

City of Tukwila Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

DRAFT PLAN
February 2020





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Acknowledgments

The City thanks the people of Tukwila and the many individuals that shaped the direction of this plan.

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WET PAINT
PAINTING-PROHIBITED IN PROGRESS

A background image showing a community meeting in a park. In the foreground, a woman is sitting on the grass, looking down at some papers. In the background, a group of people are gathered around a table, and a large tree is visible on the left. The image is slightly faded to allow the text to be read clearly.

Executive Summary

In 2019, Tukwila developed this new Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan (the PROS Plan) after completing many of the recommendations made in the prior plan. The planning process built on the work completed in 2014, a process that reached a wide cross section of the community and identified a range of needs and future goals based on these findings, as well as technical analysis.

The composition of the community has continued to evolve, and new opportunities and challenges call for a fresh look. This 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 Vision for Parks and Recreation

welcoming | connected | inspiring | inclusive | sustainable

GOALS

POLICIES

1. Safe, Convenient and Connected System

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1.1 Close-to-home | 1.7 Public transit |
| 1.2 Close-to-work | 1.8 Trail design |
| 1.3 Linkages | 1.9 Distribution |
| 1.4 Ped/bike | 1.10 Trail linkages |
| 1.5 River connections | 1.11 Commercial areas |
| 1.6 Transportation | 1.12 Capacity |

2. A Network of Green Spaces

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| 2.1 Multi function | 2.4 Integration |
| 2.2 Expansion | 2.5 Awareness |
| 2.3 Coordination | |

3. A Sense of Community

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------|
| 3.1 Design | 3.4 Art |
| 3.2 Events | 3.5 Expansion |
| 3.3 Interpretation | |

4. Opportunities for All

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| 4.1 Flexibility | 4.5 Indoor/outdoor |
| 4.2 Diversity | 4.6 Future growth |
| 4.3 Accessibility | 4.7 Partnerships |
| 4.4 Capacity | |

5. Safe, Inviting and Affordable

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| 5.1 Safety | 5.5 Partners |
| 5.2 Planning/design | 5.6 Access |
| 5.3 Guidance | 5.7 Awareness |
| 5.4 Involvement | 5.8 Maintenance |

6. Healthy People and Places

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| 6.1 All ages | 6.5 Education |
| 6.2 Investment | 6.6 Agriculture |
| 6.3 Benefits | 6.7 Maintenance |
| 6.4 Economic Dev. | 6.8 Best practices |

RECOMMENDATIONS

See system-wide and site-specific recommendations in Chapters 3 and 4.



Duwamish Gardens Park

The Future of Parks and Recreation

The people of Tukwila are invested in the future of the city and have a clear vision for parks and recreation. The community engagement process involved a variety of activities designed to stimulate participants' thinking about needs, preferences, and new ideas. In total, more than 600 stakeholders weighed in to shape the vision.

The Vision

Tukwila's system of welcoming parks and connected green spaces provide quality opportunities for play, gathering, relaxation and a source of community pride, identity, and economic prosperity. Fun and inclusive events and programs, healthy natural areas, and well-maintained public spaces and facilities offer something for everyone. The people of Tukwila are committed to sustaining the long-term success of their valuable park and recreation system for future generations to enjoy.

PRIORITIES AND KEY NEEDS

The Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan (the PROS Plan) outlines a clear path forward with guidance to steer future investments and actions. Plan recommendations address priorities and key needs identified during the planning process.

- Close interaction with nature
- Cultural heritage inspiration
- Vibrant urban water centerpiece
- Lively park-adjacent commerce
- Expanded parks/preserved open space
- Reinvigorated quality of existing parks and facilities
- Fun fitness opportunities
- Affordable, stimulating experiences for all ages
- Convenient, accessible system
- Safe, family-friendly places



Crestview Park

The Proposed System

The envisioned future system will include many different improvements that respond to community needs. The proposed system includes different types of projects for existing parks.



Park or facility repair/
replacement



Shade and seating
enhancements



Play enhancement



Nature integration



Public art enhancements



Small games/amenities



Water access/public space
improvements



Improved signage or lighting



New restroom and user
amenities



Natural resource stewardship
& restoration


IMPLEMENTATION

Tukwila's park and recreation system faces many opportunities and challenges in implementing this Plan. Achieving the community's vision will require various funding strategies, with the potential \$12.2 million needed to enhance existing parks and \$18.5 million for four proposed parks. Equally as important and critical to long-term success is system maintenance.

The cost to operate and maintain the parks and recreation system requires substantial resources, especially to keep up with growing demand and increasing costs. Since adoption of the 2014 PROS Plan, the demand on parks maintenance has increased with a growing population, maintenance backlog, and new sites added to the system inventory. The City cannot keep up with future growth without increasing resources for park maintenance and reinvestment.

Looking towards the future, the PROS Plan provides criteria to support effective decision making, and outlines specific priority projects that hold the greatest potential for quick wins, building momentum for bigger or longer-term projects and opportunities. By focusing on key needs and priorities as highlighted in this Plan, Tukwila has the needed direction to provide a park and recreation system that is good, healthy, and fun.





"Tukwila has such great green space as well as access to salmon habitat...I hope that the city recognizes the need to maintain, restore and protect these areas."

-online survey respondent

1



Introduction

Chapter 1

The new Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan (the PROS Plan) sets a renewed direction for Tukwila's system of parks, recreation facilities, programs and open spaces founded on the community's vision for the future.

The PROS Plan describes the long-term vision and strategy for the future of parks and recreation, looking at the next six years and beyond. This Plan replaces the City's prior plan (completed in 2014) providing a renewed assessment of needs based on the desires of the community.

Specifically, this PROS Plan:

- Describes the process used to develop this Plan and summarizes changes since the last Plan;
- Identifies key community needs, the strategic city-wide direction, and future vision and goals for the parks and recreation system;
- Outlines recommendations to strengthen existing resources and services, and build on opportunities;
- Provides a plan of action to inform decision making, including costs, phasing and funding support.

The Technical Supplement to this document includes analysis completed during the planning process, meeting and online engagement summaries and more detailed information used to inform development of this Plan.

Background and Planning Process

The City of Tukwila has been planning for the future of parks and recreation for decades, providing guidance to base decision-making and future investments. Since the 2014 Plan, the City has completed or initiated many recommendations, as well as other projects that were pending in 2014.

In addition to capital projects, the City has actively pursued many programs or initiatives related to parks and recreation such as the Healthy Tukwila program, expansion of the After-School Recreation Program, and implementation of the 20-Year Green Tukwila Stewardship Plan.

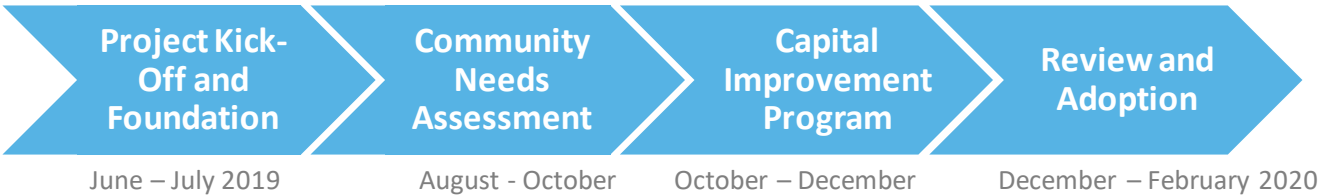
Beginning in June of 2019, the PROS Plan process revisited community needs and priorities, examined future trends, service levels, and resource needs to update the project list for the next six-plus years (Figure 1).

Community Involvement

The people of Tukwila directly shaped the vision and key needs of this Plan. The community engagement process involved a variety of activities designed to stimulate participants' thinking about needs, preferences, and new ideas. In total, more than 600 stakeholders weighed in through community interviews, listening sessions, pop-up events, an online survey, public workshop, and meetings with the project Advisory Group and city decision makers and leadership.

- **Online Map Survey:** The Project Team used an interactive map-based survey to gather information about existing conditions and future opportunities for Tukwila's parks, recreation and open spaces. The survey also allowed the City to hear from a broad spectrum of the community through a tool that is convenient and engaging.
- **Listening Sessions:** The Project Team held three listening sessions with Tukwila youth, Tukwila families, and Latino/a elders. The goal of these meetings was to gain a deeper insight and knowledge about parks strengths and weaknesses and opportunities and changes residents would like to see.
- **Pop-Up Events:** The City of Tukwila and

Figure 1: The Planning Process



Who shaped the PROS plan?

374

**SURVEY
RESPONDENTS**

- 905 map responses
- 645 total survey visitors

3

**LISTENING
SESSIONS**

- Youth from Tukwila Teen program
- Latino/a elders
- Families from diverse backgrounds

100+

AT FIVE PARK POP-UPS

- Cascade View Community Park
- Bicentennial Park
- Crestview Park
- Tukwila Community Center
- Sullivan Center

7

**ONE-ON-ONE
INTERVIEWS**

- Student
- Senior adult
- Small business manager
- Mom and PTA representative
- Local pastor
- Health clinic representative
- Police officer

6

**ENGAGEMENT MEETINGS
WITH PROJECT AND CITY
LEADERSHIP**

- Community Development & Neighborhoods Committee
- Project Advisory Committee
- Park Commission and Arts Commission

100+

**COMMUNITY
PRIORITIES GAME
PARTICIPANTS**

- Sullivan Center workshop
- Online workshop survey

Informing the PROS plan: Plans and studies that guided this project

- Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan (2014)
- Shoreline Master Program (amended 2011)
- Southcenter Subarea Plan (2014)
- King County Countywide Planning Policies (amended 2016)
- Comprehensive Plan (2015)
- Green Tukwila Partnership 20-Year Stewardship Plan (2017)
- Strategic Plan (amended 2018)
- Tukwila Public Arts & Culture Master Plan (2018)
- Walk and Roll Plan (2009)
- Older Adults Recreational Services Needs Assessment (2019)

members of the Project Team held a series of informal conversations using information displays (or pop-ups) at multiple locations that corresponded with Tukwila's "See You in the Park" events over the summer of 2019.



Pop-up event at Cascade View Community Park.

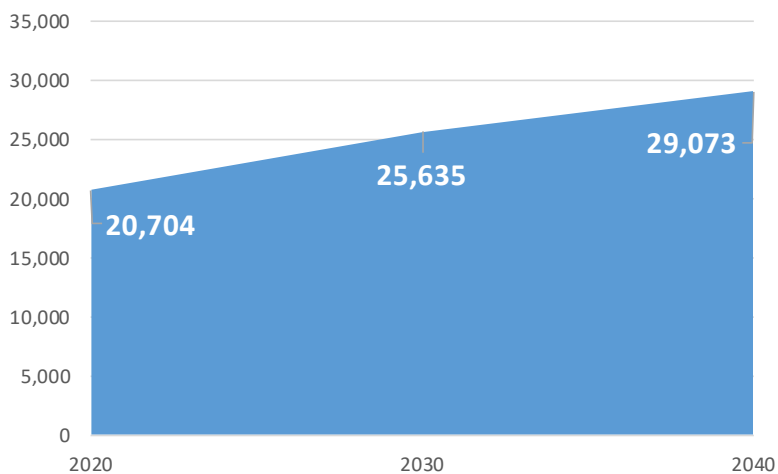
- **Community Interviews:** These meetings provided a direct line of communication with stakeholders who are intimately knowledgeable about Tukwila as well as those requiring more direct or one-on-one involvement.
- **Advisory Group and Decision-Maker Engagement Meetings:** The Project Team held three meetings with the Advisory Group, composed of City staff and department directors or managers that have a stake in parks and recreation. Other engagement meetings involved the Park Commission and Arts Commission and the Community Development & Neighborhoods Council Committee.
- **Community Priorities Game:** An in-person workshop and online survey allowed community members to identify their priorities for the future park system.

Community Composition

A DYNAMIC AND GROWING CITY

Parks and recreation services must strive to reflect the composition of the local community, especially with a growing population made of many different backgrounds. Tukwila has an estimated population of 20,930 (Washington Office of Financial Management, 2019). Based on regional estimates for 2040, Tukwila's future population will reach approximately 29,073 residents, gaining roughly 1/2 of the current population (Figure 2). In addition, as a service and employment center, the park system serves residents of nearby communities who work, play, and attend programs or events in Tukwila.

Figure 2: Tukwila Population Growth (2020-2040)



Source: U.S. Census Annual Estimates of Resident Population, July 2018.

Community composition key findings:

8,369 new residents in Tukwila by 2040

30/70: Population to employment ratio

62/38: Renter/owner ratio

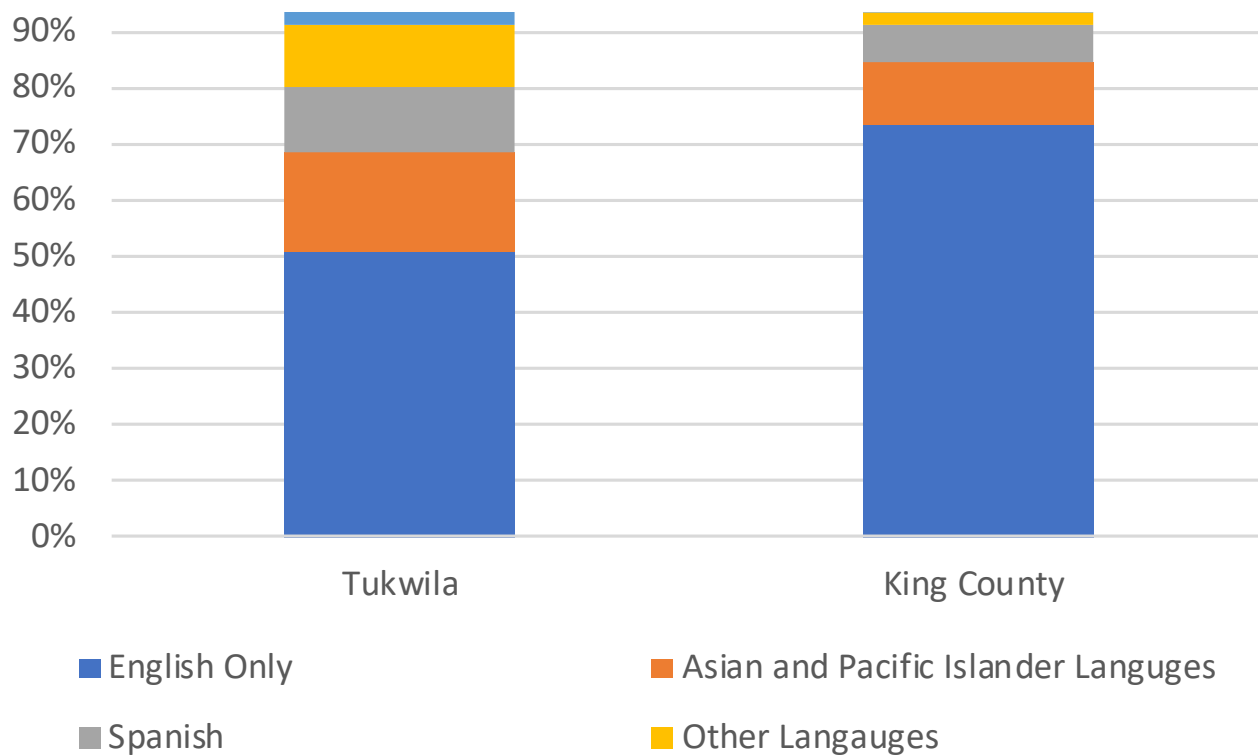
60% of residents spend more than **30%** of income on rent

49% speak a language other than English at home

Not exercising: more people in Tukwila do not exercise compared to county average

Sources: PSRC, 2013-2017 ACS 5-Year Estimates, Office of Financial Management, King County City Health Profile for SeaTac/Tukwila, March 2016 Update.

Figure 3: Language Spoken at Home Comparison of Tukwila and King County



Source: 2013-2017 ACS 5-Year Estimates, and MIG

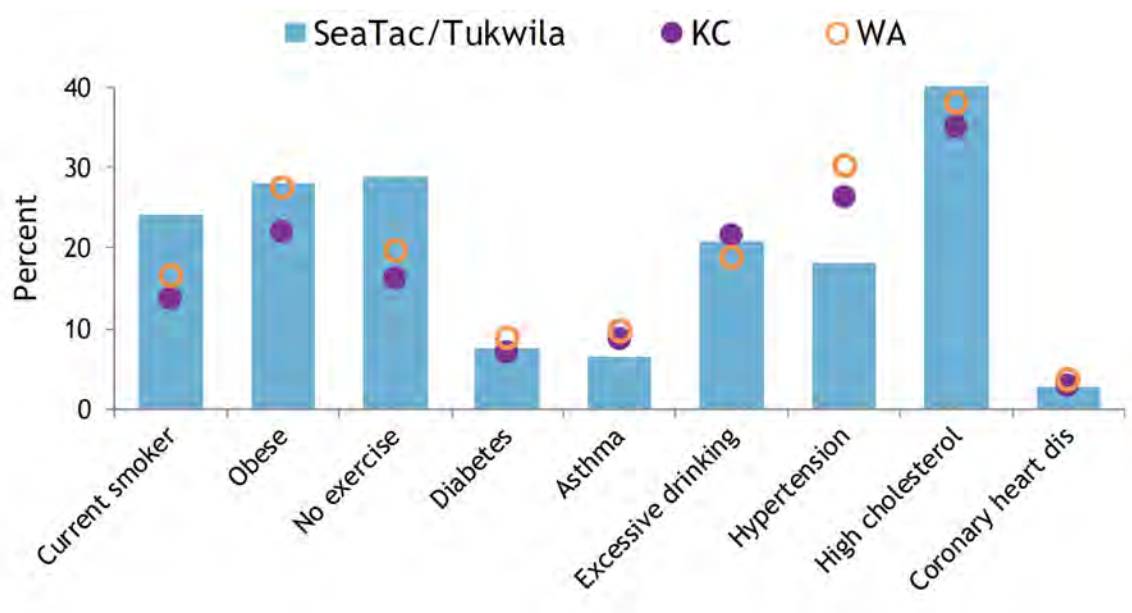
Tukwila is one of the most racially and ethnically diverse cities in the Pacific Northwest, with Asian, Black or African American, Hispanic, and other races or ethnicities having a greater share of the total population than the county average.

Similarly, the city has a higher percentage of residents that speak other languages than English. Nearly half (49 percent) of residents speak a language other than English, compared to 27 percent county-wide (Figure 3).

HIGH PERCENTAGE OF YOUTH AND AN AGING POPULATION

Parks and recreation provide different benefits and require different types of services depending on different age groups. When compared to King County, Tukwila has a higher percentage of children under age four, and between ages 10 to 14. The percentage of adults age 55 and greater has increased, while adults between age 40 to 54 decreased between 2000 and 2017. As the population continues to age and as adults live longer than previous generations, parks and recreation services will play an even greater role in the future for this demographic.

Figure 4: Health Indicators Comparison



Source: King County City Health Profile for SeaTac/Tukwila, March 2016 Update

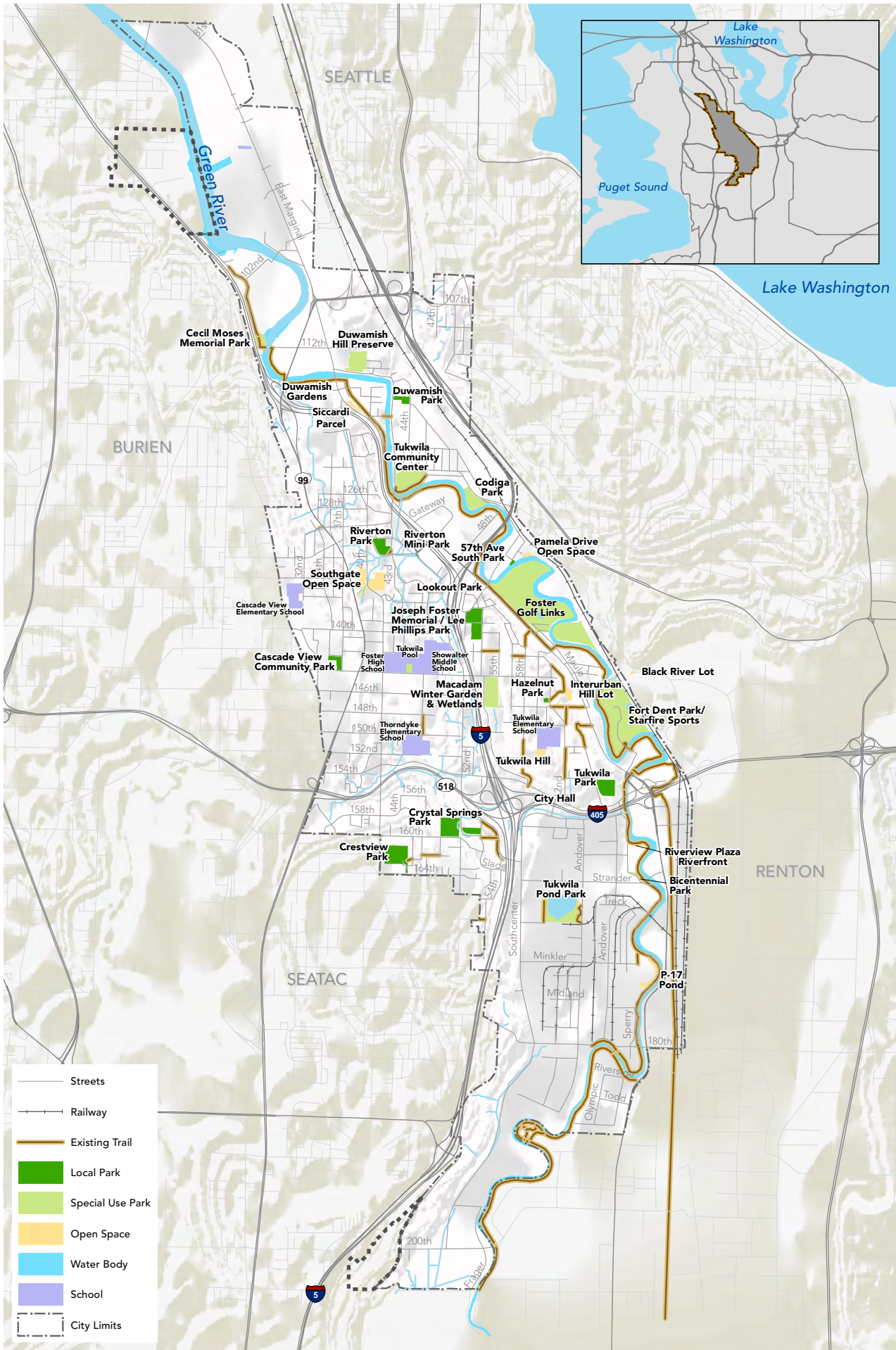
HIGHER RATE OF INACTIVITY

Perhaps one of the greatest benefits of parks and recreation is the potential to improve health. The Tukwila area (SeaTac and Tukwila) is less active than the county and state average. According to a recent county health profile, residents in the SeaTac/Tukwila area ranked at the top of the list for areas within King County that aren't exercising.

The same data source reported that SeaTac/Tukwila also ranks second in the King County area for highest percentage of residents with essential hypertension. A lack of physical activity and poor diet are among the primary factors associated with this condition. These numbers have increased since the previous data in 2012.



Green Tukwila Youth Volunteers



System Inventory and Core Services

Parks and recreation are a big part of community livability in Tukwila and a major asset and responsibility for the City. Services provided by or coordinated with the Parks and Recreation Department are wide ranging and provide opportunities for physical, mental, and social well-being.

AN URBAN PARK SYSTEM

Tukwila's park settings range from sites near busy street corridors or urban areas, to parks tucked away in residential neighborhoods, to open spaces along hillsides and the Duwamish River. The city's unique topography, development patterns, and natural and humanmade barriers limit the number of options for additional park land or open space. Tukwila has three different types of parks and open spaces. In total, there are 260.7 acres of parks and open space including several new sites added to the system since the 2014 PROS Plan. Technical Supplement A provides a complete inventory of parks and recreation facilities, including definitions of the types of parks and open spaces. Map 1 shows existing parks and open spaces, as well as existing trails.

Major recreation facilities

Tukwila operates, maintains, or partners to provide a range of facilities in its parks.

- 1** T-Ball Field
- 13** Soccer Fields (Starfire)
- 4** Multipurpose Fields
- 1** Spraypark
- 1** Pool (Metro. Park District)
- 10** Playgrounds
- 5** Basketball Courts
- 4** Tennis Courts
- 1** Skate Park
- 8** Picnic Shelters
- 2** Off-leash Dog Parks
- 2** Hand Boat Launches
- 1** Golf Course (Foster Golf Links)
- 1** Community Garden

A FULL RANGE OF RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

The City of Tukwila also provides recreation programs, community events, and other activities. The Tukwila Community Center is the customer service hub for recreation programs, community services, and facility rentals. Many activities take place at the Community Center. The City's Parks and Recreation Department provides a variety of free and low-cost programs and services, including those oriented towards preschool, youth, teens, adults, and senior adults. The Department also provides community-wide events. The Department also provides various services for mobility and support, including low-cost lunches, and transportation services.

POTENTIAL TO IMPROVE PARK ACCESSIBILITY, FACILITY CONDITION, AND RECREATION VARIETY

The Planning Team conducted park evaluations for several parks in Tukwila based on multiple criteria related to park access, character and variety. The evaluations highlighted the potential to improve visibility and sight lines into and through parks to improve safety. Several park facilities or structures need repair or replacement, and there is potential to add features that showcase the surrounding neighborhood, local history, or similar unique aspect to create a stronger sense of identity and local pride.



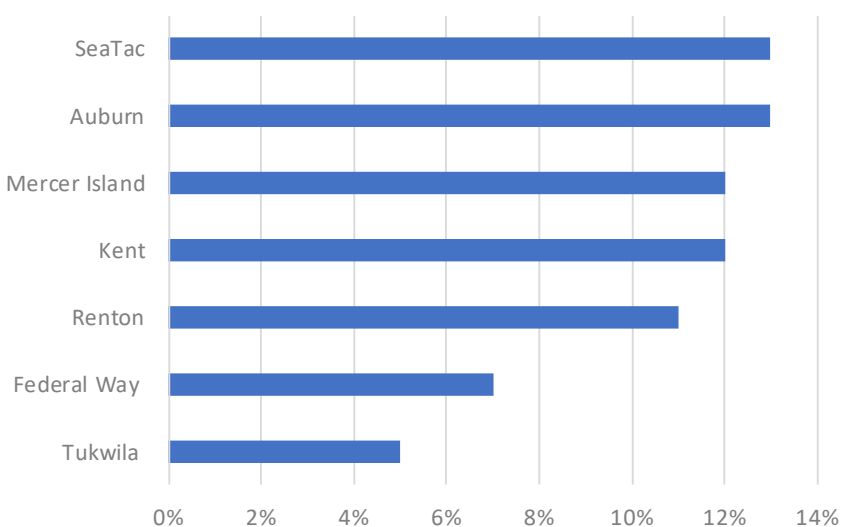
Top: Foster Links Clubhouse

Bottom: Duwamish Hill Preserve

IMBALANCE BETWEEN PARK FUNDING, MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS


The cost to operate and maintain the parks and recreation system requires substantial resources, especially to keep up with growing demand and increasing costs. Since adoption of the 2014 PROS Plan, the demand on parks maintenance has increased with a growing population, maintenance backlog, and new sites added to the system inventory. When compared to nearby park systems in King County, the City of Tukwila is dedicating less of its total expenditures on parks and recreation services showing a potential need to increase resources for operations and maintenance (Figure 5).

Figure 5: Comparable Park Systems and Percent of Total Operating Expenditures for Parks and Recreation Services



Notes: Does not include budget for fire departments.

Sources: 1. City of Kent Adopted Operating Exp. for 2020; includes expenditures for Parks, Rec & Community Services. 2. City of Mercer Island Adopted Budget for 2020 (does not include capital exp.); includes expenditures for Parks & Rec. 3. City of Renton Adopted Operating Exp. for 2020; includes expenditures for Community Services. 4. City of Tukwila Adopted Operating Exp. for 2020 (does not include capital exp.); includes expenditures for Parks & Rec. 5. City of Auburn 2020 Budget for Parks, Arts and Recreation. 6. City of Federal Way 2020 Budget. 7. City of SeaTac 2020 Budget.

A close-up photograph of several vibrant pink azalea flowers in bloom. The petals are layered and show some darker pink veining. The stamens are long and thin, with dark anthers. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green, suggesting foliage. A blue circular graphic element is visible in the bottom left corner, partially overlapping the flowers.

"I appreciate Tukwila's efforts to provide more accessible natural areas within the city that the public can enjoy [and that] also connects to the area's history and cultures."

-online survey respondent

2

Plan Framework

Chapter 2

The people of Tukwila conveyed the types of facilities and activities participants most enjoy, challenges, potential partnerships, and ideas for improving the system. In considering results from the range of engagement activities, a number of commonalities emerged.

This chapter presents community priorities and key needs and identifies the future vision and direction for system-wide aspirations, operations and investment.

Defining park quality in Tukwila

Quality is a key consideration when assessing a park system, though the meaning of the term varies from community to community. Throughout the community engagement process, the Project Team asked members of the community what park quality meant to them. For Tukwila's system, a quality park exhibits all four of the following elements.

- **Safe:** The park has good surveillance from surrounding uses, is well lighted, and the site is programmed to ensure activity is taking place throughout the day. The park also has safe access including sidewalks and safe crossings.
- **Welcoming:** The park is clean and comfortable with shade and seating, and amenities and structures are well-maintained and working properly.
- **Equitable:** The park provides opportunities for older and younger users and provides activities and experiences of interest to the surrounding neighborhood.
- **Sustainable:** The park is designed and maintained for the long term and to protect the natural environment.

Community Priorities and Key Needs

REINVIGORATED QUALITY OF EXISTING PARKS AND FACILITIES

A theme that echoed throughout the community input was the 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. Suggestions ranged from enhancing basic comfort and safety to providing more stimulating park activities and formats. Ideas for stimulating use involved upgrading or expanding features within existing parks, such as community gardens, playgrounds, and areas for dogs. Some of the greatest barriers to park use that respondents identified were needs for maintenance and repair/restoration. Participants frequently suggested improving maintenance practices, planning more sustainably, and incorporating artistic elements to enhance the beauty of public spaces.

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. Several specific areas where people indicated feeling unsafe: Bicentennial Park, Cascade View Community Park, Codiga Park, Tukwila Pond, Crestview Park, Crystal Springs Park, among others. Many reported

feeling uncomfortable hearing gunshots from nearby firing range while visiting Duwamish Hill Preserve. 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

Numerous responses captured a desire for Tukwila's parks to be more stimulating across all age groups. Participants frequently noted a lack of things to do in parks and about half indicated that a new feature, facility, or activity would make parks and recreation better in Tukwila. 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 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.



Interaction with nature is a priority in Tukwila.

CLOSE INTERACTION WITH NATURE

Getting out in nature is the top reason participants indicated for spending time in Tukwila parks. Whether getting out to observe, relax, or exercise, community members enjoy close interaction with nature. Further, respondents 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 and guided hikes.



Programs and events showcase different cultures.

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 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.



Top: Cascade View Park

Middle: Riverton Park

Bottom: Family Friendly Event

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.



Spray Park at the Tukwila Community Center

The Framework

The priorities, values and aspirations of the community guide the 2020 Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Plan. The framework provides the foundation for the PROS Plan and is aligned with the City's Comprehensive Plan and Strategic Plan. It includes the Mission, Vision, Goals and Policies.

Mission

The mission statement describes the business or approach that City staff will take in providing parks, recreation facilities and programs, and open space.

The mission of the Tukwila Parks and Recreation Department (TPR) is to enhance the quality of life for residents, businesses and visitors through a quality system of public spaces, programs and events that enhance and promote opportunities for health and fitness, personal growth, relaxation, community connection, civic engagement, and environmental stewardship.

The condensed version is: good, healthy, fun.

Vision

The Vision statement expresses the desired future of Tukwila's parks and recreation system, founded on community interests, ideas and aspirations.

Tukwila's system of welcoming parks and connected green spaces provide quality opportunities for play, gathering, relaxation and a source of community pride, identity, and economic prosperity. Fun and inclusive events and programs, healthy natural areas, and well-maintained public spaces and facilities offer something for everyone. The people of Tukwila are committed to sustaining the long-term success of their valuable park and recreation system for future generations to enjoy.

The Vision for Parks and Recreation

welcoming | connected | inspiring | inclusive | sustainable

GOALS

POLICIES

1. Safe, Convenient and Connected System

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1.1 Close-to-home | 1.7 Public transit |
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| 1.4 Ped/bike | 1.10 Trail linkages |
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| 1.6 Transportation | 1.12 Capacity |

2. A Network of Green Spaces

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| 2.1 Multi function | 2.4 Integration |
| 2.2 Expansion | 2.5 Awareness |
| 2.3 Coordination | |

3. A Sense of Community

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------|
| 3.1 Design | 3.4 Art |
| 3.2 Events | 3.5 Expansion |
| 3.3 Interpretation | |

4. Opportunities for All

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| 4.1 Flexibility | 4.5 Indoor/outdoor |
| 4.2 Diversity | 4.6 Future growth |
| 4.3 Accessibility | 4.7 Partnerships |
| 4.4 Capacity | |

5. Safe, Inviting and Affordable

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| 5.1 Safety | 5.5 Partners |
| 5.2 Planning/design | 5.6 Access |
| 5.3 Guidance | 5.7 Awareness |
| 5.4 Involvement | 5.8 Maintenance |

6. Healthy People and Places

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| 6.1 All ages | 6.5 Education |
| 6.2 Investment | 6.6 Agriculture |
| 6.3 Benefits | 6.7 Maintenance |
| 6.4 Economic Dev. | 6.8 Best practices |

RECOMMENDATIONS

See system-wide and site-specific recommendations in Chapters 3 and 4.

GOALS AND POLICIES

Goals are the desired outcomes to be achieved by implementing the 2020 PROS Plan. Goals provide direction for more specific policies and recommendations to guide future decisions and ensure consistent long-term direction for service provision. Each goal contains multiple policies that establish more specific directions for the system.

Policies reflect public needs, past and current planning efforts, as well as strategic planning, design and management principles. Policies will achieve the stated goals and provide system-wide direction for all City park and recreation services. They are organized by the goals that they support. Chapters 3 and 4 provide detailed recommendations and implementation strategies to carry out these policies.



The Urban Center Pedestrian Bridge has improved connectivity to the Green/Duwamish River Trail and parks such as Bicentennial Park.

Goal 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.

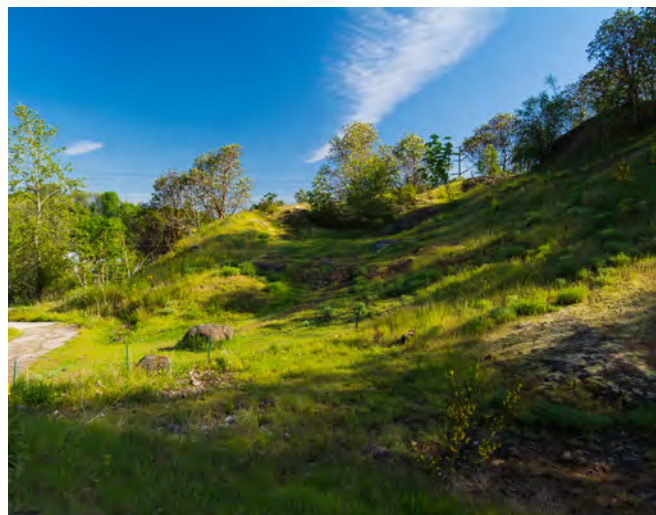
- 1.1 Create a system of close-to-home recreation opportunities, aiming for a ¼-mile to ½-mile travel distance between most residential uses and parks and recreation areas.
- 1.2 Create a system of close-to-work recreation opportunities, aiming for a ¼-mile to ½-mile travel distance between most employment places and parks and recreation areas.
- 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.
- 1.4 Improve the pedestrian and bicycle environment by creating safe and efficient connections across busy streets, railways and the Green/Duwamish River.
- 1.5 Increase physical and scenic connectivity with the Green/Duwamish River.
- 1.6 Integrate linkages to recreation areas and open spaces when planning and designing trails, sidewalks, crossings and other elements of the transportation system.

- 1.7 Align parks and recreation programs and services with public transit service and advertise how to attend by transit.
- 1.8 Continue to provide a safely-designed and maintained trail system.
- 1.9 Distribute public recreational facilities throughout the City so that they are safely and easily accessible to residents, visitors, and those who come to Tukwila to work.
- 1.10 Create a trail system that links significant community focal points, and connects the trail network together at strategic points.
- 1.11 Connect concentrations of commercial and retail activity with the trail network.
- 1.12 Maximize potential and capacity of existing parks and recreation resources to offset existing and future demand.
- 2.3 Coordinate with other regional and local plans to complement and enhance the Tukwila open space network.
- 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.
- 2.5 Increase the public's awareness and stewardship of the City's open space resources and benefits, examples include organizing volunteer events, developing and distributing information.
- 2.6 Monitor and maintain natural areas to control invasive species and other impacts.
- 2.7 Co-locate public infrastructure, environmental and recreational projects when practicable.

Goal 2: A Network of Green Spaces

Recreational amenities, historical sites, Green/ Duwamish River, wetlands, creeks, and other natural resources are connected to each other and neighboring networks of lands. This network defines Tukwila as a Northwest city, and includes visually significant bands of vegetation that contrast with the built environment.

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



Duwamish Hill Preserve offers green space and wildlife habitat.



Interpretive signage at Duwamish Hill Preserve provides an opportunity to showcase local history and culture.

Goal 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.

- 3.1. Design parks and recreation facilities that celebrate unique features of Tukwila and that contribute to quality of life and neighborhood needs.
- 3.2. Hold community events that encourage interaction between neighbors and celebrate the diversity of Tukwila.
- 3.3. Interpret local culture, history and environment throughout the system.
- 3.4. Integrate art throughout the city, guided by the Tukwila Municipal Arts Plan.

- 3.5. Combine 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.

Goal 4: Opportunities for All

Tukwila's parks and recreation opportunities offer something for all ages, abilities and cultures, in settings, locations and times that are convenient to as many as possible.

- 4.1. Offer flexible recreation programming that is constantly improving and responding to current trends and community desires.
- 4.2. Provide programs that embrace Tukwila's many cultures, customs and interests.
- 4.3. Design accessible parks, facilities and programs for all ages and abilities.
- 4.4. Increase the capacity at existing parks and recreation facilities to maximize use and expand public access.
- 4.5. Provide indoor and outdoor spaces designed for increased access and flexibility of use.
- 4.6. Consider future growth needs and planned density when providing parks and recreation opportunities to meet community needs.
- 4.7. Expand program options through enhanced partnerships with businesses and organizations, and through volunteerism.

Goal 5: Safe, Inviting and affordable

Parks and facilities that are safe, well maintained and clean, and programs and services that are welcoming and accessible for all people.

- 5.1. Design parks and public spaces using accepted public safety standards such as Crime Prevention through Environmental Design Principles (CPTED) or Defensible Space.
- 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.
- 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.
- 5.4. Involve the community, including expected users and neighborhood residents, in appropriate aspects of capital project and program planning and implementation.
- 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.
- 5.6. Increase access to affordable, free or reduced cost programs and services.
- 5.7. Expand awareness of the full range of program offerings and recreation options made available by the City and others.
- 5.8. Maintain parks and public spaces so that they are safe, clean and welcoming.



Top: Riverton Park

Goal 6: Healthy People and Places

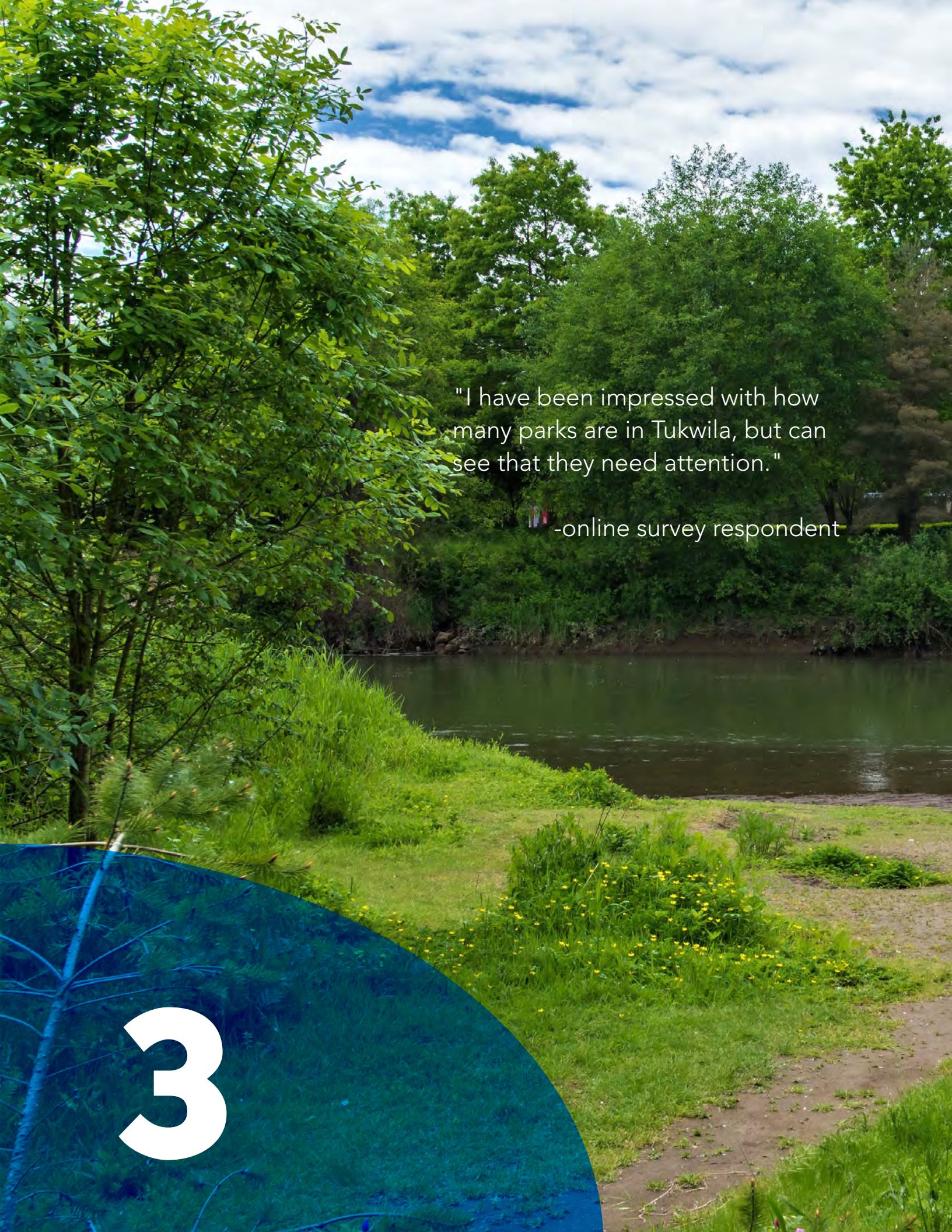
Parks and recreation opportunities that promote healthy, active lifestyles are designed and managed to engage and enhance the natural environment and the local economy.

- 6.1. Provide services for all ages to encourage community members to try new activities and build a habit of healthy living.
- 6.2. Promote healthy food choices and active living programs as a central focus for community education.
- 6.3. Strive to create projects and programs that provide social, economic and environmental benefits to the community.
- 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.

- 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. Encourage and support the use of public lands for urban agriculture activities, through existing and new programming or partnerships
- 6.7. Consider long-term management, operations and maintenance needs when implementing new projects and programs.
- 6.8. Employ best practices in managing facilities, parks and open space areas, and provide continuing education for City staff on these practices.



*Top: Spray Park at the Tukwila Community Center
Bottom: Green River Trail at Bicentennial Park*



"I have been impressed with how many parks are in Tukwila, but can see that they need attention."

-online survey respondent

3

The background of the page is a photograph of a park. On the left, there is a pond with a sandy shore and some green plants. The rest of the image is filled with various green trees and foliage, creating a lush, natural setting. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

Recommendations

Chapter 3

Tukwila's vision and goals for parks and recreation, and community needs for parks, facilities and programs together inform the recommendations in the PROS Plan. Recommendations are comprehensive and many will take a decade or longer to implement. For example, the Tukwila Pond Concept provides a vision for the site that will require a combination of public and private support, longer-term water quality remediation and major capital investment. Other recommendations will support ongoing City decision making related to site acquisition and design (Technical Supplement C: Park Design and Development Guidelines) and recreation programs (Technical Supplement D: Recreation Program Cost Recovery).

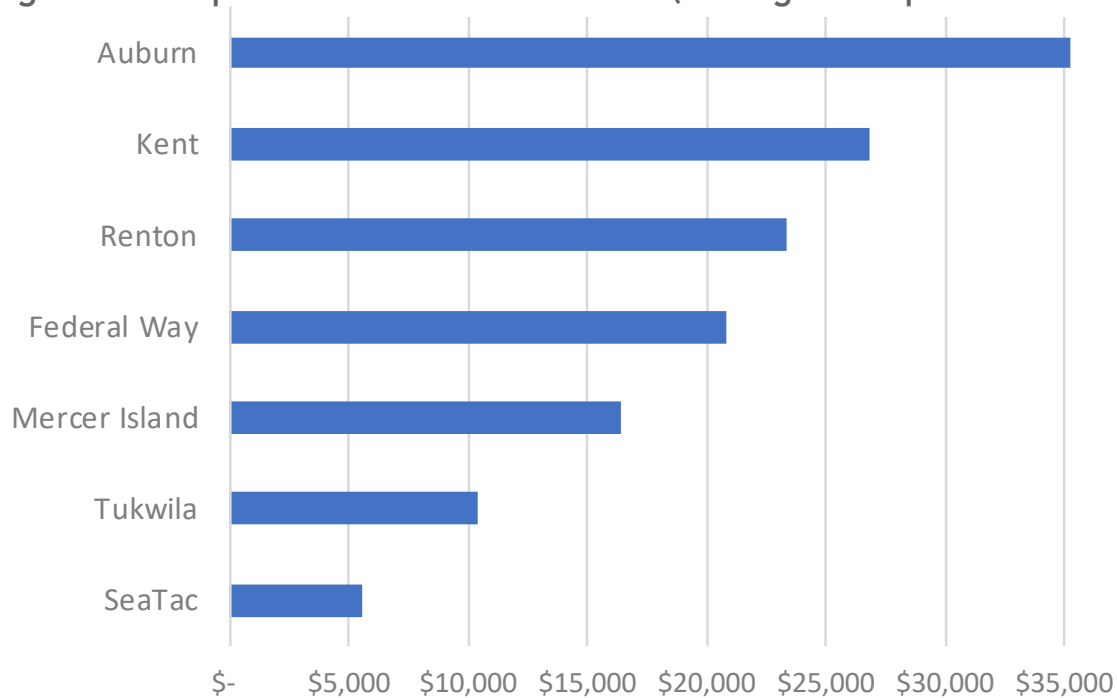
Along with recommendations in this chapter, Chapter 4 identifies park specific capital projects and improvements.

Operations and Maintenance

Public parks—and the amenities, facilities and landscaping in them—deteriorate as they age and require periodic updating and renovation beyond the regular maintenance they receive. Some facilities eventually must be replaced to ensure safe and continued use. Other facilities may be removed and replaced with different elements, since evolving recreation trends change needs for the types of amenities, facilities and programs in parks.

The Parks and Recreation Department currently spends about \$1.6 million annually on the maintenance of the parks and recreation system, or about \$10,400 per maintained park acre. Figure 6 provides a comparison of park maintenance for nearby park providers in King County for illustrative purposes. While some of the example cities have a much larger population, tax base, or more extensive park system, Tukwila’s maintenance cost per acre is approximately half of the comparison average, showing a need to increase funding for park maintenance and capital investment.

Figure 6: Comparison of Park Maintenance (Average Cost per Maintained Acre)



Notes: 1. City of Kent 2020 Adopted Budget, Operations Division (includes developed parks, does not include golf course), and City of Kent Park & Open Space Plan, 2016. 2. City of Mercer Island Adopted Budget 2019-2020, Parks & Recreation Plan, 2014-2019 (does not include open space) 3. City of Renton 2020 Adopted Budget, Parks & Trails Division (does not include golf course, open space, or natural resource areas). 4. City of Tukwila Biennial Budget, 2019-2020 (does not include Foster Golf Links or open space acreage). 5. City of Auburn 2020 Budget for Parks, Arts and Recreation, 2015 Auburn Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan (excludes golf course, open space, and trails). 6. City of Federal Way 2020 Budget, 2019 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan. 7. City of SeaTac 2020 Budget, 2008 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan (excludes ball field maintenance, Valley Ridge Park maintenance, and public gardens maintenance).

RECOMMENDATIONS

- OM1. Develop an asset management tool to re-evaluate costs, track the lifecycle of park assets and implement an annual replacement schedule. This should include a range of routine and ongoing maintenance responsibilities including mowing, trash/recycling pick-up, turf and irrigation repair, as well as longer-term or periodic tasks such as trail/pathway resurfacing and equipment replacement.
- » Factor in new parks, facilities and trails that are planned for development into maintenance and asset replacement schedules.
 - » Factor in access improvements as per the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Architectural Barriers Act (ABA) triggered by renovation.
- OM2. Decrease maintenance costs where feasible to address facility maintenance needs.



Tukwila Parks Maintenance

- OM3. Set aside funds for the future replacement and refreshing of parks, facilities and landscaping that will all need attention in a similar timeframe.
- OM4. Track park use data and preferences to better inform decision-making. Possibilities include: automated trail counters, manual counts when program and maintenance staff are present, and exploring user-data from online mapping platforms.
- OM5. Diversify funding sources and public/private partnerships and ensure that new development pays for park/recreation impacts so that City funds are focused on park renovation and replacement and other priority projects.
- OM6. Repair and upgrade features, such as exercise stations, basketball courts/hoops, playground surfacing and equipment, and path surfacing.
- OM7. Promote the Tukwila Works reporting program for all park concerns or maintenance needs. Use the program to track the types of maintenance needs and park or facility “hot spots” to inform future workload planning and annual budgets.
- OM8. Use Ecolawn as an alternative to standard turf (a slow growing, drought-tolerant turf that requires less mowing, fertilizing, and watering).
- OM9. Develop and implement edge treatments to improve the management of the areas where traditional park features intersect with natural areas. An identified transitional edge zone from lawn to grassland or shrubs, then to creek corridor or wetlands will facilitate maintenance, reduce overall costs over time, and improve habitat.



Volunteers doing restoration work along the Green River Trail.

OM10. Create a public education and community relations campaign to describe the maintenance/asset management issue and communicate the tradeoffs needed to sustain critical resources in parks and recreation programming.

OM11. Develop and follow an inclusion policy based on City and NRPA's Parks for Inclusion guidelines. The policy should provide direction on inclusive operations on all aspects of park operations including, communication, engagement, design, programming, and employment.

OM12. Use advertising, universal graphics, and imagery for all park and recreation communications that reflect the multi-ethnic/multi-cultural composition of the Tukwila community.

OM13. Consider adding specialized or special purpose maintenance and equipment needs to better service parks.

OM14. Increase monitoring and police presence and enforce stronger regulation of illegal/unsafe activities in and around parks and public areas.

OM15. Work with transportation officials and transit agencies to continue to improve transit access to parks and facilities.

Park Activation

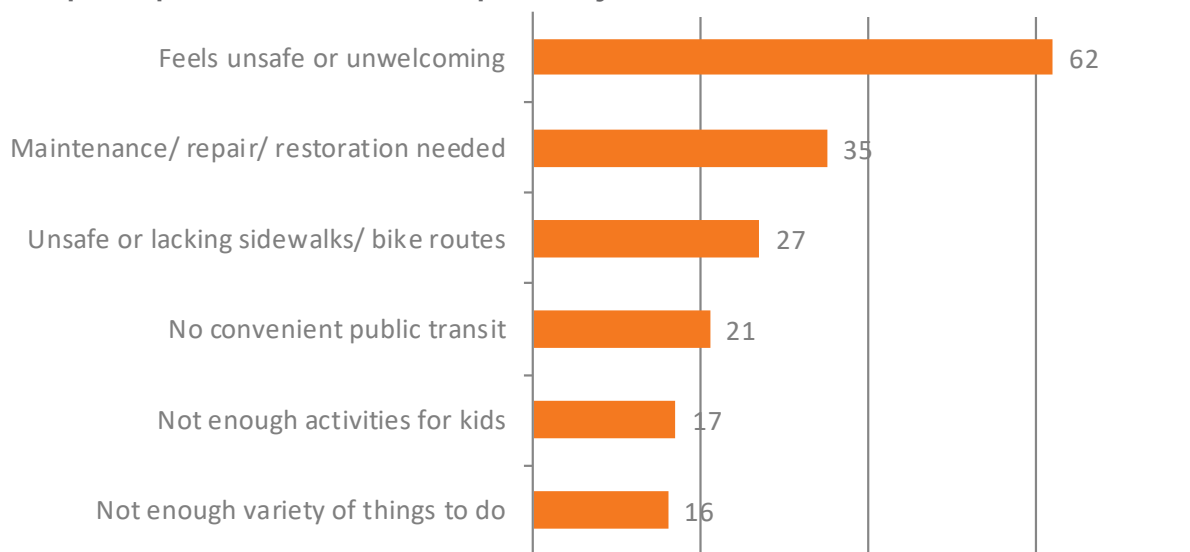
Park activation maximizes the benefits of existing parks by providing places and activities that are more welcoming, flexible, or that offer multiple benefits. A well-used park is also a safer park, making activation a public safety effort as well. Trends include drop-in as well as organized activities that support active, passive and social opportunities to increase the use and vibrancy of public spaces. Park agencies are designing and developing activity and social hubs in parks to increase park use. These include permanent elements such as group seating areas, dog parks, chess tables and outdoor ping pong, as well as temporary play elements and mobile recreation programs.

While "activated" parks will have higher maintenance needs because of the higher level of use, this investment provides an important balance to parks designed to provide quiet open space, solitude and aesthetic and visual appeal. Pop-up or movable activity hubs create temporary activities in spaces that can be reserved for other uses. More permanent features such as multi-purpose sports courts are proposed in locations that not only facilitate programming but also introduce greater flexibility in parks.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- PA1. Address the needs of underrepresented populations across the park system and at key sites. Consider multilingual signage, culturally specific or expressive art, and elements such as plazas, community gardens, and group picnic areas.
- PA2. Implement the Tukwila Municipal Arts Plan by focusing on parks and public spaces within the four focus areas.
- PA3. Invest in mobile recreation equipment and pop-up activities and games that can be used in different parks across the city, then stored and secured when not in use.
- PA4. Add new and varied play areas and equipment that are distinct from nearby play areas of other parks. When a park is located near another play area, consider investing in a single site rather than duplicating the same style and design.
- PA5. Incorporate recreational uses at Tukwila Pond; consider perimeter pathways around the pond with trail connections, kayak launch, and equipment rental.
- PA6. Increase Green/Duwamish River and Tukwila Pond visibility, orient adjacent businesses towards the water, and explore business partnerships to support water-related activities.
- PA7. Implement the vision for Tukwila Pond by developing a master plan for this site based on the Tukwila Pond Concept (see the Tukwila Pond Potential Park Vision). Convene a committee consisting of property owners and businesses, public agency leaders, advocates and users to build private and public partnerships for capital investment and long-term support, and to sustain momentum to complete site improvements and improve the quality of park edges. Explore business partnerships to arrange portable vendors, such as food trucks and coffee carts.

Figure 7: Top Barriers or Issues for Enjoying Parks, Recreation and Open Space (Interactive Map Survey Results)



Source: MIG

- PA8. Convey history and culture through art and interpretive installations. Integrate public art, signage/wayfinding, and interpretive elements. Integrate concessions and rental stands along the Green River Trail (e.g., for skates, scooters, and bikes).
- PA9. Encourage complementary nearby park uses, such as ground floor shops, cafes, and restaurants with easy access to adjacent parks.
- PA10. Encourage permanent buildings with direct access onto a public park or plaza (e.g., small restaurants, ice cream stands, community facilities).
- PA11. Sustain comfortable, quality experiences through added amenities, such as restrooms, water fountains, sun and shade exposed seating/tables, lighting, and parking improvements.
- PA12. Increase the presence of park stewards and hosts to stimulate use and safety.
- PA13. Collaborate with institutional partners, non-profit agencies, and community members to foster public spaces that are open and welcoming to all members of the community.
- PA14. Evaluate lighting in parks and strategically improve and add lighting where needed to increase comfort/safety.
- PA15. Continue CPTED pruning program to enhance visibility and park site lines by trimming overgrown shrubs and brush, relocating or removing landscape features, and selective thinning.

Park Acquisition and Design

The City of Tukwila is committed to providing nearby park and recreation opportunities to the entire community. In coordination with the City's 10-Minute Walk Campaign, the planning team conducted a park access analysis to understand the geographic distribution of parks and recreation facilities. The analysis evaluated Tukwila's park system using a network analysis approach to identify areas where residents live outside of a ¼-to ½-mile distance (10-minute walk) to a developed city park.

As a demographically diverse community, the Project Team applied three socio-economic and demographic criteria to better understand convenient access to parks through an equitable lens.



Kids Festival at Cascade View Park

Esplanade & Boardwalk

Along the north edge of the pond new building frontages open up to a public esplanade. Shops, restaurants, and offices on the ground floor spill out onto a the 25' wide esplanade. A raised boardwalk provides easy access to the water's edge.



Event Pavilion

A pedestrian friendly street is developed on 61st PI South leading mall visitors to the natural greenspace at the heart of Southcenter. An event space is envisioned at the terminus of this pedestrian connection providing a focal point, gathering space, and multi-purpose venue for concerts and events.



Overlook Deck

Cantilevered overlook decks are envisioned at key nodes along the esplanade to provide expansive views of the pond.



Boat House

Paddleboat and kayak rentals with a concessionaire building are invite new interaction with the pond as water quality is improved.



Play Meadow

An open lawn and play area provides a flexible space for events, picnics and recreational uses in the park.



Habitat Islands

Newly created habitat islands will create a refuge for migrating waterfowl. Native wetland plantings will help improve water quality of the pond.



Tukwila Pond Park

Wetland Mitigation Area

Multi-use Trail

An accessible trail provides a 0.8 mile route for walking, jogging, and rolling along the edge of the pond.



Tree House

A tree-house structure will provide sweeping views of the pond with birding and outdoor education opportunities.



Habitat Restoration

Ongoing restoration of the site will include improvements to the water quality of the pond and native plantings. Interpretive signage and seating areas will engage visitors to the important habitat the pond provides.



PLAN LEGEND

- ① Mixed Use Building with Parking
- ② Curbless Festival Street
- ③ Daylighted Creek
- ④ Mixed Use Green Street

TUKWILA POND POTENTIAL PARK VISION

During the Park Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Plan Update, many community members expressed a desire to re-imagine Tukwila Pond Park. Residents, workers, and visitors are very interested in the potential of this site as a recreational, environmental, and economic resource. Tukwila Pond is a hidden gem within Tukwila's Park System. The 25 acre park serves as an important natural space for waterfowl

and is envisioned as an anchor amenity with interpretive and recreational opportunities for residents and visitors to Tukwila. As adjacent properties redevelop and the water quality of the pond is improved, mixed-use buildings with frontages facing the pond will spill out onto a new public esplanade along the north edge. A multi-use trail and a paddle boat rentals will activate the pond as a destination in downtown Tukwila.



Though park expansion is mostly constrained in Tukwila, there are still opportunities to add to the system where the need is greatest, or where new development is taking place. The Park Design and Development Guidelines (Technical Supplement C) should be used to guide future park acquisition and design.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- AD1. Focus on improving access to park and recreation opportunities in areas with the highest need. Based on results of the Project Team's access analysis and from outcomes of the 10-Walk campaign, there are four locations with the highest need for improved park access (illustrated on Map 2: Proposed System):
- » Cascade View Neighborhood Park Search Area,
 - » Thorndyke Neighborhood Park Search Area,
 - » South of 518 Park Search Area, and
 - » Tukwila South Park Search Area.
- AD2. Use the decision making criteria (Chapter 4) to guide decision making choices around potential new sites or land with the potential for public ownership.
- AD3. Incorporate guidelines by park type and setting when acquiring, developing, renovating or adding facilities to parks and trail corridors (Technical Supplement C).
- AD4. Use universal design and Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design Principles when designing or redesigning parks and facilities.

- AD5. Create well-defined park entrances from a public street, pathway and/or off-street parking areas. In most cases, entrances must be suitable for maintenance and emergency vehicles.
- AD6. Create dynamic parks and recreation facilities by adding or incorporating historic and cultural resources, public art, innovative features, diverse landscaping, varied color palettes, and amenities and furnishings to support social gatherings and user comfort.
- AD7. Involve residents in site-specific master planning to ensure local needs are met. Involve local indigenous people for guidance in shaping the future system.
- AD8. Provide parks, facilities, and services that consider the needs of people of all demographics, including different ages, gender, incomes, race/cultures, abilities, family configuration, and education levels.
- AD9. For new and renovated parks, identify a design theme and use it to guide design choices.



Public art integrated into the design of Duwamish Hill Preserve.

AD10. Build parks with open edges to establish synergies with surrounding uses.

AD11. Consider public-private open spaces in business areas and unique park elements such as rooftop parks with a capacity to support events.

AD12. Look for possibilities to convert underutilized spaces or vacant lots in underserved areas.

Walkability, Accessibility and Wayfinding

Connecting people to parks, and creating a safe and accessible system of sidewalks, trails, and crossings is one of the top needs according to the community. Walking is also the top activity statewide and within the Seattle-King County region. Throughout the community engagement process, safe and efficient connections to parks, accessibility, and improved wayfinding were some of the top needs across the city. The Parks and Recreation Department should continue to collaborate across different departments and agencies to support improved walkability and accessibility to parks and recreation opportunities. This includes safer and more welcoming streets that are designed for people walking, biking and taking transit, and improved connections across busy streets, and through irregular shaped or large blocks. City-wide plans and policies including the Walk and Roll Plan and ADA Transition Plan should also continue to serve as guiding direction for improvements in and around parks and public spaces.

RECOMMENDATIONS

WA1. Create a coordinated, systemwide park and trail signage/wayfinding system, adding trail mile marker and signage and replacing park and trail signage where needed for consistency, visibility and functionality. Incorporate art or Tukwila's brand into the signage. Incorporate trail markers that the Police Department could use to locate an area in case of an emergency.

WA2. Provide wayfinding and interpretive signage, as well as trail amenities such as benches, bike repair stations, dog waste receptacles, drinking fountains and shade.

WA3. Include universal symbols or use of multiple languages in park wayfinding and signage.



Interurban Trail

- WA4. Provide signage and facilities to support environmental education and interpretation, including information on wildlife in developed parks and natural areas, particularly at points of interest such as trailheads, the waterfront, viewpoints and sensitive areas.
- WA5. Prioritize and implement barrier removal in conjunction with all park and facility renovation projects.
- WA6. Ensure that parks have clear connections and/or points of entry for bicyclists and pedestrians as the trail system is developed.
- WA7. Make the Green River Trail more accessible and work with regional partners to explore the addition of “trail eddies” that incorporate small play or art features and user comfort amenities.
- WA8. Continue to implement the Walk and Roll Plan for trail connectivity. Improve walking and biking connections between parks, trails, and residential neighborhoods by linking gaps in the system, improving surfacing/stripping, and enhancing safe crossing points.
- WA9. Expand the trail system in creative ways, such as boardwalk wetland paths and converting abandoned railroad tracks in the urban center to paths.
- WA10. Improve safe pedestrian and bike access around the library, community center, schools, and the Longhouse; consider adding stoplights, bus stops, and improved crosswalks.

Universal Design and Principles

Universal design is the design of an environment so that it can be accessed, understood and used to the greatest extent possible by all people regardless of their age, background or ability. It should follow these seven principles.

Principle 1: Equitable Use: The design is useful and marketable to people with diverse abilities.

Principle 2: Flexibility in Use: The design accommodates a wide range of individual preferences and abilities.

Principle 3: Simple and Intuitive Use: Use of the design is easy to understand, regardless of the user’s experience, knowledge, language skills, or current concentration level.

Principle 4: Perceptible Information: The design communicates necessary information effectively to the user, regardless of ambient conditions or the user’s sensory abilities.

Principle 5: Tolerance for Error: The design minimizes hazards and the adverse consequences of accidental or unintended actions.

Principle 6: Low Physical Effort: The design can be used efficiently and comfortably and with a minimum of fatigue.

Principle 7: Size and Space for Approach and Use: Appropriate size and space is provided for approach, reach, manipulation and use, regardless of user’s body size, posture or mobility.

Source: NRPA

Threats to Tukwila's Parks and Natural Areas

The Green Tukwila 20-Year Stewardship Plan provides a comprehensive assessment and strategy for improving restoration and management of parks and open space. With a focus on natural areas and environmental health, the Plan identifies several key threats to the future of Tukwila's natural areas:

- Habitat fragmentation
- Declining habitat quality
- Invasive species
- Native vegetation struggling to regenerate
- Illegal activity
- Climate change
- Resource limitations

Source: Green Tukwila 20-Year Stewardship Plan

Nature Integration

Across the country, there is a movement to re-connect children and adults with nature and the outdoors. Nature-based activities are among the most popular at the state and regional level. Since close-to-home access is critical, cities are protecting nearby natural areas, integrating natural elements into developed parks, and providing programs to introduce people of all ages to nature and wildlife.

Some agencies are introducing "naturehood parks" in lieu of the traditionally manicured neighborhood parks. These spaces are designed to include pollinator patches, native plants, community gardens and low-quality nature spaces that allow kids to dig holes, find bugs, get muddy, and explore.

More cities are investing in wildlife habitat, riparian corridor protection and the enhancement of park ecological functions as well, both to support environmental systems and connect people to nature. Nature integration also adds value in protecting and integrating more natural areas in Tukwila's parks and open spaces. Park Design and Development Guidelines (Technical Supplement C) and site-specific recommendations (Technical Supplement E) note opportunities and potential locations to integrate more natural plant palettes, introduce pollinator patches, and remove turf where it does not support recreation or social opportunities.



Green Tukwila Stewardship at Tukwila Park.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- NI1. Create opportunities for residents and visitors to connect with nature, both physically and visually, including new or improved pollinator patches, protection or integration of native plants, introduction of urban wildlife corridors, and protection and access to natural areas such as Tukwila Pond.
- NI2. Add nature play elements in parks. Consider nature play in addition to or as an alternative to traditional playground equipment in neighborhood parks throughout the City.
- NI3. Provide dedicated natural open space in developed parks to emphasize natural features.
- NI4. Use trail corridors to add natural plantings and tree canopy.
- NI5. Create meadow habitat in natural areas or transition spaces between developed and natural areas (habitat-friendly native grasses and herbaceous perennials/annuals/bulbs that requires minimal mowing/pruning and weed management).
- NI6. Identify and create pollinator corridors through plantings in street medians and rights-of-way to assist pollinator migration, particularly where corridors connect key park sites.
- NI7. Protect and restore the Green/Duwamish River, fish/salmon and wildlife habitat, and forests.
- NI8. Increase tree canopy, remove invasive plants, and revegetate.
- NI9. Include interpretive elements about local history, fish, wildlife, native plants, conservation, and indigenous people.
- NI10. Reveal and enhance nature and natural processes using native plants and by using stormwater management as a functional and aesthetic park feature.
- NI11. Use best practices for managing the Green/Duwamish River and improving water quality; promote river clean-ups and pollution prevention.
- NI12. Restore the Green/Duwamish River as a source of community pride in collaboration with Green Tukwila Partnership and local indigenous people.

Programs and Events

Public programs and events are a cornerstone of the park and recreation system in Tukwila, and essential to activating parks and building a sense of community. One of the key challenges of the centralized recreation center is providing access for the majority of community members across the city. Results from community outreach indicated that some users, including teens, find it challenging to access the community center especially if relying on transit.

Cost is another barrier and many comments identified a need to keep costs low to reduce barriers for those who aren't able to pay for programs or services. Still, events such as "See You in the Park" were well received among participants. Activities that get people in parks are one of the best strategies to activate parks, get people familiar with their park and recreation system, and increase social connectivity and community gathering. According to the online survey results, cultural arts programming or cultural celebrations or educational events, and community-wide events and celebrations were two of the top choices for adding more programs and activities.

As a diverse city, increasing opportunities for non-English speakers, communities of color, and community members representing different cultures or ethnicities is the best approach to create a more inclusive, fun, and active city.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- PE1. Use the Recreation Program Cost Recovery (Technical Supplement D) to guide refinement and adoption of cost recovery goals for the City's recreation programs.
- PE2. Expand affordable and/or free programming to better meet the needs and interests of participants of all ages and communities of color.
- PE3. Create pop-up/mobile play programming for all ages. Consider options such as recreational activity vans, games, and other interactive props for children and adults. Explore potential grant funding to support this type of programming.



- PE4. Provide mentoring and positive guidance for youth by partnering with the school district and by encouraging volunteers to support programs and activities.
- PE5. Expand on the success of “See You in the Park” by exploring a variety of parks and open streets events at different scales.
- PE6. Explore models and approaches to increase localized events and keep them relevant/stimulating. This includes small musical or other artistic performances, markets, and drop-in or pop-up activities. They could occur regularly or temporarily in parks and should be changed up for variety. Explore grant programs to support community inspired events.
- PE7. Partner with the non-profit groups to offer culinary arts courses, business management and operations programs, and other similar opportunities while supporting small businesses and job and entrepreneurial recruitment.
- PE8. Work with King County to coordinate programming and access by public transit. The City should collaborate and cross-promote programs like Trailhead Direct (a pilot program for seasonal transit service that operates on weekends and holidays to outdoor and wilderness areas in the Cascades) that increase access for Tukwila residents.
- PE9. Continue collaborating with non-profits, coalitions, and advocacy groups to support events and programs that connect people to nature, such as the Duwamish Alive event. Ensure that events aim for all skill levels and ages, especially families who can participate together.



Camp Tukwilly - Summer Day Camp


- PE10. Partner with local restaurants to provide food for local events and for city supported services. Consider hosting older adult meals at local restaurants to create a more fun and all-ages atmosphere and make services more accessible in different areas of the city.
- PE11. Increase outdoor fitness and recreation and more local park programming, targeting local residents and employees.
- PE12. Offer guided nature hikes that focus on Tukwila’s ecosystems and the indigenous people’s connections to them.
- PE13. Increase programs and events dedicated to sharing tribal traditions, such as storytelling, culinary practices, art, weaving, nature, and others; also encourage sharing of other cultures and inspire “unity through diversity”.

- PE14. Support the Longhouse and tribal services as important resources to indigenous peoples and the broader community.
- PE15. Test new programs that support spontaneous play and fitness, such as outdoor workout classes.
- PE16. Consider adding activities specific to older adult needs and interests, such as a peer support volunteer program, programs for those with memory impairments, intergenerational activities, and other recommended programs from the Older Adults Recreational Services Needs Assessment.
- PE17. Offer drop-in activities at parks and open spaces, such as pick-up soccer, chess, and hiking groups, where participants may spontaneously participate.
- PE18. Provide programming options at Bicentennial Park and Tukwila Pond Park to support employees from local surrounding businesses (concerts, events, gatherings).
- PE19. Run summer concessions out of the Bicentennial Park cabin for trail users (walkers, runners, bikes, skates, rollerblades, scooters).
- PE20. Increase programming at Duwamish Hill Preserve, including storytelling and interpretation, guided hikes and camps.



Healthy Earth, Healthy You 5K



A photograph of a park with a playground in the foreground and a grassy area with trees in the background. A large blue circular graphic is overlaid on the bottom left corner, containing a white number 4. The park is filled with people, including children and adults, engaged in various activities. A gazebo is visible on the right side of the image.

"Thank you for trying to keep
the parks in good shape!"

-online survey respondent

4

Implementation

Chapter 4

The envisioned future park system will take a decade or longer to implement. Some projects, such as the Tukwila Pond concept, will depend on unique opportunities, private interest and other external factors outside of the City's control. Added and improved facilities and new parks will also require increased funding for maintenance and reinvestment. This chapter identifies implementation steps to carry out the vision and system-wide recommendations outlining an action plan that:

- Identifies recommendations for specific parks, and planning level costs for capital projects, reinvestment and maintenance;
- Outlines decision-making criteria and phasing of projects linked to funding sources and potential partners; and
- Provides next steps to advance the vision and plan goals.

Proposed System

The envisioned future park and recreation system reflects the key needs and vision articulated by the community, with specific projects identified for existing parks as well as potential future parks. Map 2 (Proposed System) shows the future park system.

Key features of the map include the completed regional trail network, two different park search areas, and capital project types for specific parks that are defined on the following pages.

REGIONAL TRAIL NETWORK

King County is responsible for managing a network of regional trails including three trail systems that converge within Tukwila and that provide non-motorized connectivity throughout the region. While the Interurban Trail and Green River Trail sections are complete, the County is currently developing future segments of the Lake to Sound Trail including completion of the Tukwila segment and connections to Renton. The trail will consist of a combination of a separated path, bike lanes and routes, and sidewalks.

PARK SEARCH AREAS

The search areas are general locations where future parks should be prioritized. Technical analysis conducted as part of the project, in coordination with the 10-Minute Walk campaign and King County's Land Conservation Initiative, identified four areas to prioritize future park and recreation access. Each of these park search areas is highlighted in yellow on Map 2: Proposed System.

The first of these is in the Cascade View neighborhood at the west edge of Tukwila.

A second area includes the Thorndyke neighborhood. The park search area for this site includes undeveloped/underdeveloped land near Thorndyke Elementary. The City may need to partner with the Tukwila School District for dedication of a public park in this location.

The third area is adjacent to the Thorndyke neighborhood but is cut off by Highway 518.

The fourth park search area is in Tukwila South. Though zoning allows for a mixture of uses and higher density residential development there are currently no parks within this area. The City will require dedication of a new park (or parks) in this area as part of planning and development. Technical Supplement C (Park Design and Development Guidelines) provides design guidance for all future parks.

CAPITAL PROJECT TYPES

There are 11 types of capital projects recommended for specific parks across the system. The Proposed System Map shows capital project types by park location. Appendix E (Site Specific Recommendations) and Appendix F (Capital Projects) provide additional detail on these projects.



Park or facility repair/ replacement

Trail/pathway resurfacing, small court resurfacing, turf replacement and other reinvestments to existing parks.



Shade and seating enhancements

New benches, seat walls, small shade structures and similar improvements to increase user comfort and potential for art and site identity.



Play enhancement

New or replaced small play area that is integrated into site design and that promote play, activity and sense of community.



Nature integration

Native plantings, enhanced tree canopy, repurposing turf or landscaping to create greener parks and provide opportunities to experience nature.



Public art enhancements

Small-scale art piece that is either stand-alone, or intended for hands-on interaction, providing a source of local pride and site identity.



CAPITAL PROJECT TYPES



Small games/amenities

Movable games to encourage play and interaction such as ping pong, chess, or even toys that can be used outside and stored when needed.



Water access/public space improvements

A water overlook, hand boat launch, or similar feature to get people closer to the river or pond.



Improved signage or lighting

Entrance and wayfinding signage or pedestrian-scale lighting to make parks more welcoming, inviting and easier to navigate.



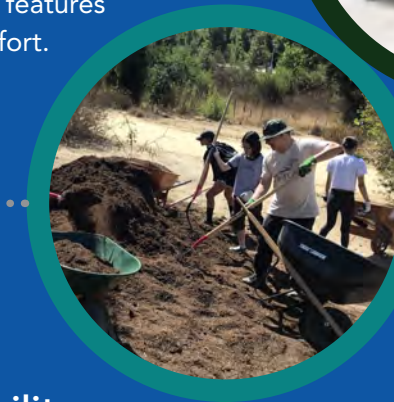
New restroom and user amenities

Small permanent restroom, drinking fountain, bike racks, bike repair station, or other features that improve user comfort.



Natural resource stewardship & restoration

Invasive species removal projects, native plantings or habitat enhancement projects that improve and sustain the natural environment.



Other added facility or improvement

Additional item that meets an identified need for the specific site.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

The total cost of developing and maintaining the system is critical to plan implementation and the build-out of the system. Table 1 summarizes the general order-of-magnitude costs to assist in evaluating and prioritizing projects for future consideration in the city-wide CIP. Approximately \$12.2 million would be needed to implement all improvements recommended in the PROS Plan. An additional \$18.5 million is budgeted to support future planning and partial match towards acquisition of new parks in each of four park search areas. A detailed version of the capital projects, cost estimates and costing assumptions for existing and proposed parks can be found in Technical Supplement F.

Unlike capital costs, reinvestment/replacement costs represent annual investments to take care of the park system. Park reinvestment costs per acre reflect an annual allocation for the capital replacement of outdated or worn facilities as scheduled based on their age and use. While these funds are not needed immediately for new facilities and parks, monies set aside annually will ensure that the City has funds on hand to repair or replace facilities when needed.

MAINTENANCE

Maintenance costs are based on the city's existing four-tiered maintenance levels, with an increase to the average cost per acre to maintain parks and facilities. A total of approximately \$2.7 million would be needed to maintain the proposed system annually (Table 2).

Table 1: Total Capital Project and Reinvestment/Replacement Costs

	Total Sites	Total Acres	Total Capital Costs	Total Capital Reinvestment/Replacement Cost (annual)
Existing Parks	23	205.4	\$12,205,000	\$376,000
Proposed Park	4	37	\$18,500,000	\$20,000
Total	27	242.4	\$31,105,000	\$511,000

Source: MIG

Table 2: Total Annual Maintenance Costs

	Total Sites	Total Acres	Total Maintenance Costs (annual)
Existing Parks	23	205.4	\$2,203,000
Proposed Park	4	37	\$500,000
Total	27	242.4	\$2,703,000

Source: MIG



Healthy Earth, Healthy You 5K

This represents an increase of the average maintenance cost per acre from approximately \$10,400 to \$18,000. On-the ground assessment of the condition of parks indicates that the current level of maintenance is too low to maintain existing features and infrastructure. Consistent with recommendations, high-use sites such as Cascade View Community Park requires additional maintenance funds to improve routine and preventative maintenance, while system-wide maintenance and operations will require additional resources to match workload demands and park and facility improvements desired by the community. Technical Supplement F table F3 provides maintenance cost assumptions.

Action Plan

PRIORITIZATION CRITERIA

This PROS Plan represents is a long-term vision for the development of the system. While all of these improvements are desired, and important,

the cost is more than the City can afford all at once. The following decision-making criteria serve as discussion questions to further prioritize the draft projects, and to address prioritizing any additional or future ideas.

1. **Capital and Resource Availability:** Are there adequate resources to move the project forward and maintain it in the future?
2. **Unique Opportunity:** Does the proposal have a limited window for making a decision while giving the City a unique opportunity related to cost, location and/or benefit that would otherwise be difficult to find?
3. **Property Availability and Condition:** Does the City own or have an agreement for use of the project site? Does the site generally follow the Park Design and Development Guidelines?
4. **Meeting Identified Needs:** Will the project fulfill an identified park and/or recreation need? Is the project within a ¼-mile from an identified park search area?
5. **Completing Connections:** Does the project improve connectivity to parks and recreation resources or bring recreation in underserved areas?
6. **Available Partnerships:** Does the project have the support of one or more partners?
7. **Enhancing/Maintaining Existing Resources:** Will the project reinvest in an existing park or recreation area?
8. **Supporting Strategic Plan and Comprehensive Plan Goals:** Can the project

Table 3: Priority Projects

Highest Priority	Types of Priority Projects
Cascade View Community Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase activation and programming at site through addition of new amenities and interactive elements, specifically focused on the uphill section. Add park security measures. Update and/or add additional public art throughout site.
Codiga Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider activating the site through programming. Consider renovating ball courts, picnic shelter, playground, and hardscape area. Add park security measures. Enhance park entrance signage. Add interactive public art installation (consider large-scale). Add shelter and seating area to dog park, locate further into the area with pathway from entrance to shelter.
Crystal Springs Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve site programming and use of underused areas to increase activation of the site. Renovate or relocate playground equipment and picnic shelter. Add amenities in the upper section to activate that area. Improve entries and signage. Convert tennis and/or basketball court into multisport courts. Add park security measures. Enhance and improve trail system (i.e. surfacing, signage, maps, interactive elements, visibility improvements).
Joseph Foster Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install new multisport court near the playground. Enhance and improve pathways around parks (i.e. surfacing, signage, interactive elements, visibility improvements, shade trees). Add public art (consider interactive element to it). Add park security measures. Improve dog park area to generate more use or repurpose with higher use amenities to activate that area. Consider adding all-purpose, multi-sport synthetic turf field, and possibly lighting, to increase capacity and use of site.
Tukwila Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renovate playground, picnic facilities, and seating area. Convert tennis/basketball courts to multipurpose sport courts. Enhance park entrance signage, and sightlines. Add new amenities and interactive elements to increase activation of site. Add park security measures. Enhance and improve trail system (i.e. surfacing, signage, maps, interactive elements, visibility improvements). Enhance nature integration. Add to existing public art with new iconic (consider historic) installations.
Tukwila Community Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider renovating picnic shelter, playground, skate park, sport court and hardscape area. Add park security measures. Enhance entrance signage. Add public art installation. Add a shelter (venue space) on the concrete slab near the POW/MIA Veterans Memorial. Consider renovating sports field with all-purpose, multi-sport synthetic turf field, and possibly lighting, to increase capacity and use of site. Enhance and improve pathways around park (i.e. surfacing, signage, interactive elements, visibility improvements, shade trees).

support multiple goals found in these plans?

PRIORITY PROJECTS

When coupled with the prioritization criteria, priority projects help identify quick wins that have the greatest potential (and greatest need) to build progress towards the proposed system vision (Table 3). Highest priority sites received the greatest support based on findings from the Community Needs Assessment, and/or received a lower score from the park design and character criteria.

As the City moves forward with implementation, these highest priorities projects will be completed and replaced with additional sites and projects selected using the prioritization criteria. Technical Supplement E provides a complete list of all recommended capital

projects.

FUNDING AND IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

1. Develop a work plan

The implementation of this Plan will continue well past the six- year update cycle. Following the adoption of this Plan, City staff and the Park Commission could develop a work plan. This work plan should recognize that there are factors that may limit the ability to move forward on any one project but each high priority site could have recommendation elements that can be moved forward. This work plan can be revisited biannually, ahead of the budgeting process, to reevaluate progress and priorities (making use of the prioritization criteria) and adjust for new



Restoration work along the Green/Duwamish River

opportunities.

2. Build community support

All new mechanisms to fund public improvements will require the will of voters. It will be important to employ public input, education, outreach and polling before any specific funding mechanism is attempted. Perhaps more importantly, communication about the values of parks and recreation and the full range of services provided by the City will be invaluable for increasing park use and long-term support.

3. Apply other funding sources

The City should evaluate all other potential funding sources. For example, naming rights could be sold for major new facilities such as an event pavilion or amphitheater at Tukwila Pond Park. Other funding sources and grants could

augment what City funds alone can provide.

4. Lodging Tax Funds

Special events and recreation tourism are actively positioned as economic development strategies. The City's Lodging Tax is currently reinvested into events serving the larger region and could be a funding source for park improvements aligned with the goals of this program.

5. Formalize cost recovery goals for recreation programs

The City should adopt formalized cost recovery goals to align Plan goals and city-wide policies with the provision of programs, activities, and events (Technical Supplement D). The cost recovery range should be based on the full cost to the City for providing the service. Cost recovery levels should be updated annually based on past year's results and community



Riverton Park



Restoration Volunteers

feedback.

6. Leverage partnerships, donations and easements to reduce costs

City leaders should continue working together to explore opportunities to advance community or partner-supported projects. Crowdfunding, fundraising, land swaps and donations, joint facility development, easements (rather than land acquisition at market costs) have been important project resources in the past and would support a higher level of service if increased in the future.

7. Collaborate on interdepartmental project design and funding

Economic development initiatives, streets, stormwater and other public utilities can all be linked to parks and recreation. The Parks and Recreation Department should continue to discuss potential projects with other City departments. For example, a water or sewer project could also provide opportunities to co-locate park and green infrastructure projects to coincide with design, construction, and ongoing maintenance.

8. Establish/expand sponsor and partnership programs

Expanding Tukwila's programming options creates new opportunities to engage and excite sponsors. For each programming area added or expanded, there is a likely community partner that could bring funding to the table. For example, health and fitness programming, from classes in parks to engaging employee fitness programs, would be an on-brand for health care



Top: Foster Golf Links

Middle: Dog Park in Crestview Park

Bottom: Cascade View Community Park event

providers or insurance companies.

9. Develop a strategic grant application program

Grants are a major source of public funding, yet the application, matching, management and reporting requirements keep grants from being truly free money. With many granting entities, the proven ability to maintain projects once they are in the ground is a growing focus. Tukwila should monitor grant opportunities (including decision criteria, deadlines and requirements) and look for alignment with the direction of this plan before deciding to move forward with application. This will result in efficient use of the necessary staff time and target grants at the highest priority and most likely opportunities.

Funding Sources

There are a number of options the City uses or could consider for funding improvements. The list below represents both capital and operations

funding sources.

- **King County Levy:** In August of 2019, King County voters approved Proposition 1, funding operations and maintenance of existing parks and trails, access to recreation, regional trail development, open space acquisition and aquatic facilities. Twenty-four percent of the funding raised will be distributed among cities in King County to fund any local park and recreation purpose. A total of \$810 million in funding under this levy will be collected and spent between 2020 and 2025. Four grant programs will be established by King County in addition to annual direct appropriations.
- **General Obligation Bond:** These are voter-approved bonds paid off by an assessment placed on real property. The money may only be used for capital improvements. This property tax is levied for a specified period of time (usually 15-20 years) and passage requires a 60% approval. Major disadvantages of this funding option are the voter approval requirement and the interest costs.
- **Donations:** The donation of labor, land or cash by service agencies, private groups or individuals is a popular way to raise small amounts of money for specific projects. One common example is a service club, such as Kiwanis, Lions or Rotary, funding playground improvements.
- **Exchange of Property:** If the City has an excess parcel of land with some development value, it could be surplussed for private land



Dog Park in Crestview Park

more suitable for park use.

- **Partnerships:** The City could consider developing partnerships with other jurisdictions, agencies or non-profit service providers to implement projects identified in the PROS Plan.
- **Public/Private Partnership:** This concept has become increasingly popular for park and recreation agencies. The basic approach is for a public agency to enter into a working agreement with a private corporation to help fund, build and/or operate a public facility. Generally, the three primary incentives a public agency can offer are land to place a facility (usually a park or other parcel of public land), certain tax advantages, and access to the facility. While the public agency may have to give up certain responsibilities or control of other recreation services and amenities, it is one way of obtaining public facilities at a lower cost.
- **Estate Giving:** A variety of arrangements to accept donations for park and recreation as an element of an estate. One example of this would be a Lifetime Estate: an agreement between the City and a land owner, where the City acquires the property but gives the owner the right to live on the site after the property transfer in exchange for the estate maintaining the property or for other agreed upon services.
- **Land Trusts:** Private land trusts, such as the Trust for Public Land, Inc. and the Nature Conservancy will acquire and hold land for eventual acquisition by a public agency. In some cases, repayment of acquisition funds,



Macadam Winter Garden

including interest, may be required.

- **Shared Facilities:** In some situations, other services provided in the city, or in private utilities, may be able to share the cost of improvements that would benefit the parks, recreation and natural areas system. One example is utility corridors; in many cases land used for sanitary sewer, water or power lines may make an excellent trail corridor. In this situation, the utility may pay to develop a service road that can also serve as a trail.
- **Recreation Conservation Office Grants:** Following the City's own resources, the largest funding source for park and recreation projects are competitive grants from the State of Washington Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO). The RCO is responsible for administering a wide variety of public funds and provides technical assistance and policy development in addition to preparing statewide plans on trails, boating facilities, habitat preservation



Top: Codiga Park

Middle: Wilderness Explorers at Duwamish Hill Preserve

Bottom: Playing in the water at the Spray Park

and off-road vehicles.

It is important to note that most grant programs require a portion of the project cost to be provided by a local partner as match funding.

- **No Child Left Inside:** This program provides grant funds for outdoor environmental, ecological, agricultural, or other natural resource-based education and recreation programs serving youth. The grant program is divided into three tiers, with Tier 1 providing a minimum of \$5,000 and Tier 3 providing a maximum of \$150,000. Tier 2 and 3 projects have a match requirement of 25 percent.
- **Salmon Recovery Funding Board:** Salmon recovery grants are awarded by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board, from state and federal sources, to protect and restore salmon habitat. The board funds projects that protect existing, high quality habitats for salmon and that restore degraded habitat to increase overall habitat health and biological productivity. The board also awards grants for feasibility assessments to determine future projects and for other salmon related activities. Projects may include the actual habitat used by salmon and the land and water that support ecosystem functions and processes important to salmon. The program funds acquisition, restoration, design and non-capital projects with no project funding limit. Local agencies are required to match 15 percent of grant funds except for design-only

projects.

- **Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program:** This program provides grants to protect and restore the Puget Sound near-shore habitat. The program was created by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to support emerging priorities of the Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Program. Program priorities steer funding towards projects focused on restoring physical ecological processes. All phases of project development from feasibility to implementation are eligible for funding. A match of 30 percent of the total project cost is required. There is no grant cap for this program.
- **Community Development Block Grants:** These grants from the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development are available for a wide variety of projects. Most are used for projects in lower income areas of the community because of funding rules. Grants can cover up to 100 percent of project costs.
- **Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act:** The FAST act funds surface transportation across the country using a combination of federal funding, primarily the gas tax. One of the funding programs is a block grant to states that includes set-aside funding for Transportation Alternatives. This funding can be applied to a variety of smaller-scale transportation projects such as pedestrian and bicycle facilities, recreational trails, safe routes to school projects, community improvements such as historic preservation and vegetation management,



Top: Kids playing at Hazelnut Park

Bottom: Music at Cascade View Park Community Event

and environmental mitigation related to stormwater and habitat connectivity. The Washington Department of Transportation (WSDOT) administers the Transportation Alternatives funding through the Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO). The Puget Sound

Regional Council is Tukwila's RTPO.

- **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:** USFWS may provide technical assistance and administer funding for projects related to water quality improvement through debris and habitat/vegetation management, watershed management and stream bank erosion, and sediment deposition projects.
- **Private Grants and Foundations:** Private corporations and foundations provide money for a wide range of projects, targeted to the organizations' mission. Some foundations do not provide grants to governments but will often grant to partner organizations. Private grants can be difficult to secure because of the open competition and the up-front investment in research and relationship building.
- **King County Conservation Futures Grants:** The Conservations Futures Tax (CFT) funds the purchase of open space lands such as natural areas, urban green spaces, passive parks, regional trails, farms, and forests. CFT project sites can be used for low-impact passive recreational activities, including hiking, walking, open play, riding bikes or horses on dispersed trails, picnicking, and gardening. King County's Conservation Futures program is guided by open space priorities in local community plans. The competitive grant program requires 50% of the project funding to come from other sources.



Cascade View Park Community Event

