

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

City of Federal Way

MAY 21, 2019

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Executive Summary

This 2019 City's Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Plan provides an update to the underlying data and assumptions that inform decision-making regarding investments in the City's parks, open spaces, trails, and recreation programs. Nearly 700 voices were heard in the development of this plan, and the City has seen positive engagement in what the future holds for its parks and recreation programs. A community survey was completed by 640 residents and users, and meetings with stakeholder groups helped guide the development of goals, policies, and implementation strategies for maintaining and improving the City's parks inventory.

Using the National Recreation and Park Association's 2018 Park and Recreation Agency Performance Benchmarks as

a guide, the City of Federal Way does well in providing parks, recreation, and open spaces in an overall amount that is consistent with other similarly sized cities across the United States.

Overall, the Parks and Recreation Department is doing well to provide community parks to residents of Federal Way, with amenities such as sports fields, picnic areas, public art, walking trails, playground facilities, and spray parks being found within the nearly 500 acres of community park space. The City is exceeding its level-of-service goals for community parks; however, public feedback has revealed that the City should be making additional investments in its neighborhood parks.

Favorites like Madrona Park provide a variety of amenities, while others leave room for improvement which should be based on future master planning and public outreach efforts. This analysis has also shown that the City is lacking in providing trails to meet its adopted level of service and will need to add more than 7 miles of trail facilities over the next six years to appropriately serve the community. The focus for trail design and connectivity should be with ensuring that the trails are safe for pedestrian and bicycle use, and connect to other park and trail destinations.

Meeting most of the City's adopted targets is no small feat, and the Parks and Recreation Department has been providing a high level of quality within its existing parks facilities with a smaller staffing ratio to population than other cities similarly sized. To meet the unmet demand for park space and recreation programs, investments in staffing of the Parks and Recreation Department must also occur.

As the City determines where it will invest scarce resources, consideration should be made to the myriad of benefits that parks

and recreation resources and programs have to urban areas. Investment in parks and recreation programs has been shown to increase property values and decrease in the likelihood of delinquency for at-risk youth.

Researchers from the University of New Mexico found that youth without access to healthy recreational involvement are at risk for delinquency and are more likely to come into contact with the juvenile justice system. Historically, parks and recreation departments were originally established when concerned citizens recognized that there was a need to implement services for poor or otherwise disadvantaged populations. Over time, a shift driven by market forces occurred to focus on services for middle-class clientele who would be willing and able to pay for services. Starting in the 1990's, parks and recreation departments responded to the need to develop services to alleviate the factors that cause youth to become at risk, thereby returning to the original mission of "demonstrating the value of parks and recreation to the solution of social ills."



An amendment to the Urban Parks and Recovery Act of 1978 (36 CFR 72) supports this need by stating in the title:

It is the purpose of this title to improve recreation facilities and expand recreation services to urban areas with a high incidence of crime and to help deter crime through the expansion of recreation opportunities for at-risk youth. It is the further purpose of this section to increase the security of urban parks and to promote collaboration between local agencies involved in parks and recreation, law enforcement, youth social services, and the juvenile justice system.

It has been noted at a national level that investments in parks and recreation programs help avoid at-risk youth from engaging in delinquency by providing a

constructive way for them to use their leisure time that give them a feeling of independence, self-determination, and well-being.

Investments in parks, open spaces, and trails, also improve the local tax base and increase property values. It has been proven that private property values increase the closer land is to parks. Investments in neighborhood parks result in increases in the values of adjacent properties. Residents can benefit from the addition of neighborhood parks and trails within their communities, and the increases in the local tax base can help to finance the costs of these investments.

In engaging with the development of this plan, the community has provided guidance that will help the City prioritize investments in its over 600 acres of community and neighborhood parks, 400 acres of open space, and 12 miles of trail facilities, and the many recreation programs that occur on these sites. The Parks and Recreation Department would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who made their voice heard and got involved in this planning effort. The City looks forward to improving the parks, open space, trails, and recreation programs it provides to Federal Way residents, and this plan helps direct the prioritization of these improvements to what the community values most, while also improving equity and access to these services for members of the community who need it most.



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chapter 1 Introduction


Plan Purpose

This Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan expresses the community's values and vision for the City's parks, recreation and open space system for the near and long term. Decisions regarding park and open space investments will be guided by this plan as part of the City's Comprehensive Plan and Capital Improvement Plan.

It has been over five years since the adoption of the 2013 Comprehensive Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan. It is important for the City of Federal Way to periodically assess implementation progress, determine how community needs are being met, how well the current system works, identify areas that can be improved or enhanced, and respond to

emerging needs as the community grows and changes. This ensures that the City is being responsive to the current needs of the community and pro-active in planning for the needs of future generations.

The Federal Way community has evolved in recent years with changes in residential, retail and employment growth, increased transit levels, an increasingly diverse population, land acquisitions, and recreation program additions and changes. Throughout these changes, parks and open space remain important to the community for many reasons. As the City's built environment expands and the community increases density in response to growth management planning, parks and open space provide necessary opportunities for recreation. Structured programming



plan objectives

The objectives of the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan are:

- To provide community defined direction for the future of the City's parks and open spaces as well as recreation programming
- To maintain funding eligibility
- To ensure consistency with state and local requirements
- To respond to opportunities as they arise
- To provide guidance for effective management of the City's parks, recreation, and open spaces

and opportunities for recreation improve the lives of children and youth and can reduce the rates of criminal activity. Parks increase property value for homeowners and businesses often choose to locate in communities with ample recreational amenities in order to attract and retain highly qualified workers. Having an up-to-date plan positions the City to implement the community's values and vision for the City's parks, recreation and open space system through phases and to respond to opportunities as they arise.

Community Outreach

Input from the community is essential in order to create an effective Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan. The current update process sought direction from as many community members as possible by gathering information from surveys issued to the community,

collaborating with interested stakeholders and meeting with special interest groups. Feedback gathered at various points throughout the update process established a vision that provides guidance for decision makers to allocate parks and recreation funding to meet current needs and to make informed decisions about the future of the City's parks and recreation facilities and programs. As Federal Way grows and changes so do the demands for recreation and open space. Incorporating feedback into the plan and establishing a vision ensures the City is poised to act when future opportunities arise and allows the City to pro-actively address the recreation needs of a diverse and growing community.

Maintain Funding Eligibility

The City relies on grant funding for many of its parks facilities and programs. Most funding sources require periodic updates to parks and recreation plans in order to remain eligible for their funding programs. For example, most funding sources require that funded projects be identified within a jurisdiction's park plan, and that the goals and policies contained within support the proposed project. It is critical that the City continue to successfully compete for outside funding to ensure the development and maintenance of a high quality park system now and into the future.

Consistency with State and Local Requirements

The Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA) requires state and local governments to manage Washington's growth by identifying and protecting critical areas and natural resource lands, designating urban growth areas, preparing comprehensive plans and implementing them through capital investments and development regulations. One of the GMA's 14 goals is to "retain open space, enhance recreational opportunities, conserve fish and wildlife habitat, increase access to natural resource lands and water, and develop parks and recreational facilities" (RCW 36.70A.020(9)). As such, cities and counties are encouraged to develop a

parks and recreation element to their Comprehensive Plan. A further requirement of the State Growth Management Act is for cities and counties to plan for the promotion of physical activity in their communities.

In addition, recommendations, goals, policies, and implementation actions within this plan are a part of the City's Comprehensive Plan and Capital Facilities Plan and therefore must support and be consistent with the policy direction in the City's Comprehensive Plan and capital facilities planning.

Guidance

This Plan provides guidance to the City's Parks and Recreation Division, for the next six years and beyond. It includes an inventory of existing facilities and assessment of the current and future needs and demands of Federal Way residents. The Plan establishes goals and policy direction, level of service standards and a phased implementation strategy. This compilation of information is a tool the City uses to manage its existing park and open space resources. This Plan update will also provide the basis for parks and open space funding in the City's six-year Capital Improvement Program (CIP).





accomplishments since the 2013 plan

This section summarizes the City's accomplishments achieved since the implementation of the 2013 Comprehensive Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan.

Land Acquisition

- West Hylebos Property Acquisitions (38.33 Acres) (Part of the West Hylebos)

Facility Improvements

- Implemented Monument Sign Program
- Prepared a Park and Trail Map for the public
- Performed outdoor improvements at Federal Way Community Center
- Cleaned up Laurelwood Park and improved the site drainage in concert with the City's Surface Water Management Division
- Performed miscellaneous asphalt repairs to walking paths and trails
- Repaired damaged light poles at Sacajawea Park
- Provided staffing and logistics support

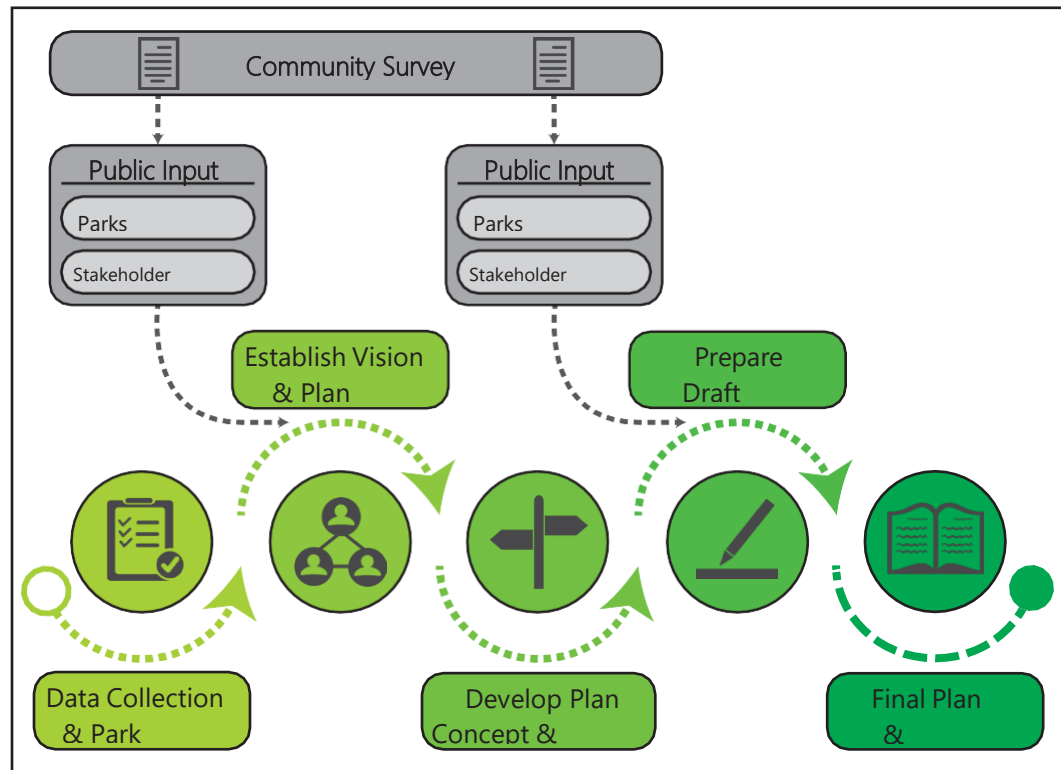
for the Special Olympics and other high profile events including the Diversity Fair, Taste of Federal Way, Blues & Brews, and Friendship Day

- Constructed a lift station at Steel Lake Park
- Constructed Town Square Park
- Constructed the Federal Way Performing Arts and Events Center (PAEC)
- Constructed a maintenance building at Celebration Park
- Replaced playground structures at Adelaide Park and the Steel Lake Park Funland
- Constructed the Panther Lake Trail

Park Planning

- Began updating the Marketing and Business Plan for the Dumas Bay Centre.

Figure 1.1: PLAN PROCESS DIAGRAM



Project Pipeline

- Repair the Steel Lake dock
- Improve drainage, baseball fields, and restroom at Lakota Park
- Replace the playgrounds and associated structures at Wedgewood Park and Mirror Lake Park
- Upgrade/construct new soccer fields
- Improve drainage at Sacajawea Park

Plan Process

This is an update of the 2013 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan. Figure 1.1 shows the general planning process utilized for the 2019 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan.

- Inventory Existing Conditions - Collected and analyzed existing facility and program information, demographics, and future population growth assumptions.
- Vision, Values, & Plan Priorities -

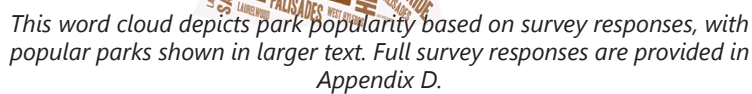
Determined community values and vision for the future of the parks, recreation, and open space system. Identified what is important to the community and developed priorities for future improvements based on those values and future vision looking at both the near-term (0-6 years) and long-term (20 years).

- Needs Assessment - Analyzed the current and future needs for the City's existing parks and open space facilities and recreation programs.
- Developed Strategies & Recommended Actions - Developed recommendations for the City's community parks, neighborhood parks, open spaces, trails, and recreation programs.
- Prepared Plan - Developed goals and policies, level of service standards, and implementation strategy including identifying potential funding sources.
- Finalized Plan - City Council approval and adoption process.

Public Involvement

Community Survey

A total of 640 survey responses were collected throughout the survey window – 531 online responses were recorded and 109 paper surveys were returned to the City. The survey results



were analyzed to determine community trends and preferences which, in turn, were used to guide the goals and policies outlined in this Plan. A detailed survey response summary is provided in Appendix D.

Community Open House

A community open house was held to listen to residents and gather insights into community parks and recreation needs. Information from this event helped shape the vision for the future of parks and recreation facilities and programs offered in Federal Way. The meeting is summarized below:

Open House : The primary goal of this open house was to explain the Plan update process, highlight opportunities for input and feedback, and determine what was important to the community. The open house was set up as a self-guided “tour” through various displays, each with exercises set up to elicit responses both about the general importance of park related issues and to generate ideas specific to each park.

Stakeholder and Focus Groups

A stakeholder group was also formed to

provide guidance for the Plan. Each member of the stakeholder group represented organizations and community groups that had an interest in the future of the City’s park system, enabling the City to more effectively reach a broader population by working with these local organizations, sports associations, and service clubs. In addition, these groups had a detailed understanding of the City’s parks, open spaces, facilities, and recreation programs which enabled them to provide insights and recommendations throughout the planning process.

Three stakeholder meetings and two focus group meetings were held during the planning process:

Stakeholder Meeting #1: February 23, 2017. Overview of the Plan update process, stakeholder roles, and project scope.

Stakeholder Meeting #2: May 4, 2017. Review the 2013 Plan Vision Statement and Core Values, summary of public input to date, draft revisions to the existing Vision Statement and Core Values based on public input and stakeholder recommendations.

Stakeholder Meeting #3: August 3, 2017. Present revised Vision Statement and Core Values for stakeholder confirmation and





discussion, summary of updated survey results, review existing Goals and Policies to identify potential updates.

Weyerhaeuser Campus Focus Group Meeting: July 25, 2017. Discuss the community's support for retaining the public access to the trail network throughout the Campus. Detail the City's goal of working with the new Campus ownership group to promote community interaction in a non-intrusive and cohesive manner while respecting their private property rights.

Brooklake Focus Group Meeting: February 1, 2018. Examine the potential uses for the Brooklake site while acknowledging there is no current funding for improvements in the near future. Determine what types of uses and physical improvements are desired on the site while considering what uses are inappropriate based on the site's

ecological value.

Public Hearings/Adoption and Approval Process

In addition to the stakeholder meetings and public open house, several briefings, working sessions, and public hearings with the Parks and Recreation Commission, Planning Commission, and City Council were conducted as part of the Plan adoption and approval process.



An integral part of the Parks, Recreation, & Open Space Plan is to understand what is most important to the community. The Core Values, which shape the Federal Way Parks and Open Space Plan recommendations, build upon the extensive public input described above and the following sources:

- Comprehensive Plan Goals and Policies
- City Council Goals
- State and National Trends

Vision

- Federal Way is a safe, attractive community known for its cultural diversity, vibrant parks, strong neighborhoods, and business centers.

Mission

- The City of Federal Way is responsive, innovative and fiscally responsible in delivering quality services, promoting economic development, improving infrastructure, and managing growth.

Goals

- Create a multi-use urban City center that is pedestrian-friendly, linked to neighborhoods and parks, and serves as the social and economic hub of the City.
- Update the capital facilities plan and provide financing options for transportation and surface water improvements, parks, recreation, cultural arts and public facilities.

Based on this input, the following 7 Core Values emerged:



Core Value

Achieve and maintain the Commission for Accreditation of Parks and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) gold standard in capital improvement, levels of service, and maintenance in all parks and facilities.

The City has a wide range of properties and assets in its parks and recreation system, which are distributed throughout the city, including:

- Open space and natural areas that provide wildlife habitat, protection of environmentally sensitive areas, and passive recreation opportunities
- Trail networks that create non-motorized connections throughout the community
- Neighborhood parks that are tailored to serve nearby residents
- Community parks that encourage residents to gather and connect with one another
- A wide variety of recreation programs and facilities

There is a strong community desire to improve the diverse park and recreation facilities that the City owns and maintains. The community survey distributed in association with this Plan update indicated

that most residents would rather maintain and improve the existing park resources that the City currently owns as opposed to acquiring new park land. This sentiment can be an indicator that residents feel that there are enough parks, open spaces, and recreation facilities throughout the City to serve the population, and would like to see investments improve these existing resources. By improving the existing parks and facilities within the City, those resources will become a greater asset to its users. Improvements may include higher frequency of maintenance, new amenities such as play structures, greater offering of recreation programs, or enhancing shoreline access depending on the park or facility. Establishing the desire to improve the existing park resources as the first Core Value of the Plan emphasizes the community's desire to further enhance a parks system that already provides its residents with abundant recreation opportunities.

Core Value 2

Prioritize land acquisition that will connect our parks, neighborhoods, and recreation facilities through a network of walking and biking trails.

Continuing to develop a network of trails and non-motorized facilities is a priority for Federal Way's future. According to the survey results, walking, hiking, and dog-walking are some of the most common activities residents participate in at local park facilities. In fact, walking is one of the most convenient means for people to get daily physical activity, as evidenced by the BPA Trail's popularity. However, an often heard comment is that the BPA Trail

does not connect to many other locations or places. An interconnected network of sidewalks and trails will provide non-motorized transit options for the Federal Way community to access parks, open spaces, and recreation facilities. Future trails should connect to the existing trail system located within parks and open spaces.

Core Value 3

Retain and Improve Existing Open Spaces.

Open spaces and natural areas in the City provide an array of benefits to people and wildlife and can contribute to enhancing water quality in the community. These spaces provide pockets of natural areas within the City, wildlife habitat, native vegetation, and protect environmentally sensitive areas from development. The City's open spaces include wooded areas, ravines, wetlands, and shoreline environments. Many of these open spaces contain trails, natural observation areas, and other opportunities to experience nature close to home.

Protecting and maintaining Federal Way's natural systems is critical to preserving natural resources and the quality of life in the community. These open spaces provide a valuable amenity and resource in the community allowing residents to both experience and enjoy natural areas. A balance between protecting these areas and providing opportunities for the community to enjoy and use the facilities is essential. The City has an obligation to not only be environmental stewards of these lands, but to also educate and promote community awareness of the benefits of these open spaces. An open space management

program that balances environmental protection, education, invasive species management, and low impact public access opportunities will provide the greatest benefit to the community.

Homeless encampments within Federal Way's unprogrammed open spaces have spiked over the last 10 years. These encampments have been a concern for park management, as law enforcement and community members have voiced concerns about the prevalence of people experiencing homelessness living in the City's open spaces and parks. One such concern is the affect that homeless encampments have on the sensitive ecosystems such as streams, wetlands, riparian corridors, and wildlife habitat areas that occur within Federal Way's open spaces. The deposition of trash and waste upsets park users and results in public complaints to Parks staff, the Police Department, and the Federal Way City Council. Common complaints to the Parks Department have included requests to remove trash, clear understory vegetation, and manage restroom access. In short, the environmental quality of Federal Way's open spaces are compromised by homeless encampments.



Core Value 4

Enhance public perceptions of safety in parks and open spaces by incorporating CPTED principles.

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles are design considerations that discourage criminal activity by enhancing natural surveillance, access control, and sense of ownership. Natural surveillance focuses on strategies to design the built environment in a manner that promotes visibility of public spaces and areas. Access control focuses on techniques that prevent and deter unauthorized/inappropriate access to areas. Sense of ownership focuses on

reducing the perception that areas are 'ownerless' and therefore available for undesirable uses. CPTED principles are already in place throughout the City and reviewed/administered by the Department of Community Development for new project proposals. Incorporating these principles into the design of parks, open spaces, and recreation facilities will enhance safety and reduce opportunities for criminal activity.

Core Value 5

Promote a sense of community through park programming and recreation facilities by encouraging volunteerism, engaging diverse populations, and creating neighborhood gathering spaces that provide a balance of services.

Parks, open spaces, and recreation facilities offer the community a place to gather, communicate, and connect with one another. Creating varied programming throughout the park network will allow the community to interact with each other in different ways – some examples include park clean-up days allowing residents to have a positive impact on the parks they visit, recreation sports leagues promoting a sense of teamwork, and open spaces

providing areas for community members to come together to enjoy nature. Providing a variety of active and passive recreation options ensures that park programming appeals to all potential users. Promoting a park system that is accessible to all users – regardless of age, income, mobility, and background – is a priority throughout the City.

Core Value 6

Cultivate new external partnerships, and maintain existing external partnerships, to create public/private opportunities that will expand the services offered by the City.

The Park Department's existing relationships with various external agencies – including the Federal Way School District, King County Parks, Washington State Parks, Kiwanis Club, Seattle Children's Hospital, and various local businesses – has fostered collaborative program opportunities throughout the City. Agreements with these agencies have provided residents of the City access to additional parks, facilities, and events that would otherwise not be possible for the Parks Department to provide by itself. Some examples of events held in association with external partners include Pirate, Pixies & Helmets in association with Seattle Children's, Annual Salmon Bake in association with Kiwanis, Kid's Day in association with Pacific Medical Centers, and Daughter's Night out in association

with Menchie's and ADC Kids Dentistry.

Assessing the popularity of these events will allow the City to examine additional external partnerships to continue expanding the types and frequency of events that are held throughout the City. The City should evaluate how external partnerships are beneficial for the sponsors of the events in order to efficiently market future partnerships. In association with the diversity goals established in Core Value #5, the City should also examine opportunities to partner with external stakeholders that represent various cultural groups.

Core Value 7

Enhance the quality of life for the community by providing varied recreational opportunities and facilities that appeal to a diverse population.

Recreation activities that are offered throughout the City's parks network should reflect the City's diverse population. Providing a wide array of recreation facilities and activities throughout the City will help ensure that all residents have access to programs that appeal to them, regardless of age, race, gender, or ability level. Recreational opportunities is an intentionally broad term that can include

arts/crafts, theatre, athletic teams, camps, senior events, and anything in-between. The City already offers a wide selection of activities for residents to participate in, primarily through the Community Center, but as the population continues to grow it is important to assess the demand for new types of programming.



A vision expresses the community values, goals and priorities for the future of the parks and recreation system. It conveys the park, open space, and recreation qualities desired in the community now and into the future.

Federal Way's unique landscape of hills, lakes, views, and Puget Sound shoreline is enjoyed by the community through its linked network of parks, open space, and gathering spots. Quiet green places, vibrant gatherings, and diverse recreation and culture all celebrate Federal Way's character and identity.

Our vision is one in which parks, open spaces, facilities, and programs strengthen the social fabric of our community by providing beautiful, innovative, and safe opportunities that enhance the quality of life for all citizens while protecting our natural resources. Vibrant public spaces in the City Center host a variety of public and cultural events. Open spaces protect functioning ecosystems in tandem with supporting public use, enjoyment, and environmental education about the community's natural systems. Active, healthy living is supported by an extensive walking network which links people to parks close to home and community activities and events - community centers, schools, public spaces, the City Center, and other destinations.



chapter 2 Community Profile

Regional Location

Federal Way is located in the South Central Puget Sound Region, between Seattle and Tacoma. Federal Way is approximately 25 miles south of Seattle and 8 miles north of Tacoma's City Center.

Federal Way is served by Interstate 5, State Route 18 and State Route 167. The major arterials are Pacific Highway South (HWY 99), South 320th Street, South 336th Street, South 348th Street (Campus Drive), 21st Avenue Southwest, State Route 161 (Enchanted Parkway), Military Road, and State Route 509 (Dash Point Road). King County Metro is the primary transit service provided within the City. Figure 2.1 is a vicinity map showing the City in its regional context.

Planning Area

As of September 2017, Federal Way is composed of 14,387 acres of land (22.48 square miles), stretching from South 272nd to the north and the Tacoma/Pierce County border to the south, Military Road to the east and Puget Sound to the west. The planning area includes current City limits as well as the Potential Annexation Area (PAA), which is the unincorporated King County area east of I-5. The PAA is included in the planning area because it is assumed that eventually it will be annexed to the City, and thus, the City must plan for the population's future parks and recreation needs. This plan identifies existing park facilities in the PAA and will provide policy direction on these areas. The City currently owns and maintains one property within the

Federal Way demographics

Average household size:

Federal Way: 2.7

King County: 2.4

Median household income:

Federal Way: \$55,673

King County: \$75,302

Percentage of single-family residences: 57%

Percentage of multi-family residences: 39.7%

Percentage of foreign born residents:

Federal Way: 22%

King County: 21%

Source: 2010 U.S. Census, 2011- 2015 American Community Survey

PAA- Camelot Open Space. Any reference made to other parks and open spaces within the PAA is solely for planning purposes- it does not imply city ownership or current responsibility for management.

Population Characteristics

Federal Way is changing and growing. The age, income, ethnicity and household composition of Federal Way residents are major determinants of recreational interests and demand.

Current Population

The City of Federal Way is a growing community, experiencing many changes in both its population characteristics and its built form.

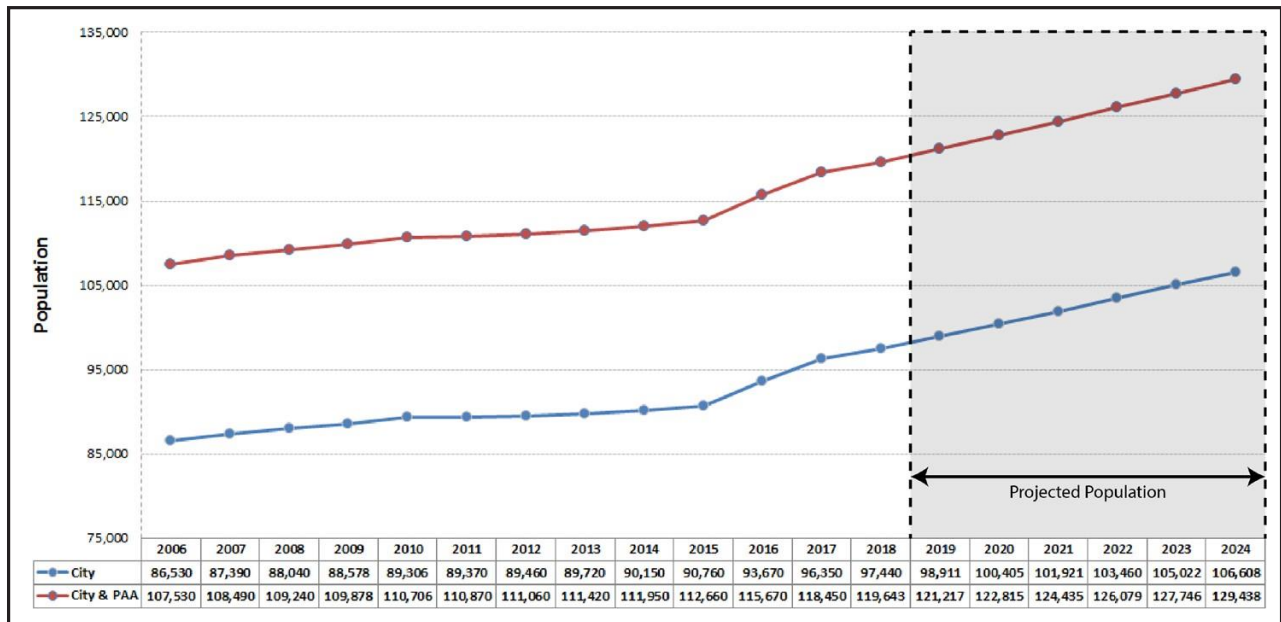
According to the Washington Office of Finance and Management (OFM), the city's 2015 population was estimated at 92,859 persons living in 36,512 households (OFM, 2015).

Since incorporation (1990) the city has experienced a 32% increase in population, which is approximately 3% higher than the population growth that has occurred in King County as a whole during the same period. In addition, since 2000, the City of Federal Way has added a little over 6,000 residents.

Projected Population and Urban Form

Population and employment growth targets identify the City's fair share of regional growth for the next twenty years. Figure 2.2 shows the population of Federal Way will increase to over 100,000 citizens by 2031.

Figure 2.2: FEDERAL WAY POPULATION GROWTH



As part of a regional planning process and consistent with the Puget Sound Regional Council's (PSRC) Vision 2040, Federal Way will need to accommodate 8,100 new residential units and 12,300 new jobs between 2006 and 2031.

The City is also an employment center, with the majority of employers located in the City Center, along Highway 99, East Campus and the West Campus area.

The Federal Way 2015 Comprehensive Plan update establishes Land Use goals and policies that encourage in-fill development, protection of environmentally sensitive areas and concentrated employment and housing in specific locations.

Although Single family housing dominates the type of housing available there has been a recent increase in the construction of Multi-Family housing units. The open space needs for those living in apartment buildings and other multi-family housing types are different than the needs of single family residences with adjacent yards. This is an important factor to consider when

locating future park and recreation facilities, and creating a continuous sidewalk and trail network. Planning for population growth and anticipated development type and location means the City is pro-actively addressing the community recreation needs now and into the future.

Potential Annexation Area (PAA) Population

In 2010, the PAA had a population of approximately 21,500 residents. If growth projections for the PAA are included in the projected population figures for the City and assuming that the PAA grows at the same rate as the City, it is anticipated that the future combined population will be 118,450 in 2017 and 143,093 in 2031.



federal way age distribution

Percentage of residents:

- 19 years and under: approximately 27%
- 20-34 years: approximately 24%
- 45-64 years: approximately 37%
- 65 and older: approximately 12%
- Median Age: 35.8

Source: 2010 U.S. Census, 2011- 2015 American Community Survey

Age Distribution

It is also important to understand the age distribution in the community as each age group tends to have different demands for parks and recreation facilities and programming. For example, youth tend to be more active than other groups. They participate in competitive sports and activities such as baseball, soccer, basketball, football, swimming, etc. Young adults (ages 18-35) are also an active age group and form the core of adult competitive sports. Seniors (age 55+) are increasingly participating in active recreation programs and activities. Parks and recreation planning needs to respond to an aging population while also providing the facilities and programming that are attractive to families.

Population Diversity

The ethnic and cultural composition of a community is another major factor to consider in determining what kinds of recreational and leisure activities may be in demand. Parks and open spaces as well as cultural and recreational programming should address the different values and interests of the various ethnic groups living in the community. The City of Federal Way is becoming more diverse and will likely continue to diversify (see Figure 2.4). The City will continue to monitor trends regarding population diversity in the community to ensure it is pro-actively addressing future population needs that reflect the diversity of the community.

federal way diversity

(By percentage of total population)

- Caucasian: 60%
- Asian descent: 13.4%
- African American: 11.3%
- Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander: 2%
- American Indian and Alaska Native: 1%
- Other Races: 5.1%
- Two or More Races: 7.2%
- Hispanic or Latino: 17.6%

Source 2010 Census, 2011- 2015 American Community Survey



Natural and Physical Features

The richness of Federal Way's natural features and variety in its physical form provide an ideal setting for parks and recreational opportunities. The quality of the City's hydrologic features, forested areas, and scenic vistas is one of the primary reasons that many individuals and families live in Federal Way. The City's natural environment is composed of a wide variety of landforms, soils, watercourses, and vegetation. Its terrain ranges from steep hills and ridge lines to plateaus and lakes.

The City of Federal Way is located within the Hylebos Creek, Lower Puget Sound, and Mill Creek drainage basins. These basins contain an integrated system of lakes and streams that provide a natural drainage system for over 36 square miles of southwest King County and northeast Pierce County.

Critical areas such as wetlands, steep slopes, streams, and shorelines provide valuable natural functions such as water purification and wildlife habitat as well as opportunities for passive recreation such as walking and bird watching. Federal Way contains several types of wetlands, including marshes, bogs, ponds, forested and scrub-shrub wetlands. Each wetland type plays a valuable role in the hydrological system and offers unique wildlife habitat and human open space values.

Federal Way has eight miles of shoreline and stunning views of Puget Sound, the Olympic Mountains, and Mt. Rainier.



chapter 3 Existing Park and Open Space System

Overview and Inventory of Federal Way Park and Open Space System

The existing parks and recreational areas are divided into five categories. Each category represents a distinct type of recreational activity or opportunity. Figure 3.1 shows the parks and open spaces in the City. Table 3.1 provides a summary of the existing park acreage by category. Detailed park inventory sheets for each park and open space facility, including the specific needs assessment are located in Appendix A of this chapter.

Figure 3.1: FEDERAL WAY PARKS AND OPEN SPACE MAP

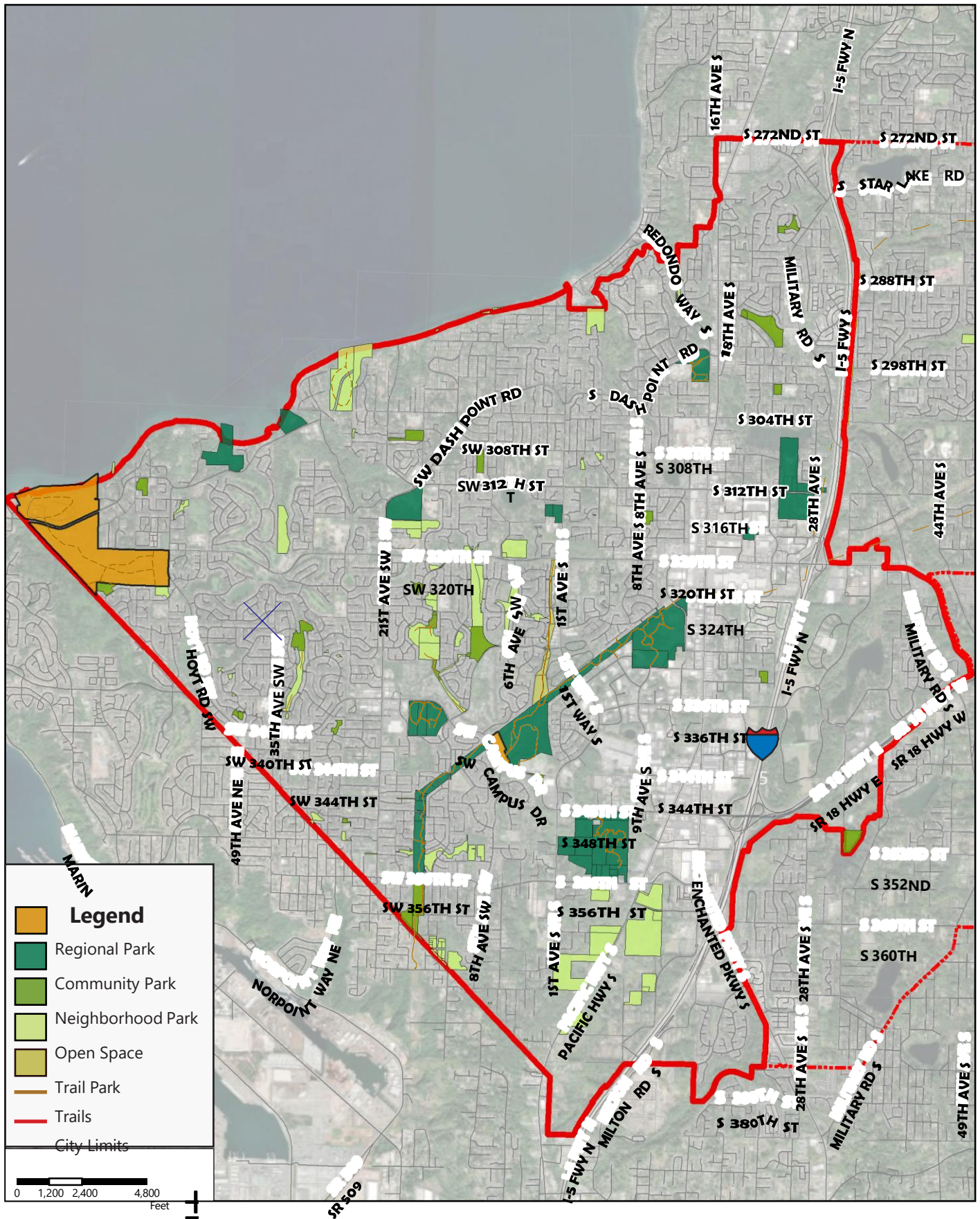


Table 3.1: FEDERAL WAY PARK ACREAGE BY CATEGORY

Park Category	Acres
Regional Parks-	255.45
Larger, region-wide destinations typically greater than 50 acres in area with unique offerings that draw visitors from outside of the City.	
Community Parks-	489.70
Larger, community-wide destinations ranging from 10-50+ acres usually containing sports fields.	
Neighborhood Parks-	108.05
Smaller areas ranging from 1.5-35 acres including play equipment, picnic areas, trails, open grass areas for passive use, informal spaces, natural areas, and some limited active recreation facilities such as outdoor basketball or tennis courts.	
Open Space-	436.16
Public lands that are in a near natural condition, or designated for future park or open space use.	
Linear Parks/Trails-	22.58
Routes for walking and biking that generally follow a utility or stream corridor, ravine or some other elongated feature, such as public rights-of- way.	
Total Park Acres	1,311.94

Regional Parks

Figure 3.1 shows the location of regional parks within the City of Federal Way. The regional parks and facilities located in the City of Federal Way are not owned and operated by the City of Federal Way. Washington State Parks owns and operates Dash Point State Park and King County Parks owns and operates the Weyerhaeuser King County Aquatic Center. Table 3.2 lists acreage and key features for these facilities.

Table 3.2: FEDERAL WAY REGIONAL PARKS

Recreation Areas	Acres	Facilities
Dash Point State Park	244.26	Camping, swimming, beach, picnic area, trails, small boat launch, amphitheater, lake fishing access, boat launch, fishing pier
Weyerhaeuser King County Aquatic Center	11.19	Olympic-sized competition and training pool with platform diving facilities, recreation pool with play features, and banquet hall
TOTAL	255.45	

Community Parks

Figure 3.2 shows where Federal Way's community parks' are located. Table 3.3 lists acreage and key features for these facilities. More detailed park inventories are available in Appendix A.

Table 3.3: FEDERAL WAY COMMUNITY PARKS

Park Name	Acres	Features
B.P.A. Trail Park	44.92	Walking/biking trail, seating areas
Blueberry Farm	7.85	U-pick blueberries, fruit & nut trees, picnic tables, kiosk
Brooklake Park	4.99	Community center, lake access
Celebration Park	79.81	Soccer fields, baseball/softball fields, play area, wetland nature area, hiking/walking trails in park, adjacent to Phase I paved BPA Trail (walk/bike), picnic area, restroom/concession buildings (2)
Dumas Bay Centre Park*	11.20	Paths, bench, picnic table, gazebo, views, landscape gardens and sculpture art, wetland nature area, walking/biking trail, shoreline access (currently closed)
Dumas Bay Sanctuary**	21.04	Wetland nature area, walking/biking trail, shoreline access
French Lake Park***	7.42	Off-leash area, off-site parking, picnic tables
Lakota Park	28.50	Soccer fields, baseball/softball fields, track, wetland, restrooms
Panther Lake	78.72	Wetland nature area, walking/biking trail, seating areas
Sacajawea Park	18.36	Soccer field, baseball/softball fields, track, tennis court, play area, hiking/walking trail, restrooms
Saghalie Park	16.03	Softball/baseball fields, all-weather soccer field, soccer/football field, track, basketball court, tennis courts, volleyball court, walking/biking trail, play area, restrooms
Sculpture Park	0.47	Public art, seating areas
Steel Lake Park	63.62	Soccer field, baseball/softball fields, basketball court, volleyball court, horseshoe pit, skateboard park, walking trail, swimming beach, play area, restrooms
Town Square Park	3.91	Track zip ride, children's play area, basketball court, parking, picnic area, restrooms, seasonal splash park
West Hylebos Wetlands Park	102.86	Parking lot, trails, boardwalk, benches, picnic tables, kiosk, interpretive signs, historic cabins
TOTAL	489.70	

*Excludes 1.62 acres covered by water

**Excludes 6.94 acres covered by water

***Only 4.66 acres of French Lake Park are owned by the City. Lakehaven Water and Sewer District own the remaining 2.74 acres

Figure 3.2: FEDERAL WAY COMMUNITY PARKS AND FACILITIES



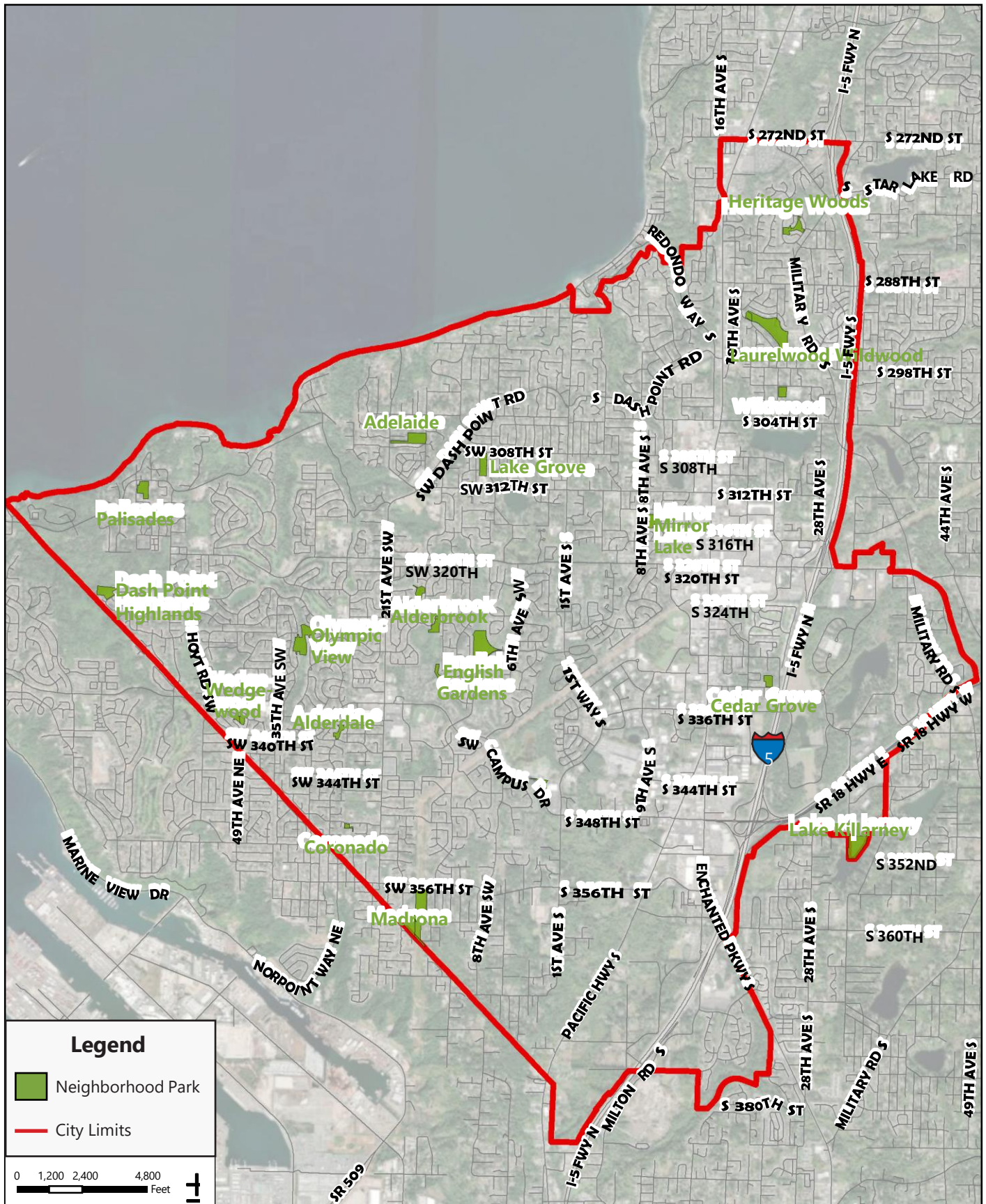
Neighborhood Parks

Figure 3.3 shows where the City's neighborhood parks are located. These facilities are described in Table 3.4 as well as in the park inventory in Appendix A.

Table 3.4: FEDERAL WAY NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Park Name	Acres	Features
Adelaide	6.72	Play area, swing set, wood play structure, spring toys, tennis court, horse arena, hiking/walking trail, picnic tables
Alderbrook	5.83	Play area, hiking/walking trail, wetland nature area, picnic table
Alderdale	1.99	Play area, basketball court, tennis court, hiking/walking trail, picnic table
Cedar Grove	2.66	Play area, trail, picnic tables, 1/2 court basketball court
Coronado	0.81	Play area, basketball court
Dash Point Highlands	4.97	Play area, trail connecting to Dash Point State Park trail system, picnic table
English Gardens & English Gardens Pocket Park	2.31	Hiking/walking trail, play area, picnic table
Heritage Woods	4.01	Walking trail, play area
Lake Grove	4.77	Play area, basketball court, hiking/walking trail, picnic tables
Lake Killarney	9.93	Wetland nature area, walking/biking trail, picnic table, lakefront
Laurelwood	18.29	Natural area, picnic area
Madrona	19.79	Play area, wetland nature area, BPA Trail Phase IV, benches
Mirror Lake	3.43	Play structure, hiking/walking trail, picnic table
Olympic View	9.85	Play areas (2), informal trail, picnic tables
Palisades	4.50	Play area, basketball court, walking/hiking trail
SW 312th Sports Courts	1.04	Basketball court, tennis court, pickleball court
Wedgewood	3.12	Play area, hiking/walking trail, picnic tables
Wildwood	2.43	Play area, hiking/walking trail, picnic tables
Winco Park	1.60	Plaza, benches, landscaping, lighting
TOTAL	108.05	

Figure 3.3: FEDERAL WAY NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS



Open Spaces

Federal Way's natural systems of forests, wetlands, and riparian corridors help define the City's character and make it unique. These areas provide aesthetic relief, physical buffers and help to define the character of Federal Way's parks and open space resources. Many of the City's publicly owned, undeveloped lands are constrained for development due to the presence of environmentally sensitive areas such as wetlands, streams, lakes, steep slopes, and wildlife habitat. These areas offer both the ability to protect and preserve natural areas, and provide low-impact public access to nature in an urban setting (see Figure 3.4 and Table 3.5).

Table 3.5: FEDERAL WAY OPEN SPACES

Open Space Name	Acres	Features
Alderbrook Open Space w/ Trail ¹	29.86	Wetlands, meadow, wooded
Alma Bennett	8.25	Wetlands, wooded
B.P.A. Trail Park (Madrona Meadows) ²	19.40	Trail, wooded
Barclay Place Open Space ³	3.56	Wooded, greenbelt
Brighton Park	7.64	Wooded
Buena Addition ³	0.04	Shoreline
Crown Point ³	12.11	Wooded
Dumas Bay ³	2.42	Wooded
English Gardens Open Space ¹	1.44	Wooded
Fisher's Pond	13.43	Pond, wooded
Humane Woods Open Area ³	0.35	Wooded
Kenwood	6.34	Wooded
Lakota Wetlands	16.85	Wetlands, wooded
Lochaven	14.43	Ravine, wooded
Madrona Meadows	7.78	Meadows, wooded
Marlbrook	2.57	Wooded
Mirror Glen ³	1.55	Trail, wooded
Misc. Open Space ⁴	31.04	Small, wooded, wetlands
Poverty Bay *	49.38	Shoreline, ravine, wooded
Spring Valley	138.59	Wetlands, wooded
Twin Lakes Vista	3.93	Wooded
West Campus Open Space	53.66	Wetlands, wooded
Woodbridge Open Space ³	11.54	Wooded, greenbelt
TOTAL	436.16	

*Excludes 9.96 acres covered by water inclusive of 012103-9008 and 9047.

¹ See park description in Appendix A: Neighborhood Parks

² See park description in Appendix A: Trails

³ Open space was dedicated to the City in association with subdivision approval

⁴ Miscellaneous open space is not included in Appendix A

Federal Way Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan



Trails

Table 3.6 lists the trails within Federal Way. Their locations may be found in Figure 3.4.

Table 3.6: DEDICATED FEDERAL WAY TRAILS

Trail Name	Length
BPA Trail	3.87 mi
Celebration Park	0.81 mi
Dash Point State Park Trail*	2.63 mi
Panther Lake Trail**	0.87 mi
Sacajawea Park	0.73 mi
Saghalie Park	0.96 mi
West Campus Trail	1.03 mi
West Hylebos Wetlands Park	1.17 mi
TOTAL	12.07 mi

*State trails measured from GIS data for portions of the park situated within the City limits

**Based on measurement by Parks Department staff, not City GIS data.

Other Community Facilities

There are other city-owned community park facilities that added together total 12.85 acres. These facilities include community centers, public plazas, landscaped medians or sign areas, and the City's maintenance yard. Table 3.7 identifies the major community recreational facilities.

Table 3.7: CITY-OWNED COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Facility	Location	Acres	Features
Dumas Bay Centre/ Knutzen Family Theatre	3200 SW Dash Point Road	*	Retreat and conference facility including conference and banquet rooms for business meetings, reunions, and weddings with full service catering, overnight accommodations, 250-seat Knutzen Family Theatre, landscaped grounds, views of Puget Sound, and the Olympics Mountains. The Centre now has wireless internet access available within the meeting rooms. The City's Dance, Creative Movement, Visual Arts, and Theatre programs are based out of this facility.
Steel Lake Maintenance Facility	31130 28th Ave. S	6.50	Parks and Public Works Maintenance and Operations Facility.
Federal Way Community Center	Celebration Park	*	Includes a 3 bay gymnasium, a fitness equipment room, multi- purpose rooms, lap and leisure pools, hot tub, sauna, game room, climbing wall, senior room, childcare room, preschool classrooms, locker rooms, catering kitchen, snack bar, classroom outdoor amphitheater, and administrative spaces.
Federal Way Sign	2800 S 320th St	0.20	Location of City entrance sign and landscaped area.
Dash Point Landscape Street Island	31200 SW Dash Point Rd	0.30	Location of City flagpole and landscaped area.
City Hall	33325 8th Ave S	5.85	Location of General City offices, Police Department and Municipal Court
TOTAL		12.85	

**Note: Acreage for Dumas Bay Centre is listed under Dumas Bay Centre Park in Table 3.3, Federal Way Community Parks.*

***Note: Acreage for the Federal Way Community Center is included in the acreage for Celebration Park in Table 3.3, Federal Way Community Parks.*

This map illustrates the geographical layout of Overland Park, Kansas, highlighting its city limits and the Public Access Area (PAA). The city limits are delineated by a solid red line, while the PAA is indicated by a dashed red line. Non-city facilities are marked with orange shading. Key locations include Dash Point Park, Bingaman Pond Park, Camelot Park, Lake Delloff Fishing Access, North Lake Fishing Access, Lake Geneva Park, South KC Ball Fields, and Five Mile Lake Park. The map also shows major roads such as I-5 Fwy, SR 509, and various local streets like 1st Ave, 16th Ave, and 28th Ave. A legend in the bottom left corner provides a key for the symbols used, and a scale bar indicates distances up to 6,000 feet.

Parks and Facilities Not Owned by Federal Way

Potential Annexation Area Park Inventory

In addition to the parks located within City limits, there are several County parks located within the City's Potential Annexation Area (PAA). Although the City does not own or maintain these parks, these facilities serve the current population in the PAA as well as Federal Way citizens who live east of I-5. The City will assume ownership of these facilities should these areas be annexed. Table 3.8 provides a listing of the park facilities in the Potential Annexation Area. Their locations can be found in Figure 3.5.

Table 3.8: KING COUNTY PARKS AND FACILITIES IN FEDERAL WAY AND POTENTIAL ANNEXATION AREA

Recreation Sites	Acres	Facilities
Community Parks		
Five Mile Lake Park*	31.79	Tennis courts, basketball court, swimming beach, gazebo, picnic area, fishing pier, restrooms, concession building, kitchen/picnic shelter, open play area, walking, track, and parking
Lake Geneva Park	18.52	Fishing pier, picnic shelter, open lawn area, soccer fields, restrooms, lake access, boat launch, trails, and parking
South County Ballfields**	24.02	Ballfields
Neighborhood Parks		
Bingaman Pond Natural Area	17.15	Hiking trail, natural areas
Camelot Park	16.36	Wetland, ravine
Regional Facility		
Weyerhaeuser King County Aquatic Center***	11.19	Indoor pool, springboard and platform diving, meeting/banquet room, and parking
Open Space		
Camelot Open Space	19.22	Wetland, wooded
TOTAL	138.25	

*Includes 6.80 acres in rights-of-way

**Includes 3.11 acres in rights-of-way

***Located within city limits

State Park Inventory

There are several Washington State facilities located within Federal Way or the Potential Annexation Area. Table 3.9 lists these State facilities and Figure 3.5 illustrates their locations.

Table 3.9: WASHINGTON STATE PARKS IN FEDERAL WAY PLANNING AREA

Recreation Areas	Acres	Facilities
Dash Point State Park**	244.26	Camping, swimming, beach, picnic area, trails, small boat launch, amphitheater
Lake Dolloff Fishing Access*	1.3	Lake fishing access
North Lake Fishing Access*	5.5	Boat launch, fishing pier
TOTAL	251.06	

*Located in PAA

**Approximately 153.5 additional park acres are located within Tacoma

Other Facilities

In addition to parks and recreation facilities and programs offered by the City of Federal Way, there are numerous private businesses and organizations, both within and in close proximity to the city, that provide a range of facilities. Private and public recreation facilities can benefit one another by minimizing redundancies in services offered as well as developing joint use agreements where appropriate. Tables 3.10 and Appendix C provide inventories of facilities in parks and Federal Way Public School sites.

Table 3.10: PRIVATE OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL FACILITIES IN THE FEDERAL WAY AREA

Parks/Areas/Miscellaneous Facilities	Acres	Activity
Enchanted Village/Wild Waves	66.33	Amusement rides, wading pond, picnic areas, miniature golf, water slides, wave pool
Marine Hills Rec. Assoc.	3.94	Tennis courts, pool
Twin Lakes Golf Course	118.45	Golf course, pool, tennis courts, clubhouse
Pacific Rim Bonsai Collection	0.5	Bonsai garden, trail
Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden	24.0	Garden, trail
Powells Wood Gardens	3.0 (developed) 35.0 (natural)	Private gardens, open to the public several times per year
St. Vincent's School	n/a	Playfields

Sports Facilities and Amenities

Federal Way is endowed with a wide array of sports facilities within its corporate boundaries. Appendix C includes a detailed inventory of traditional sports facilities such as baseball and softball diamonds, soccer fields, and tennis courts, as well as other less traditional facilities such as sand volleyball courts and dog parks.

Table 3.11: SPORTS FACILITIES & AMENITIES

	Number of Facilities			
	City of Federal Way	State & County	Federal Way Public Schools	Grand Total
Baseball Diamond	3	0	19	22
Basketball Court	7.5	0	20	27.5
Community Garden	1	0	0	1
Dog Park	1	0	0	1
Football Field	2	0	4	6
Lacrosse Field	0	0	0	0
Multipurpose Synthetic Field	1	0	0	1
Play Structures	18	0	23	41
Playfields	0	0	19	19
Rectangular Field (Multi-Purpose)	1	0	0	1
Sand Volleyball	2	0	0	2
Soccer Field	9	0	15	24
Softball Diamond	10	0	8	18
Swimming Pool (outdoor)	0	0	0	0
Tennis Court (outdoor)	9	0	8	17
Track	3	0	4	7

Table 3.11 (cont.): SPORTS FACILITIES & AMENITIES

	Presence of Facilities (not a count)			
	City of Federal Way	State & County	Federal Way Public Schools	Grand Total
Benches	26	1	0	27
Hiking/Walking Trail	22	1	0	23
Off-Street Parking	11	2	0	13
Picnic Tables	24	1	0	25
Restrooms	8	2	0	10
Water Access	4	1	0	5



chapter 4 Recreation and Community Center Programs

Overview

The Federal Way Parks and Recreation Department provides programs, services and special events designed to foster community spirit, build individual self-confidence, and enhance quality of life for Federal Way residents. The Department also manages several recreation destination facilities such as the Dumas Bay Centre and the beach at Steel Lake Park. The Community Center, which opened in 2007, provides space to significantly broaden the range of programming opportunities available to the community. It features three gyms, two pools, fitness area, climbing wall, senior lounge, sauna / steam rooms,

classroom space and community rooms for rental use. The facility also serves as a location for many general recreation classes and some community events. The Community Center serves approximately 6,000 members and 1,000 visitors daily.

The City's recreation programs served 16,321 individuals in 2018. Programs with the highest unmet demand were education, music, crafts and visual arts, and adult athletics, however this varied depending on the time of year.

As of 2018, the Parks and Recreation Department consists of 40 full time equivalents (FTE) with 22FTEs in the



city recreation programs

Recreation and Community Center Operations Division.

The City offers recreation programs in the following general categories:

- Youth and Adult Athletics
- Fitness
- Dance, Creative Movement, Visual Arts
- Preschool Education
- Seasonal, Specialty and Summer Camps
- Aquatics
- Inclusive Recreation
- Senior Services
- Community Events
- Rentals and Retreat Facilities

Three times yearly, the Parks and Recreation Department produces the recreational

programs catalog with a complete listing of classes, programs, events and rental facilities. The City also offers fee reductions and scholarships to assist individuals who meet certain income guidelines for many programs and services.

The results from the public survey in 2018 that was conducted to inform this Plan revealed that approximately 35% of respondents participate in City programs of some kind. Most respondents (70%) learn about City programs through the recreation catalog, which confirms the effectiveness of this method for providing information.

Youth and Adult Athletics

The City provides a full program of seasonal and year-round sports and leagues such as volleyball, softball, soccer and tennis lessons.

Table 4.1: YOUTH SPORTS ASSOCIATIONS

Sports Association	Age Group
Baseball	
District 10 Little League: Federal Way National League	Ages 5-18
Steel Lake Little League	Ages 5-16
Boys and Girls Club	1st to 6th grade
Basketball	
Boys and Girls Club	1st to 10th grade
Football	
Federal Way Junior Football (Hawks/Titans)	Ages 7-14
Soccer	
Federal Way Soccer Association	Ages 5-18
Boys and Girls Club	1st to 6th grade
Washington State Soccer Association	Adults
Washington State Women's Soccer Association	Adults
Softball	
Steel Lake Little League (Boys and Girls)	Fast pitch ages 7-14
Swimming	
Valley Aquatics Swim Team	Youth, Teen
KING Aquatics	Youth, Teen
South Sound Titans	Youth, Teen
Pacific Northwest Diving	Youth, Teen
Marine Hills Summer Swim Team	Youth, Teen
Twin Lakes Summer Swim Team	Youth, Teen
Track	
Federal Way Track Club	
Federal Way School District Intramural Program	Ages 5-18
Pacific Waves Synchronized Swimming	Youth, Teen

These sports are played on some of the best fields / facilities in the northwest, including Celebration Park and the Federal Way Community Center. The most popular adult athletics programs sponsored by the City are softball and soccer. The City also offers adult health and fitness classes such as yoga, pilates, and "step & flex." Most youth athletic programs in Federal Way are run by alternative service providers. The City provides support to alternative service providers with access to city facilities such as fields and gyms. Primary service

providers for youth athletics include youth soccer, football and baseball associations, YMCA and Boys and Girls Clubs.

The City's approach to youth athletics is to provide programs and fill needs within the community not currently provided by alternative service providers. Examples of youth athletic programs provided by the City include:

- Youth Tennis Lessons
- Kids Love Soccer
- Basketball Life



- Gymnastics
- Rock Climbing

Although the national trend for tennis participation is down, youth tennis lessons in Federal Way continue to be popular due to the quality of instruction.

The City does not currently have plans to develop additional youth athletic programs since other providers are doing an effective job meeting the youth athletic program needs of the community. Table 4.1 summarizes the youth sports associations in Federal Way.

The City currently offers limited teen focused programs and services such as teen camps, teen athletics, and teen fitness. The Boys & Girls Club also currently serves the teenage group, offering a broad range of programs in the community including the Teen Center at the EX3 facility. The EX3

facility includes a technology and computer lab, gymnasium, and teen lounge area. A variety of programs are offered at EX3 including men's basketball league, volleyball league, tutoring and educational programs, art, and Tae Kwon Do.

According to the 2018 parks survey, teen programs were listed as a priority for the community. However, since 61% of survey respondents were 45+ years of age, it is unclear whether it is the teens themselves who want more programs. Today, teens tend to look for opportunities for unstructured social interaction or specialized classes/training such as computers, media, etc. Thus, whether the City should be offering additional teen programming above and beyond what is currently provided by the City and others may be an area for further review. The Community Center has amenities that draw



teens such as swimming pools, game room, gymnasium, fitness classes, camps, indoor track, climbing wall, and leisure/drop-in spaces.

Fitness

The Federal Way Community Center offers full-service fitness and wellness programs to membership and drop-in participants. Programs include; group exercise classes, Silver Sneakers, indoor cycling room, water exercise, fitness and weight room, indoor track, gymnasium, lap pool and play pool, climbing, and spa services. Other recreation-based fitness programs include; yoga, pilates, and martial arts. Interest in health and fitness related classes has risen with the opening of the Community Center in 2007.

Dance, Creative Movement, Visual Arts

The City offers some craft and visual arts classes such as photography for beginners, and water color. The crafts and visual arts programs are less popular than some of the other programs offered by the City. The craft/visual arts programs that tend to be most popular are those in which people learn a skill—such as photography or ceramics. However, the City does not currently have the facilities for those types of arts and media programs (i.e. facilities currently lack a dark room, kiln, etc). The City does not currently have a facility in which to offer additional visual media programs. Dance classes range from toddler dance classes, hip hop dance, and cheerleading. Music classes include private and group instruction for guitar and piano.

Dance classes and gymnastics are held at the Community Center as well as local schools, and at Dumas Bay Centre where there is a creative movement room, and a visual arts room. Music classes, such as guitar and piano, are held at the Federal Way Community Center. Dance classes tend to be large and popular, especially the pre-school age and special interest classes.

- Toddlers/young age dance classes, such as toddler tap, youth tap and ballet, are well-attended.
- Adult Ballroom Dance is popular, however, class sizes tend to fluctuate.
- The most popular music classes tend to be the private and group lessons such as piano and guitar.
- Gymnastics is also quite popular, likely because children are able to participate without parental supervision.

Pre-school Education

The preschool education programs, located at the Community Center, are designed

Table 4.2: NON-CITY SERVICE PROVIDERS

Alternative Service Provider	Location	Programs/Services
King County Aquatic Center	650 SW Campus Drive, Federal Way	Swim instruction, exercise programs, pool parties, competitions and events, drop-in swimming and lap swimming, banquet facilities.
The Center at Norpoint, MetroParks	4818 Nassau Ave NE, Tacoma	Youth basketball league, swimming/pool classes, personalized fitness programs, ballet, fitness classes, yoga, child care, etc.
EX3 Ron Sandwith Teen Center	31453 28th Ave S, Federal Way	Men's basketball league, volleyball league, Tech Lab & Learning Lounge, Youth Force, Tae Kwon Do, art classes, tutoring and education programs.
Federal Way Boys and Girls Club	308 8th Ave S, Federal Way	PM Pals (after school program), Day Camp at Mirror Lake Elementary, Summer Teen Camp, summer sports camps.
Auburn Valley YMCA	1005 12th Street SE, Auburn	Fitness programs and consultation, strength training, senior fitness, martial arts, summer day camp, swim lessons, swim team, teen programs, Silver Sneakers, and pool parties.
Korum Family Branch YMCA	302 43rd Ave SE, Puyallup	Exercise classes, fitness classes for older adults, fitness orientations and consultations, personal fitness program, indoor and outdoor adult sports including basketball, volleyball, roller hockey, softball, ultimate Frisbee, golf and soccer.
Federal Way Senior Center	4016 S 352nd St, Auburn	Arts and crafts, bingo, music, seated exercise, lunch program, computer classes, Walk for Your Life weekly hikes/walks.
Auburn Senior Center	808 9th Street SE, Auburn	Arts and crafts, bingo, music, seated exercise, lunch program, computer classes, Walk for Your Life weekly hikes/walks.
Twin Lakes Country Club	3583 SW 320th St, Federal Way	Swim lessons, lap swims, tennis lessons

Alternative Service Provider	Location	Programs/Services
Marine Hills Recreation Association	3583 SW 320th St, Federal Way	Swim lessons, lap swim, swim team, water polo, tennis lessons.
Curves for Women	2316 SW 336th St, Federal Way	Circuit training workout equipment.
LA Fitness	27417 Pacific Hwy South Federal Way 35009 Enchanted Parkway S Federal Way	Aerobics, personal training, a fitness room, cardio center and weight room. Other facilities include a spa, 25m swimming pool, sauna, basketball and racquetball courts.

to promote children's social, physical and cognitive growth in a secure, creative and stimulating environment, and to help prepare children for kindergarten. The City offers parent participation programs for those under three years of age, and a variety of classes ranging from two to eight hours per week for those ages three through five.

Preschool education programs are very popular. Preschool class numbers rose with the opening of the Community Center due to increased visibility, new classrooms and equipment, and the option for parents to enroll their child while they use the pool or fitness room to exercise (the "one stop shop" idea).

After-School, Seasonal, and Specialty Camps

The Community Center, in partnership with Federal Way Public Schools (FWPS), provides an after-school program for elementary students. Currently, FWPS buses transport children from three elementary schools to the Community Center. Participants in the program are provided with 45 minutes of supervised homework time and then allowed to play in the Community Center until their parents pick them up. On days scheduled as early release by FWPS, children are allowed to use the pool after

completing homework time.

Youth summer day camp, for those ages six through twelve, is a popular City program and currently operates at capacity of 160 kids. Camp is currently held at the Community Center for 10 to 11 weeks of the summer.

The City also offers mid-winter, spring, and winter holiday camps, which are very popular. Field trips are currently the most popular activity, and boost registration when they are scheduled as a large part of camp. During the summer, the City also contracts out for specialty camps such as lego workshops, STEM, theatre and dance.

Aquatics

Aquatics programs are located at the Community Center and include public swim instruction, water exercise, and pool parties. The King County Aquatic Center has a variety of swimming programs available to the community. The County provides a wider range of programs and services for the pre-school and youth age groups. City programs such as water exercise are quite popular, as are private swim lessons (mommy & me to adult age). In addition, other service providers offer classes, lessons, and swim teams at the Community Center. The Community Center has both lap and leisure pools.



Inclusive Recreation

The Recreation Inclusion programs are open to people with and without disabilities. The programs give the opportunity to gain important life and social skills while celebrating the differences we all have. Some of the activities include life skills classes, social clubs trips and tours, Special Olympics sports, special events and theatre.

Senior Services

The senior programs at the Federal Way Community Center offer a wide variety of programs and activities for adults ages 50 and older. Some activities include health and wellness programs, trips and excursions, instructional classes and drop-in activities. Generally, the more 'active' programs are growing in popularity (tai chi, senior softball, etc). The less active programs are in decline and less popular (i.e. crafts, bingo, etc). Often, the popularity of programs are

instructor-based. When people make a connection with the instructor they are likely to continue. Some of the programs/services currently being provided include:

- Art classes
- AARP driver safety program
- Bridge
- Open Pickle ball
- Excursions
- Tai Chi
- Bingo
- Hot lunch programs 3 days a week
- Meals on Wheels (serving 300-350 individuals/year)
- Silver Sneakers
- Senior softball
- Other services e.g., tax help, financial advice, etc



Community Events

The Parks and Recreation Department offers a variety of special events throughout the year designed to bring community members together. Community events are typically free or low-cost and to assist with the cost of providing events, the City seeks other government and corporate sponsorship. Community events tend to be very popular as they provide opportunities for participation to all ages, bring the community together, and are financially accessible. Some of the large community events include:

- Red, White and Blues Festival (Held on the 4th of July at Celebration Park)
- Summer Sounds Outdoor Concert Series (Steel Lake Park)
- Fall Carnival (Community Center)
- Youth Fishing Derby (Steel Lake Park)

- K-9 Carnival
- Kids Day
- Movies in the Park

Rentals and Retreat Facilities

The Parks and Recreation Department manages several rental facilities that require a fee and often a special use permit. These facilities include the Community Center, picnic sites and a shelter at Steel Lake Park, Performing Arts & Events Center (PAEC) conference rooms and 714 seat theatre, and conference rooms and retreat facilities at the Dumas Bay Centre.

Non-City Service Providers

In addition to the City of Federal Way's recreation and cultural arts programming there are other public, private, or non-profit organizations and associations within the city, and in close proximity, that offer complementary classes, facilities, and productions in dance, art, and theater. These other recreation programming service providers are summarized in Table 4.2.

Since incorporation, the City has closely coordinated with these providers to ensure that the City is not duplicating services already being provided by others. In this way, the Department can concentrate on "filling in the gaps" and provide programs that others do not currently provide.

Recreation Demand

As a part of the planning effort for the Community Center, an analysis of recreation trends was conducted to help understand local recreation demand. The following general statements describe how various age groups in the City tend to use parks and recreation facilities.

The percentages shown below, as reported by the 2016 American Community Survey, indicate the percentage of the Federal Way population in each age group:

- Under 5 years (6.7%) – This group represents users of preschool and tot recreation programs and facilities. These individuals make up the future users of youth recreation programs.
- 5 to 14 years (13.2%) – This group represents current youth program participants. The percentage indicates that both youth and teen programs will continue to be in demand.
- 15 to 24 years (14.8%) – This group represents teen/young adult program participants moving out of the youth recreation programs and into adult programs. This number is likely to increase as the youth age group gets older, indicating continued growth in the active recreation activities such as organized sports.
- 25 years to 34 years (14.2%) – This group represents involvement in adult recreation programming. Trends show that organized sports such as softball, volleyball, and soccer will continue in their popularity with this age group. At the same time this group has the characteristic of beginning long-term relationships and establishing families, which competes with being actively engaged in organized sports.
- 35 to 54 years (26.8%) – This group represents users of a wide range of adult programming and park facilities. Their characteristics extend from having children using preschool and youth programs to becoming empty nesters. This group typically has less time to devote to recreational activities. They tend to use parks on weekends and the occasional evenings both for active and passive activities.
- 55 years plus (24.3%) – This group represents users of older adult programming exhibiting the characteristics of approaching retirement or already retired and typically enjoying grandchildren. This group generally also ranges from very healthy, active seniors to more physically inactive seniors.

State and National Trends

National and state trends in recreational programming, recreation activities, and participation levels can provide insights into local recreation demands. Walking is consistently the number one exercise in which Americans participate. Historically, participation in sports such as basketball, football, softball, swimming, tennis, and volleyball has declined while sports such as soccer and baseball have remained relatively steady.

The State of Washington also assessed outdoor recreation activity trends in its Washington State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (2013-2018). The 2006 and 2012 surveys measured participation in 75 outdoor activities. Because of methodological differences between the surveys, a direct comparison of participation rates was not possible. Thus, for each survey, activities were ranked from 1 to 75 in order of overall participation rates. Relative changes in the popularity of each activity could then be calculated by determining the changes in rank, as shown on the table below:

Table 4.3: WASHINGTON STATE RECREATION TRENDS

Activity	2002 Rank	2006 Rank	2012 Rank	Difference In Rank, 2002-2012	Difference In Rank, 2006-2012	Mean of 2002-2012 and 2006-2012 Rank Differences
Fishing for shellfish	39	45	29	10	16	13
Visiting a nature interpretive center	20	33	14	6	19	12.5
Climbing or mountaineering	49	42	34	15	8	11.5
Firearms (hunting or shooting)	22	41	21	1	20	10.5
Inner tubing or floating	42	25	23	19	2	10.5
Camping - backpacking/primitive location	46	47	36	10	11	10.5
Snowshoeing	52	52	44	8	8	8
Softball	48	40	37	11	3	7
Camping - tent camping with car/ motorcycle	26	19	16	10	3	6.5
Volleyball	43	34	32	11	2	6.5
Hiking	8	16	6	2	10	6
Aerobics or fitness activities, but not weights - at a facility	33	13	17	16	-4	6
Water skiing	40	49	39	1	10	5.5
Fishing from a bank, dock, or jetty	17	31	19	-2	12	5
Beachcombing	21	14	13	8	1	4.5
Picnicking, BBQing, or cooking out	9	1	1	8	0	4
Horseback riding	34	50	38	-4	12	4
Wildlife viewing/photographing	2	11	3	-1	8	3.5
Boating—canoeing, kayaking, rowing, manual craft	38	28	30	8	-2	3

Activity	2002 Rank	2006 Rank	2012 Rank	Difference In Rank, 2002-2012	Difference In Rank, 2006-2012	Mean of 2002-2012 and 2006-2012 Rank Differences
Badminton	53	43	45	8	-2	3
Fishing from private boat	19	30	22	-3	8	2.5
Jogging or running	15	12	12	3	0	1.5
Snowboarding	41	46	42	-1	4	1.5
Weight conditioning—at a facility	24	18	20	4	-2	1
Tennis	32	36	33	-1	3	1
Swimming or wading at beach	14	3	8	6	-5	0.5
Playground use	13	8	10	3	-2	-0.5
Swimming in pool	12	6	9	3	-3	0
Basketball	28	20	24	4	-4	0
Walking without a pet	1	2	2	-1	0	-0.5
Sightseeing	3	4	4	-1	0	-0.5
Gardening, flowers or vegetables	4	5	5	-1	0	-0.5
Boating—motorboating other than personal watercraft	5	7	7	-2	0	-1
Walking with a pet	7	21	15	-8	6	-1
Gathering/collecting things in nature setting	25	35	31	-6	4	-1
Skiing, downhill	25	35	31	-6	4	-1
Handball, racquetball, or squash	51	51	52	-1	-1	-1
Boating—using personal watercraft	47	48	49	-2	-1	-1.5
Sledding, inner tubing, or other snow play	31	15	25	6	-10	-2
Bicycle riding	6	9	10	-4	-1	-2.5
Archery (hunting or shooting)	44	53	51	-7	2	-2.5
Off-roading—ATV/dune buggy	37	39	41	-4	-2	-3
Football	50	37	48	2	-11	-4.5
Golf	10	24	25	-15	-1	-8
Baseball	45	32	47	-2	-15	-8.5
Camping—RV camping	16	22	28	-12	-6	-9
Off-roading—4-wheel drive vehicle	23	26	35	-12	-9	-10.5
Soccer	36	27	43	-7	-16	-11.5
Off-roading—motorcycle	35	44	52	-17	-8	-12.5
Class or instruction at community center	29	23	39	-10	-16	-13
Roller or inline skating	30	38	50	-20	-12	-16
Social event at community center	11	10	27	-16	-17	-16.5
Activity center	27	29	46	-19	-17	-18

Community Feedback on Recreation Programs

The 2017 Community Survey received more than 600 responses during the survey window. The Community Survey that was published and posted to the City's website, handed out to community groups, and made available at City Hall and the Community Center. The Community Survey provided the stakeholders group, the Parks and Recreation Commission, and City staff with significant feedback on the recreation programs currently offered and desired within the City. Detailed results from the survey are included within Appendix D.

Like the findings of Washington State, walking was found to be the most frequent activity that is occurring within the City's parks. Participation in other traditional recreation activities such as soccer, football, softball leagues is very popular even if participation numbers for these activities lag below some other more leisurely pursuits.

Overall, approximately 32 percent of the respondents to the survey were currently active in recreation programs offered by the City. Of the 68 percent of respondents who were not active in City recreation programs, 19 percent of respondents were unaware of the programs/facilities offered or were too busy to participate, 17 percent could not afford the cost to participate, 10 percent participated in programs not sponsored by the City or were not interested in participating in City programs, six percent needed child care in order to participate, and three percent lacked transportation to participate.

In the Community Survey's question related to which activities do you participate in when you visit City parks, there was an overwhelming majority of respondents who did not participate in sports leagues or non-league sports, but indicated an interest in doing so in the future.

Music (e.g. concerts, festivals), Outdoor activities (e.g., rock climbing, hiking), and environmental activities (e.g., gardening, nature walks) received the most responses to a question related to the type of activities that respondents would like to see more of or get involved in through the City's parks, facilities, or Community Center.

Special events, arts and crafts, camps, dance, and theater arts were the programs and classes that respondents indicated that they participated in the most.

This question was intended to understand how respondents are made aware of the various services and programs available to them. The overwhelming majority of respondents cited the City's quarterly brochure and the Community Center being the top ways that they hear about services and programs offered by the Parks Department.

Survey respondents suggested that youth and teen programs represented the area where the City should program scarce recreation funds, while the lowest response was for athletic programs.

When respondents were asked how to prioritize future investments on recreation programs, respondents indicated that future emphasis should be placed on children and teen programs. In addition, the public outreach process identified a need to ensure that recreation programming is serving the needs of the increasingly diverse Federal Way community. These findings are similar to those from the City's last survey in 2006.

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chapter 5 Needs Assessment and Recommendations

Introduction

This chapter focuses on inventory, analysis, and observations of the current and future parks and recreation needs for the City of Federal Way. The needs assessment is based on analysis of:

- Public feedback gleaned from survey responses,
- Community vision and values,
- Identified local trends in participation and use of facilities, and
- State/national recreation trends.

The recommendations coming out of the needs assessment inform the goals and policies found elsewhere in the plan.

Needs Assessment

The needs assessment includes a system-wide evaluation of park, recreation, and open space needs in the City of Federal Way. A key aspect of the needs assessment is to identify and analyze current service levels in the City's parks and open spaces. The level-of-service analysis is based on the park's classification and existing standards for each park type, size, and geographic location. This analysis helps to identify existing and future projected needs based on projected population growth.

Level of Service Standards

Level-of-service (LOS) standards are measures of the amount and quality of

Table 5.1: ADOPTED LEVEL OF SERVICE STANDARDS

Facility	Standard
Regional Parks	2.6 ac/1,000 pop.
Community Parks	2.8 ac/1,000 pop.
Neighborhood Parks	1.7 ac/1,000 pop.
Open Space	3.8 ac/1,000 pop.
Trails	0.2 miles/1,000 pop.
Total Park Land	10.9 ac/1,000 pop

park and recreation sites and facilities that must be provided to meet a community's basic needs and expectations.¹ The benefit of developing LOS standards is to set goals and provide the community an opportunity to measure progress toward meeting community objectives. LOS standards provide a benchmark for evaluating deficiencies in the existing system, and can provide the justification for the need to develop additional park facilities and improvements. Historically, the accepted practice for park LOS standards has been to apply uniform national standards (developed by the National Recreation & Parks Association) of park land area per 1,000 population or based on the geographic distance of residents from parks. Because no two communities are alike, the concept of applying national standards to local conditions should be customized based on community preferences and values.

Current trends are moving toward developing standards based on local goals and priorities. This approach is particularly relevant in built out communities, like Federal Way, where there is a limited land base for new park development. Many communities are using qualitative measures to help determine whether community needs and demands are being met. While this Plan includes a quantitative analysis

of parks and open spaces, it also attempts to look at the system more qualitatively to ensure that the system is being utilized at its fullest potential to address the needs of Federal Way residents.

One of the key topics explored in this Plan focuses on how best to use the existing park and open space land base to accommodate the activities of residents and employees. Many of the recommendations and the qualitative measures included within this chapter focus on efforts that will help to add recreation facilities and also activate and enliven the City's parks and open spaces. Efforts focus on cultivating "community ownership," understanding how parks and open spaces are being used, enhancing use and activity levels, developing a City-wide walking system, and the role of parks and open spaces in shaping the image and identity of Federal Way as a place with a high quality of life.

The quantitative LOS standards analyzed in this Plan are the same standards that were identified in the 2000, 2006, and 2013 Comprehensive Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plans. These standards are shown in Table 5.1. These standards are recommended because they serve as a baseline for comparing service levels over time, and help identify potential future deficiencies in service. In addition to these

¹Planning for Parks, Recreation, and Open Space in Your Community, Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation and the Washington State Department of Community, Trade, and Economic Development, February 2005.



calculations, this Plan also recommends that the current quantitative standards be layered with additional, more qualitative approaches to help meet future parks and recreation needs (as opposed to just building more parks or acquiring more land to meet a numeric-based standard).

Park Classifications and Level of Service

The LOS calculations are based on six park categories: regional parks, community parks, neighborhood parks, trails, open space, and system wide. Table 5.7 depicts the LOS calculations for the City and PAA population for both current (2018) and 2025 population projections (City-only current population is 97,440 based on April 1, 2018 OFM population estimates; City and PAA

current population is 119,657; City-only 2025 population is projected as 108,218; City+PAA 2025 population is projected as 131,272).

Regional Parks

Regional parks serve the City and surrounding area. They are often large park facilities with unique features, offering both passive and active recreational uses. As a result of these characteristics, regional parks have larger service areas. Dash Point State Park and the Weyerhaeuser Aquatic Center represent the regional parks and facilities located in the City.

Dash Point State Park totals 398 acres in total area, but approximately 174 acres (43.7%) of the park are located within the City of Tacoma. It maintains a large camping area, which draws people from throughout the state. There are several

Table 5.2: REGIONAL PARK LEVEL OF SERVICE

CURRENT INVENTORY	CURRENT ABUNDANCE (+)/NEED (-)
City = 255.45 ac	City = 2.11 acres
City + PAA = 255.45 ac	City + PAA = -55.66 acres
CURRENT SERVICE LEVELS	FUTURE ABUNDANCE (+)/NEED(-) (2025)
City = 2.62 ac/1,000 pop.	City = -25.92 acres
City + PAA = 2.13 ac/1,000 pop.	City + PAA = -88.46 acres

smaller State parks within two miles of the City's boundaries, including Dolloff Lake Fishing Access, North Lake Fishing Access, and Saltwater State Park. Whereas these may not be considered regional parks, they are state-funded and draw residents not only from Federal Way, but also from other surrounding communities.

The Weyerhaeuser King County Aquatic Center is a world-class swimming and diving center that has hosted qualifying competitions for the US Olympic team, NCAA national championships, and Special Olympics events. It is a legacy venue of the 1990 Seattle Goodwill Games. The Aquatic Center has a 2,500-seat facility and maintains one of the most active competition schedules in the country, hosting more than 50 events annually.

Analysis

According to the LOS calculations, at 2.62 acres/1,000 population, the City is barely meeting its adopted LOS standard of 2.6 acres/1,000 population for regional parks by 2.11 acres. However, in the year 2025, it is anticipated that approximately 25.92 acres of additional park land will be necessary to meet the LOS standard for regional parks. These calculations do not reflect the other regional park facilities within two miles of Federal Way, which include Saltwater State Park, parts of Dash Point State Park that lie outside Federal Way city limits, North Lake, and Dolloff Lake. The identified future need, based on the LOS standard for regional parks, is met when the state park facilities

within two miles of the City are included.

Federal Way does not have management authority over the regional parks and facilities that are located within the City. Parking at Dash Point State Park requires payment in the form of a Discover Pass. While Washington State Parks occasionally has "Discover Pass free days," the requirement for a paid parking pass may make Dash Point State Park inaccessible to many Federal Way residents.

The Weyerhaeuser King County Aquatic Center has free parking, but use of the facility is fee based. It is open to the public for lap swims, family swims, and swimming lessons. The recreational pool is available to rent for private events. The facility includes a banquet hall that has been used for weddings, parties, and corporate events.

Community Parks

Community parks are the primary active recreation facilities in the City, providing active and structured recreation opportunities for the community, as well as passive recreation uses. Community parks have a larger service area, typically a two-mile radius. Most of the City is served by a community park facility per this definition. Community parks include Brooklake Park, Blueberry Farm, Celebration Park, Dumas Bay Centre Park, Dumas Bay Sanctuary, French Lake Park, Lakota Park, Panther Lake Park, Sacajawea Park, Saghalie Park, Steel Lake Park, Town Square Park, and West Hylebos Wetland Park, totaling



**adopted LOS
standard:
2.6 ac/
1,000 pop.**



**adopted LOS
standard:
2.8 ac/
1,000 pop.**

Table 5.3: COMMUNITY PARK LEVEL OF SERVICE

CURRENT INVENTORY	CURRENT ABUNDANCE (+)/NEED (-)
City = 489.70 ac	City = 216.86 acres
City + PAA = 554.12 ac	City + PAA = 219.08 acres
CURRENT SERVICE LEVELS	FUTURE ABUNDANCE (+)/NEED(-) (2025)
City = 5.03 ac/1,000 pop.	City = 186.69 acres
City + PAA = 4.63 ac/1,000 pop.	City + PAA = 183.76 acres

approximately 489.70 acres. Community parks offer a diversity of facilities and tend to be the more popular and recognizable parks in the system because of the park size, range of amenities, sports fields, and passive recreation areas. These parks are also locations where members of the whole family can recreate, participating in a variety of activities concurrently.

Analysis

According to the LOS calculations, the City is exceeding its LOS standard of 2.8 acres/1,000 population for the current population. The current service level is 5.03 acres/1,000 population. At 4.53 acres/1,000 population, the City will also be exceeding its LOS standard in 2025.

The community parks in the system are well loved and used by the community. Many are destinations in the community and the location of large community events. Most of the facilities are in fair to good shape, but could benefit from some strategic improvements. Master plans for Sacajawea and Lakota parks were adopted in 2006, and these identify substantial redevelopment for both parks.

The primary issue raised by the community is the condition of the outdoor athletic fields including soccer fields and softball/baseball fields. Fields with poor drainage, unlit, or not of regulation size limit the ability to program these spaces for year-round games and events. Most of these fields are programmed for leagues and organized sports. Upgrading the athletic fields within

regional parks will substantially improve the usability by increasing the number of games that can be programmed annually in those facilities.

Additional input through the public process indicates that there is a lack of unprogrammed fields in the City for informal groups that are not associated with organized leagues or sports groups. Informal users of the soccer, basketball, and baseball/softball fields compete with organized sports associations and league play for the use of these facilities.

These informal users get 'bumped' from the fields when leagues need to use them. School grounds in the community often provide an opportunity for unorganized use of the fields, although these fields are also programmed for school use and some of the local recreation providers.

Neighborhood Parks

There are a total of 21 neighborhood parks within the City, located primarily in single family residential areas. The City has made significant progress in recent years in constructing new improvements to neighborhood parks. Most areas in the City have a neighborhood park within ¼- to ½-mile, with the exception of limited areas in the southeast and north part of the city.

Neighborhood parks serve a local purpose to the surrounding residential neighborhood and range in character and use. Some of the neighborhood parks are neighborhood-level community gathering

places, while others are tucked away and less visible.

Analysis

The City's current inventory of neighborhood parks does not meet its adopted LOS standard. The adopted LOS standard is for 1.7 acres of neighborhood park area per 1,000 population. The City currently is providing approximately 1.11 acres of neighborhood park per 1,000 population. Expressed in area, the City is currently 57.60 acres deficient in neighborhood parks. If no additional neighborhood park land acquisition occurs through 2025, the City's deficit of neighborhood parks will rise to approximately 75.92 acres.

When the population and parks located within the PAA are included in the analysis, the current LOS for neighborhood parks is approximately 1.18 acres per 1,000 population. There are two neighborhood parks in the PAA – Bingaman Pond Park (16.7 acres) and Camelot Park (18 acres). Future neighborhood park needs (2025) for the City and PAA combined is approximately 83.30 acres.

Amenity-Based Standards for Neighborhood Parks

It became evident through the outreach process for this Plan that several of the neighborhood parks are not well-known or well-used. Some of the neighborhood parks have issues with poor visibility, vandalism, or aging equipment. As the City has done an effective job of providing a diversity of neighborhood parks in the

system, it is important for the City to focus on ways to enliven them and make them more usable places. Although the level-of-service standards for neighborhood parks would suggest that additional park land is needed, the survey respondents indicated a clear preference toward constructing improvements within existing parks over the acquisition of new park land.

Recommendations later in this chapter focus on the specific improvements that will help to activate the neighborhood parks, engage the local neighborhood in the design and stewardship of the parks, and capitalize on the unique potential of each.

Based on this analysis, the City should layer the current LOS standard with an amenity-based standard for neighborhood parks to ensure that the parks will be safer and more comfortable and usable to park users. This would include:

- Visible park entries with signage and other identifying features such as landscaping, bollards, low fences, or other civic treatments.
- Clear sight lines to increase the perception of safety.
- Play structures.
- Durable site furnishings such as benches, picnic tables and trash cans.
- Seating and informal lawn areas for leisure and to encourage use.

Table 5.4: NEIGHBORHOOD PARK LEVEL OF SERVICE

CURRENT INVENTORY	CURRENT ABUNDANCE (+)/NEED (-)
City = 108.05 ac	City = 57.60 acres
City + PAA = 141.56 ac	City + PAA = 61.86 acres
CURRENT SERVICE LEVELS	FUTURE ABUNDANCE (+)/NEED(-) (2025)
City = 1.11 ac/1,000 pop.	City = 75.92 acres
City + PAA = 1.18 ac/1,000 pop.	City + PAA = 83.30 acres



**adopted LOS
standard:
1.7 ac/
1,000 pop.**



**adopted LOS
standard:
3.8 ac/
1,000 pop.**

Table 5.5: OPEN SPACE LEVEL OF SERVICE

CURRENT INVENTORY	CURRENT ABUNDANCE (+)/NEED (-)
City = 436.16 ac	City = 65.89 acres
City + PAA = 455.38 ac	City + PAA = 0.68 acres
CURRENT SERVICE LEVELS	FUTURE ABUNDANCE (+)/NEED(-) (2025)
City = 4.48 ac/1,000 pop.	City = 24.93 acres
City + PAA = 3.81 ac/1,000 pop.	City + PAA = -47.25 acres

Open Spaces

Federal Way has an extensive system of open space lands, many of which are unimproved or undeveloped. These open spaces offer access to natural areas, and provide value to people, animals and the environment. The City manages a broad range of open spaces, each with varying constraints and potential. Some open spaces have environmental constraints. Some of the City's open spaces are small parcels that have limited open space or habitat value, while others are larger and provide trails within a well-intact natural setting. Finally, there are several open spaces that provide, or have potential to provide, shoreline access. Many of the City's open spaces also have potential for educational and interpretive opportunities. Several open spaces in the system may be appropriate for park development to meet the recreation needs of the community in the future.

The public has expressed interest in including Camp Kilworth within the City's open space inventory, with an emphasis on educational and environmental interpretation, and maintaining its function as a youth camp. Camp Kilworth is approximately 29.3 acres (including inundated lands) and is accessed from 50th Avenue.

Analysis

Within the City there are a total of 436.16 acres of open space lands or roughly 4.48

acres/1,000 population, which exceeds the City's LOS standard of 3.8 ac/1,000 population. The City's open space inventory will still satisfy LOS requirements by approximately 24.93 acres in 2025.

When the PAA is included in the analysis, the current LOS for open spaces is approximately 3.81 ac/1,000 population, which just meets the City's LOS standard. Future open space needs for the City and the PAA in 2025 will require an additional 47.25 acres of open space to meet the City's LOS standard, which could be difficult to attain given that there are limited undeveloped areas within the PAA that are publicly owned. One option for meeting the City's LOS standard for open space may be to add partial open space credit for open spaces owned by other public or private entities such as the former Weyerhaeuser campus, surface water utility districts, Lakehaven Water and Sewer district, etc. The former Weyerhaeuser campus offers tremendous opportunities for the provision of open space areas within the PAA should the City consider pursuing it.

Trails

The City is blessed with an abundance of paved and unpaved trails within its parks and open spaces. While the BPA Trail and the West Campus Trail are Federal Way's best known and most widely used trails, many of the City's parks and open spaces contain trails. Two examples are West Hylebos Wetlands Park and Panther Lake

Table 5.6: TRAILS LEVEL OF SERVICE

CURRENT INVENTORY	CURRENT ABUNDANCE (+)/NEED (-)
City = 12.07 miles	City = -7.42 miles
City + PAA = 12.07 miles	City + PAA = -11.86 miles
CURRENT SERVICE LEVELS	FUTURE ABUNDANCE (+)/NEED(-) (2025)
City = 0.12 miles/1,000 pop.	City = -9.57 miles
City + PAA = 0.10 miles/1,000 pop.	City + PAA = -14.38 miles

Open Space, which contain trails. Dash Point State Park also has an extensive system of trails that is used by the community. There are also a number of shorter trails within the City's Park system.

Analysis

The City's LOS standard is based on trail length. The City's trail LOS standard for trail length is 0.2 miles of trail per 1,000 population. Based on that standard, the City currently needs approximately 7.42 miles of additional trail facilities.

As mentioned above, to meet the needs of the community, the LOS standards should be layered with more qualitative measures that address the condition of the trails to ensure that they are safe for pedestrian and bicycle use, and that they are effectively connecting destinations and adequately signed. For urban trails (paved surfaces) it is important that the trails are ADA accessible and clear of obstructions. Nature trails must also be periodically assessed to ensure that the trail surface is in good condition, free of obstructions, and are ADA accessible wherever possible.

System-wide Level of Service

There are approximately 1,056.49 acres of City-owned park and open space land within the city limits including roughly 620.33 acres in developed parks and 436.16 acres in undeveloped open space. If Dash Point State Park is included in the

calculation for total acreage, then there are approximately 1,311.94 acres of park and open space within the City. If the available parks within the Potential Annexation Area (PAA) are also included, a total of 1,429.09 acres of park and open space are located within the City and PAA. This includes City, State, and County park facilities.

The City's LOS standard for total park land is 10.9 acres/1,000 population. The current service level for the City is 13.46 acres per 1,000 population, and for the City and PAA together, the current service level is 11.94 acres per 1,000 population. By 2025, it is projected to be providing 12.12 acres per 1,000 population within the City and 10.80 acres per 1,000 population for the City and the PAA. What this means is that system-wide, the City will need approximately 12.68 acres of additional park land to meet LOS standards for the City and its PAA.

Park Specific Analysis

Appendix A includes descriptions for each of the major parks and open spaces in the system. The park inventory sheets summarize the park's character and context, specific issues to be addressed, park potential, and near-term and long-term needs. Evaluation matrices for each facility type (Community Parks, Neighborhood Parks, Open Spaces) can be found in Appendix C). These tables include the evaluation criteria developed to help assess the constraints and opportunities of each park.



**adopted LOS
standard:
0.2 mi/
1,000 pop.**

Table 5.7: LEVEL OF SERVICE ANALYSIS FOR THE CITY AND PAA2018 CITY POPULATION: 97,440¹

2018 CITY & PAA POPULATION: 119,657

2025 CITY POPULATION PROJECTION: 108,218²

2025 CITY & PAA POPULATION PROJECTION: 131,272

Facility Type	Regional Parks (acres)	Community Parks (acres)	Neighbor- hood Parks (acres)	Open Space (acres)	Linear Parks & Trails	Total Park Land* (acres)	Trails (miles)
Inventory							
Current City Park Inventory (City-owned Properties Only)	0.00	489.70	108.05	436.16	22.58	1,056.49	9.44
Park Inventory (all parks within City limits) ³	255.45	489.70	108.05	436.16	22.58	1,311.94	12.07
Current City + PAA Park Inventory (all parks located within City & PAA)	255.45	554.12	141.56	455.38	22.58	1,429.09	12.07
Current Level-of-Service							
Adopted LOS Standard (per 1,000 residents)	2.60	2.80	1.70	3.80	--	10.90	0.20
Current City Park Acreage or Trail Distance Provided (per 1,000 residents)	2.62	5.03	1.11	4.48	--	13.46	0.12
Current Abundance or Need (acres/miles) in City	2.11	216.86	-57.60	65.89	--	249.84	-7.42
Current City & PAA Park Acreage or Trail Distance Provided (per 1,000 residents)	2.13	4.63	1.18	3.81	--	11.94	0.10
Current Abundance or Need (acres/miles) in City & PAA	-55.66	219.08	-61.86	0.68	--	124.83	-11.86
2025 Projected Level-of-Service (City)							
Projected Park and Open Space Acreage Provided (per 1,000 residents) in 2025	2.36	4.53	1.00	4.03	--	12.12	0.11
Projected Abundance or Need (acres/miles) in 2025	-25.92	186.69	-75.92	24.93	--	132.36	-9.57
2025 Projected Level-of-Service (City and PAA)							
Projected Park and Open Space Acreage Provided (per 1,000 residents) in 2025	1.93	4.19	1.07	3.44	--	10.80	0.09
Projected Abundance or Need (acres/miles) in 2025	-88.46	183.76	-83.30	-47.25	--	-12.68	-14.38

¹Based on 2018 City population estimate of 97,440 by OFM²Based on 2024 City population projection of 108,218 based on 1.51 percent annual, compounded growth per year provided by the City of Federal Way Community Development Department on June 27, 2018.³Includes King County Aquatic Center and the portion of Dash Point Park within City limits.

A photograph of a forest path with sunlight filtering through the trees. The path is covered in fallen leaves, and the trees are tall and slender. The sunlight creates a warm, golden glow in the center of the path.

plan recommendations

The following recommendations have been developed based on the findings of the needs assessment and the consistent themes that emerged from the public outreach process. The recommended actions inform policy direction and project prioritization and are organized according to the Core Values that came out of the planning process. These Core Values are more fully explained in Chapter One.

System-Wide Recommended Actions

The most important and cost effective actions the City can undertake to address the health and longevity of the system is to:

- Focus on strategic improvements within existing parks and open spaces that enhance the quality of the park experience.
- Identify methods that activate and enliven the spaces to make them more inviting

usable, and safe.

- Provide for a range of recreational opportunities at each park to satisfy community demands for all age groups and backgrounds.

Improve existing facilities & provide multiple functions in parks (Core Value 1)

Improving existing facilities and providing multiple functions in parks so that parks address different interests and can provide 'one stop' recreating is the highest priority for the community, based on public feedback. This Core Value is supported by the following points:

- According to the City's 2017 parks survey, respondents indicated a preference toward improving existing facilities over the acquisition of new facilities.
- National recreation trend points to the fact that people desire quality over quantity with service, programs, and facilities. This trend is also reflected at the local level based on input from residents during the public outreach process.
- The City's parks and open space network is extensive and includes a variety of spaces and activities. This system is a key asset to the Federal Way community because it not only provides low cost access to recreational opportunities, but the parks and open spaces in the system help to define the community's image, culture, and community character. Parks and open spaces also provide opportunities for social interaction, and enhance community quality of life.
- Since incorporation, the City has done an effective job at improving its

community parks and neighborhood parks. The City has also made great strides in developing new facilities, such as Town Square Park, Celebration Park, the Community Center, and new neighborhood parks like Madrona Park and Alderdale Park. Thus, acquisition of more park land is not the current priority.

- For the community parks, some of the athletic fields are not operating at maximum efficiency due to poor drainage, inadequate lighting, and/ or irregularly sized fields. Continue to master plan and improve facilities and balance both the active and passive recreation uses at these parks to provide multi-generational use and enjoyment. Public/private partnerships for enhancements to field surfaces and lighting may offer a solution where appropriate.
- From an area calculation perspective, the level-of-service analysis indicates that the City will meet future projected demand for parks and recreation. Deficiencies have been identified in the system, for trails. However, those service level calculations do not focus on the quality of the park experience or the full range of activities taking place within parks and open space areas.

Below are specific recommended actions that address improvement to existing facilities and providing multiple functions in parks. The actions are organized by park type.

Community Parks

Each of the community parks was evaluated to determine the potential of each. Table C.1 in Appendix C summarizes the constraints and potential of each community park.

To meet active recreation demand, the first

priority should be to bring the athletic fields up to standards to meet demand. This would include addressing drainage, regulation sized fields, installation of artificial turf for year-round play, and lighting to allow for evening play. Other recommended community park improvements are meant to address the image and identity of the parks, to help them be more visible to the public as civic/community destinations, and to make them welcoming and inviting places.

Recommended Actions:

- A phased approach to implementing master plans for Lakota and Sacajawea Parks as funding is available.
- Update Master Plan to upgrade athletic facilities and passive recreation areas at Steel Lake Park.
- Develop a facilities improvement plan to address the athletic fields at Saghalie Park.
- Develop a phasing plan for converting some existing grass soccer fields in community parks to artificial turf.
- Given Sacajawea Park's high visibility and heavily traveled arterial location adjacent to SR 509/Dash Point Road, seek state and community funding for a project to upgrade the appearance of the park street frontage berm with permanent, low-maintenance groundcover.

If demand has not been satisfied even after improvements have been made to existing facilities, the City should then explore other options, focused on improvements on other public lands that do not require further property acquisition. Specific actions could include:

- Explore partnerships with Federal Way Public Schools to identify opportunities for active recreation improvements.



- If and when areas within the Potential Annexation Area (PAA) are annexed, the Department should develop a phasing plan to update the community parks located within the PAA. There are currently three community parks in the PAA with active recreation facilities: Five Mile Lake Park, Lake Geneva Park, and South County Ball fields. At a minimum this phasing plan should include evaluating the needs and opportunities associated with each park, negotiating conditions of transfer from King County, identifying funding sources, and addressing specific actions that need to occur to bring the fields and facilities up to current standards. The City should consider requesting parks to be upgraded by King County prior to transfer to the



City's parks system.

Figure 5.1 visually illustrates the recommendations described above.

Neighborhood Parks

The City has an extensive system of neighborhood parks. Several of these parks are under-utilized and have untapped potential. Some of these parks have high potential as neighborhood gathering places, while others will remain as small neighborhood parks where general upkeep and improvements should occur over time. Other neighborhood parks can realize potential based on their location adjacent to the larger trail and sidewalk network in the City. The greatest opportunity in many of these neighborhood parks is to design improvements that help to activate or enliven the spaces.

Recommendations for neighborhood parks are both general and specific to individual neighborhood parks. For the purposes of this analysis and the recommendations, neighborhood parks were divided into the following three subcategories.

- Neighborhood Gathering Places
- Passive Neighborhood Parks
- Neighborhood Trail Nodes

Recommended actions:

- Improve parks according to their unique potential and context within the system.
- Prioritize park improvements to make them more usable, inviting, and minimize impacts to local neighbors.
- Phase improvements with high priority placed on those parks that have potential as neighborhood gathering

Figure 5.1: FEDERAL WAY COMMUNITY PARK ASSESSMENT





places, especially in areas close to multi-family housing.

as use of drought-resistant

- Cultivate “community ownership” of parks through neighborhood stewardship, neighborhood work sessions and open houses, adopt-a-park programs, and community gardens.
- Develop a phased improvement plan for each of the neighborhood parks to address:
 - Installation of durable materials;
 - Safety/visibility concerns;
 - Street presence;
 - Natural drainage;
 - Invasive species management; and
 - Low-impact (sustainable) design and maintenance practices such

native plants, integrated pest management, etc.

Specific actions for each of the neighborhood parks will be based on the neighborhood park potential and the specific neighborhood park subcategories identified above. Each of the neighborhood parks were evaluated based on criteria, such as visible park entries, access, sense of place, and surrounding land use. Table C.2 in Appendix C summarizes the potential of each neighborhood park.

Neighborhood Gathering Places

These are neighborhood parks that have unique features or assets that could be capitalized upon further. These parks have features such as: off-street parking, trails, large open areas, multi-use potential, presence of special features, and are located on a minor collector or arterial. Parks with the potential to be neighborhood

gathering places include:

- Adelaide
- Alderdale
- Alderbrook
- Cedar Grove
- Coronado
- Mirror Lake
- Palisades

Working with local neighbors, the City should develop improvements for each of these parks based on their unique potential and community desires. This process would be designed to identify specific improvements that would help to activate the parks.

Passive Neighborhood Parks

These are typically small neighborhood parks that have limited access from local residential streets, are generally surrounded by single family residential homes, and have limited or no parking. Passive neighborhood parks include:

- Dash Point Highlands Park
- Heritage Woods Park
- Lake Grove Park
- Wildwood Park
- Wedgewood Park

Recommended actions at passive neighborhood/local use parks focus on small upgrades to increase the function and safety of the park in order to help activate them. This could include actions such as upgrading play equipment and site furnishings as needed.

Neighborhood Trail Nodes

There are several neighborhood parks within the system that have the potential to connect to a larger system of trails and non-motorized improvements in the City. These are parks that are located near other open



space areas and the City's trail network. Improvements at these parks will help to link together routes between community destinations such as schools, community facilities, parks, multi-family housing, and create longer trail segments and loops in the system.

Parks that serve as neighborhood trail nodes include:

- Alderbrook Park
- English Gardens Park
- Olympic View Park
- Madrona Park

Both Alderbrook Park and English Gardens Park have the potential to connect with the BPA Trail, West Campus Open Space, and Panther Lake Open Space. Linking these



parks to the larger network of trails in the central part of the City will make significant strides in developing an interconnected system of trails and sidewalks connecting community destinations and landmarks.

Olympic View Park, adjacent to Woodbridge Park Open Space, is another park with potential to extend the City's trail network. Long term, a trail/sidewalk network linking Woodbridge Park Open Space, Olympic View Park, Lochaven Open Space, and Poverty Bay Open Space would provide a recreational walking route on the west side of the City.

Madrona Park connects to the BPA Trail. This park links the south part of the City to the BPA Trail, Panther Lake Open Space, and Celebration Park.

Specific recommended actions for neighborhood trail node parks focus on trail installation or improvements, a wayfinding signage system, and trailhead improvements.

Park Activation

Park activation recommendations are two-

fold. The first step is to enhance safety and visibility into the parks as a means to encourage increased use. The second is the programmatic support of activities in parks that help activate the spaces. A key organizing element for every neighborhood park is its visibility from the street. Visibility enhances the safety and security to park users. To maximize the safety and security of park users, the Parks and Recreation Department uses Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) design principles, improvements to the street frontage, installation of identity signs at park entrances, and other treatments such as low lying plants, bollards, or low fences to define park edges.

Beyond physical improvements at neighborhood parks, programmatic efforts will also help activate the parks and make them more usable to the public. This can occur through several potential efforts including:

- Using the neighborhood workshop process to help customize improvements specific to

Table 5.8: PARKS AND RECREATION STAFFING

	City of Federal Way	Lower Quartile	Median	Upper Quartile
Park & Recreation Agency Staffing (Full-Time Equivalents)	39.5	28.4	56.5	111.3
Park & Recreation FTEs per 10,000 Residents	4.05	4.0	8.7	15.5

Source: 2018 NRPA Agency Performance Review: Park and Recreation Agency Performance Benchmarks

- neighborhood needs.
- Encouraging 'ownership' of neighborhood parks through:
 - Neighborhood residents/homeowner association stewardship;
 - Partnering with local service clubs and organizations such as the Rainier Audubon Society, Master Gardeners, Korean Seniors Association, service clubs and schools in an adopt-a-park program;
 - School curriculums addressing physical activity and the natural environment; and
 - Reinstating the City's small and simple grant program for neighborhood initiated park improvements.
 - Volunteer work parties associated with Earth Day.
 - Working with Federal Way businesses, develop a corporate sponsorship/volunteer program to organize employees into volunteer work teams for specific projects and activities.
 - Encourage cultural and special events to take place in the parks.

Figure 5.2 visually shows the recommendations described above.

Maintenance Program

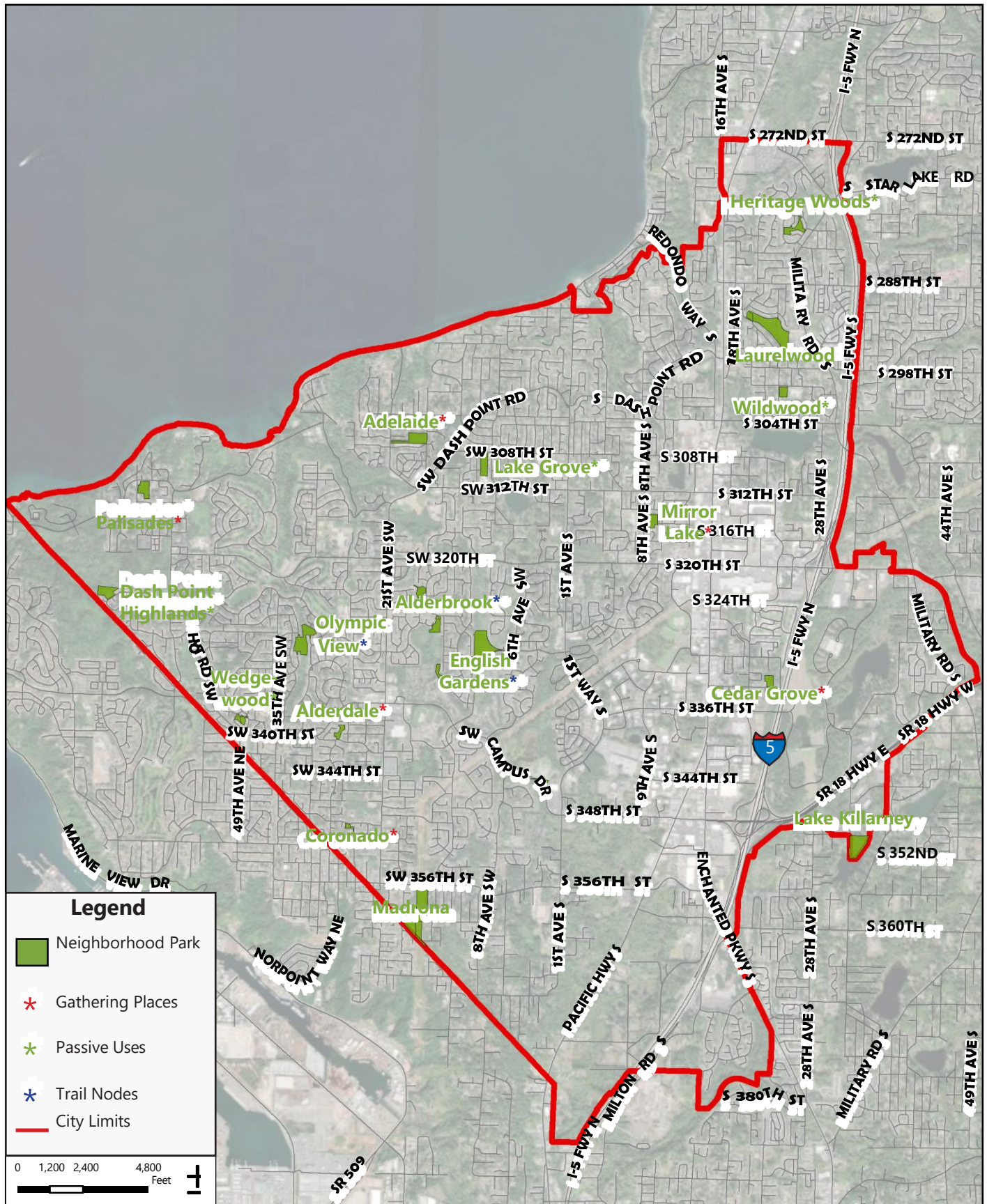
An essential component of implementing the intent of Core Value #1 is to ensure that the existing park facilities are well maintained and that improvements are made on an ongoing basis. The cleanliness, maintenance, and attractiveness of the City's parks and open spaces was acknowledged within the community survey that occurred as part of the preparation of this plan. Proper maintenance and renovation of parks and replacement of outdated equipment was identified as a higher priority than the acquisition of new parks and open spaces. Respondents noted that maintenance will prevent and/or correct potentially hazardous conditions. An ongoing maintenance program also helps to improve the image and identity of the park system by addressing issues like vandalism and graffiti.

Recommended Actions:

The City's existing maintenance program is well managed and has kept the City's parks and open spaces clean and attractive. The Department is maintaining its parks with staffing levels that are significantly lower than for other cities between 50,000 and 99,999 in population. The full-time equivalents per 10,000 population places it within the lower quartile for staffing levels for similarly sized cities in the United States (see Table 5.8).

The lack of staffing has precluded the Parks Department from engaging in recommended preventative maintenance

Figure 5.2: FEDERAL WAY NEIGHBORHOOD PARK ASSESSMENT



practices. Due to staffing constraints, maintenance and repair tends to involve responding to emergencies. To ensure that maintenance practices occur in a planned manner that is preventative in nature, it is recommended that the funding for additional staffing occur.

Create community gathering places and destinations (Core value 2)

Community surveys emphasize the importance of gathering places in the City. The surveys noted the following:

- The City's parks are places where the community recreates and socially interacts. Community Parks, such as Celebration Park, Town Square Park, the Performing Arts and Events Center, and Steel Lake Park currently function as community gathering places for outdoor special events and community functions.
- The City's neighborhood parks have the potential to become neighborhood gathering places. This would also help to activate the parks and encourage increased use.
- The off-leash dog park at French Lake is an example of how a change in use can help to activate a park. This park now functions as a community gathering place for dog owners who visit each day. Many of these park patrons are active in volunteer efforts and raise funds to maintain and improve the park facilities.
- Gathering spaces should be connected by trails and sidewalks so that they are part of a larger, interconnected network.
- The City Center offers great opportunity for the creation of



gathering places.

Recommended Actions:

- Neighborhood parks have the potential to become neighborhood-scale gathering places (as described above), especially when events, such as movies in the park or neighborhood picnics, are held there.
- Consider engaging groups in beautification efforts where feasible.
- Continue the marketing strategy

for the Dumas Bay Centre so that it becomes more 'visible' as a community gathering place.

Figures 5.1 and 5.2 depict the community parks/facilities and neighborhood parks, respectively, which could function as gathering places and destinations.

Retain and improve natural open spaces (Core value 3)

The City's open space system provides a variety of opportunities to access nature close to home. The following points were derived from public input and analysis of open space trends both locally and state-wide:

- Open spaces and natural areas help define Federal Way's character.
- Many people use parks for their natural and scenic qualities and to 'get away' from urban life. In the region and the state, access to natural areas is important to our quality of life. Hiking and walking were identified as among the most popular recreation activities by survey respondents.
- The open spaces within the City have varying constraints and potential. Some open spaces are small parcels of land with limited ecological or recreational function. Others are quite large and include a wealth of natural and cultural features unique to Federal Way, such as the West Hylebos Wetlands Park.
- The needs assessment indicates that the City currently has an adequate supply of open space.
- The key to an effective management strategy is to determine the potential of each open space to serve as habitat, and then for the appropriate level of

public access. The larger open spaces were evaluated using criteria such as the presence of environmental constraints, habitat value and function, accessibility, and the potential for public access and trails. Open space characteristics and qualities are summarized in Table C.3 in Appendix C. Based on that analysis, there are essentially four types of open spaces in the City:

- Open spaces with habitat and ecological function that have the potential for enhanced public access and education.
- Open spaces that provide shoreline access.
- Environmentally constrained lands that may offer limited public access, but serve a function of protecting sensitive areas and providing green space in the City.
- Open spaces that have the potential to become developed parks to meet future recreation demand.

Recommended Actions:

Overall Open Space System

- Develop an Open Space Management Program that:
 - Identifies critical areas and wildlife habitat potential
 - Addresses invasive species and plant management
 - Integrates low impact, sustainable maintenance practices.
- Evaluate each open space in greater detail to determine its potential role within the City's parks and open space portfolio. Some of these lands are located in the south part of the City, or near areas that are currently under served by parks.

- Construct ADA-compliant, low impact trails where safe and feasible to enhance public access to open spaces.

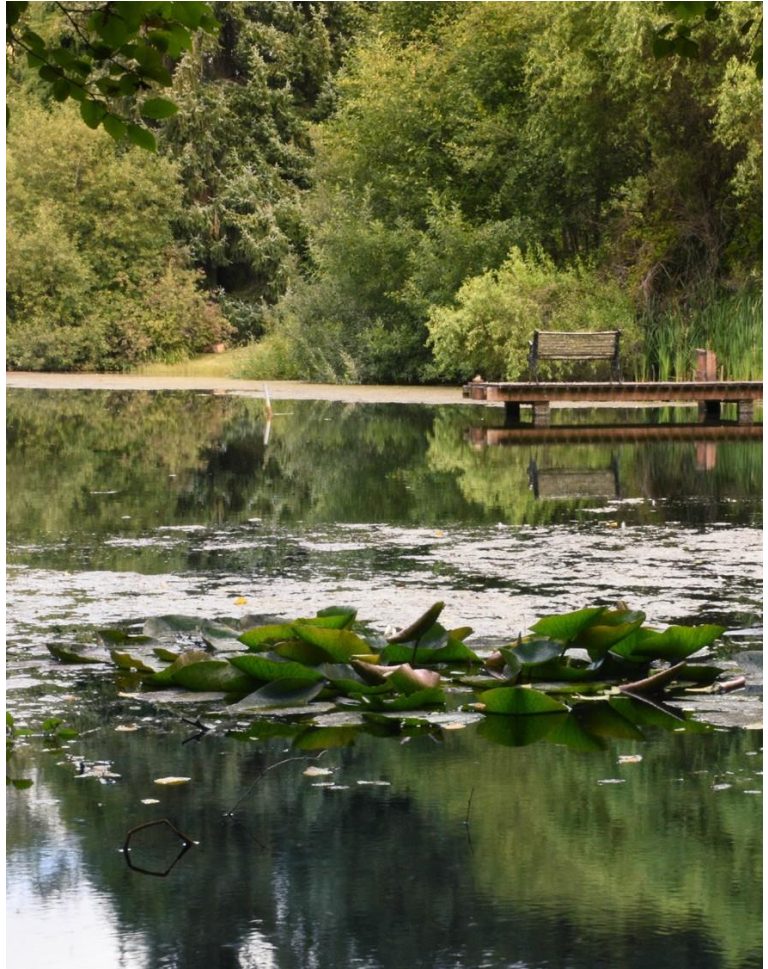
Habitat Value/Ecological Function

The City's larger open spaces offer opportunities for public use and environmental education as well as potential habitat value. These include:

- West Hylebos Creek
- Panther Lake
- Poverty Bay
- Fisher's Pond

For open spaces with the potential for enhanced public access and educational opportunities, recommendations include:

- Determine the extent of environmental constraints and habitat value at each of these open spaces.
- Balance ecological function with public access and education.
- Construct ADA-compliant, low impact trails where safe and feasible.
- Integrate educational elements such as interpretive signage.
- Partner with local groups such as the Audubon Society, Park Pals, Ameri-Corps, We Love Our City, Air Force Jr-ROTC, and the Master Gardeners to do work projects and sponsor guided tours and walks.
- Partner with Federal Way Public Schools to develop a "learning landscapes" program that encourages a student curriculum around:
 - Native species and control of invasive species
 - Urban Wildlife
 - Design
 - Stewardship



- Environmental awareness

Shoreline Access

Although the City is situated on the Puget Sound, there is limited public shoreline access due to private ownership along much of the shoreline. Parks, open spaces, and other community facilities with public shoreline access include:

- Dumas Bay Centre
- Dumas Bay Sanctuary
- Poverty Bay
- Dash Point State Park (owned by Washington State Parks Department)

Topography also influences shoreline access in the City. Both Poverty Bay and Dumas Bay are located on a high bluff overlooking



Puget Sound. Recommendations include:

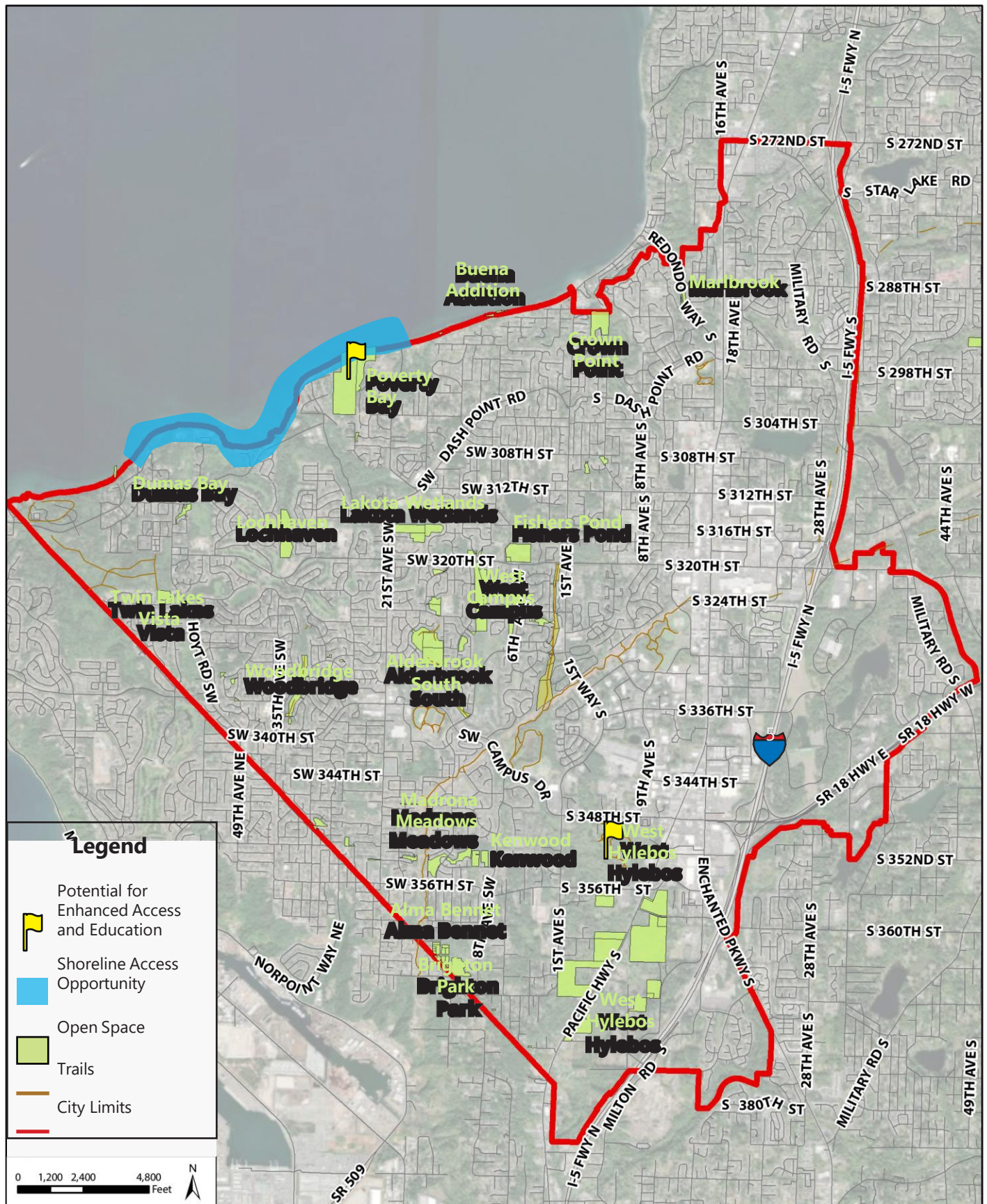
- Enhance public shoreline access opportunities at Poverty Bay and Dumas Bay.
- Explore additional shoreline access at small shoreline open spaces located at unopened street ends.
- Explore the potential for a Washington Water Association trail (for kayaks, canoes, and other non-motorized watercraft) connecting Federal Way parks along the shoreline, and potentially connecting to a larger regional system to waterfront parks in Des Moines and Tacoma.
- Restore and protect eroded shoreline areas.

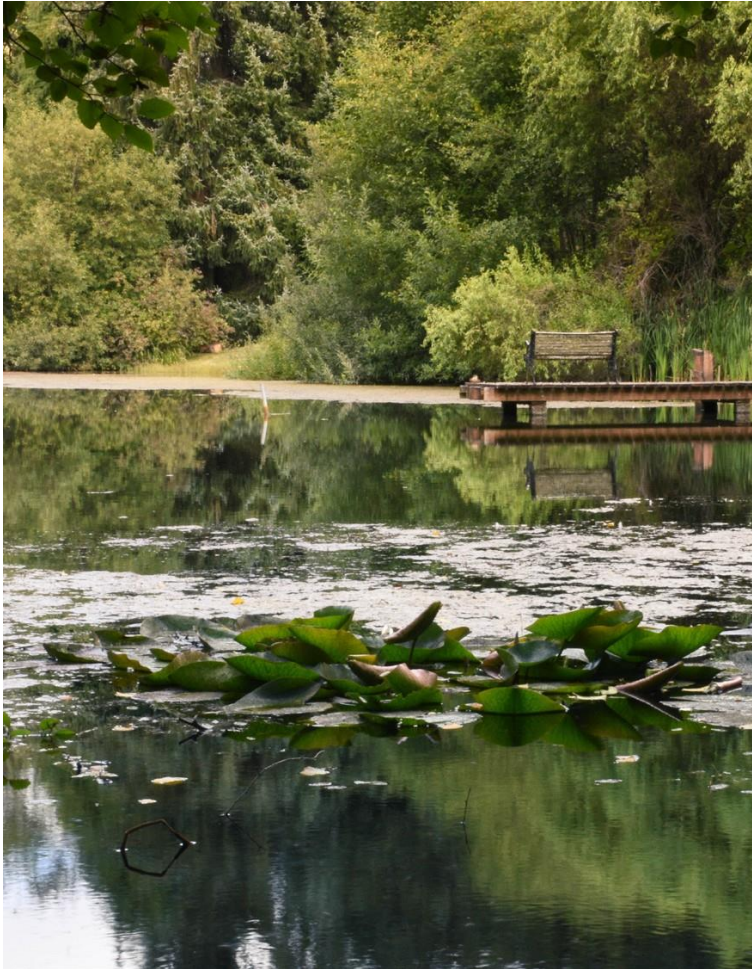
Environmentally Constrained Open Spaces

Many of the linear open spaces in the

City, or greenbelts, have environmentally sensitive areas, such as steep slopes, creeks, or wetlands that may limit future improvements. These open spaces are important for the protection of sensitive areas and the linkages to other parks and community destinations. Public access, (i.e., trails) should be encouraged where safe, feasible, and not destructive to the

Figure 5.3: FEDERAL WAY OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT





function and values of the environmentally constrained lands.

The retention of private open spaces through incentive-based programs, such as conservation easements, should also be explored. These private open spaces, which often occur in environmentally- sensitive areas, may also serve ecological functions even if they are not publicly accessible.

Develop a walking and biking community through an integrated trail and sidewalk network (Core value 4)

This core value is about connecting community destinations and linking them in ways that encourage people to exercise

and recreate. The following points emerged from the planning process and analysis:

- Walking is consistently the number one recreational activity people participate in, and this trend is not abating.
- Safe pathways for pedestrian movement are important aspects to encourage people to walk.
- To be a vibrant, healthy city, community destinations and landmarks should be connected through an integrated system of sidewalks and trails.
- The BPA Trail is one of the most heavily used recreation facilities in the City. The trail serves Celebration Park, Madrona Park, Panther Lake Park, and the Aquatic Center but does not connect with other community destinations. Most users drive to the trail, park, walk for a while, and then return to their cars.
- People often choose parks when they are accessible to walking, bicycling, or transit routes, or because they have adequate parking.
- Expanding the trail system is a high priority for the community, particularly routes that 'go somewhere' and connect major City destinations.
- The City should focus on strategic connections that leverage planned ADA and other transportation improvements to sidewalks along existing City streets.

Figure 5.4 conceptually depicts some potential walking and biking routes in the City based on the City's non-motorized transportation plan.

Recommended Actions:

- Prioritize sidewalk and trail improvements in areas near schools, community facilities, retail areas, and multi-family residential.

Figure 5.4: PAVED BICYCLE / WALKING TRAILS



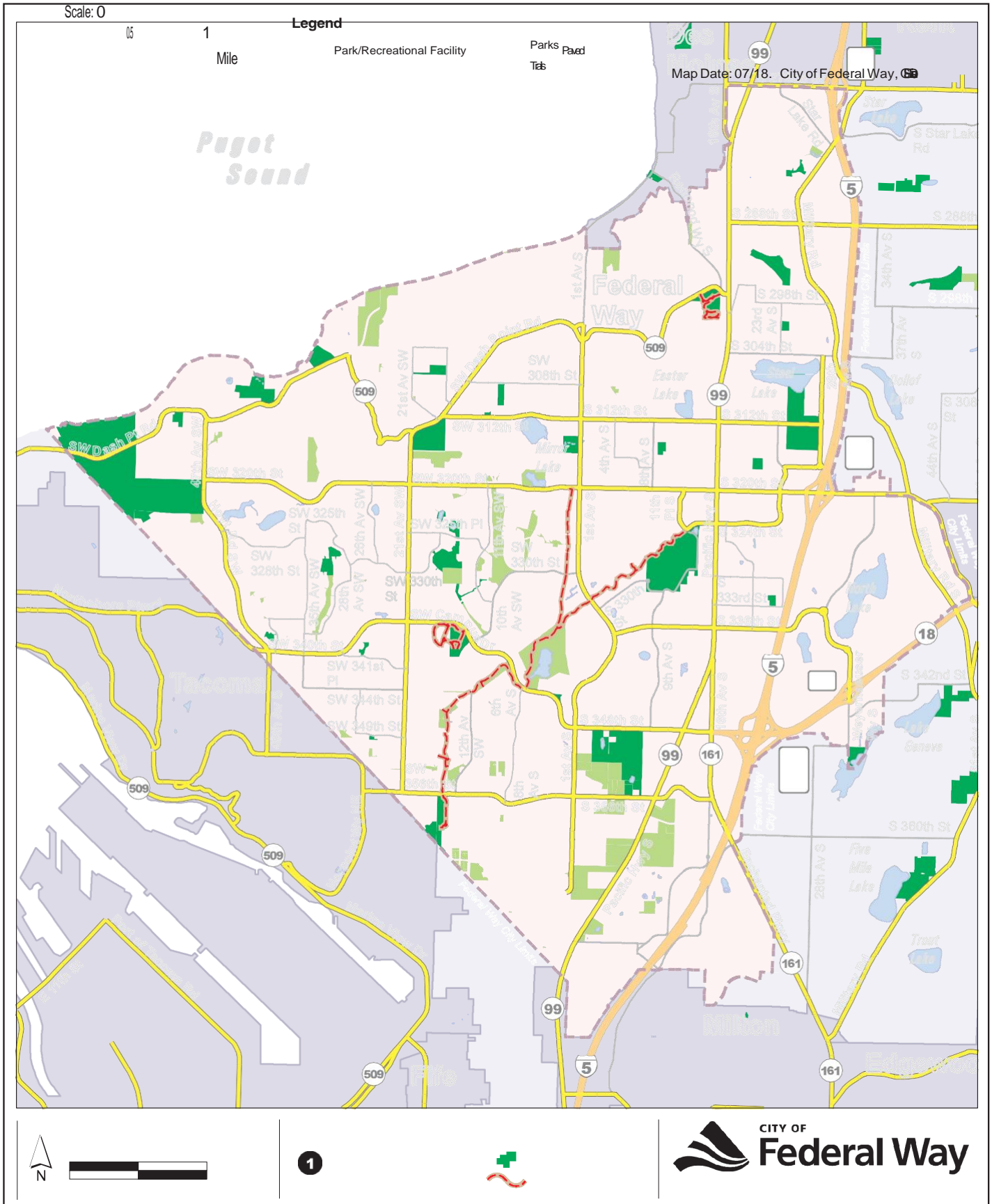


Figure 5.4.1: CELEBRATION PARK



Figure 5.4.2: WEST HYLEBOS PARK

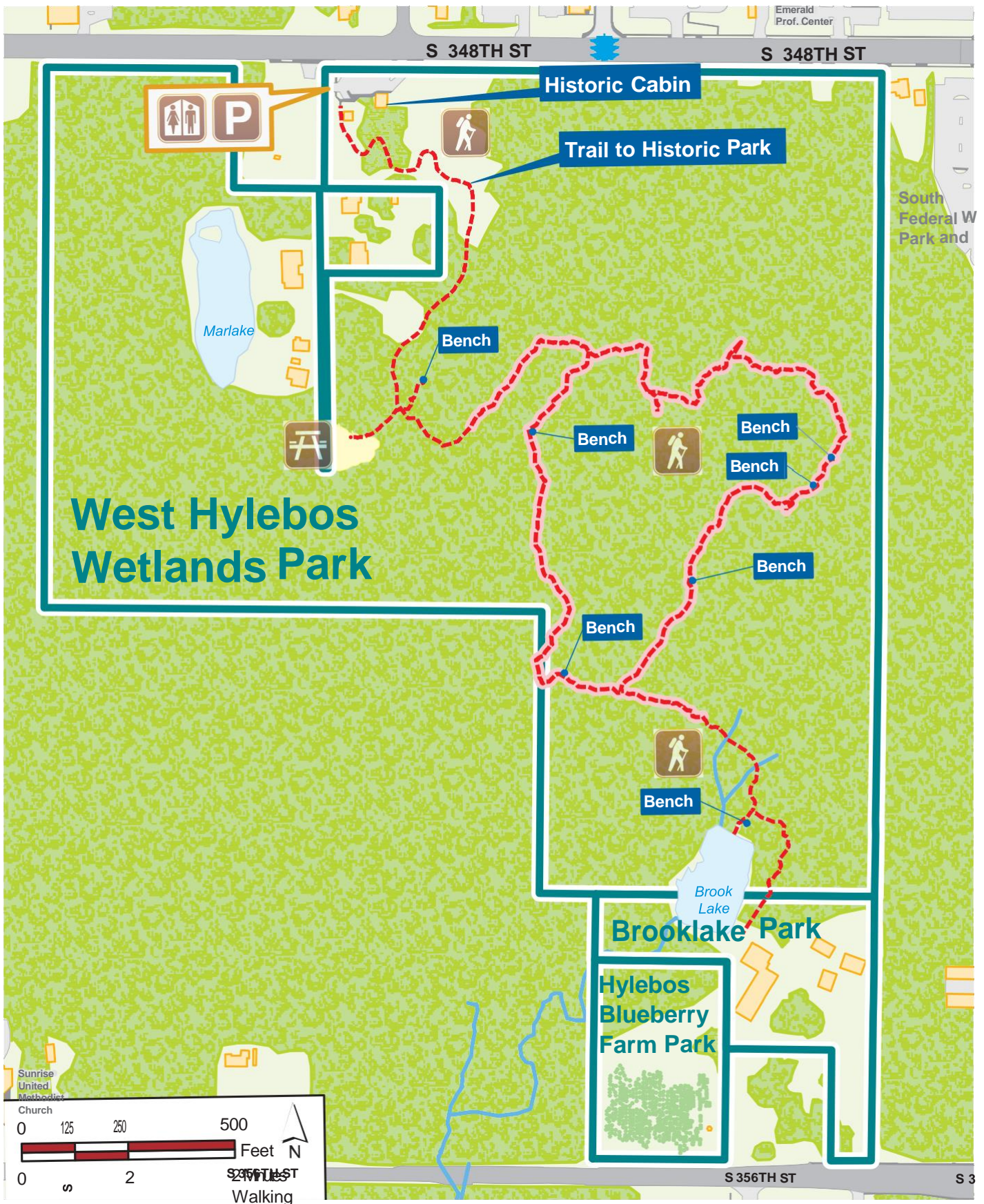


Figure 5.4.3: SAGHALIE PARK



Figure 5.4.4: TOWN SQUARE PARK



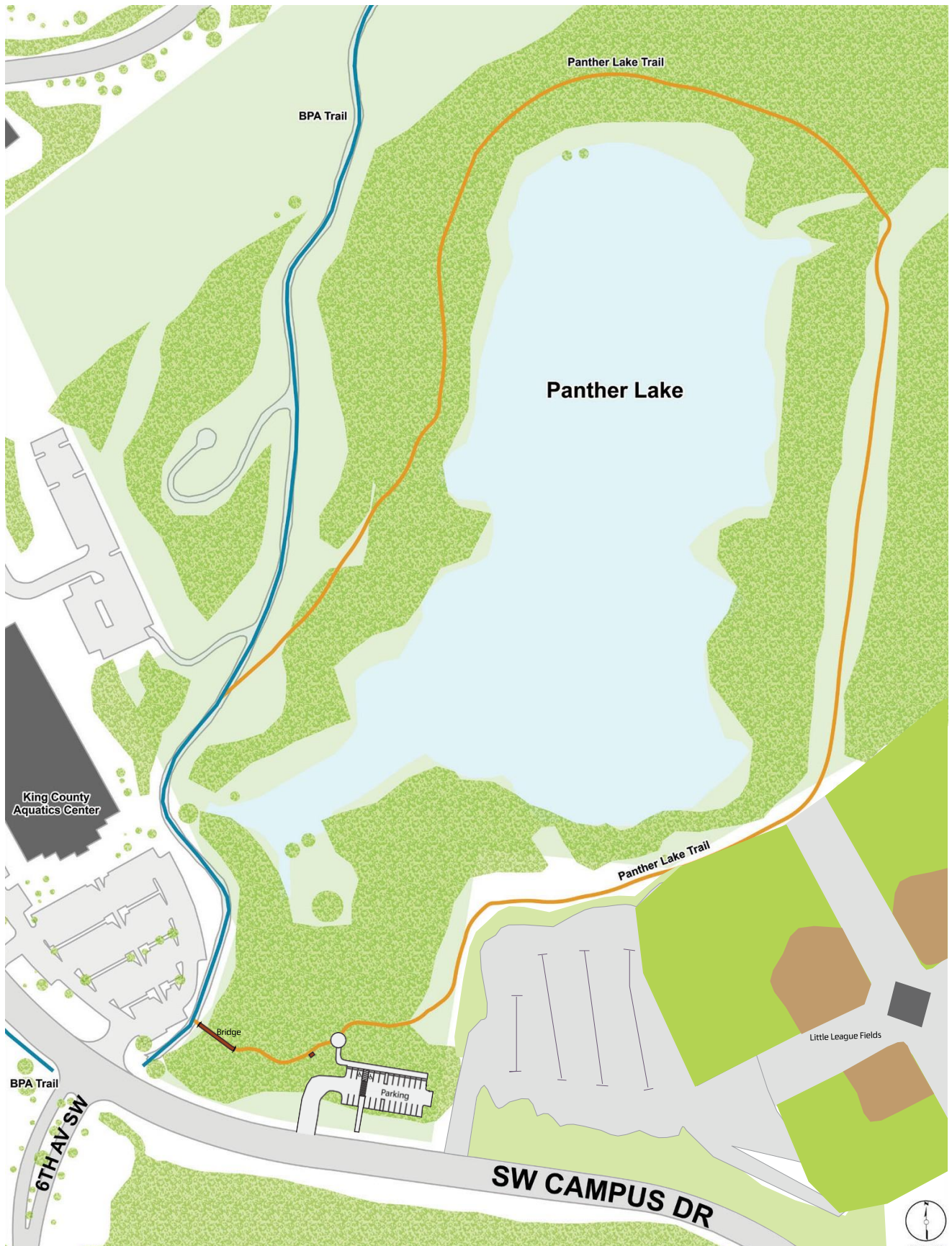
Figure 5.4.5: SACAJAWEA PARK



Figure 5.4.6: STEEL LAKE PARK



Figure 5.4.7: PANTHER LAKE





- Leverage the existing and planned sidewalk network to facilitate connections between parks and trail routes.
- Connect Celebration Park to Steel Lake Park through a downtown sidewalk network, safe pedestrian street crossings, intersection improvements, way finding signage, and enhanced pedestrian treatments and amenities.
- Create neighborhood walking routes that link neighborhood parks, open spaces, and public lands with trails and sidewalk improvements, such as connecting:
 - Panther Lake/BPA Trail through English Gardens Park to Alderbrook Park.
 - Woodbridge Open Space to Olympic View Park through Lochhaven and eventually connecting to Poverty Bay Open Space.
 - Saghalie Park to BPA trail via new trail development and sidewalk improvements.
- In partnership with Federal Way Public Schools and the Public Works Department, continue to pursue funding from the Safe Routes to Schools program to improve sidewalks in locations where parks are located

on routes to schools.

- Actively distribute the City's trail map to highlight walking distances and community features that can be accessed along various routes.
- Develop a comprehensive walking program to promote physical activity, develop community ownership, and walking identity in the City.

Provide a balance of facilities & services for a diverse population (Core value 5)

The City has undergone tremendous change in recent years. Multi-family dwelling units represent the majority of all new dwelling units constructed since the last update to the PROS plan. The recreational needs for these new residents are not always satisfied by the amenities that are provided within the residential project. Understanding the makeup of the Federal Way community is important so that the City is providing programs and services that meet all residents' needs and interests. To be effective, recreation programming must adapt and respond to changing community interests and activities. The City must continue to be pro-active in monitoring local and national trends to ensure all ages, abilities, and backgrounds are being served.

Recommended Actions:

Recreation Programs

Teen and senior programs were ranked as important to the community. There is an identified need, both in terms of trends and anecdotal evidence, for a wider range of senior programs that provide active recreation opportunities for seniors, especially given that the baby boomers will reach senior status within the planning horizon of this Plan. In addition, teen programming was identified as important

to the community. Teen programming has been demonstrated nationally as an important diversion to criminal activities. From the survey responses, it was unclear whether people desire more teen programming or places for more teen gathering spaces.

- Develop a more detailed analysis of senior and teen programming needs.
- The City should evaluate the need for structured teen programs. Consider using the Youth Commission to perform a Teen Assessment to understand what teens need and want.
- The City should balance the development of passive and active recreation opportunities.

As previously identified, Federal Way is becoming increasingly diverse. Part of the challenge of engaging diverse populations is understanding their needs. Anecdotal evidence points to a need for unprogrammed recreation facilities.

- The City should delve further into the needs of minority populations in the City, particularly because the City is anticipated to see its population diversify.
- The City should continue to look for opportunities to tie cultural programming to special events and cultural celebrations/holidays in the community.
- The City should consider incorporating other languages such as Spanish and Korean in its outreach materials.

Inclusive Recreation

- The City should conduct an assessment of its facilities and programs to assure that it is fully accommodating the needs of those residents with disabilities.



Coordination with Other Service Providers

- Department staff should continue to partner and coordinate with other recreation service providers in the community to regularly assess how well community recreation needs are being met and to be responsive in addressing gaps and deficiencies in service. This will ensure the City is providing programs which are complementary to other recreation providers rather than duplicating services.

Recreation Programming Space

- Ensure there is adequate 'flexible' program space (classrooms/multipurpose rooms) to accommodate a range of programs. This allows the City to respond to trends and provide new classes and programs without the need to build new facilities.

- There is a need for additional arts/visual media spaces that would support popular arts/visual media classes. These types of spaces are not addressed in the Community Center. The best location for these facilities is at the Dumas Bay Centre. A facility master plan for Dumas Bay Centre would help to evaluate the potential for additional arts/visual media classrooms.

Arts and Cultural Plan

- Update the City's Arts and Culture Plan, in association with the Arts Commission, to address the arts and cultural programming in the City. This plan should emphasize ways of engaging and bringing together diverse communities.



chapter 6 Goals and Policies

1. Improve Existing Facilities and Provide for Multiple Functions in Parks (Core Value 1)

Intent: The City has a wide range of properties and assets in its parks and recreation system, including community recreation facilities, neighborhood parks, trails, and open spaces. Public input indicated that there is a strong community desire for improving the parks and open space facilities the City currently owns and maintains. The following goals and policies address the intention of improving existing facilities both in terms of quality of facilities and the range of uses offered at each location.

A. Community Parks

Goal A.1: Improve the City's existing active recreation facilities to maximize utilization.

Policy A.1:

Improve recreation fields to National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) standards in order to meet current and future demand.

Policy A.2:

Update master plan for Steel Lake Park.

Policy A.3:

Coordinate with Federal Way Public Schools to share costs of improving parks adjacent to schools.

Policy A.4:

Review and reassess the master plans that have been developed for Lakota Park and Sacajawea Park.

Policy A.5:

Balance passive and active uses to provide a range of recreation options at each community park.

Policy A.6:

Create a master plan for potential reuse and re-purposing of Brooklake property in order to define its environmental, cultural and historic value to the community.

B. Neighborhood Parks

Goal B.1: Improve and maintain all neighborhood parks to maximize safety, visibility, usability, appeal, and identity.

Policy B.1:

Broaden the definition of neighborhood parks to include uses such as passive public space, neighborhood gathering places, or special uses based upon the analysis of each park's unique features.

Policy B.2:

Plan for improvements to neighborhood parks based upon their unique potential and designated role in the City-wide system.

Policy B.3:

Explore ways to allow for informal play and recreation opportunities by incorporating unprogrammed spaces such as fields and forested areas.

C. Park Activation

Goal C.1: Maintain City parks and open spaces so that they are inviting to users and offer facilities and activities based on community need.

Policy C.1:

Develop a more recognizable and inviting park and open space system that may include:

- Developing a design checklist of baseline conditions for park amenities such as furnishings, signage, etc.

- Consistent signage
- Park entry/street frontage landscaping and site features such as bollards, low fences, etc.

Policy C.2:

Enhance visibility into parks to increase safety and encourage use.

Policy C.3:

Balance maintaining habitat and aesthetic value with maintaining visibility within parks and open space.

Policy C.4:

Integrate Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) techniques to address safety and security concerns in parks.

Policy C.5:

Track crime and vandalism in each park and open space and measure achievements using an established baseline.

Policy C.6:

Consider adding “Safe City Cameras” within parks to enhance the perception of safety and minimize crime.

D. Parks and Recreation Financing

Goal D.1: Operate the Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services Department in a fiscally responsible manner.

Policy D.1:

Budget adequate funding for maintenance and operation based on public use of facilities, and at a level required to avoid future need for more costly complete renovations or replacement of existing parks, buildings and other department-maintained facilities.

Policy D.2:

Prepare an impact fee analysis to determine the feasibility of using an impact fee system for park development and facilities improvements.

E. Public Awareness/Outreach

Goal E.1: Celebrate the City’s park, open space and recreation system by keeping residents informed about parks, recreational programming, and community events.

Policy E.1:

Continue developing and implementing a comprehensive system-wide signage and wayfinding program for parks, open spaces, and walking routes.

Policy E.2:

Develop a comprehensive pocket map of the parks, open space and trail system, and investigate feasibility of making this map available via smart phone app.

**Policy E.3:**

Continue public relations and publicity efforts to inform citizens of the recreational opportunities available.

Policy E.4:

Consider developing a series of educational/interpretive information about low-impact use of parks and open spaces that may include signage, the City's website, and Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department publications.

Policy E.5:

Monitor park and recreation needs and trends periodically through questionnaires, surveys, meetings, and research.

F. Maintenance

Goal F.1: Maintain existing park resources in a manner which promotes safety, supports a diverse ecosystem, and minimizes ongoing maintenance costs.

Policy F.1:

Develop a maintenance phasing plan to address ongoing maintenance tasks and help to prioritize staffing.

Policy F.2:

Integrate maintenance considerations in the planning and design of park facilities.

Policy F.3:

Design and retrofit parks so that maintenance practices include the following:

- Maximizing the use of native and naturalized plants and turf that are biologically appropriate for the region to avoid or minimize use of irrigation, fertilizers, and pesticides.
- Controlling erosion and runoff using natural materials such as grass or hay bales.
 - Avoiding or minimizing the use of fertilizers and pesticides through the use of Integrated Pest Management practices, especially near water bodies.
- Composting all organic wastes for use in parks and open space.
- Designing and retrofitting irrigation systems to use only the minimum water needed, only where needed.
- Where it is safe, retaining dead standing trees, fallen trees, logs, and vegetative litter, such as fallen branches, twigs, and leaves to preserve water and habitat.
- Installing low-flow water devices where possible.
- Minimizing impervious surface/integrating natural drainage systems
- Improve City staff capability to manage open space and public lands in the disciplines of natural resource management e.g. habitat and wildlife biologist, horticulturist, etc.

G. Coordination/Partnerships

Goal G.1: City continues to foster relationships and shared facilities and programming with other organizations and agencies that have an impact on, or interest in, the health and recreation of Federal Way residents.

Policy G.1:

City departments - including Parks and Recreation Department, Public Works, and Community Development and Planning should coordinate in areas that may affect parks, open spaces and trails, such as:

- Development Review
 - Acquisition of public lands
 - Non-motorized transportation improvements
-

Policy G.2:

Institute a program with Federal Way Public Schools to soften and improve the appeal of District properties that are adjacent to public park facilities. Identify entry improvements such as signage, landscaping, and lighting that may allow such properties to read as part of the overall parks and recreation system.

Policy G.3:

- Partner with other organizations concerned with improving public health through active living.

H. Acquisition/Surplus of Properties

Intent: Although the focus for this Plan is on upgrading and enhancing existing park and open space facilities, the City should be poised to respond should property acquisition opportunities arise. The following goals and policies provide direction on future park acquisition:

Goal H.1: Be poised to act when land acquisition opportunities or major changes in the park system occur.

Policy H.1:

Focus on developing new parks in the areas that will experience population growth and increased density or where deficiencies currently exist.

Policy H.2:

Respond to opportunities to acquire ownership of lands which will make a unique or significant contribution to the City's overall park and open space system.

Policy H.3:

Explore the potential to use other existing public lands to meet future park needs such as:

- City's undeveloped open spaces
- Other City owned properties
- King County Surface Water Management
- Lakehaven Water and Sewer District
- Federal Way Public Schools properties

Policy H.4:

Establish a transition plan for King County parks within the Potential Annexation Area that would minimize costs to the City for bringing these parks up to City of Federal Way standards.

Policy H.5:

Consider surplus lands which are difficult and costly to maintain or do not significantly contribute to the overall parks and recreation system, or provide benefits to Federal Way residents. Any revenues derived from surplus should be put towards the enhancement of existing parks and open spaces.



2. Create Community Gathering Places and Destinations (Core Value 2)

Some of the City's parks such as Celebration Park, Town Square Park, and Steel Lake Park currently fulfill the role as community gathering places. Many more of the City's parks and open spaces may be enhanced to better serve this role by incorporating a certain baseline of characteristics such as having multi-use functions, being safe and comfortable for the public's use, and spaces that can accommodate a range of crowd sizes. Creating community gathering places is especially important as the City Center area develops. Furthermore, ensuring that the trail and non-motorized improvements connect popular destinations in the City will encourage increased use of these facilities.

I. City Center/High Density Areas

Intent: The City Center will dramatically transform over the next twenty years. As redevelopment occurs, there is an opportunity to activate the City Center through a network of public spaces such as green areas, informal plazas, and wide sidewalks.

Goal I.1: Integrate a system of open spaces, plazas, and walkways throughout the City Center and other high density areas to make the area livable, host community events, and create community identity.

Policy I.1:

Actively develop a plan for community gathering places in the City Center.

Policy I.2:

Work with Community Development Services Department to create development standards for the City Center and other higher density neighborhoods that result in spaces being set aside for parks and plazas.

Policy I.3:

Encourage mini-parks/gardens near new multi-family development. Explore opportunities to do so in partnership with the Department of Community Development and Planning.

J. Neighborhood Gathering Places

Goal J.1: Establish neighborhood gathering places in neighborhood parks (where appropriate) where neighbors can meet, hold small-scale events, and establish and strengthen neighborhood identity.

Policy J.1:

Designate some neighborhood parks as neighborhood gathering places, where appropriate, based upon an analysis of park potential and participation by local residents.

Policy J.2:

Explore potential for more public use of the existing BPA trail right-of-way by encouraging other uses within the corridor (such as off-leash areas and community gardens if the area can be serviced with water).

K. Special Use Parks

Goal K.1: Provide for special use parks and/or facilities to meet specific community needs.

Policy K.1:

Design parks with special uses such as off-leash areas, plazas, community gardens, or skate parks to accommodate anticipated levels of use while minimizing impacts to neighboring properties.



3. Retain and Improve Open Spaces (Core Value 3)

Intent: Open spaces are valuable to the community because they provide connections to a natural setting, habitat, improved air and water quality, and educational opportunities. The City's open spaces include wooded areas, ravines, wetlands, and shoreline environments. Many of these open spaces contain trails and other opportunities to experience nature close to home. These open spaces help to define Federal Way's character. Protecting these natural systems is critical to preserving the quality of life in the community and providing public access to open spaces. The following goals and policies address the protection of these open spaces, encourage low impact public access where feasible, and the use of these spaces as "learning landscapes."

L. Environmentally Sensitive Areas

Goal L.1: Manage environmentally sensitive lands for long-term ecosystem health and biodiversity of natural systems, while making them accessible to the community.

Policy L.1:

Maintain open spaces so that they are accessible to residents.

Policy L.2:

Protect ecologically sensitive areas from degrading impacts due to human use and development.

Policy L.3:

Target significant open space areas in the City, with emphasis on their planning and efforts toward habitat restoration. Target areas within the City include:

- Hylebos Creek Basin
- Puget Sound waterfront and tributary creeks and streams

Policy L.4:

Wildlife habitat requirements should be determined for species expected to occupy a given open space property. These habitat needs should help guide site restoration and design of recreational and other facilities.

Policy L.5:

Support habitat improvements and site restoration efforts that will provide benefit to watersheds, wetlands, and salmon habitat.

Policy L.6:

Preserve, protect and enhance areas or structures found in parks or open spaces that have significant historic or cultural value to the City.

M. Environmental Education

Goal M.1: Inform residents about the area's environment so that they are aware of, and take pride in, the natural systems that help to define the character of the City.

Policy M.1:

Partner with existing local groups such as Park Pals, Ameri-Corps, We Love Our City, Air Force Jr-ROTC, Federal Way Historical Society, Rainier Audubon Society, and Save Weyerhaeuser Campus to lead tours of open spaces where there are safe walking trails and features of interest and importance.

Policy M.2:

Integrate interpretive signage within the open spaces with habitat value and/or unique historic/cultural qualities such as West Hylebos Wetlands, Panther Lake, Poverty Bay, Spring Valley, and Fisher's Pond.

Policy M.3:

Partner with Federal Way Public Schools to develop "learning landscape" opportunities such as gardens, plant nurseries, and landscape beautification for learning/teaching at school-based parks or adjacent City open spaces.



N. Privately Owned Open Space Lands

Goal N.1: Preserve privately-owned open spaces with environmental constraints through incentive-based programs to provide 'breathing-room' open space.

Policy N.1:

Consider developing a program that allows private property owners to preserve their land as permanent open space using incentive-based mechanisms such as conservation easements and "life estates".

Policy N.2:

Consider developing a program to keep property owners that have property adjacent to City parks and open spaces informed about control of invasive species and protection of environmentally sensitive areas.

Policy N.3:

To gain maximum effect on overall parks and recreation system, audit and revise City code requirements for on-site open space, and revise to require contribution to larger parks system rather than small, on-site parcels.

O. Shoreline Access

Goal O.1: Ensure that residents can easily access public shoreline areas and enjoy a safe, scenic, and educational experience.

Policy O.1:

Improve public access on existing City shoreline properties.

Policy O.2:

Explore potential to provide public access to the shoreline via small shoreline open spaces located at unopened street ends.

Policy O.3:

Explore potential for Washington Water Association trail (for kayaks, canoes and other non-motorized watercraft) connecting Federal Way parks along the waterfront, and potentially connecting to a larger regional system to waterfront parks in Des Moines and Tacoma.

Policy O.4:

Coordinate with State Parks and State Agencies to promote and enhance shoreline access.

P. Maintenance of Open Space

Goal P.1: Maintain a system of open spaces that preserves Federal Way's natural heritage and character.

Policy P.1.1:

Develop an Open Space Management Plan for the entire system of open spaces, identifying resources such as wildlife habitat, shoreline, wetlands, scenic resources, recreational resources, and trails, and evaluate potential for highest and best use for each property.

Policy P.1.2:

Prepare feasibility studies or master plans for open spaces that offer some opportunity for passive recreational use, such as West Hylebos Wetlands Park, Spring Valley, Panther Lake, and Poverty Bay.

Goal P.2: Provide safe public access while keeping natural systems intact and well-functioning.

Policy P.2.1:

Control invasive species and use native species, where possible, when replacing or enhancing vegetation.

Policy P.2.2:

Identify and preserve open spaces and corridors of high wildlife and water quality value.

Policy P.2.3:

Where safety is not an issue, retain dead standing trees, fallen trees, and vegetative litter to preserve habitat and water quality values.



4. Develop a Walking and Biking Community (Core Value 4)

Intent: Developing a network of trails, interconnected walking loops, and other non-motorized facilities is a priority for Federal Way's future not only because this supports the most common recreational activity of residents – walking – but also because it improves everyday quality of life. The following goals and policies address developing community connectivity through a City-wide non-motorized network of trails and sidewalks.

Q. Walking System and Programs

Goal Q.1: Develop an interconnected system of trails and sidewalks throughout the City that are safe and comfortable and encourage people to walk and bike, both as recreation, and as a way to travel between destinations.

Policy Q.1.1:

Integrate park and open space planning with the Non- Motorized Transportation Plan by coordinating with other departments such as Public Works and Community Development and Planning to prioritize and implement the plan.

Policy Q.1.2:

Identify parks and open spaces that are on routes to schools and coordinate with other agencies such as Federal Way Public Schools and Public Works to seek Safe Routes to Schools funding.

Policy Q.1.3:

Connect Celebration Park and Steel Lake Park via a network of sidewalk and pedestrian improvements through the City Center.

Policy Q.1.4:

Expand trail system at West Hylebos Wetlands Park to create a connection between north and south parts of the park, and a link to the proposed bike lane on S 356th Street.

Goal Q.2: Develop a Comprehensive City-wide Walking Program that would encourage people to walk by providing maps, creating an identifiable wayfinding signage system, connecting community landmarks and destinations, and organizing special events such as walking campaigns.

Policy Q.2.1:

Create neighborhood walking routes that link parks and open spaces with trail/pedestrian improvements.

Policy Q.2.2:

Create neighborhood walking maps (digital and physical) that identify walking routes, community landmarks and destinations, and locations of special events.

Policy Q.2.3:

Design, create, and install unique wayfinding signage identifying neighborhood walking routes. Consider "adopt-a-route" sponsorships to finance wayfinding signage.

Source: Flickr User Peter Gibbons





5. Provide a Balance of Services For a Diverse Population (Core Value 5)

Intent: Understanding the evolving Federal Way population and demographic needs and providing programs and recreational opportunities that meet all residents' needs and interests is an important goal for parks, recreation and open space planning. The following goals and policies address accommodation of people from diverse social, cultural, age, income, and ability groups.

R. Social Interaction

Goal R.1: Provide programs and opportunities for social interaction among residents from all demographic backgrounds.

Policy R.1:

Support a broader variety of cultural events and festivals.

Policy R.2:

Form partnerships with homeowner, community, and cultural organizations to build support for community events.

Policy R.3:

Support events and activities that reflect the cultural diversity of Federal Way.

Policy R.4:

Expand outreach efforts to underrepresented sectors of the Federal Way community for recreation programs and community events.

S. Sports and Recreation

Goal S.1: Provide recreation programs and community events for all.

Policy S.1:

Provide a diversity of sports and recreational opportunities including child, young adult, female, and co-ed specific leagues.

Policy S.2:

Accommodate special user groups.

Policy S.3:

Work with the Youth Commission to be more responsive to current recreational demands and develop more activities for teens.

Policy S.4:

Consider providing or increasing scholarships and/or co- sponsorships for sports groups and recreation programs.

Policy S.5:

Outreach to the diverse social, ethnic, and age groups within the Federal Way community during the Parks and Recreation planning and programming process.

T. Active Living Recreation

Goal T.1: The Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services Department plays a role in promoting active, healthy lifestyles in the Federal Way Community.

Policy T.1:

Develop programs that promote walking, biking and physical activity.

U. Arts, Culture, and Recreation Programming

Goal U.1: Serve the community's specific and diverse arts, cultural, and recreation programming needs.

Policy U.1:

Be poised to respond to changing trends and demographics by providing a diverse range of programming.

Policy U.2:

Coordinate with other recreation and cultural programming providers to ensure that the needs and interests of all ages, abilities, backgrounds, and incomes are being met.

Policy U.3:

Regularly assess local recreational demand and participation.

Policy U.4:

Update the City Arts and Cultural Plan, in partnership with the Arts Commission, to address current residents' needs and ways of bringing diverse communities together.

V. Community Stewardship

Goal V.1: Activate and increase social interaction within parks and open spaces by encouraging community use and maintenance where appropriate.

Policy V.1:

Engage community organizations (such as Audubon, Master Gardeners, Service Clubs, Korean Seniors Association, and schools) in an Adopt-A-Park program.

Policy V.2:

Encourage cultural and special events to take place in parks.

Policy V.3:

Organize volunteer work parties in order to mobilize residents to implement projects and promote community engagement.

Policy V.4:

Engage residents in the park planning and design process when retrofitting or developing parks.

Policy V.5:

Engage the corporate community to sponsor parks and organize employees into volunteer work teams.

Source: City of Detroit



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chapter 7 Implementation

This chapter provides both a general time frame for implementation of the recommended actions contained within this plan as well as the 6-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). The CIP provides the framework to address and prioritize capital improvements in the near and mid-term.

Phasing of Implementation

The PROS Plan includes a large project list to implement the Core Values, Goals & Policies contained within this Plan. Many of these projects will occur over an extended period of time, ranging from now to 20 years in the future. The projects with the most immediate need were prioritized according to near term (2019-2020), mid-term (2021-2022) and long term (2023+). The list of projects within Table 7.1 was evaluated by the Parks Commission to determine priorities for the near-term and mid-term, which will inform the City's six-year capital improvement plan. It is the intent of this plan to evaluate the list of projects in Table 7.1 on a regular basis to determine if community needs have changed or if new or alternative funding sources have been identified.

TABLE 7-1: Timing of Proposed Improvements

								When Grants/ Funding Available
Project	Description	2019- 2020	2021 - 2022	2023 - 2024				
Community Parks								
Celebration	Upgrade softball infield to artificial system							●
	Upgrade soccer fields 7 and 8 to artificial turf							●
	Replace field fence							●
French Lake	Develop/Install Shelter							●
Lakota	Upgrade soccer field to artificial turf			●				
	Upgrade running track to rubber			●				
	Upgrade field lighting							●
	Upgrade restrooms and increase parking							●
Sacajawea	Replace water service line							●
	Renovate rubber track							●
	Renovate ballfield drainage							●
	Replace ballfield light poles							●
	Renovate tennis court							●
	New restroom - sewer lift station							●
	Install picnic shelter							●

								When Grants/ Funding Available
Project	Description	2019- 2020	2021 - 2022	2023 - 2024				
Saghalie	Replace artificial soccer turf	●						
	Install artificial turf on football field							●
	Renovate rubber track		●					
	Renovate tennis courts							●
	Renovate basketball courts							●
	Replace restroom roofs (2)							●
	Overlay parking lot							●
Steel Lake	Develop a master plan							●
	Install new shelters (Sites 2-5)							●
	Re-pipe annex and beach house restrooms							●
	Improve the swim area and replace the floating dock system							●
Town Square	Install shade covers							●
	Install 2nd shelter							●
	Band shell							●
	Veteran memorial							●
West Hylebos	Renovate caretaker Access Road							●
	Make parking lot repairs							●
	Expand parking lot							●
	Replace maintenance garage							●
Neighborhood Parks								
Adelaide	Formalize picnic areas/ install picnic shelters (2)							●

								When Grants/ Funding Available
Project	Description	2019- 2020	2021 - 2022	2023 - 2024				
Laurelwood	Prepare master plan							●
	Perform master plan improvements							●
	Install ½ basketball court							●
Olympic View	Formalize Joe's Creek social trail							●
	Improve neighborhood entrances (6)							●
	Install ½ basketball court							●
Palisades	Repair/replace asphalt basketball court							●
	Install picnic shelter							●
Wildwood	Repair asphalt trail							●
	Upgrade park fixture							●
Open Spaces								
Fisher Pond	Prepare master plan							●
	Install picnic shelter							●
	Decommission on-site well							●
Playgrounds								
Alderbrook Park	Replace and improve playground			●				
Celebration Park	Replace and improve playground				●			
Mirror Lake Park	Replace and improve playground		●					
Olympic View Park	Replace and improve playground							●
Palisades Park	Replace and improve playground							●
Wedgewood Park	Replace and improve playground	●						

								When Grants/ Funding Available
Project	Description	2019- 2020	2021 - 2022	2023 - 2024				
Trails								
Alderbrook	Repair and improve trail						●	
BPA	Add a fitness trail and equipment						●	
	Repair asphalt						●	
	Install monument sign						●	
	Install directional signage/wayfinding						●	
Community Facilities								
Brooklake Center	Prepare a master plan						●	
	Replace roof						●	
FWCC	Pool/Slide Repairs						●	
	Replace pool and play equipment						●	
	Outdoor areas						●	
System Wide Planning								
Monument Signs	Complete sign implementation program						●	
Safety & Security	Parking lot lighting improvements (LED) at Sacajawea Park, Saghalie Park, Steel Lake Park, and Steel Lake Annex						●	
	Install security cameras in parking lots at Sacajawea Park, Saghalie Park, Steel Lake Park, and Steel Lake Annex						●	
Wayfinding Signs	Implementation of wayfinding signage program						●	

Potential Funding Sources

This section provides an overview of potential funding sources to fund projects identified in this chapter. All funding sources discussed below will be considered when determining a budget for a project. A combination of several sources is typically used to fund projects.

City General Fund

General Funds from the City are allocated to the Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services Department.

Capital Project Fund – Parks

The Capital Project Fund provides for the acquisition or construction of park facilities except for those facilities financed by proprietary and trust funds. The major source of revenue for this Fund is general obligation bond proceeds, grants from other agencies, local taxes and contributions from other funds. All park costs associated with acquisitions, improvements, issuance of bonds, and other costs shall be paid by this Fund. This funding source is tied to the City's 2-year budget cycle.

Real Estate Excise Tax (REET)

As a city planning under the Washington State Growth Management Act, Federal Way receives REET funds which are generally used for capital projects as described under state law. A REET is derived from a modest tax on the sales of real property within the City. As of January 1, 2018, the City's REET rate was 0.5 percent.¹

Voter-approved Bonds/Levies

Voter-approved General obligation bonds can be used for acquisition or development and are typically repaid through an annual property tax levy through the maturity period of the bonds. General obligation bonds typically mature in 15 to 20 years.

Councilmanic Bonds

Bonds issued by the City Council. This type of bond does not require citizen vote but must be paid out of the City's annual operating budget.

Developer Mitigation Fees

These are fees imposed by the City for park land acquisition and development. This is a funding source derived from mitigation monies required through SEPA (State Environmental Protection Act) environmental review of development projects located within the City. For example, residential subdivisions are required to provide open space for 15 percent of the gross land area of the subdivision. Many developers provide a fee to the City in-lieu of constructing parks. Mitigation fees must be spent within the Park Planning Area where the proposed development is located.

Grants

The City pursues a number of grant funding sources to augment funding available for capital projects.

¹Washington State Department of Revenue, <https://dor.wa.gov/legacy/Docs/forms/RealEstExcsTx/RealEstExTxRates.pdf>

One of the primary sources of State grant funding is through the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO). RCO administers several grant programs for recreation and habitat conservation purposes including:

- Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA)
- Boating Facilities Program (BFP)
- Boating Infrastructure Grant Program (BIG)
- Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program (ESRP)
- Farmland Preservation
- Forestland Preservation
- Firearms and Archery Range Recreation Program (FARR)
- Family Forest Fish Passage Program (FFFP)
- Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)
- Marine Shoreline Protection (MSP)
- No Child Left Inside (NCLI)
- Non-highway and Off-Road Vehicle Activities Program (NOVA)
- Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration Fund (PSAR)
- Recreational Trails Program (RTP)
- Salmon Recovery
- Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP)
- Youth Athletic Facilities (YAF)

Annexations/Transfers

The City's Potential Annexation Area (PAA) east of I-5 has several park facilities that would likely become part of the Federal Way park and open space system when this area is annexed to the City.

Path and Trails Reserve Fund

The purpose of the Path and Trails Reserve Fund is to accumulate unexpended proceeds of the motor vehicle fuel tax receipts, which are legally restricted to the construction, and maintenance of paths and trails within City street rights-of-way. This fund must transfer such accumulated receipts back to a street construction/maintenance-oriented fund when specific projects have been defined.

Dumas Bay Centre Fund

Established as an Enterprise Fund, this fund specifically accounts for the revenues and expenses related to the acquisition, capital improvements, maintenance and operations of the Dumas Bay Centre and Knutzen Family Theatre. The intent of the fund is to recover, primarily through user charges, the costs (expenses, depreciation) of providing services to the general public on a continuing basis.

Impact Fees

The City does not currently have impact fees. The City will analyze the financial implications of using impact fees to help fund park acquisition and improvement projects when the economy improves in the future.

Park Acquisition, Development and Renovation

At times unexpected opportunities occur to purchase land or develop a project that has not been identified in this plan or listed in the Capital Improvements Plan. In those circumstances, the following criteria may be used to evaluate the property or project as an aid in decision-making. Staff may assess the situation using these criteria, identify potential funding sources, and present the findings to the Parks and Recreation Commission and the City Council for consideration.

1. Responds to an important gap in the park system or an urgent need or opportunity such as geographic location or unique circumstances not otherwise provided. Also may conform to legal contractual mandate.
2. Documented need for the project is based on evidence of unsanitary conditions, health and safety code violation, visible deterioration, and/or injuries.
3. Funding availability for the capital project as well as maintenance and operation is available or potential for leveraging 50% of the project costs from other sources.
4. Deferring the project will have negative implications for future park and recreation use or other capital projects within the City.
5. Implements the Parks and Recreation and Open Space Plan, the Federal Way Comprehensive Plan, or other adopted plans.

In order for acquisition, development, or renovation to be considered, the majority of these criteria need to be met.

Six-Year Capital Improvement Plan

The Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan is a planning document that is integrally tied to the City's Comprehensive Plan and the City's 6-year Capital Improvement Plan. The six-year capital improvement plan for parks (Table 7-2) will focus on the near and mid-term actions identified in this chapter.

Funding for projects in the Capital Improvement Plan are considered along with the preparation and approval of the City's biennial budget process. The biennium budget's first year begins on odd years. For example, the current budget cycle is 2017-2018. The City Council identifies goals and objectives for the operating and capital budgets in even years.

The Parks Commission will review staff updates of the Park Capital Improvement Plan at a public meeting to receive comment and weigh priorities. After the public process,

the Parks Capital Improvement Plan is forwarded to City Council for funding along with the proposed biennium budget for the City.

TABLE 7.2: 6-year Capital Improvement Plan

		Estimated Cost (dollars in thousands)							
Project	Description	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	When Grants/ Funding Available	Total Project Cost
Community Parks									
Celebration	Upgrade softball infield to artificial system							1,000	1,000
	Upgrade soccer fields 7 and 8 to artificial turf							1,200	1,200
	Replace field fence							100	100
French Lake	Develop/Install Shelter							50	50
Lakota	Upgrade soccer field to artificial turf			1,250					1,250
	Upgrade running track to rubber			200					200
	Upgrade field lighting							750	750
	Upgrade restrooms and increase parking							800	800
Sacajawea	Replace water service line							15	15
	Renovate rubber track							200	200
	Renovate ballfield drainage							50	50
	Replace ballfield light poles							75	75
	Renovate tennis court							125	125
	New restroom - sewer lift station							75	75
	Install picnic shelter							70-100/ea	70-100/ea

Project	Description	Estimated Cost (dollars in thousands)						When Grants/ Funding Available	Total Project Cost
		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024		
Saghalie	Replace artificial soccer turf	600							600
	Install artificial turf on football field							1,200	1,200
	Renovate rubber track			200					200
	Renovate tennis courts							150	150
	Renovate basketball courts							60	60
	Replace restroom roofs (2)							120	120
	Overlay parking lot							40	40
Steel Lake	Develop a master plan							125	125
	Install new shelters (Sites 2-5)							70-100/ea	70-100/ea
	Re-pipe annex and beach house restrooms							200	200
	Improve the swim area and replace the floating dock system							1250	1250
Town Square	Install shade covers							75	75
	Install 2nd shelter							70-100/ea	70-100/ea
	Band shell							?	?
	Veteran memorial							?	?

Project	Description	Estimated Cost (dollars in thousands)						When Grants/ Funding Available	Total Project Cost
		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024		
West Hylebos	Renovate caretaker Access Road							10	10
	Make parking lot repairs							40	40
	Expand parking lot							125	125
	Replace maintenance garage							75	75
Neighborhood Parks									
Adelaide	Formalize picnic areas/install picnic shelters (2)							70-100/ea	70-100/ea
Laurelwood	Prepare master plan							30	30
	Perform master plan improvements							?	?
	Install ½ basketball court							50	50
Olympic View	Formalize Joe's Creek social trail							?	?
	Improve neighborhood entrances (6)							30	30
	Install ½ basketball court							50	50
Palisades	Repair/replace asphalt basketball court							5	5
	Install picnic shelter							70-100/ea	70-100/ea
Wildwood	Repair asphalt trail							10	10
	Upgrade park fixture							10	10

		Estimated Cost (dollars in thousands)							
Project	Description	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	When Grants/ Funding Available	Total Project Cost
Open Spaces									
Fisher Pond	Prepare master plan							10	10
	Install picnic shelter							70-100/ea	70-100/ea
	Decommission on-site well							10	10
Camp Kilworth	Work with trustees and special interest groups should the property become available							?	?
Weyerhaeuser Properties	Support property acquisition that can be achieved through grants or other procurement							?	?
Playgrounds									
Alderbrook Park	Replace and improve playground			125					125
Celebration Park	Replace and improve playground				200				200
Mirror Lake Park	Replace and improve playground		120						120
Olympic View Park	Replace and improve playground							150	150
Palisades Park	Replace and improve playground							150	150
Wedgewood Park	Replace and improve playground	140							140

		Estimated Cost (dollars in thousands)							
Project	Description	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	When Grants/ Funding Available	Total Project Cost
Trails									
Alderbrook	Repair and improve trail							250	250
BPA	Add a fitness trail and equipment							120	120
	Repair asphalt							?	?
	Install monument sign							6	6
	Install directional signage/ wayfinding							10+	10+
Community Facilities									
Brooklake Center	Prepare a master plan							125	125
	Replace roof							?	?
FWCC	Pool/Slide Repairs							250	250
	Replace pool and play equipment							50	50
	Outdoor areas							100	100
System Wide Planning									
Monument Signs	Complete sign implementation program							40	40
Safety & Security	Parking lot lighting improvements (LED) at Sacajawea Park, Saghalie Park, Steel Lake Park, and Steel Lake Annex							?	?
	Install security cameras in parking lots at Sacajawea Park, Saghalie Park, Steel Lake Park, and Steel Lake Annex							?	?

Project	Description	Estimated Cost (dollars in thousands)						When Grants/ Funding Available	Total Project Cost
		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024		
Wayfinding Signs	Implementation of wayfinding signage program							?	?
Total project cost		740	120	1,775	200	0	0	9,356	12,191

Note 1: In 2018 Dollars

Note 2: These figures are preliminary estimates for planning purposes only, and should not be used for budgeting. Figures will be evaluated and updated during each budget cycle.