializing, dog walking, and screen breaks. Particularly with Tukwila's share of denser housing types (over 60% of housing includes four or more units), anticipated residential development, and limited land available for new parks, it is crucial to acquire park land to keep pace with growth. Strategically acquiring land to grow the system may broaden park access to ensure that every resident is no more than a 10-minute walk from a high-quality place to play, exercise, enjoy nature, or link to a trail.

Cultural Heritage Inspiration

A strong connection to cultural roots stood out as a distinguishing aspect of Tukwila's system. The rich cultural heritage of Tukwila can be traced back to the indigenous people of the area. Participants emphasized the importance of respecting tribal traditions and values. One of the

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top ideas for improving the system is to create unique places that reflect Tukwila’s character, history, or culture. Expanding cultural arts programming, cultural celebrations, and educational events are community members’ highest program-related priorities. Indigenous peoples' links to nature, stories, arts, and other practices provide inspiration that can be conveyed through physical designs, as well as through programming. Participants expressed a desire to hold cultural events as a way to bring people of different cultures together. The City can explore ways to support these community led gatherings within parks and community facilities.

Vibrant Urban Water Centerpiece

Community members see the Green/Duwamish River and Tukwila Pond Park as major assets that could be further accentuated as a focus of the system. The waters and banks of the 12.5-mile segment of the river sustain fish and wildlife and provide a serene backdrop to nearby parks and trails. Tukwila can continue to lead in restoring this urban ecosystem and maintaining the health of the river. Numerous responses captured a desire to invest in parks and habitat restoration of green spaces along the river and within Tukwila Pond Park. Additional ideas involved expanding river-related recreational activities, such as canoeing or kayaking, and activating portions of the Green River Trail with vendors, cafes, and river-facing patios.

Lively Park-Adjacent Commerce

Participants described nearby food, cafes, and other businesses as an important means of better activating parks. They pinpointed the synergy created between parks and commerce and expressed a desire to see more local businesses and development around parks to stimulate park use. Providing places to gather and eat was also rated among the top ideas for making parks and recreation better in Tukwila. In addition to providing traditional picnic and gathering areas in parks, nearby commerce could help meet needs of busy residents, workers, and families with convenient access to refreshments and park-facing seating areas.

Convenient, Accessible System

Participants identified unsafe, or lack of, pedestrian and bicycle connections as predominant reasons preventing park use. A long-term goal is for every Tukwila resident to be within a safe 10-minute walk from a quality park or green space. Improving walking paths, bike routes, and trails and closing gaps in the system will facilitate safe and comfortable access. Lack of convenient public transportation was also indicated as a top barrier. Another critical need involves improved promotion and wayfinding around parks. Not knowing where Tukwila parks are located was the top reason respondents identified that keeps them from using parks. Overall, residents seek to maximize use of park and facility resources by making access more comfortable and convenient.

- ★ Provide references (source, date, page) for all data added

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~~Population Growth and Changing Demographics~~

PREPARING FOR FUTURE GROWTH¹⁰

Tukwila’s population has grown slowly in the past with an average annual growth rate of 2.09% between years 2015 and 2023. This was far lower than the county-wide average but only about one-third the rate of growth in the nearby jurisdictions of Renton, Kent and Burien.

In terms of housing unit growth, over the past six years there has been a modest increase in multi-family construction, with nearly 1,350 units constructed and more underway. This development has occurred in the northeast part of the Southcenter District and along the Tukwila International Boulevard Corridor. Per King County’s adopted Growth Targets, Tukwila must plan for and accommodate 6,500 net new housing units between 2019 and 2044, or roughly another 5,200 between 2023 and 2044 at a pace of about 250 new units per year. New growth may occur in the Tukwila South District which is zoned for intensive mixed use development, within the Southcenter District, existing higher density mixed use zones, and within existing residential areas due to new state legislation that allows additional units on single family lots. New residents and visitors will require additional services and recreation opportunities. ~~The City expects significant growth over the planning period, although exactly when the growth will occur is unknown. Change is likely to happen slowly during the planning period and then increase in the urban and local growth centers when the tipping point occurs in the transformation of the suburban to urban setting. Major new development is planned for the Southcenter and Tukwila South areas.~~ New residents and visitors will require additional services and recreation opportunities.

~~CELEBRATING DIVERSE CULTURES¹¹~~

~~The City’s changing population base and its great cultural diversity mean that Tukwila must be able to anticipate and respond to the changing needs of its residents, in order to provide recreation services that fully serve many different backgrounds and demographics.~~

Access, Awareness and Affordability

~~AFFORDABLE AND CONVENIENT OPPORTUNITIES~~

~~Tukwila residents desire recreational opportunities that are close to home. Residents—in particular area youth—seek affordable places to play at convenient times and locations.~~

⁹ Deleted *Population Growth and Changing Demographics* header.

¹⁰ This section was updated to reflect current demographic data.

¹¹ The information deleted is from the previous Parks Plan; it was rewritten as shown on pages 5 and 6 of this draft.

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Chapter 6

- ★ Provide references (source, date, page) for all data added

Existing Comprehensive Plan (with proposed changes)

EXPANDING AWARENESS

~~Many residents are unaware of existing opportunities and benefits, and there is a need to strengthen participation and involvement from the public to improve the park system. The City's traditional means of advertising its services will need to expand beyond the recreational brochure, City website and community signage, to reach and engage Tukwila's busy, diverse, multi-cultural and multi-lingual population.~~

MAXIMIZING CAPACITY

~~Many of the City's developed parks have limited capacity for additional features due to their small size. The open spaces are environmentally constrained and there is little land available for expanded or additional parks. Demand will continue to grow, so the City will need creative ways of expanding recreation resources that do not require large land acquisitions.~~

PARTNERSHIPS

~~Partnering with neighboring jurisdictions, private and public providers, and other groups in Tukwila can be a means of increasing access to recreational opportunities and recreational capacity.~~
~~Healthier People and Places~~

~~The residents of Tukwila, along with other South King County jurisdictions, have a lower expected life span and higher incidence of chronic disease than other areas of the County. Exercise, play and access to healthy foods and outdoor spaces are all needed to support happy and healthy lifestyles.~~

~~*Sustainable Maintenance*~~

~~The City's park system has a number of small facilities that are less economical to maintain and that provide less than optimal recreational function. Future improvements and acquisition decisions should be tied to maintenance needs in order to sustain the system.~~

Figure 2 

GOALS, POLICIES, AND STRATEGIES

Goals and policies guide the desired future of the parks, recreation, and open space system over the planning period. Policies reflect public needs, past and current planning efforts and priorities, as well as strategic planning, design and management principles. The Tukwila Parks, Recreation and Open Space System Concept Map is the graphic representation of these goals and policies. (Figure 2)

¹² Figure 2 (a PROS System Concept map) will be reformatted and updated.

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Existing Comprehensive Plan (with proposed changes)

Goal 6.1: Safe, Convenient and Connected System Parks, recreation opportunities and open spaces are close to home and work and are interconnected by safe streets, off-street trails, and public transportation.

POLICIES

6.1.1 Create a system of close-to-home recreation opportunities, aiming for a ¼-mile to ½-mile travel distance between most residential uses and parks and recreation areas. Prioritize historically underserved communities for open space improvements and investments.¹³

6.1.2 Create a system of close-to-work recreation opportunities, aiming for a ¼-mile to ½-mile travel distance between most employment places and parks and recreation areas.

6.1.3 Link parks to neighborhood gathering spots and other destinations in the community and region such as schools, neighboring jurisdictions, regional parks and natural areas, and major employment centers.

6.1.4 Improve the pedestrian and bicycle environment by creating safe and efficient connections across busy streets, railways and the Green/Duwamish River.

6.1.5 Increase physical and scenic connectivity with the Green/Duwamish River.

6.1.6 Integrate linkages to recreation areas and open spaces when planning and designing the transportation system.

6.1.7 Align parks and recreation programs and services with public transit service and advertise how to attend by transit.¹⁴

~~Include the availability of public transportation with the design and provision of parks and recreation programs and services.~~

6.1.8 Continue to provide a safely-designed and maintained trail system.¹⁵ ~~Strive for a safely designed and maintained trail system.~~

¹³ Added to address PSRC Policy En-15: Provide parks, trails, and open space within walking distance of urban residents: ***Prioritize historically underserved communities for open space improvements and investments.***

¹⁴ The added text is as shown in the PROs Plan (Policy had been updated from the previous Comp Plan Policy)

¹⁵ The added text is as shown in the PROs Plan (Policy had been updated from the previous Comp Plan Policy)

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE

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<p>6.1.9 Distribute public recreational facilities throughout the City so that they are easily accessible to residents, visitors, and those who come to Tukwila to work.</p> <p>6.1.10 Create a trail system that links significant community focal points, and <u>points and connects the trail network together at strategic points</u> links the lowland and upland trails at strategic points.¹⁶</p> <p>6.1.11 Connect concentrations of commercial and retail activity with the trail network.</p> <p>6.1.12 Maximize potential and capacity of existing parks and recreation resources to offset existing and future demand.</p> <p><u>6.1.13 Identify and create opportunities to develop parks, civic places (including schools) and public spaces, especially in or adjacent to centers.</u>¹⁷</p> <p>Implementation Strategies¹⁸</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replace numerical park land level-of-service standard with an overall park land service area distance. • Update the Public Recreation Overlay Comprehensive Plan designation to reflect the goals of this Element and of the Concept Map. • Pursue trail easements in areas with natural amenities, and incorporate them into a City-wide trail system.

¹⁶ The added text is as shown in the PROs Plan (Policy had been updated from the previous Comp Plan Policy)

¹⁷ New Policy - added portion of PSRC Policy D-11: **Identify and create opportunities to develop parks, civic places (including schools) and public spaces, especially in or adjacent to centers.**

¹⁸ Implementation strategies shown are from the existing Comprehensive Plan Parks Element and have not been reviewed to determine if they have been completed or if the Department should develop new implementation strategies yet. The Parks department will review these Implementation Policies and return the revised set to the Parks Board for their review. The City will be required to document how successful it has been at making progress on these strategies within 5 years of the Comp Plan’s adoption. We will need to format the implementation strategies as follows to provide the accountability needed.

Policy being supported by Implementation Strategy	Strategy	Potential Partners	Time Frame for Action
List number of policy	List Implementation strategy	Who will work on the item – e.g., Parks staff, the Parks Board, Public Works, the City Council,... etc.	Time frames, e.g.: Near Term – years 2024 to 2029 Mid Term – years 2029 to 2034 Long Term – years 2034-2039 Ongoing.
....			

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- Seek trail easements from willing private property owners where no public right-of-way is available for a link in the network,
- Consider the street sidewalk system as a link in the connecting network, when necessary.

Goal 6.2: A Network of Green Spaces- Recreational amenities, historical sites, rivers, wetlands, creeks, and other natural resources that are connected to each other and neighboring networks of lands. This network defines Tukwila as Northwest city, and includes visually significant bands of vegetation and that contrast with the built environment, and restoration and protection of wildlife habitat, especially for salmon.

POLICIES

6.2.1 Recognize that the City's open space network will be made up of public and private lands that provide, or have the potential to provide, many different ~~the following~~ functions:

- ~~• Passive recreational resources;~~
- ~~• Non-motorized transportation links between network lands;~~
- ~~• Flood control functions and stormwater detention;~~
- ~~• Water quality enhancement, such as biofiltration;~~
- ~~• Preservation of and public access to community landmarks that help make up the City's identity, including the river and historic sites;~~
- ~~• Urban forest preservation and enhancement, and vegetated corridors;~~
- ~~• Wildlife habitat and opportunities for salmon habitat enhancement; and/or~~
- ~~• Other public benefit.~~

6.2.2 ~~Use the following as guidance to select and acquire for public purchase or donation land.~~¹⁹

- ~~• Provides public access to or along the river, other waterway, or a wetland;~~
- ~~• Provides a corridor for a trail network connection;~~
- ~~• Has potential to fill gaps in the park system, including under-served neighborhoods;~~
- ~~• Protects important natural resources and/or other elements of the natural environment;~~
- ~~• Would otherwise be developed for a use that will reduce the open space function of the property;~~
- ~~• Provides a buffer between residential areas and industrial areas, highways, and railways; and/or~~
- ~~• Provides other public benefit.~~

¹⁹ Policy in removed from PROS Plan at last update. Being removed here to keep the two documents consistent.

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Existing Comprehensive Plan (with proposed changes)

6.2.32 Retain and expand the open space network through acquisition, donation, easements, partnerships and regulation.

6.2.43 Coordinate with other regional and local plans to complement and enhance the Tukwila open space network.

6.2.54 Integrate natural features, such as daylighting streams, and adding trees, shrubs, and other plants into the built environment, including residential, commercial, and industrial areas.

6.2.65 ~~Pursue efforts that~~ increase the public's awareness and stewardship of the City's open space resources and benefits, including examples such as organizing volunteer events, developing and distributing information ~~such as volunteer events and development and distribution of information.~~²⁰

6.2.6 Monitor and maintain natural areas to control invasive species and other impacts.²¹

6.2.7 Co-locate public infrastructure, environmental and recreational projects when practicable.²¹

Implementation Strategies²³

- Apply a range of measures to preserve and protect the open space network, including:
 - Sensitive areas regulations.
 - Shoreline regulations.
 - Land altering regulations. â Landscaping regulations. â Tree regulations.
 - Parks Impact Fees.
- Pursue acquisition and development of the high-priority needs through the Capital Improvement Program (CIP), as guided by the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan.
- Develop property acquisition and disposition policies and procedures ~~sale and review procedures~~ with local public and private agencies for potential open space acquisition sites.²⁴
- Maintain and protect undeveloped rights-of-way within or adjacent to parks and the open space network.

²⁰ Text rearranged to reflect policy in 2020 Plan.

²¹ Policies 6-2.6 and 6-2.7 are new to the PROS Plan and have been added here to the Comp Plan PROS Element.

²² Policy from PROS plan added here.

²³ To be formatted as required at future date.

²⁴ Implementation strategy in the existing 2020 RPSO plan – new language for some strategies.

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- Work with property owners and encourage non-purchase options, including conservation easements, current use assessment, and development covenants. Accept donations of properties where public benefit is anticipated or planned.
- Design site planning and subdivision standards that offer flexibility and reflect the purpose of open space network areas.
- Develop a comprehensive vision for recreation along the Green/Duwamish River Corridor.
- Update tree protection and clearing regulations that achieve open space network and natural environment goals and policies.
- ~~Pursue~~ Support an urban forestry program to implement policies in the Natural Environment element of the Comprehensive Plan.
- Conduct and maintain a city-wide tree inventory, and identify ways to improve and increase the urban tree canopy.
- Maximize external funding opportunities and seek matching funds from other sources, for the purchase of open space lands identified for acquisition.
- Continue to work with businesses, private property owners and volunteers to maintain and foster stewardship of open space areas.

Goal 6.3: A Sense of Community - Tukwila's parks and recreation opportunities build community cohesion by providing places and programs for social interaction and gatherings of all sizes, with designs that strengthen community identity.

POLICIES²⁵

~~6.3.1 Design parks and recreation facilities that encourage social interaction and the gathering of large and small groups.~~²⁶

6.3.~~2~~1 Design parks and recreation facilities that celebrate unique features of Tukwila and that contribute to quality of life and neighborhood needs. ~~These features should reflect neighborhood height, bulk and scale.~~

6.3.~~3~~2 ~~Sponsor~~ Hold community events that encourage interaction between neighbors and celebrate the diversity of Tukwila.

6.3.~~4~~3 Interpret local culture, history, and environment throughout the system.

²⁵ The policies are as shown in the magazine.

²⁶ Deleted policy found in Comp Plan - policy was not included in PROS plan.

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE

★ Provide references (source, date, page) for all data added

Existing Comprehensive Plan (with proposed changes)

~~6.3.54 Integrate art throughout the City, guided by the Work with Tukwila Municipal Arts Commission to Plan. integrate art throughout the City.~~

~~6.3.65 Leverage the opportunities presented by multiple redevelopment projects to expand Tukwila's park and trails system into Tukwila South and Southcenter, serving the needs of new residents, as well as visitors and workers of this evolving area. Support plans, policies, projects and programs to expand and improve the park and open space system in the Southcenter, Tukwila South and Tukwila International Boulevard areas, and seek opportunities to develop new facilities and programs that enhance the overall experience of residents, while also considering the needs of employees, business owners and visitors.~~

~~6.3.7 Where feasible, acquire parks to serve as buffers between residential uses and industrial areas, highways or railways.~~

Implementation Strategies ²⁷

- Add places for social gathering by adding features in parks with existing capacity and in new facilities.
- Increase access to places for social gathering in identified focus areas of the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan.
- Identify and secure a suitable location for a larger-scale public gathering space – including but not limited to the Southcenter/Tukwila Urban Center area and the Tukwila International Boulevard area – per the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan.
- Develop design guidelines to ensure that uses and structures adjacent to parks recognize and complement open spaces and public amenities.
- Prepare standards and guidelines for parks and open spaces that ensure access to sunlight, a sense of security, seating, landscaping, accessibility, and connections to surrounding uses and activities.
- Work with public agencies to incorporate public spaces as an important element of major public transportation, utilities and facilities projects.
- Develop strategies for public-private partnerships that will result in public open spaces to serve as focal points and settings for special events and other activities.
- Examine alternative spaces for each neighborhood in identified park access gap areas that could be used to create a neighborhood gathering spot.
- ~~Consider~~ Consider locating parklets in commercial areas, such as in the vicinity of Tukwila International Boulevard and the Tukwila Urban Center/Southcenter area.
- Partner with Tukwila Village to activate Sullivan Center and expand opportunities for social gatherings and ins cohesion. ~~provide a social gathering space.~~

²⁷ These implementation strategies will also need be needed.

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE

Chapter 6

- ★ Provide references (source, date, page) for all data added

Existing Comprehensive Plan (with proposed changes)

- [Develop and implement a parks and public spaces beautification program that includes public art, landscape and ²⁸streetscape enhancements, formal, informal, seasonal and annual plantings, installation of hanging floral baskets and banners, new park furnishings, security lighting, etc.](#)

Goal 6.4: Opportunities for All- Tukwila’s parks, recreation opportunities and public services offer something for all ages, abilities, and cultures, in settings locations and times that are convenient to as many as possible.

POLICIES

6.4.1 Offer flexible recreation programming that is constantly improving and responding to current trends and community desires.

6.4.2 Provide programs, [activities and special events](#) that embrace Tukwila’s many cultures, customs and interests.

6.4.3 Design accessible parks, facilities, and programs for all ages and abilities.

6.4.4 Increase the capacity at existing parks and recreation facilities to maximize use and expand public access.

6.4.5 Provide indoor and outdoor spaces designed for increased access and flexibility of use.

6.4.6 Consider future growth needs and planned density when providing parks and recreation opportunities to meet community needs.

6.4.7 Expand program options through enhanced partnerships with businesses and organizations, and through volunteerism.

6.4.8 ²⁹[Develop a city-wide special event permitting process to promote and encourage tourism, art, culture and sports events.](#)

²⁸ New implementation approach added by Parks

²⁹ New policies from Parks staff

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE

★ Provide references (source, date, page) for all data added

Existing Comprehensive Plan (with proposed changes)

[6.4.9 Address mobility and accessibility barriers to parks, facilities, and programs through the development and implementation of a transition plan for parks and recreation, consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.](#)

[6.4.10 Ensure the provision of a variety of inclusive programs, activities, and events to better serve persons with physical and/or developmental disabilities and adapt offerings to encourage social inclusion and belonging.](#)

[6.4.11 Provide, promote and encourage reasonable accommodations- changes, exceptions, modifications or adjustments to rules, policies, practices, programs or services so that a person with a disability has an equal opportunity to use and enjoy parks and recreation facilities, parks and programs.](#)

[6.4.12 Provide, promote, and encourage meaningful language access so that persons with Limited English Proficiency \(LEP\) can realize improved access to department programs, services, and information, consistent with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.](#)

-

Implementation Strategies³⁰

- Use innovative outreach strategies to determine community desires and priorities in developing and locating program offerings.
- Add places for unstructured play by adding features in parks with existing capacity, as identified in the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan.
- Increase access to unstructured play in identified focus areas of the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan.
- Continue to seek locations for new [multi-use all-weather and lighted](#) sports fields and [ball sport](#) courts at sites with adequate capacity, as identified in the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan.
- Partner with the Highline, Tukwila, and Seattle school districts, the Tukwila Metropolitan Park District, King County, neighboring jurisdictions and other providers, to improve community access to programs and services during non-school hours.
- Identify locations and funding for a facility serving the Tukwila International Boulevard area.
- [Develop a Recreation Program Plan that addresses all programs and services of the Department's programming functions, including activity selection, type, and scope of programs, trend analysis and program lifecycle, -and outreach initiatives.](#)

³⁰ Put Implementation into a table, and Existing and new policies added by Parks staff.

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE

★ Provide references (source, date, page) for all data added

Existing Comprehensive Plan (with proposed changes)

- [Recruit instructors and coordinators from different cultural backgrounds to introduce the community to activities and events from their culture.](#)
- [Incorporate measures of participation diversity into program performance targets and encourage program offerings that reflect trending topics and interests.](#)
- [Develop and implement an ADA Transition Plan that prioritizes the elimination of physical barriers to parks, facilities, and programs.](#)
- [Develop and implement a Language Access Plan- the process by which the Department will provide meaningful access to parks and recreation programs, services and activities for persons with LEP.](#)

[Goal 6.5: Safe, Inviting, and Affordable- Parks and facilities are safe, well maintained and clean, and programs and services that are welcoming and accessible for all people.](#)

POLICIES

6.5.1³¹

~~6.5.2~~ Design parks and public spaces using accepted public safety standards such as Crime Prevention through Environmental Design Principles (CPTED) or Defensible Space.

6.5.~~232~~ Reflect the highest standard of design quality in public developments to enhance neighborhood quality and set a high design standard for private development.

6.5.~~343~~ Develop [site-specific park](#)-master plans or site designs that guide all major park improvements and that achieve cohesive design and efficient phasing of projects.

6.5.~~454~~ Involve the community, including expected users and neighborhood residents, in appropriate aspects of capital project and program planning and implementation. —

6.5.~~565~~ Involve community partners and volunteers in the construction and maintenance of parks to increase the sense of public ownership and reduce City costs.

6.5.~~676~~ Increase access to affordable, free, or reduced-cost programs and services.

6.5.~~787~~ Expand awareness of the full range of program offerings and recreation options made available by the City and others.

³¹ [Formatting of this document](#)

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE

★ Provide references (source, date, page) for all data added

Existing Comprehensive Plan (with proposed changes)

6.5.898 Maintain parks and public spaces so that they are safe, clean, and welcoming.

Implementation Strategies³²

- [Create a toolkit that provides updated guiding principles and actionable tactics to inform park planning, design and development so that parks, trails and open spaces are more inviting, welcoming and foster opportunities for greater belonging. Design guidelines should include example landscape designs, treatments, furnishings and functionality that desired most amongst the diverse cultures of Tukwila.](#)
- ~~Develop and implement updated park design guidelines and policies.~~
- Expand recreation programming and services in identified focus areas of the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan, using a combination of mobile programming, classes and activities held at City-owned and school district-owned locations, and other sites as appropriate.
- Refine the cost-recovery framework to increase affordability of all programs.
- Pursue alternative service delivery models, such as mobile programming at employment areas, to enhance programming options and convenience.
- Partner with Highline, Seattle and Tukwila school districts, Tukwila Metropolitan Park District, King County, neighboring jurisdictions and other providers, to improve community access to programs and services.
- Expand and enhance volunteer programs and opportunities.
- Expand and diversify outreach efforts to increase awareness of and involvement in parks programs.
- [Develop and implement a procedure for working with expected park users and neighborhood residents when developing new parks or land features, or adding programs to existing parks.](#)
- [Develop a sponsorship program to support low/no-cost programming and expanded events and activities.](#)
- [Secure a non-profit partner to serve as a fiscal sponsor/foundation supporting Tukwila Parks and Recreation.](#)

Goal 6.6: Healthy People and Places - Parks and recreation opportunities that promote healthy, active lifestyles are designed and managed to engage and enhance the natural environment and the local economy.

POLICIES

³² Will format into table; Parks staff added implementation strategies.

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE

Chapter 6

- ★ Provide references (source, date, page) for all data added

Existing Comprehensive Plan (with proposed changes)

6.6.1 Provide services for all ages to encourage community members to try new activities and build a habit of healthy living.

6.6.2 Promote healthy food choices and active living programs as a central focus for community education.

6.6.3 ~~Strive to create~~ ~~Ensure that~~ projects and programs ~~that create a~~ provide social, economic, and environmental benefit to the community.³³

6.6.4 Leverage the park, recreation, and open space system to meet the needs of the residents while considering economic development and needs of visitors, business, and ~~employees~~ workers.

6.6.5 Provide public education resources and volunteer opportunities to promote understanding and appreciation of Tukwila's natural environment and Green/ Duwamish River ecosystem, while building an environmental stewardship ethic in the community.

6.6.6 Encourage and support the use of public lands for urban agriculture activities.

~~6.6.7—Promote urban agriculture activities~~ through existing and new programming ~~and or~~ partnerships.³⁴

6.6.~~7~~ Consider long-term management, operations, and maintenance needs when implementing new projects and programs.

6.6.~~8~~ Employ best practices in managing facilities, parks, and open space areas, and provide continuing education for City staff on these practices.

Implementation Strategies

- Provide accessible programs and classes that promote healthy activity and food choices for residents of all ages.
- Develop a volunteer project database to serve as a clearinghouse for Citywide volunteer opportunities.
- Work with volunteer organizations and the City of Tukwila Parks Commission to identify ways to strengthen the park system.

³³ Revised Plan to be consistent with 2020 plan

³⁴ [Combined 6.6.6 and 6.6.7 \(as in PROS Plan\)](#)

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE

★ Provide references (source, date, page) for all data added

Existing Comprehensive Plan (with proposed changes)

- Continue to provide a variety of volunteer ~~programs~~[opportunities multiple programs and business units](#), nature walks and interpretive services, as well as use of social media and public outreach, to foster long-term support and stewardship.
- ~~Create an environmental stewardship staff position to coordinate with other City Departments and volunteer organizations.~~
- Increase environmental stewardship and awareness by offering food system and urban agriculture programs and classes. Identify joint-use agreements for publicly- or privately-owned sites for uses such as urban farms, community gardens and pea patches.
- Seek development incentives, grants, and other funding sources, including public-private partnerships, to support development of urban agriculture sites and programming.
- Review development regulations for barriers to implementing urban agriculture activities.
- Identify the preferred location for an additional community garden, which may include a children's learning garden.
- Encourage and support farmers' market opportunities that are accessible to all residents.
- Develop and implement system-wide environmental strategies for management and operations.
- Co-locate public infrastructure, environmental and recreational projects where practical.
- Conduct maintenance efficiency improvements to better align smaller parks with the way these sites are used by the public.
- Develop and use integrated pest management plans for all parks, with the least hazard to people, property and the environment.
- Regularly maintain and monitor natural areas to control invasive species and other impacts.
- Incorporate designs with green infrastructure, water and energy efficiency, recycling, waste prevention and low-impact design storm water management, that reduce environmental impacts.
- Implement recycling opportunities at all parks and facilities.

RELATED INFORMATION

Parks, Recreation and Open Space Background Report

Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Plan [and technical appendices](#)

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE

Chapter 6

- ★ Provide references (source, date, page) for all data added

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE

★ Provide references (source, date, page) for all data added

Existing Comprehensive Plan (with proposed changes)

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE¹

WHAT YOU WILL FIND IN THIS CHAPTER:

- A description of the existing facilities, operations of the system, and intergovernmental coordination;
- A summary of issues; and
- The goals, policies and implementation strategies to guide development of the desired future parks, recreation and open space system.

PURPOSE

Tukwila’s parks, recreation and open space system provides opportunities for all residents and workers, all ages, and all cultures and language groups to enjoy nature, gather together and exercise. This system supports healthy lifestyles, community interaction and identity, while supporting economic vitality. This system also provides for interaction with nature, protection and conservation of the environment, and a walking and biking network for physical activity and transportation.

The Parks, Recreation and Open Space Element guides decision-making that is consistent with Washington’s Growth Management Act, community priorities, and related planning efforts and policies, which in turn are the basis for determining the future of Tukwila’s parks, recreation, and open space system. State requirements and local aspirations are fulfilled by the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Background Report and the Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Comprehensive Plan, which is incorporated by reference in Tukwila’s Comprehensive Plan.

EXISTING SYSTEM AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION

Park Lands²

In total, there are 33 park properties in the City’s inventory, totaling 260.7 acres of parks and open space, classified as either a Local Park, Special Use Park or Open Space, as shown in **Table X**.

¹ Changes to text found in original Comprehensive Plan have been edited to reflect the 2020 PROS plan and the policies found there. Where information was out of date or inaccurate, it has been updated. Proposed revisions are shown in “track changes” format. Formatting for the document will be finalized at a later date, including formatting of the maps, tables, and figures within the entire document.

² Changed format to present information as a table rather than text.

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE

★ Provide references (source, date, page) for all data added

Existing Comprehensive Plan (with proposed changes)

- Local parks are mostly located in residential areas and range in size from 0.1 acres (Riverton Mini Park) to 10+ acres and provide places to play, gather, and/or experience nature.
- Special use parks have a single purpose such as the golf course at Foster Golf Links, or feature a unique facility or feature that is intended for the entire community, such as Codiga Park or Duwamish Hill Preserve. As noted below, some sites are owned or operated by other providers.
- Open space (and undeveloped parcels) Parks are intended for natural green space preservation, habitat restoration or protection, or similar purpose.

Table X – Public Park Facilities in Tukwila³

Park Type	Number of Parks	Acres
Local Parks	10	47.7
Special Use Parks	11	182.4
Open Space	<u>12</u>	<u>30.6</u>
	33	260.7

Source: City of Tukwila Parks, Recreation, and OpenSpace Plan, March 2023

Of the park and recreation facilities available within the City, several are provided through agreements and easements with other entitles, such as the Tukwila School District, Highline School District, King County, and special districts such as the Tukwila Municipal School District.

Another recreational resource within Tukwila is its trail corridors. Trail Corridors^{4 5} are linear parks that facilitate pedestrian and bicycle movement via trails in an attractive open space setting. Trails range in length and width and may be located in utility corridors, along street rights of way, in riparian/natural corridors, or in conjunction with other easements.

The existing System Map⁶ (Figure 1) shows the location of all parks and recreation resources in the system, comprising developed and undeveloped park lands. Trails, schools, and

³ Provided information on the quantity and types of city parks, identifying ownership and maintenance responsibility.

⁴ Called out trails to address in a specific paragraph.

⁵ For Trails: See Pages C7 & C8 of PROS Plan Supplement. Walk and Roll Plan is noted as default resource.

⁶ Map will be updated.

- ★ Provide references (source, date, page) for all data added

Existing Comprehensive Plan (with proposed changes)

recreation sites owned by other providers are also part of this system and add to the number of resources available in the City.⁷

(Figure 1)

Open Space Network

Although not officially mapped, there is an informal and varied network of undeveloped land, made up of the river channel and its banks, creek corridors, landscaped yards and public street trees, and steep valley hills, such as the State highway rights-of-way. This undeveloped open space creates a green network that softens the impact of the urban environment in which we live and work. Much of this informal open space network exists and will be maintained due to community standards and environmental regulations.

Programs and Services

The City of Tukwila offers a wide range of recreational programs and public services. The Tukwila Community Center serves a vital role by providing the majority of public recreation programming and support services in the city. Along with the City-sponsored programs, the number of park- and recreation-related opportunities available to Tukwila residents is expanded through neighboring communities, public schools, private providers and nonprofits. Starfire Sports, SeaTac Community Center, Tukwila Pool, and the Matt Griffin YMCA provide additional programs in and around Tukwila.

Intergovernmental Coordination

Tukwila relies on partnerships with several organizations and local governments to provide services to area residents and to ensure coordination with land use policies. At the crossroads of the regional trail system, Tukwila coordinates with the neighboring cities of Renton and SeaTac, and other governments including King County, to plan, develop and manage the regional trail system. Managing the city's Green/Duwamish River frontage also requires coordination with local, King County and Statewide environmental policies and regulations.

The City partners with area schools to increase access to sport fields and playgrounds in areas that lack parks. The Highline and Tukwila School Districts partner with the City by leasing former school sites for park uses. In general, public schools also present an opportunity for access to recreation activities since they are well distributed in the City, especially in areas without access to park land.

⁷ Open Space was described earlier; and trails were moved to a separate paragraph.

★ Provide references (source, date, page) for all data added

Existing Comprehensive Plan (with proposed changes)

In 2011, Tukwila residents voted to create the Tukwila Metropolitan Park District to fund and operate the Tukwila Pool. This independent entity provides aquatics programming at the pool facility located on Tukwila School District property. The City also works with King County to expand park and recreation opportunities.

ISSUES⁸

Several community priorities and key needs emerged as a result of outreach and engagement activities associated with the 2020 PROS Plan. These include:

Reinvigorated Quality of Existing Parks and Facilities

The community has expressed a desire to elevate the quality of existing parks and facilities to make them more inviting, comfortable, and stimulating. Reinvesting and maximizing use of existing resources resonated strongly with residents.

- Enhance basic comfort and safety.
- Stimulate park activities and formats- upgrade or expand features within existing parks (e.g., community gardens, playgrounds, and areas for dogs).
- Address barriers — increase maintenance and repair/restoration practices, incorporate sustainable practices and artistic elements into parks.

Safe, Family-Friendly Places

Concern for safety often keeps community members from enjoying parks and trails. When asked to identify barriers within the park system, respondents most frequently cited feeling unsafe in certain areas. Respondents also frequently cited needed maintenance and upgrades to equipment and facilities as key issues. Overall, community members are seeking changes to support safe, family-friendly parks throughout Tukwila.

Affordable, Stimulating Experiences For All Ages

Community feedback also noted many opportunities for parks to offer greater stimulation across all age groups- providing for more things to do and the introduction of new features, facilities, or activities. Suggestions pointed to a need for a rich variety of elements to support multiple types of activities, especially those catering to young children, older youth, teens, adults, and seniors. The Older Adults Recreational Services Needs Assessment (2019) also highlighted a need to address social isolation among older adults, which can lead to significant health issues. Community members are looking for better activation of spaces and more stimulating experiences. They also noted affordability as an important quality to maintain.

⁸ The list of issues provided in the existing Comprehensive Plan Parks element was from the previous PROS plan and has been deleted. The new text below is from the 2020 Parks Plan.

- ★ Provide references (source, date, page) for all data added

Existing Comprehensive Plan (with proposed changes)

Close Interaction With Nature

Getting out in nature is the top reason respondents indicated for spending time in Tukwila parks. Whether getting out to observe, relax, or exercise, community members enjoy close interaction with nature. Further, participants identified providing natural, low impact places that support wildlife habitat as the top idea for improving parks and recreation in the city. Community members value Tukwila’s abundant natural elements: forests, Tukwila Pond, the Green/Duwamish River, native plants, and animals (particularly salmon). Another high priority was expanding programs and activities related to nature and outdoor recreation activities, such as wildlife watching, guided hikes, and Wildlife Fairs.

Fun Fitness Opportunities

Exercising, playing, and dog walking are among the most popular activities that draw residents to Tukwila’s parks. Community members also value open grass areas for play and pick-up sports. Overall, features and programs that support fitness are an important part of Tukwila’s system. Beyond competitive sport facilities, participants are looking for fun play and fitness activities that bring exercise regimes to parks, expand or close gaps in the trail network (specifically east-west connectors and loops), and respond to current trends. Providing a variety of enjoyable ways to stay fit and healthy is particularly crucial in Tukwila, where recent studies show fewer people exercise as compared to the King County average.

Expanded Parks/Preserved Open Space

Community members conveyed a sense of urgency around preserving sufficient open space for future generations to enjoy. Residents appreciate convenient access to parks and green space for fresh air, exercising, socializing, dog walking, and screen breaks. Particularly with Tukwila’s share of denser housing types (over 60% of housing includes four or more units), anticipated residential development, and limited land available for new parks, it is crucial to acquire park land to keep pace with growth. Strategically acquiring land to grow the system may broaden park access to ensure that every resident is no more than a 10-minute walk from a high-quality place to play, exercise, enjoy nature, or link to a trail.

Cultural Heritage Inspiration

A strong connection to cultural roots stood out as a distinguishing aspect of Tukwila’s system. The rich cultural heritage of Tukwila can be traced back to the indigenous people of the area. Participants emphasized the importance of respecting tribal traditions and values. One of the top ideas for improving the system is to create unique places that reflect Tukwila’s character, history, or culture. Expanding cultural arts programming, cultural celebrations, and educational events are community members’ highest program-related priorities. Indigenous

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE

- ★ Provide references (source, date, page) for all data added

Existing Comprehensive Plan (with proposed changes)

peoples' links to nature, stories, arts, and other practices provide inspiration that can be conveyed through physical designs, as well as through programming. Participants expressed a desire to hold cultural events as a way to bring people of different cultures together. The City can explore ways to support these community led gatherings within parks and community facilities.

Vibrant Urban Water Centerpiece

Community members see the Green/Duwamish River and Tukwila Pond Park as major assets that could be further accentuated as a focus of the system. The waters and banks of the 12.5-mile segment of the river sustain fish and wildlife and provide a serene backdrop to nearby parks and trails. Tukwila can continue to lead in restoring this urban ecosystem and maintaining the health of the river. Numerous responses captured a desire to invest in parks and habitat restoration of green spaces along the river and within Tukwila Pond Park. Additional ideas involved expanding river-related recreational activities, such as canoeing or kayaking, and activating portions of the Green River Trail with vendors, cafes, and river-facing patios.

Lively Park-Adjacent Commerce

Participants described nearby food, cafes, and other businesses as an important means of better activating parks. They pinpointed the synergy created between parks and commerce and expressed a desire to see more local businesses and development around parks to stimulate park use. Providing places to gather and eat was also rated among the top ideas for making parks and recreation better in Tukwila. In addition to providing traditional picnic and gathering areas in parks, nearby commerce could help meet needs of busy residents, workers, and families with convenient access to refreshments and park-facing seating areas.

Convenient, Accessible System

Participants identified unsafe, or lack of, pedestrian and bicycle connections as predominant reasons preventing park use. A long-term goal is for every Tukwila resident to be within a safe 10-minute walk from a quality park or green space. Improving walking paths, bike routes, and trails and closing gaps in the system will facilitate safe and comfortable access. Lack of convenient public transportation was also indicated as a top barrier. Another critical need involves improved promotion and wayfinding around parks. Not knowing where Tukwila parks are located was the top reason respondents identified that keeps them from using parks. Overall, residents seek to maximize use of park and facility resources by making access more comfortable and convenient.

⁹ Deleted *Population Growth an Changing Demographics* header.

- ★ Provide references (source, date, page) for all data added

Existing Comprehensive Plan (with proposed changes)

PREPARING FOR FUTURE GROWTH¹⁰

Tukwila’s population has grown slowly in the past with an average annual growth rate of 2.09% between years 2015 and 2023. This was far lower than the county-wide average but only about one-third the rate of growth in the nearby jurisdictions of Renton, Kent and Burien.

In terms of housing unit growth, over the past six years there has been a modest increase in multi-family construction, with nearly 1,350 units constructed and more underway. This development has occurred in the northeast part of the Southcenter District and along the Tukwila International Boulevard Corridor. Per King County’s adopted Growth Targets, Tukwila must plan for and accommodate 6,500 net new housing units between 2019 and 2044, or roughly another 5,200 between 2023 and 2044 at a pace of about 250 new units per year. New growth may occur in the Tukwila South District which is zoned for intensive mixed use development, within the Southcenter District, existing higher density mixed use zones, and within existing residential areas due to new state legislation that allows additional units on single family lots. New residents and visitors will require additional services and recreation opportunities. New residents and visitors will require additional services and recreation opportunities.

Figure 2

GOALS, POLICIES, AND STRATEGIES

Goals and policies guide the desired future of the parks, recreation, and open space system over the planning period. Policies reflect public needs, past and current planning efforts and priorities, as well as strategic planning, design and management principles. The Tukwila Parks, Recreation and Open Space System Concept Map is the graphic representation of these goals and policies. (Figure 2)

Goal 6.1: Safe, Convenient and Connected System Parks, recreation opportunities and open spaces are close to home and work and are interconnected by safe streets, off-street trails, and public transportation.

POLICIES

¹⁰ This section was updated to reflect current demographic data.

¹¹ The information deleted is from the previous Parks Plan; it was rewritten as shown on pages 5 and 6 of this draft.

¹² Figure 2 (a PROS System Concept map) will be reformatted and updated.

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE

Chapter 6

- ★ Provide references (source, date, page) for all data added

Existing Comprehensive Plan (with proposed changes)

6.1.1 Create a system of close-to-home recreation opportunities, aiming for a ¼-mile to ½-mile travel distance between most residential uses and parks and recreation areas. Prioritize historically underserved communities for open space improvements and investments.¹³

6.1.2 Create a system of close-to-work recreation opportunities, aiming for a ¼-mile to ½-mile travel distance between most employment places and parks and recreation areas.

6.1.3 Link parks to neighborhood gathering spots and other destinations in the community and region such as schools, neighboring jurisdictions, regional parks and natural areas, and major employment centers.

6.1.4 Improve the pedestrian and bicycle environment by creating safe and efficient connections across busy streets, railways and the Green/Duwamish River.

6.1.5 Increase physical and scenic connectivity with the Green/Duwamish River.

6.1.6 Integrate linkages to recreation areas and open spaces when planning and designing the transportation system.

6.1.7 Align parks and recreation programs and services with public transit service and advertise how to attend by transit.¹⁴

6.1.8 Continue to provide a safely-designed and maintained trail system.¹⁵

6.1.9 Distribute public recreational facilities throughout the City so that they are easily accessible to residents, visitors, and those who come to Tukwila to work.

6.1.10 Create a trail system that links significant community focal points and connects the trail network together at strategic points.¹⁶

6.1.11 Connect concentrations of commercial and retail activity with the trail network.

¹³ Added to address PSRC Policy En-15: Provide parks, trails, and open space within walking distance of urban residents: ***Prioritize historically underserved communities for open space improvements and investments.***

¹⁴ The added text is as shown in the PROs Plan (Policy had been updated from the previous Comp Plan Policy)

¹⁵ The added text is as shown in the PROs Plan (Policy had been updated from the previous Comp Plan Policy)

¹⁶ The added text is as shown in the PROs Plan (Policy had been updated from the previous Comp Plan Policy)

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE

★ Provide references (source, date, page) for all data added

Existing Comprehensive Plan (with proposed changes)

6.1.12 Maximize potential and capacity of existing parks and recreation resources to offset existing and future demand.

6.1.13 Identify and create opportunities to develop parks, civic places (including schools) and public spaces, especially in or adjacent to centers.¹⁷

Implementation Strategies¹⁸

- Replace numerical park land level-of-service standard with an overall park land service area distance.
- Update the Public Recreation Overlay Comprehensive Plan designation to reflect the goals of this Element and of the Concept Map.
- Pursue trail easements in areas with natural amenities, and incorporate them into a City-wide trail system.
- Seek trail easements from willing private property owners where no public right-of-way is available for a link in the network,
- Consider the street sidewalk system as a link in the connecting network, when necessary.

Goal 6.2: A Network of Green Spaces- Recreational amenities, historical sites, rivers, wetlands, creeks, and other natural resources that are connected to each other and neighboring networks of lands. This network defines Tukwila as Northwest city, and includes visually significant bands of vegetation and that contrast with the built environment, and restoration and protection of wildlife habitat, especially for salmon.

¹⁷ New Policy - added portion of PSRC Policy D-11: *Identify and create opportunities to develop parks, civic places (including schools) and public spaces, especially in or adjacent to centers.*

¹⁸ Implementation strategies shown are from the existing Comprehensive Plan Parks Element and have not been reviewed to determine if they have been completed or if the Department should develop new implementation strategies yet. The Parks department will review these Implementation Policies and return the revised set to the Parks Board for their review. The City will be required to document how successful it has been at making progress on these strategies within 5 years of the Comp Plan’s adoption. We will need to format the implementation strategies as follows to provide the accountability needed.

Policy being supported by Implementation Strategy	Strategy	Potential Partners	Time Frame for Action
List number of policy	List Implementation strategy	Who will work on the item – e.g., Parks staff, the Parks Board, Public Works, the City Council,... etc.	Time frames, e.g.: Near Term – years 2024 to 2029 Mid Term – years 2029 to 2034 Long Term – years 2034-2039 Ongoing.
....			

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE

- ★ Provide references (source, date, page) for all data added

Existing Comprehensive Plan (with proposed changes)

POLICIES

6.2.1 Recognize that the City’s open space network will be made up of public and private lands that provide, or have the potential to provide, many different functions.

¹⁹

6.2.2 Retain and expand the open space network through acquisition, donation, easements, partnerships and regulation.

6.2.3 Coordinate with other regional and local plans to complement and enhance the Tukwila open space network.

6.2.4 Integrate natural features, such as daylighting streams, and adding trees, shrubs, and other plants into the built environment, including residential, commercial, and industrial areas.

6.2.5 Increase the public’s awareness and stewardship of the City’s open space resources and benefits, including examples such as organizing volunteer events, developing and distributing information.²⁰

6.2.6 Monitor and maintain natural areas to control invasive species and other impacts.²¹

6.2.7 Co-locate public infrastructure, environmental and recreational projects when practicable.²²

Implementation Strategies²³

- Apply a range of measures to preserve and protect the open space network, including:
 - Sensitive areas regulations.
 - Shoreline regulations.
 - Land altering regulations. â Landscaping regulations. â Tree regulations.
 - Parks Impact Fees.

¹⁹ Policy in removed from PROS Plan at last update. Being removed here to keep the two documents consistent.

²⁰ Text rearranged to reflect policy in 2020 Plan.

²¹ Policies 6-2.6 and 6-2.7 are new to the PROS Plan and have been added here to the Comp Plan PROS Element.

²² Policy from PROS plan added here.

²³ To be formatted as required at future date.

★ Provide references (source, date, page) for all data added

- Pursue acquisition and development of the high-priority needs through the Capital Improvement Program (CIP), as guided by the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan.
- Develop property acquisition and disposition policies and procedures with local public and private agencies for potential open space acquisition sites.²⁴
- Maintain and protect undeveloped rights-of-way within or adjacent to parks and the open space network.
- Work with property owners and encourage non-purchase options, including conservation easements, current use assessment, and development covenants. Accept donations of properties where public benefit is anticipated or planned.
- Design site planning and subdivision standards that offer flexibility and reflect the purpose of open space network areas.
- Develop a comprehensive vision for recreation along the Green/Duwamish River Corridor.
- Update tree protection and clearing regulations that achieve open space network and natural environment goals and policies.
- Support an urban forestry program to implement policies in the Natural Environment element of the Comprehensive Plan.
- Conduct and maintain a city-wide tree inventory, and identify ways to improve and increase the urban tree canopy.
- Maximize external funding opportunities and seek matching funds from other sources, for the purchase of open space lands identified for acquisition.
- Continue to work with businesses, private property owners and volunteers to maintain and foster stewardship of open space areas.

Goal 6.3: A Sense of Community - Tukwila's parks and recreation opportunities build community cohesion by providing places and programs for social interaction and gatherings of all sizes, with designs that strengthen community identity.

POLICIES²⁵

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6.3.1 Design parks and recreation facilities that celebrate unique features of Tukwila and that contribute to quality of life and neighborhood needs.

6.3.2 Hold community events that encourage interaction between neighbors and celebrate the diversity of Tukwila.

6.3.3 Interpret local culture, history, and environment throughout the system.

6.3.4 Integrate art throughout the City, guided by the Tukwila Municipal Arts Plan..

★ Provide references (source, date, page) for all data added

Existing Comprehensive Plan (with proposed changes)

6.3.5 Leverage the opportunities presented by multiple redevelopment projects to expand Tukwila's park and trails system into Tukwila South and Southcenter, serving the needs of new residents, as well as visitors and workers of this evolving area.

Implementation Strategies ²⁷

- Add places for social gathering by adding features in parks with existing capacity and in new facilities.
- Increase access to places for social gathering in identified focus areas of the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan.
- Identify and secure a suitable location for a larger-scale public gathering space – including but not limited to the Southcenter/Tukwila Urban Center area and the Tukwila International Boulevard area – per the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan.
- Develop design guidelines to ensure that uses and structures adjacent to parks recognize and complement open spaces and public amenities.
- Prepare standards and guidelines for parks and open spaces that ensure access to sunlight, a sense of security, seating, landscaping, accessibility, and connections to surrounding uses and activities.
- Work with public agencies to incorporate public spaces as an important element of major public transportation, utilities and facilities projects.
- Develop strategies for public-private partnerships that will result in public open spaces to serve as focal points and settings for special events and other activities.
- Examine alternative spaces for each neighborhood in identified park access gap areas that could be used to create a neighborhood gathering spot.
- Consider locating parklets in commercial areas, such as in the vicinity of Tukwila International Boulevard and the Tukwila Urban Center/Southcenter area.
- Partner with Tukwila Village to activate Sullivan Center and expand opportunities for social gatherings and ins cohesion.
- Develop and implement a parks and public spaces beautification program that includes public art, landscape and ²⁸streetscape enhancements, formal, informal, seasonal and annual plantings, installation of hanging floral baskets and banners, new park furnishings, security lighting, etc.

²⁴ Implementation strategy in the existing 2020 RPSO plan – new language for some strategies.

²⁵ The policies are as shone in the magazine.

²⁶ Deleted policy found in Comp Plan - policy was not included in PROS plan.

²⁷ These implementation strategies will also need be needed.

²⁸ New implementation approach added by Parks

★ Provide references (source, date, page) for all data added

Existing Comprehensive Plan (with proposed changes)

Goal 6.4: Opportunities for All- Tukwila’s parks, recreation opportunities and public services offer something for all ages, abilities, and cultures, in settings locations and times that are convenient to as many as possible.

POLICIES

6.4.1 Offer flexible recreation programming that is constantly improving and responding to current trends and community desires.

6.4.2 Provide programs, activities and special events that embrace Tukwila’s many cultures, customs and interests.

6.4.3 Design accessible parks, facilities, and programs for all ages and abilities.

6.4.4 Increase the capacity at existing parks and recreation facilities to maximize use and expand public access.

6.4.5 Provide indoor and outdoor spaces designed for increased access and flexibility of use.

6.4.6 Consider future growth needs and planned density when providing parks and recreation opportunities to meet community needs.

6.4.7 Expand program options through enhanced partnerships with businesses and organizations, and through volunteerism.

6.4.8 ²⁹ Develop a city-wide special event permitting process to promote and encourage tourism, art, culture and sports events.

6.4.9 Address mobility and accessibility barriers to parks, facilities, and programs through the development and implementation of a transition plan for parks and recreation, consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

6.4.10 Ensure the provision of a variety of inclusive programs, activities, and events to better serve persons with physical and/or developmental disabilities and adapt offerings to encourage social inclusion and belonging.

²⁹ New policies from Parks staff

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE

★ Provide references (source, date, page) for all data added

Existing Comprehensive Plan (with proposed changes)

6.4.11 Provide, promote and encourage reasonable accommodations- changes, exceptions, modifications or adjustments to rules, policies, practices, programs or services so that a person with a disability has an equal opportunity to use and enjoy parks and recreation facilities, parks and programs.

6.4.12 Provide, promote, and encourage meaningful language access so that persons with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) can realize improved access to department programs, services, and information, consistent with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Implementation Strategies³⁰

- Use innovative outreach strategies to determine community desires and priorities in developing and locating program offerings.
- Add places for unstructured play by adding features in parks with existing capacity, as identified in the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan.
- Increase access to unstructured play in identified focus areas of the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan.
- Continue to seek locations for new multi-use all-weather and lighted sports fields and sport courts at sites with adequate capacity, as identified in the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan.
- Partner with the Highline, Tukwila, and Seattle school districts, the Tukwila Metropolitan Park District, King County, neighboring jurisdictions and other providers, to improve community access to programs and services during non-school hours.
- Identify locations and funding for a facility serving the Tukwila International Boulevard area.
- Develop a Recreation Program Plan that addresses all programs and services of the Department's programming functions, including activity selection, type, and scope of programs, trend analysis and program lifecycle, and outreach initiatives.
- Recruit instructors and coordinators from different cultural backgrounds to introduce the community to activities and events from their culture.
- Incorporate measures of participation diversity into program performance targets and encourage program offerings that reflect trending topics and interests.
- Develop and implement an ADA Transition Plan that prioritizes the elimination of physical barriers to parks, facilities, and programs.

Develop and implement a Language Access Plan- the process by which the Department will provide meaningful access to parks and recreation programs, services and activities for persons with LEP.

³⁰ Put Implementation into a table, and Existing and new policies added by Parks staff.

★ Provide references (source, date, page) for all data added

Existing Comprehensive Plan (with proposed changes)

Goal 6.5: Safe, Inviting, and Affordable- Parks and facilities are safe, well maintained and clean, and programs and services that are welcoming and accessible for all people.

POLICIES

6.5.1³¹ Design parks and public spaces using accepted public safety standards such as Crime Prevention through Environmental Design Principles (CPTED) or Defensible Space.

6.5.2 Reflect the highest standard of design quality in public developments to enhance neighborhood quality and set a high design standard for private development.

6.5.3 Develop site-specific master plans or site designs that guide all major park improvements and that achieve cohesive design and efficient phasing of projects.

6.5.4 Involve the community, including expected users and neighborhood residents, in appropriate aspects of capital project and program planning and implementation.

6.5.5 Involve community partners and volunteers in the construction and maintenance of parks to increase the sense of public ownership and reduce City costs.

6.5.6 Increase access to affordable, free, or reduced-cost programs and services.

6.5.7 Expand awareness of the full range of program offerings and recreation options made available by the City and others.

6.5.8 Maintain parks and public spaces so that they are safe, clean, and welcoming.

Implementation Strategies³²

- Create a toolkit that provides updated guiding principles and actionable tactics to inform park planning, design and development so that parks, trails and open spaces are more inviting, welcoming and foster opportunities for greater belonging. Design guidelines should include example landscape designs, treatments, furnishings and functionality that desired most amongst the diverse cultures of Tukwila.
- Expand recreation programming and services in identified focus areas of the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan, using a combination of mobile programming, classes

³¹ Formatting of this document

³² Will format into table; Parks staff added implementation strategies.

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★ Provide references (source, date, page) for all data added

Existing Comprehensive Plan (with proposed changes)

and activities held at City-owned and school district-owned locations, and other sites as appropriate.

- Refine the cost-recovery framework to increase affordability of all programs.
- Pursue alternative service delivery models, such as mobile programming at employment areas, to enhance programming options and convenience.
- Partner with Highline, Seattle and Tukwila school districts, Tukwila Metropolitan Park District, King County, neighboring jurisdictions and other providers, to improve community access to programs and services.
- Expand and enhance volunteer programs and opportunities.
- Expand and diversify outreach efforts to increase awareness of and involvement in parks programs.
- Develop and implement a procedure for working with expected park users and neighborhood residents when developing new parks or land features, or adding programs to existing parks.
- Develop a sponsorship program to support low/no-cost programming and expanded events and activities.
- Secure a non-profit partner to serve as a fiscal sponsor/foundation supporting Tukwila Parks and Recreation.

Goal 6.6: Healthy People and Places - Parks and recreation opportunities that promote healthy, active lifestyles are designed and managed to engage and enhance the natural environment and the local economy.

POLICIES

6.6.1 Provide services for all ages to encourage community members to try new activities and build a habit of healthy living.

6.6.2 Promote healthy food choices and active living programs as a central focus for community education.

6.6.3 Strive to create projects and programs that provide social, economic, and environmental benefit to the community.³³

6.6.4 Leverage the park, recreation, and open space system to meet the needs of the residents while considering economic development and needs of visitors, business, and workers.

³³ Revised Plan to be consistent with 2020 plan

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE

Chapter 6

- ★ Provide references (source, date, page) for all data added

Existing Comprehensive Plan (with proposed changes)

6.6.5 Provide public education resources and volunteer opportunities to promote understanding and appreciation of Tukwila’s natural environment and Green/ Duwamish River ecosystem, while building an environmental stewardship ethic in the community.

6.6.6 Encourage and support the use of public lands for urban agriculture activities through existing and new programming or partnerships.³⁴

6.6.7 Consider long-term management, operations. and maintenance needs when implementing new projects and programs.

6.6.8 Employ best practices in managing facilities, parks, and open space areas, and provide continuing education for City staff on these practices.

Implementation Strategies

- Provide accessible programs and classes that promote healthy activity and food choices for residents of all ages.
- Develop a volunteer project database to serve as a clearinghouse for Citywide volunteer opportunities.
- Work with volunteer organizations and the City of Tukwila Parks Commission to identify ways to strengthen the park system.
- Continue to provide a variety of volunteer opportunities multiple programs and business units , nature walks and interpretive services, as well as use of social media and public outreach, to foster long-term support and stewardship.
- Increase environmental stewardship and awareness by offering food system and urban agriculture programs and classes. Identify joint-use agreements for publicly- or privately-owned sites for uses such as urban farms, community gardens and pea patches.
- Seek development incentives, grants, and other funding sources, including public-private partnerships, to support development of urban agriculture sites and programming.
- Review development regulations for barriers to implementing urban agriculture activities.
- Identify the preferred location for an additional community garden, which may include a children’s learning garden.
- Encourage and support farmers’ market opportunities that are accessible to all residents.
- Develop and implement system-wide environmental strategies for management and operations.
- Co-locate public infrastructure, environmental and recreational projects where practical.

³⁴ Combined 6.6.6 and 6.6.7 (as in PROS Plan)

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE

Chapter 6

★ Provide references (source, date, page) for all data added

Existing Comprehensive Plan (with proposed changes)

- Conduct maintenance efficiency improvements to better align smaller parks with the way these sites are used by the public.
- Develop and use integrated pest management plans for all parks, with the least hazard to people, property and the environment.
- Regularly maintain and monitor natural areas to control invasive species and other impacts.
- Incorporate designs with green infrastructure, water and energy efficiency, recycling, waste prevention and low-impact design storm water management, that reduce environmental impacts.
- Implement recycling opportunities at all parks and facilities.

RELATED INFORMATION

Parks, Recreation and Open Space Background Report

Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Plan and technical appendices