AN ORDINANCE of the City Council of the City of Kent, Washington adopting the Park and Open Space Plan.

RECITALS

A. In the spring of 2009, the City began the process of developing an updated Park and Open Space Plan (Park Plan). When the Park Plan is integrated into the Park and Open Space Element of the City's Comprehensive Plan, it will direct future development, acquisition and renovation of parks and open spaces for the short and long-term future. The Park Plan includes, among other items, an inventory of the existing parks and open spaces, level of service standards, goals and policies, and an implementation strategy that includes short and long-term capital projects.

B. The Park Plan has undergone a public process. A survey was taken during the spring of 2009 seeking ideas and opinions regarding the existing park system, deficiencies and priorities for the coming years. A public workshop was held in September 2009 to further refine the areas of focus in the update. Additional public comment was solicited throughout the update process via email, the City's website and articles in the Kent Park & Open Space Plan
Throughout this process, the City Council has held workshop and committee meetings to gather information and analyze the ongoing development of the Park Plan. Meetings were held on September 17, 2009; November 19, 2009; January 21, 2010; February 16, 2010; and March 18, 2010.

On January 8, 2010, the City provided the State of Washington with the required sixty (60) day notification under RCW 36.70A.106 of the City’s proposed adoption of the Park Plan and corresponding amendment to the Park and Open Space Element and Capital Facilities Element of the Comprehensive Plan. No comments were received.

On February 13, 2010, the City’s SEPA responsible official issued a Determination of Nonsignificance (DNS) for the proposed Park Plan and corresponding changes to the Comprehensive Plan. The DNS explained that the proposal would not have probable significant adverse impacts on the environment.

The public involvement process continued with the Land Use and Planning Board holding workshops regarding the Park Plan and amendments to the Comprehensive Plan on January 11, 2010, and a public hearing on March 8, 2010. Adoption of the Park Plan and the corresponding changes to the Park and Open Space Element and the Capital Facilities Element were also considered by the City Council’s Parks and Human Services Committee on March 18, 2010. On May 4, 2010, the City Council adopted the Park Plan for the City of Kent.
NOW THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENT, WASHINGTON, DOES HEREBY ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

ORDINANCE

SECTION 1. - Incorporation of Recitals. The preceding recitals are incorporated herein.

SECTION 2. - Amendment. The Park and Open Space Plan as attached and incorporated as Exhibit “A” is adopted by the City of Kent.

SECTION 3. - Severability. If any one or more sections, subsections, or sentences of this ordinance are held to be unconstitutional or invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portion of this ordinance and the same shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 4. - Corrections by City Clerk or Code Reviser. Upon approval of the City Attorney, the City Clerk and the code reviser are authorized to make necessary corrections to this ordinance, including the correction of clerical errors; references to other local, state or federal laws, codes, rules, or regulations; or ordinance numbering and section/subsection numbering.

SECTION 5. - Effective Date. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force thirty (30) days from and after the date of passage as provided by law.

GUZETTE COOKE, MAYOR
JAMIE PERRY, PRO TEM

Park & Open Space Plan
I hereby certify that this is a true copy of Ordinance No. 3950, passed by the City Council of the City of Kent, Washington, and approved by the Mayor of the City of Kent as hereon indicated.

BRENDA JACOBER, CITY CLERK
Park & Open Space Plan

Kent Park, Recreation & Community Services
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1. Introduction
Over the past several decades Kent has developed an award-winning network of parks, open spaces and recreation facilities. Kent’s park and open space system provides a wide variety of recreation experiences, from the Arbor Heights 360 skate park and climbing pinnacle and the passive nature of Clark Lake Park, to the regional draw of the Russell Road softball/baseball complex and our stunning downtown gathering place, Town Square Plaza.

Kent Parks’ vision - “Creating a Better Community”- emphasizes the role parks play in the make-up of a vibrant community. Meeting the needs of our residents has strongly influenced the character of the City’s park system and has helped create a well-rounded and expansive network of recreational opportunities. Our recent park survey resulted in positive comments about the City’s existing system.

Kent parks serve a community that has grown not only in numbers but in area and diversity. Kent is now home to more families, children and seniors than ever before. A quarter of Kent’s residents were born outside the U.S. and one-third speak a language other than English at home. Over the past 20 years, the City has doubled in size as urban growth areas have been annexed. As Kent transitions from a suburban community to an urban center, the need to build upon Kent’s legacy is crucial to meet the changing community’s needs. The Park Plan update establishes a vision of a park system that addresses urbanization in its future development to better serve a growing community. The Park Plan is a tool to help Kent meet this challenge.

Park Plan Objectives
The purpose of this plan is to guide acquisition, development and redevelopment of parks and open spaces as we progress into the next 20 years. This plan examines Kent’s existing park and open space system, assesses needs, identifies short- and long-term recommendations, details funding sources and prioritizes our next steps. In addition, the plan will be incorporated into the City’s Comprehensive Plan as an implementing document and will allow the City to retain eligibility for State grant funds.

The Growth Management Act (GMA) provides planning goals for Parks and Open Spaces. Although the Park Plan is a required element under GMA, Kent has long maintained a Park and Open Space Element because park and recreational opportunities are viewed as an integral part of the City and essential to the quality of life for its residents. A summary of the Park Plan will be included in the Park and Open Space Element of the City’s Comprehensive Plan.
Chapter 1 - Introduction

Philosophy
The mission for the Park and Community Services Department is to enrich the quality of life in Kent by providing parks and facilities that are safe, attractive, and that offer enjoyable and meaningful recreation and cultural programs, and supports human services. This is accomplished via development and maintenance of parks and facilities, professional programming, and the optimum utilization of community resources. The following mission statement articulates the Department’s commitment to the community:

Vision: Creating a Better Community
Mission: Dedicated to Enriching Lives

1. We are committed to providing safe and inviting parks and facilities.
2. We offer meaningful and inclusive recreational, cultural and human service programs.
3. We are responsive, encouraging and ethical in our dedication to the community by providing:

... Personal Benefits that strengthen self esteem, improve health and promote self sufficiency.

... Social Benefits that bring families together and unite people within our diverse community.

... Economic Benefits that welcome new business relocation and expansion, leading to a more productive work force and increased tourism opportunities.

... Environmental Benefits that protect and preserve natural and open space areas and enhance air and water quality.

As we seek to develop a park and open space system that adequately meets the needs of Kent’s residents, this Plan will provide the necessary guidance to help us fulfill the Department’s mission and work toward creating a better community.
2. Background
The City of Kent is the fourth largest city in King County, with a culturally diverse population of 88,380 (April 2009 OFM Official Estimate). Annexation of the Panther Lake area to the northeast of the City's limits in July 2010 will add an additional five square miles and approximately 24,000 residents to Kent's population. Kent has a unique makeup, from its distinct residential neighborhoods, its regional manufacturing center and regional urban center, to an extensive network of natural features; these make Kent an attractive destination for living, working and conducting business. Situated between Seattle and Tacoma, Kent's city limits cover a geographic area of 29 square miles with major residential areas on the east and west hills, a warehouse and distribution hub in the valley, a vibrant urban center, and commercial nodes scattered throughout. Over the past several decades Kent has developed an established network of parks, open spaces and recreation facilities totaling more than 1,400 acres. In 2003, Kent was selected Sports Illustrated Sportstown USA, which recognized Kent's innovation in the development of park facilities and programming. In addition to providing parks and open spaces, Kent offers a wide variety of recreation programs. Kent's service area goes beyond the city limits, serving the entire Kent School District and portions of the Highline and Federal Way School Districts.

Figure 1: City of Kent General Map
Chapter 2 - Background

Natural Resource Characteristics
Kent is lucky to have a wide variety of natural systems that help define our city and make it unique. Some of the larger systems include two waters of the state: the Green River which runs north-south along the west side of the City and Lake Meridian located on Kent’s east hill. There are several other shoreline areas in Kent as designated by the Shoreline Management Act, which include: Lake Fenwick, Green River Natural Resource Area, Springbrook Creek, portions of Soos Creek, and the Mill Creek Auburn Floodway. In addition to these, the City has many areas that are considered critical or environmentally sensitive such as wetlands, streams, fish and wildlife habitat, geologic hazard areas, frequently flooded areas and aquifer recharge areas. An extensive urban forest stretches across and within many of these natural systems.

Kent’s natural systems have been pressured by widespread development over the years; however, many of these areas are incorporated and protected within the City’s parks and open spaces. The City has the opportunity to further protect and utilize these areas through increased stewardship and through acquisition of natural areas that are currently within private ownership. An example of recent efforts to preserve Kent’s natural areas is the development of an urban forestry management program, currently underway. This program, titled Green Kent, will contain a 20-year action plan to manage our natural areas and take advantage of our enthusiastic volunteers by training residents to become volunteer stewards. The community recognizes the need to protect natural areas. Our most recent park survey indicated that natural and open space areas were rated of extremely high importance to our users.

Demographic Profile
Demand for park facilities is directly related to the makeup of the community in areas such as population, age, ethnic diversity and household makeup. A look at Kent’s demographics is one measure that can help determine how much and what kind of park land is needed to serve the specific needs of the community. The demographic information below is a broad overview based on information developed from the 2000 U.S. Census data.

Population Growth
Significant growth over the last 20 years has underscored the need to plan for the next phase of Kent’s parks and open spaces so that these spaces continue to meet the needs of the growing community. We also recognize that, due to fiscal constraints, we need to become more creative in the maintenance, redevelopment and programming of our existing parks as well as in the acquisition of future parks and open spaces. Establishing partnerships with other organizations will become
increasingly important if we are to continue to provide and maintain quality parks and open spaces.

The City of Kent is the ninth largest city in Washington and fourth largest city in King County. Figure 1 depicts Kent’s population growth, by decade, since 1960, and also reflects population projections to 2031. Annexation of the Panther Lake area to the northeast of the City’s limits in July 2010 will add an additional five square miles and approximately 24,000 residents to Kent’s population. By the year 2031, Kent’s population is projected to reach 133,347 (or 133,857 including all potential annexation areas). Kent grew at an average rate of 10.9 percent per year in the 1990’s compared to an average of 6.4 percent per year in the 1980’s. Several significant annexations occurred in the 1990’s which account for a large part of the population increase during the 1990’s.

**Figure 2: Kent Population Growth 1960-2031**

![Kent Population Growth Chart](image)

**Households**

There were 31,113 households in Kent in 2000, with an average of 2.53 persons per household, up from 2.33 in 1990. Family households make up 63 percent of households in Kent, with 38 percent of all households having children (individuals under 18 years of age) and 13.9 percent of all households including seniors (individuals 65 years and over).
Ethnic Diversity
Kent’s ethnic diversity is growing rapidly. Close to 29 percent of Kent’s residents identified themselves as a race other than white, compared to 11 percent in the 1990 Census. The ethnic makeup of Kent is 70.8 percent white, 9.4 percent Asian, 8.2 percent African American, 8.1 Hispanic, 0.9 percent Native American, 0.7 percent Pacific Islander, 4.7 percent from other races and 5.3 percent from two or more races. The American Community Survey estimates that from 2005-2007, 31 percent of Kent’s residents spoke a language other than English at home. Of those speaking another language, 30 percent spoke Spanish and 70 percent spoke some other language, and 56 percent reported that they did not speak English very well. The American Community Survey also estimates that from 2005-2007, 25 percent of people living in Kent were foreign born.

Age Makeup
Kent’s population appears to be aging with an increased number of seniors and a higher median age. There are also a greater number of children under the age of 18. The 2000 census found that 27.7 percent of Kent’s population was less than 18 years of age, compared to 24.7 percent in 1990. The 2000 census found that 7.3 percent of the population was 65 years or older, compared to 6.5 percent in 1990. The median age in 2000 was 31.8 years. The American Community Survey estimates that the median age from 2005-2007, was 33.9 years.

Figure 3: Age Groups as a Percentage of Population

![Figure 3: Age Groups as a Percentage of Population](image-url)
3. Park Inventory & Classification

Kent owns or leases 1,434 acres of park land. The majority of this park land is natural resource land, while the remaining is distributed between Community and Neighborhood Parks, Recreation Facilities and undeveloped land. Since 2000, over 87 acres of additional park land have been acquired. Park land from the Panther Lake Annexation, effective July 2010, is included in the inventory below. Inventoried parks are shown in Figure 5, Park & Recreation Facilities. The City’s park land is generally broken down into the following categories:

**Figure 4: Total Parks by Classification**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community Parks</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighborhood Parks</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indoor Recreation Facility</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor Recreation Facility</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural Resource</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undeveloped</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golf Course</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Community Parks** – A park that serves the entire City of Kent and includes facilities or amenities that are not offered elsewhere in the city. Amenities will vary at each park and may include boating, swimming, fishing, group picnic shelters, play equipment, trails, sport courts and ball fields. Access to the park is by car, public transit, foot or bicycle. Off-street parking is provided. There are eight Community Parks with a total of 111.9 acres.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Acres</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Arbor Heights 360</td>
<td>east</td>
<td>2.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Green River Parks</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anderson Park</td>
<td>valley</td>
<td>0.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Briscoe Park</td>
<td>valley</td>
<td>7.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cottonwood Grove</td>
<td>valley</td>
<td>0.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russell Woods Park</td>
<td>valley</td>
<td>7.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three Friends Park</td>
<td>valley</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Van Doren's Landing Park  valley  10.00
3. Lake Meridian Park  east  16.02
4. Morrill Meadows  east  16.31
5. Old Fishing Hole  valley  5.70
6. Town Square Plaza  valley  0.77
7. Urban Core Parks
   Burlington Green*  valley  0.22
   Castlereagh Park*  valley  0.21
   First Avenue Plaza  valley  0.60
   Kaibara Park*  valley  0.56
   Kherson  valley  0.58
   Rosebed Park*  valley  0.23
   Sunnfjord Park  valley  0.21
   Titus Railroad Park  valley  0.30
   Uplands Extension* (Rotary Basketball & Lions Skate)  valley  4.10
   Yangzhou Park*  valley  0.21
8. West Fenwick Park (includes West Hill Skate Park)  west 37.00

* Leased Land

**Neighborhood Park** – A park designed to meet the active and passive recreation needs of an immediate neighborhood. A neighborhood is defined by surrounding arterial streets and access is usually by foot or bicycle. Parking spaces are typically not provided, unless on-street parking is not available, accessible or safe. Neighborhood parks have amenities for casual activities that are not programmed or organized. Amenities may include play equipment, picnic tables, hard courts (basketball, tennis), walking trails, and open grass areas. There are 27 neighborhood parks with a total of 90.33 acres.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Acres</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Canterbury Neighborhood Park</td>
<td>east</td>
<td>2.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Chestnut Ridge Park</td>
<td>east</td>
<td>3.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Commons Park</td>
<td>valley</td>
<td>2.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. East Hill Park</td>
<td>east</td>
<td>4.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Eastridge Park</td>
<td>east</td>
<td>0.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Garrison Creek Park</td>
<td>east</td>
<td>5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Glenn Nelson Park</td>
<td>west</td>
<td>10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Gowe Street Mini Park</td>
<td>valley</td>
<td>0.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Green Tree Park</td>
<td>east</td>
<td>1.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Green View Park</td>
<td>east</td>
<td>1.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Kiwanis Tot Lot #1</td>
<td>valley</td>
<td>0.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Kiwanis Tot Lot #2</td>
<td>valley</td>
<td>0.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Kiwanis Tot Lot #3</td>
<td>east</td>
<td>0.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. Kiwanis Tot Lot #4</td>
<td>valley</td>
<td>0.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. Linda Heights Park</td>
<td>west</td>
<td>4.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. Meridian Glen Park</td>
<td>east</td>
<td>5.47</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CITY OF KENT - Park & Open Space Plan - 2010

17. Naden Avenue RV Park    valley    0.70
18. Park Orchard Park     east    7.22
19. Pine Tree Park        east    9.80
20. Salt Air Vista Park    west    2.00
21. Scenic Hill Park       east    4.10
22. Seven Oaks Park       east    0.50
23. Springwood Park        east 10.00
24. Sun Meadows          east    1.54
25. Tudor Square Park     east    4.70
26. Turnkey Park          east    6.53
27. Walnut Grove          east    0.30

Total                          90.33

Recreation Facility – Buildings and parks used by the community for social, cultural and programmed recreation. Outdoor recreation facilities are distinguished from other parks by the scheduled nature of the facilities. Recreation facilities include community centers, historic buildings, sports fields and golf facilities. These facilities serve the entire City of Kent, and in some cases, the region. Access to these facilities is by car, public transit, foot, or bicycle. Off-street parking is provided. Riverbend is unique from the other recreational facilities because it is an enterprise facility, which is a self-sustaining, revenue generating facility that financially supports itself. Some of the facilities identified below include open space which may be developed in the future.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Acres</th>
<th>Square Feet</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Indoor</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Kent Commons</td>
<td>valley</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Kent Historical Museum</td>
<td>valley</td>
<td>1.70</td>
<td>3,720</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Kent Memorial Park Building</td>
<td>valley</td>
<td>0.25</td>
<td>3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Kent Valley Ice Centre***</td>
<td>valley</td>
<td>3.60</td>
<td>65,154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Neely/Soames Historical House</td>
<td>valley</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>2,256</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Resource Center</td>
<td>valley</td>
<td>0.44</td>
<td>6,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Senior Activity Center</td>
<td>valley</td>
<td>4.36</td>
<td>21,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subtotal</td>
<td></td>
<td>14.35</td>
<td>151,130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Kent Memorial Park</td>
<td>valley</td>
<td>10.95</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. North Meridian Park Fields</td>
<td>east</td>
<td>8.40</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Service Club Park</td>
<td>east</td>
<td>28.80</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Russell Road Park</td>
<td>valley</td>
<td>30.40</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Uplands Playfield</td>
<td>valley</td>
<td>2.30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Wilson Playfields</td>
<td>east</td>
<td>11.49</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subtotal</td>
<td></td>
<td>92.34</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golf Course</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Riverbend Golf Complex-18 holes</td>
<td>valley</td>
<td>131.00</td>
<td>11,296</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. Golf Par 3, Driving Range, Mini-Putt</td>
<td>valley</td>
<td>36.00</td>
<td>1,800</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Chapter 3 - Park Inventory & Classification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Acres</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>City Leased Land</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>273.69</td>
<td>164,226</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*** City Leased Land

Natural Resource – Parks that are passive in nature and include areas of openness, environmentally sensitive areas, or wildlife habitat. Amenities include passive recreation elements such as benches, bird watching platforms, fishing, trails, and open green areas.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Acres</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Anderson Greenbelt</td>
<td>valley</td>
<td>4.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Campus Park</td>
<td>east</td>
<td>16.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Clark Lake Park (includes Lake rental 2.06)</td>
<td>east</td>
<td>129.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Eagle Scout Park</td>
<td>valley</td>
<td>0.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Foster Park</td>
<td>valley</td>
<td>4.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Green River Natural Resources Area**</td>
<td>valley</td>
<td>310.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Green River Corridor/Trail</td>
<td>valley</td>
<td>39.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Ikuta Property Donation</td>
<td>valley</td>
<td>0.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Interurban Trail</td>
<td>valley</td>
<td>10.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Kennebeck Avenue</td>
<td>valley</td>
<td>0.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Lake Fenwick Park</td>
<td>west</td>
<td>141.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Mill Creek Canyon Park</td>
<td>east</td>
<td>107.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. North Meridian Park</td>
<td>east</td>
<td>67.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. Old Fire Station</td>
<td>west</td>
<td>0.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. Puget Power Trail</td>
<td>valley</td>
<td>20.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. Springbrook Greenbelt</td>
<td>valley</td>
<td>5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. West Canyon Open Space</td>
<td>west</td>
<td>5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. Willis Street Greenbelt*</td>
<td>valley</td>
<td>4.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>864.67</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Leased Land; ** Public Works Managed

Undeveloped – Land area acquired by the city that has not yet been developed or programmed for recreational use.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Acres</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. 132nd Avenue Park (Dow Property)</td>
<td>east</td>
<td>4.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. 277th Corridor Park</td>
<td>east</td>
<td>4.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Eagle Creek Park</td>
<td>east</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
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<td>4. Hopkins Open Space</td>
<td>east</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Kronisch Property</td>
<td>west</td>
<td>0.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Midway Reservoir (W. Hill Neighborhood Park)</td>
<td>west</td>
<td>9.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Naden Ave. Property</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Rainier View Estates</td>
<td>east</td>
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</tr>
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<td>9. Riverview Park</td>
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<td>50.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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<td>93.92</td>
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</table>
FIGURE 5
PARKS & RECREATION FACILITIES

LEGEND
EXISTING CONDITIONS
- Natural Resource (Open Space/Greenways/Trails)
- Neighborhood Parks
- Community Parks
- Recreation Facilities
- Undeveloped
- Other Public Parks & Open Space
- Maintenance Facilities
- Trails

CITY LIMITS
POTENTIAL ANNEXATION AREA

Downtown Detail:

City of Kent Planning Area
SCALE: 1" = 4,000'

This map is a graphic aid only and is not a legal document. The City of Kent makes no warranty to the accuracy of the labeling, dimensions, contours, property boundaries, or placement or location of any map feature depicted thereon. The City of Kent disclaims and shall not be held liable for any and all damage, loss, or liability, whether direct or indirect, or consequential, which arises in any way from the use of this product.

Source: City of Kent Planning Services
Urban Center & Green River Subareas
Kent contains two distinct areas comprising several parks. These areas are included in the inventory under Community Parks. Kent’s downtown includes 10 parks, which together, form the Urban Center Community Parks. Parks within the Urban Center collectively provide a variety of amenities such as play areas, picnic tables, skate and basketball facilities, and passive open green areas. During festivals and other events downtown, these parks serve as gathering places and key focal points.

The Green River features 13 parks stretching from Briscoe Park at the northern city limits to the 277th trail connection at the southern limits. Several of the parks provide passive green space, two are undeveloped, and the remaining provide a variety of amenities for fishing, play, barbecues, picnics and bicycling. Each of these subareas provides a distinct experience for park users based on the area.

Greenways
Greenways provide a contrast to urban density. They combine the natural functions and separations provided by a greenbelt with the linear and connected orientation of a parkway. Greenways are present in many existing parks and within privately owned property. They commonly exist because they include environmentally sensitive areas such as wetlands, streams or steep slopes.

One of the most prominent greenways in Kent is within Mill Creek Earthworks Park, which starts at the base of the east hill and continues up the hill along both sides of Mill Creek. This greenway includes an urban forest, stream, wetlands, wildlife habitat and steep slopes. In addition to the environmental benefits of this area, Mill Creek Greenway provides a break in the urban landscape and has the potential to provide a much needed connection between the city center and the east hill.

Given the limitations of public resources, urban greenway systems must be sensibly created and carefully
managed. Urban greenways, such as
the Mill Creek Greenway, can provide multiple benefits at an affordable price to a
wide array of residents, since many greenways are already under public ownership
and can be utilized for several purposes. As greenways are increasingly used for
other purposes, it is important to provide access to residents in a safe manner, with
thought given to crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED) and other
methods to increase visibility and safety for park users.

Green Kent
Protecting natural areas in an urbanized area requires an active resource
management program to provide long-term environmental, recreational, and social
benefits.

Green Kent, an urban forest management program currently being developed, will
identify present conditions across approximately 2,000 acres of public land, and
determine the resources required to realize a 20-year strategic plan of action. The
long-term strategy will become the driving force to engage community groups and
build a network of support to achieve city-wide forest and natural area restoration
goals.

The following are Green Kent’s goals:

1) Connect people to nature and improve the quality of life in Kent by restoring
   urban forests and other urban open spaces;

2) Galvanize an informed, involved, and active community around urban forest
   restoration and stewardship; and

3) Improve urban forest health, and enhance urban forest long-term
   sustainability, by removing invasive plants and maintaining functional native
   forest communities.
Chapter 4 - Goals & Policies

4. Goals and Policies
The following goals and policies express how the City’s park and open space system would best develop over the coming years and details measurable steps toward achieving these goals.

Overall Goal: Encourage and provide opportunities for local residents to participate in life-enrichment activities via the development of park land and recreational facilities, preservation and enhancement of environmentally sensitive areas, professional programming, and the optimum utilization of community resources.

I. Park & Recreation Facilities Goals & Policies
Develop a high-quality, diversified recreational system for all abilities, ages and interest groups.

Goal P&OS-1:
Work with other agencies to preserve and increase waterfront access and facilities.

Policy P&OS-1.1: Cooperate with King County, Kent, Federal Way and Highline School Districts, and other public and private agencies to acquire and preserve additional shoreline access for waterfront fishing, wading, swimming, and other related recreational activities and pursuits, especially on the Green River, Lake Fenwick, Clark Lake, Lake Meridian, and Panther Lake.

Policy P&OS-1.2: Develop a mixture of opportunities for watercraft access, including canoe, kayak, sailboard, and other nonpower-boating activities, especially on the Green River, Lake Fenwick, Clark Lake, Lake Meridian, and Panther Lake, where practicable.

Goal P&OS-2:
Work with other public agencies and private organizations, including but not limited to the Kent and Federal Way School Districts, to develop a high-quality system of athletic facilities for competitive play.

Policy P&OS-2.1: Develop athletic facilities that meet the highest quality standards and requirements for competitive playing for all abilities, age groups, skill levels, and recreational interests.
Policy P&OS-2.2: Develop field and court activities like soccer, football, baseball, basketball, softball, tennis, roller hockey, and volleyball that provide for the largest number of participants, and allow for multiple use, where appropriate.

Policy P&OS-2.3: Develop, where appropriate, a select number of facilities that provide the highest standard for competitive playing, possibly in conjunction with King County, Kent and Federal Way School Districts, and other public agencies and private organizations.

Goal P&OS-3:
Develop, maintain, and operate a high-quality system of indoor facilities that provide activities and programs for the interests of all physical and mental capabilities, age, and interest groups in the community.

Policy P&OS-3.1: Maintain and expand multiple-use indoor community centers, such as the Senior Activity Center and Kent Memorial Park Building, that provide arts and crafts, music, video, classroom instruction, meeting facilities, eating and health care, day care, and other spaces for all age groups, including preschool, youth, teens, and seniors on a year-round basis.

Policy P&OS-3.2: Maintain and expand multiple-use indoor recreational centers, such as Kent Commons and the Kent-Meridian Pool, that provide aquatic, physical conditioning, gymnasiums, recreational courts, and other athletic spaces for all abilities, age groups, skill levels, and community interests on a year-round basis.

Policy P&OS-3.3: Support the continued development and diversification by the Kent, Highline, and Federal Way School Districts of special meeting, assembly, eating, health, and other community facilities that provide opportunities to school-age populations and the community at large at elementary, middle, and high schools within Kent and the Potential Annexation Area.

Policy P&OS-3.4: Develop and operate special indoor and outdoor cultural and performing arts facilities that enhance and expand music, dance, drama, and other audience and participatory opportunities for the community at large.
**Goal P&OS-4:**
Where appropriate, develop and operate specialized park and recreational enterprises that meet the interest of populations who are able and willing to finance them.

**Policy P&OS-4.1:** Where appropriate and economically feasible (i.e., self-supporting), develop and operate specialized and special interest recreational facilities like golf, ice skating, frisbee golf, mountain biking and archery ranges.

**Policy P&OS-4.2:** Where appropriate, initiate with other public agencies and private organizations joint planning and operating programs to determine and provide for special activities like golf, archery, gun ranges, off-leash areas, model airplane flying areas, frisbee golf, mountain biking and camping on a regional basis.

**Goal P&OS-5:**
Develop and operate a balanced system of neighborhood and community parks, with active and passive recreational opportunities throughout the City.

**Policy P&OS-5.1:** Acquire and develop parks to meet the level-of-service needs as Kent's population grows and areas are annexed.

**Policy P&OS-5.2:** Identify neighborhoods bordered by arterial streets and geographic features that act as natural barriers. Set aside neighborhood park land within each neighborhood to meet the levels-of-service.

**Policy P&OS-5.3:** Develop amenities in parks for individual and group use, active and passive uses, while representing the best interests of the neighborhood or community as a whole.

**Policy P&OS-5.4:** Encourage new single-family and multifamily residential, and commercial developments to provide recreation elements.

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**II. Open Space and Greenway Goals & Policies**

Develop a high-quality, diversified and interconnected park system that preserves and sensitively enhances significant open spaces, greenways and urban forests. The establishment of greenways as urban separators is a strategy that promotes connectivity of Kent's open space system.
Goal P&OS-6:
Establish an open space pattern that will provide definition of and separation between developed areas, and provide open space and greenway linkages among park and recreational resources.

Policy P&OS-6.1: Define and conserve a system of open space and greenway corridors as urban separators to provide definition between natural areas and urban land uses within the Kent area.

Policy P&OS-6.2: Increase linkages of trails, in-street bikes lanes, or other existing or planned connections with greenways and open space, particularly along the Green River, Mill Creek, Garrison Creek, and Soos Creek corridors; around Lake Fenwick, Clark Lake, Lake Meridian, Panther Lake, and Lake Youngs; and around significant wetland and floodways such as the Green River Natural Resource Area (GRNRA).

Policy P&OS-6.3: Preserve and enhance, through acquisition as necessary, environmentally sensitive areas as greenway linkages and urban separators, particularly along the steep hillsides that define both sides of the Green River Valley and the SE 277th/272nd Street corridor.

Goal P&OS-7:
Identify and protect significant recreational lands before they are lost to development.

Policy P&OS-7.1: Cooperate with other public and private agencies and with private landowners to protect land and resources near residential neighborhoods for high-quality, low impact park and recreational facilities before the most suitable sites are lost to development. Suitable sites include wooded, undeveloped, and sensitive lands along the Green River, Soos Creek, Garrison Creek, and Mill Creek Canyon corridors, and lands adjacent to the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) power line rights-of-way.

Policy P&OS-7.2: In future land developments, preserve unique environmental features or areas, and increase public use of and access to these areas. Cooperate with other public and private agencies and with private landowners to protect unique features or areas as low impact publicly accessible resources, particularly along the Green River, Soos Creek, Garrison Creek, Mill Canyon, and SE 277th/272nd Street corridors.
III. Trail and Corridor System Goals & Policies

Develop a high-quality system of multipurpose park trails and corridors that provide access to significant environmental features, public facilities, and developed neighborhoods and business districts.

**Goal P&OS-8:**
Create a comprehensive system of multipurpose off-road and on-road trail systems that link park and recreational resources with residential areas, public facilities, commercial, and employment centers both within Kent and within the region.

**Policy P&OS-8.1:** Where appropriate, create a comprehensive system of multipurpose off-road trails using alignments of the Puget Power rights-of-way, Soos Creek Trail, Mill Creek Trail, Lake Fenwick Trail, Green River Trail, Interurban Trail, Parkside Wetlands Trail, and Green River Natural Resource Area (GRNRA).

**Policy P&OS-8.2:** Create a comprehensive system of on-road trails to improve connectivity for the bicycle commuter, recreational, and touring enthusiasts using scenic, collector, and local road rights-of-way and alignments.

**Policy P&OS-8.3:** Provide connections from residential neighborhoods to community facilities like Kent Commons, the Senior Activity Center, the Kent-Meridian Pool, schools, parks, and commercial districts.

**Policy P&OS-8.4:** Work with Renton, Auburn, Tukwila, Federal Way, Des Moines, Covington, King County, and other appropriate jurisdictions to link and extend Kent trails to other community and regional trail facilities like the Green River, Interurban, and Soos Creek Trails.

**Policy P&OS-8.5:** With proposed vacation of right-of-way and street improvement plans, consider potential connectivity with existing or proposed trail corridors, parks, and neighborhoods.

**Policy P&OS-8.6:** Link trails with elementary and middle schools, the downtown core, and other commercial and retail activity centers on East and West Hills.
Policy P&OS-8.7: Extend trails through natural area corridors like the Green River, Mill Creek, Garrison Creek, and Soos Creek, and around natural features like Lake Fenwick, Clark Lake, Lake Meridian and Panther Lake in order to provide a high-quality, diverse sampling of Kent’s environmental resources.

Policy P&OS 8.8: Revise development regulations so that key trail links, that are identified within the corridor map, are provided to the City during the development approval process.

Goal P&OS-9:
Furnish trail corridors, trailheads, and other supporting sites with convenient amenities and improvements.

Policy P&OS-9.1: Furnish trail systems with appropriate trailhead supporting improvements that include interpretive and directory signage, rest stops, drinking fountains, restrooms, parking and loading areas, water, and other services.

Policy P&OS-9.2: Where appropriate, locate trailheads at or in conjunction with park sites, schools, and other community facilities to increase local area access to the trail system and to reduce duplication of supporting improvements and amenities.

Policy P&OS-9.3: Design and develop trail improvements which emphasize safety for users and are easy to maintain and easy to access by maintenance, security, and other appropriate personnel, equipment, and vehicles.

IV. Historic and Cultural Resources Goals & Policies
Develop a high-quality, diversified park system that includes preservation of significant historic and cultural resources, as well as programs to recognize the City’s multicultural heritage.

Goal P&OS-10:
Preserve, enhance, and incorporate historic and cultural resources and multicultural interests into the park and recreational system.
Chapter 4 - Goals & Policies

Policy P&OS-10.1: Identify, preserve, and enhance Kent’s multicultural heritage, traditions, and cultural resources including historic sites, buildings, artwork, views, monuments and archaeological resources.

Policy P&OS-10.2: Identify and incorporate significant historic and cultural resource lands, sites, artifacts, and facilities into the park system to preserve these interests and to provide a balanced social experience. These areas include the original alignment for the interurban electric rail service between Seattle and Tacoma, the James Street historical waterfront site, and the Downtown train depot, among others.

Policy P&OS-10.3: Work with the Kent Historical Society and other cultural resource groups to incorporate community activities at historic homes and sites into the park and recreational program.

Goal P&OS-11:
Incorporate man-made environments and features into the park and recreational system.

Policy P&OS-11.1: Incorporate interesting, man-made environments, structures, activities, and areas into the park system to preserve these features and to provide a balanced park and recreational experience. Examples include the earthworks in Mill Creek Canyon Park and art in public places.

Policy P&OS-11.2: Work with property and facility owners to increase public access to and utilization of these special features.

V. Cultural Arts Programs and Resources Goals & Policies
Develop high-quality, diversified cultural arts facilities and programs that increase community awareness, attendance, and other opportunities for participation.

Goal P&OS-12:
Work with the arts community to utilize local resources and talents to increase public access to artwork and programs.

Policy P&OS-12.1: Support successful collaborations among the Arts Commission, business community, service groups, cultural organizations,
schools, arts patrons, and artists to utilize artistic resources and talents to the optimum degree possible.

**Policy P&OS-12.2:** Develop strategies that will support and assist local artists and art organizations. Where appropriate, develop and support policies and programs that encourage or provide incentives to attract and retain artists and artwork within the Kent community.

**Goal P&OS-13:**
Acquire and display public artwork to furnish public facilities and other areas and thereby increase public access and appreciation.

**Policy P&OS-13.1:** Acquire public artwork including paintings, sculptures, exhibits, and other media for indoor and outdoor display in order to expand access by residents and to furnish public places in an appropriate manner.

**Policy P&OS-13.2:** Develop strategies that will support capital and operations funding for public artwork within parks and facilities.

**VI. Wildlife and Natural Preservation Goals & Policies**
Incorporate and preserve unique ecological features and resources into the park system in order to protect threatened plant and animal species, preserve and enhance fish and wildlife habitat, and retain migration corridors for local fish and wildlife. Such incorporation is intended to limit habitat degradation associated with human activities.

**Goal P&OS-14:**
Designate critical fish and wildlife habitat resources and areas.

**Policy P&OS-14.1:** Identify and conserve critical fish and wildlife habitat including nesting sites, foraging areas, and wildlife mitigation corridors within or adjacent to natural areas, open spaces, and developed urban areas.

**Policy P&OS-14.2:** Acquire, enhance and preserve habitat sites that support threatened species and urban wildlife habitat, in priority corridors and natural areas with habitat value such as the Green River Corridor, the Green River Natural Resources Area (GRNRA), North Meridian Park, Soos Creek, Mill Creek, and Clark Lake Park.
Policy P&OS-14.3: Enhance fish and wildlife habitat within parks, open space, and environmentally sensitive areas by maintaining a healthy urban forest with native vegetation that provides food, cover, and shelter, by utilizing best management practices.

Goal P&OS-15:
Preserve and provide access to significant environmental features, where such access does not cause harm to the environmental functions associated with the features.

Policy P&OS-15.1: Preserve and protect significant environmental features including environmentally sensitive areas such as wetlands, open spaces, woodlands, shorelines, waterfronts, and other features that support wildlife and reflect Kent's natural heritage.

Policy P&OS-15.2: Acquire, and where appropriate, provide limited public access to environmentally sensitive areas and sites that are especially unique to the Kent area, such as the Green River, Soos Creek, Garrison Creek and Mill Creek corridors, the Green River Natural Resource Area (GRNRA), and the shorelines of Lake Meridian, Panther Lake, Lake Fenwick, and Clark Lake.

Goal P&OS-16: Develop and maintain an Urban Forestry Management Program.

Policy P&OS-16.1 Connect people to nature and improve the quality of life in Kent by restoring urban forests and other urban open spaces.

Policy P&OS-16.2 Galvanize the community around urban forest restoration and stewardship through a volunteer restoration program.

Policy P&OS-16.3 Improve urban forest health, and enhance urban forest long-term sustainability, by removing invasive plants and maintaining functional native forest communities.

VII. Design and Access Goals & Policies
Design and develop facilities that are accessible, safe, and easy to maintain, with lifecycle features that account for long-term costs and benefits.

Goal P&OS-17:
Design park and recreational indoor and outdoor facilities to be accessible to all physical capabilities, skill levels, age groups, income levels, and activity interests.

**Policy P&OS-17.1:** Design outdoor picnic areas, fields, courts, playgrounds, trails, parking lots, restrooms, and other active and supporting facilities to be accessible to individuals and organized groups of all physical capabilities, skill levels, age groups, income levels, and activity interests.

**Policy P&OS-17.2:** Design indoor facility spaces, activity rooms, restrooms, hallways, parking lots, and other active and supporting spaces and improvements to be accessible to individuals and organized groups of all physical capabilities, skill levels, age groups, income levels, and activity interests.

**Goal P&OS-18:**
Design and develop park and recreational facilities to be of low-maintenance materials.

**Policy P&OS-18.1:** Design and develop facilities that are of low-maintenance and high-capacity design to reduce overall facility maintenance and operation requirements and costs.

**Policy P&OS-18.2:** Where appropriate, use low-maintenance materials, settings, or other value-engineering considerations that reduce care and security requirements, while retaining the natural conditions and environment.

**Policy P&OS-18.3:** Where possible in landscaping parks, encourage the use of low maintenance native plants.

**Goal P&OS-19:**
Identify and implement the security and safety provisions of the American Disabilities Act (ADA), Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED), and other standards.

**Policy P&OS-19.1:** Implement the provisions and requirements of the American Disabilities Act (ADA), Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED), and other design and development standards that will
improve park safety and security features for users, department personnel, and the public at large.

Policy P&OS-19.2: Develop and implement safety standards, procedures, and programs that will provide proper training and awareness for department personnel.

Policy P&OS-19.3: Define and enforce rules and regulations concerning park activities and operations that will protect user groups, department personnel, and the public at large.

Policy P&OS-19.4: Where appropriate, use adopt-a-park programs, neighborhood park watches, and other innovative programs that will increase safety and security awareness and visibility.

VIII. Fiscal Coordination Goals & Policies

Create effective and efficient methods of acquiring, developing, operating, and maintaining facilities and programs that distribute costs and benefits to public and private interests.

Goal P&OS-20:
Investigate innovative methods of financing park and recreational requirements, including joint ventures with other public agencies and private organizations, and private donations.

Policy P&OS-20.1: Investigate innovative, available methods, such as growth impact fees, land set-a-side or fee-in-lieu-of-donation ordinances, and interlocal agreements, to finance facility development, maintenance, and operating needs in order to reduce costs, retain financial flexibility, match user benefits and interests, and increase facility services.

Policy P&OS-20.2: Where feasible and desirable, consider joint ventures with King County, Kent, Highline, and Federal Way School Districts, regional, state, federal, and other public agencies and private organizations, including for-profit concessionaires to acquire and develop regional facilities (i.e., swimming pool, off-leash park, etc.).
Policy P&OS-20.3: Maintain and support a Park Foundation to investigate grants and private funds, develop a planned giving program and solicit private donations to finance facility development, acquisition, maintenance, programs, services, and operating needs.

Goal P&OS-21:
Coordinate public and private resources to create among agencies a balanced local park and recreational system.

Policy P&OS-21.1: Create a comprehensive, balanced park and recreational system that integrates Kent facilities and services with resources available from King County, Kent and Federal Way School Districts, and other state, federal, and private park and recreational lands and facilities, in a manner that will best serve and provide for the interests of area residents.

Policy P&OS-21.2: Cooperate, via joint planning and development efforts, with King County, Kent and Federal Way School Districts, and other public and private agencies to avoid duplication, improve facility quality and availability, reduce costs, and represent interests of area residents.

Goal P&OS-22:
Create and institute a method of cost/benefit and performance measure assessment to determine equitable park and recreation costs, levels of service, and provision of facilities.

Policy P&OS-22.1: In order to effectively plan and program park and recreational needs within the existing city limits and the potential annexation area, define existing and proposed land and facility levels-of-service (LOS) that differentiate requirements due to the impacts of population growth as opposed to improvements to existing facilities, neighborhood as opposed to community nexus of benefit, requirements in the City as opposed to requirements in the Potential Annexation Area.

Policy P&OS-22.2: Create effective and efficient methods of acquiring, developing, operating, and maintaining park and recreational facilities in manners that accurately distribute costs and benefits to public and private user interests. This includes the application of growth impact fees where new developments impact level-of-service (LOS) standards.
Policy P&OS-22.3: Develop and operate lifetime recreational programs that serve the broadest needs of the population and that recover program and operating costs using a combination of registration fees, user fees, grants, sponsorships, donations, scholarships, volunteer efforts, and the use of general funds.
5. Needs Analysis

Level of Service (LOS)

Under the Growth Management Act (GMA), communities are responsible for providing public facilities without decreasing levels of service below locally established minimums (RCW 36.70A.020(12)). Measuring the adequacy of our Parks and Open Spaces requires an established set of standards. Level of service (LOS) standards are measures of the amount of a public facility which must be provided to meet the community’s basic needs and expectations. The GMA allows flexibility in establishing level of service standards that meet local needs and expectations.

Over the past 30 years, the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) has developed guidelines and standards for parks, recreation and open space. NRPA first published guidelines in 1971 and revised them in 1983 through the *Recreation, Park, and Open Space Standards and Guidelines*, to serve as a basis for developing standards at the community level. The NRPA no longer recommends a standard for facility and park land based on population ratios; however the NRPA recommends that because every community is different, standards should be developed by the community and used as a guide in planning.

The former NRPA guidelines are used throughout the United States, and Kent's 1994 Comprehensive Park and Recreation Plan level of service standards were developed with these standards, which represent the minimum for which a community should strive. The level of service standards established in the 1994 Comprehensive Park and Recreation Plan and adopted by City Council remain an appropriate guideline today; however with the changing demographics of Kent, the City may want to consider establishing new standards or supplemental measures in future years.

Future demand for park and recreation facilities is based on comparing projected populations with Kent’s park and recreation standards. Park and recreation needs are related directly to the characteristics of a city’s population. The City’s population is projected to increase to 133,347 (or 133,857 including all potential annexation areas) by year 2031. Table 1 shows Kent’s level of service from 1993-2003. Table 2 shows Kent’s level of service for the year 2009 and projections for the year 2031. Table 2 is based on a reorganized park and open space inventory that more accurately classifies park land based on current use and investment (developed/undeveloped/athletic facilities/natural resource). While the park and open spaces are broken down differently in the two tables, the overall LOS numbers are comparable and show a steady decline in the number of acres per 1000 people and square feet per person as the population increases.
### Table 1: LOS 1993-2003

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<td>Population</td>
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<td>1.56 ac.</td>
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<td>Community Parks</td>
<td>18.19 ac.</td>
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<td>13.72 ac.</td>
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<td>1.36</td>
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<td>Overall LOS (acres/1000)</td>
<td>20.72</td>
<td>19.98</td>
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<td>2.33</td>
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### Table 2: LOS 2009 & 2031

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<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>88,380</td>
<td>133,347</td>
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<td>Natural Resource</td>
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<td>Neighborhood Parks</td>
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<td>Community Parks</td>
<td>1.27 ac.</td>
<td>.83 ac.</td>
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<td>Recreation Facilities</td>
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<td>Indoor (sq. ft/person)</td>
<td>1.86</td>
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<tr>
<td>Outdoor (acres/1000)</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>1.9</td>
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<td>Undeveloped</td>
<td>1.05 ac.</td>
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<td>Overall LOS (acres/1000)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

In order to maintain the current level of service of 15.24 acres per 1000 people, the following amounts of additional park land would need to be acquired:
685 acres – 2031 pop of 133,347

693 acres – 2031 pop of 133,857 (includes potential annexation areas)

It is important to note that level of service standards are typically quantitative, measuring the size, amount or capacity of a facility. These standards represent only one measure of a successful park system and do not address the quality or investment in each facility. Future LOS standards that include both qualitative and quantitative measures may more fully capture how Kent’s parks and open spaces are meeting the community’s needs.

**Neighborhood Service Areas**

Another tool used to determine what and where improvements need to be made is with the use of our Neighborhood Service Area Map. The City is divided into 48 neighborhood service areas that are bounded by major arterial streets, geographic features (steep topography, rivers etc.), and other barriers that would make it difficult for users to reach the designated park for each area. This method breaks the city into smaller service areas where parks facilities may easily serve a specific neighborhood. Providing parks in each area allows residents to easily access a park in their neighborhood.

**Figure 6: Neighborhood Service Area Map**

While 24 of the areas are served by a neighborhood park, eight neighborhoods are served by community parks (Three Friends, Van Doren’s Landing Park, Russell...
Woods, Kent Memorial Park, Russell Road, Clark Lake Park, Urban Center Parks and Wilson Playfields) that have elements typically found in a neighborhood park. Four neighborhoods have undeveloped or minimally developed community parks (132nd Street Park, West Hill, Eagle Creek, and Valley Floor Community Park), which will service neighborhood needs when fully developed. Five neighborhood service areas are primarily industrial and no neighborhood parks are proposed in these areas. Two service areas are low density residential with agricultural or industrial land uses and no designated neighborhood park. These areas have a combined population of 156 people (2000 Census) and will be monitored for future park needs. Four service areas have no park space (NSA #11, 21, 30, 41).

Within the Panther Lake area, three service areas have either no park land or the parks serving the areas are deficient (NSA #4, 9, 16). The remaining service area, located entirely within the Panther Lake annexation area, is served by a community park.

Neighborhood parks are needed in seven Neighborhood Service Areas which currently have no park space or are in need of additional amenities or improvements, three of which are located in the Panther Lake Area (NSA #4, 9, 11, 16, 21, 30, 41).

Demographics
Considerable growth and large annexations over the past 20 years has significantly increased Kent’s population and the number of people our parks serve. Families make up the majority of households in Kent with more seniors and children than ever before. Kent is also rapidly becoming more diverse, with many different cultures represented in the City. As our community becomes more diverse, as it ages and families grow, the needs of the community in terms of parks and open space, change. Not only has the need for parks and open spaces increased with the population, future park investments need to also consider the increasingly diverse population and the growing numbers of seniors and children.

Public Participation
The building of a city’s parks and open spaces is largely directed by community values, priorities, and resources. Kent has worked with the community in an ongoing dialogue to gauge residents’ parks and open space values. Over the years we have relied upon surveys, workshops, questionnaires and consultation with the Parks and Human Services Committee. Feedback has been valuable in setting priorities and allocating resources.

An informal survey was taken during the spring of 2009, preceding the park plan update, in order to obtain the community’s ideas and opinions about the existing
park system, deficiencies, and priorities for the coming years. While the survey was not geographically representative or scientific, it is helpful to use the survey responses as a general guide. Respondents rated trails, open space and natural areas as extremely important followed by major parks and small neighborhood parks. Park security and maintenance were also noted as a top priority in the coming years.

In addition to the survey, a public workshop was held in September 2009 to further refine the areas of focus in the Park Plan and supplement the comments received through the survey. Participants commented on the need to maintain our existing facilities and to make use of underutilized areas. Participants expressed a desire for better connectivity between parks and throughout the City. A detailed description of the survey, public workshop and other efforts to solicit public input can be found in Appendix A.

In order to address the community’s park and open space needs, short- and long-term implementation priorities and funding options are discussed in the following chapter.

Regional Coordination

Coordination with school districts, neighboring jurisdictions, other public agencies and private organizations is an important piece of Kent’s strategy in providing a high level of service to our residents and users. Regional coordination is identified in the goals and policy section of the plan (P&OS Goals 20, 21).

There are some needs that warrant a regional approach to meeting demand for specific types of parks. The trail systems (Green River & Interurban) in Kent require extensive coordination with King County and neighboring jurisdictions due to our combined interest in providing an interconnected trail system that functions as one parks facility for people throughout the region.

The need for a dog park serving the east hill of Kent, Covington and unincorporated King County is another area where a regional solution would best serve park users. A regional dog park would allow resources to be pooled and prevent duplication in services where one larger facility may more effectively meet the need of several jurisdictions.

Urban forest restoration is another area that would benefit from intergovernmental coordination. As Kent embarks on creating an urban forest management plan, coordination with other jurisdictions who are also implementing urban forestry programs will provide us a greater understanding of how plans have functioned in other areas.
Chapter 5 - Needs Analysis

Kent will continue to explore other areas where regional coordination may better serve the residents of our City and users throughout the region.
6. Implementation

Overview
The following recommendations for implementing the Park Plan focus on park acquisition, development and redevelopment. Implementing the recommendations contained in this Plan will depend on both opportunity and funding availability. As competing demands escalate for increasingly limited City resources, creative solutions are needed to fund park-related projects. Realization of the Park Plan will take time and will require a sound and realistic financing strategy.

This section establishes both short- and long-term priorities. The long-term program described in this section addresses what is needed to build upon our established park and open space system over the next 20 years. The short-term program defines more immediate needs over the next 10 years. The challenge for Kent in the short term will be finding a balance between focusing on immediate needs and remaining flexible to take advantage of unique opportunities of great long-term benefit.

To achieve long-term priorities, it is important to continue to acquire key parcels during the next 10 years. The ability to realize our long range plans for our parks and open spaces requires an ongoing effort to obtain property for community and neighborhood parks in the short term. The rate of acquisition however, may be slower than in past years due to a pressing need for redevelopment and renovation of existing parks.

Development and redevelopment are equally important to provide residents a variety of recreation opportunities. Redevelopment of existing park facilities and development of new facilities must be balanced in a way that maintains our existing investments while also providing new opportunities and facilities to meet demand and changing needs. Renovation of facilities plays a role in ensuring a safe, functional and well-maintained park system.

Core Themes
The Park Department proposes to focus attention on four major core themes in order to meet the short- and long-term needs of the community.

1. Kent’s Legacy - Preserving Kent's Park System: Over the past several decades, Kent has developed an established network of parks, open spaces and recreation facilities totaling more than 1,400 acres. A key component of the Park Plan is to recognize and re-invest in our existing facilities. As expressed in our park survey, security and maintenance ranked as a top
priority for park users. Continued maintenance and re-investment will ensure that existing facilities continue to provide recreational benefits for years to come.

2. **Athletic Fields – A New Approach:** In order to meet the needs of organized sports, the Park Plan introduces a shift in how athletic fields are developed, from traditional single use facilities within separate spaces, to multi-use facilities that take advantage of technology and partnerships in order to maximize space. This approach would provide facilities that accommodate a wide array of organized sports, which recognizes Kent’s diverse culture. This shift also recognizes that easily developable land is much more expensive and increasingly difficult to find in an urbanizing city. Creative solutions to providing sports fields for year-round use will be an important element of the Plan’s implementation.

3. **Green Kent – Managing Our Urban Forest:** Green Kent, an urban forest management program currently being developed in partnership with the Cascade Land Conservancy, seeks to protect and maintain all Parks and Public Works owned urban forest and natural areas. These areas provide many benefits to our park users and residents, by providing a contrast to urban density, creating links between parks and other areas of interest as well as providing habitat and environmental benefits. Stewarding Kent’s urban forest will ensure the long-term health of these areas so that they may provide benefits for generations to come.

4. **Connectivity - A Vision for Trail & Greenway Corridors:** Kent’s park system, which is built on a suburban grid, can become better connected through the use of trails, greenways, and existing recreational corridors. The Park Plan seeks to emphasize connectivity between parks, schools, neighborhoods and other areas of public interest to create easy access to the outdoors and recreation. A connected system becomes a part of the community fabric, weaving together elements of our daily lives.

Kent is lucky to have several existing corridors which are either substantially connected or have the potential to make important connections across the City. The Green River Trail follows the meandering Green River along the west side of the City and provides links to the downtown core. The Interurban Trail, which follows the Union Pacific Railroad, provides a major non-motorized north-south corridor through the central valley of Kent and extends to Kent’s surrounding communities of Tukwila and Auburn, serving as a regional connection. A third north-south corridor is located on the
Connectivity - **Trails, Biking & Paths**

*Conceptual Corridor Map, a 20-year Vision*

- Major Water Features
- Park Facilities
- Wetlands
- Schools
- City Limits
- Green River Corridor
- Interurban Corridor
- Soos Creek Corridor
- 272nd Corridor
- Central Corridor
- Clark Lake Corridor
- Industrial Corridor
- "Connectors"
- Military Corridor
eastern limits of the city. The Soos Creek Trail provides 9.5 miles along Soos Creek on the east hill. This trail has the potential to connect further to the north and south. An underutilized corridor, Mill Creek Canyon, stretches from Earthworks Park up the east hill. This corridor provides a valuable connection from the valley to the east hill of Kent, where connections are difficult to make outside of existing right-of-way due to grades and existing development.

Additional existing and potential corridors are identified in Figure 7, Connectivity – Trails, Biking & Paths Conceptual Corridor Map. The corridors identified in this section and in Figure 7 were identified during the park plan update process in an effort to address the need for greater connectivity between parks and other points of interest. The identified corridors are conceptual in nature and intend to provide a long term vision of a corridor system where significant areas of interest are linked and easily accessible to our users. It is important to note that these corridors are not the same as the LOS corridors identified within the Transportation Master Plan. Connectivity is a City-wide goal and the park plan seeks to compliment existing plans, such as the Transportation Master Plan.

The next step for furthering the vision of connectivity is to establish a trails, bikeways and paths plan that evaluates how best to build on our existing trail system and move toward a connected system. A trails, bikeways and paths plan would examine current resources, potential corridor routes, and specify future projects needed to achieve connectivity.

**Long Term Capital Recommendations (2010-2030)**

Over the past several decades Kent’s park system has grown and developed to include an impressive collection of parks and open spaces totaling over 1,400 acres in size. Strategic investments over time have allowed Kent to develop a fantastic legacy, with much to be proud of. The City’s existing parks and open spaces have developed on a suburban grid, and as the size and population of Kent increases, the makeup of the community is becoming more dense and urban in nature.

This Plan sets the stage to build upon Kent’s legacy in order to best serve a more urban and diverse community. It will require finding the right balance, in the allocation of our limited resources, between current development/redevelopment efforts and acquiring land for future development. Our success will depend on carefully defining and articulating a clear vision, maintaining community support and crafting a realistic funding package.
Re-investing in and renovating our existing parks, completing property assemblages for key community parks, creating a multimodal system of greenway corridors and trails, and addressing the need for athletic fields and recreation facilities are all important steps in building upon Kent's legacy. The goal for our park system in the next 20 years is to take care of existing assets while at the same time building a system that creatively meets the needs of an urbanizing city. The following recommendations address the components needed to create the envisioned park system in the next 20 years. Many of the recommendations are proposed for action over the next 10 years, and are, therefore, also found in the short-term recommendations that follow this section. All of the implementation recommendations are shown in Figure 8, Long & Short Term Implementation Strategy.

Acquisitions

Neighborhood & Community Parks
- East Hill/Morrill Meadows Park
- Panther Lake Annexation Area Acquisitions
- Naden Avenue Property Assemblage
- Lake Meridian Park - Acquisition for additional parking
- Envision Midway Subarea Plan Acquisitions

Natural Resource/Open Space/Greenways/Trails
- Clark Lake Park Property Assemblage
- Green River Corridor – Missing links
- Greenway Connections/Linear Parks
- Trail/Bike/Pathway Easements

Recreation Facilities
- Wilson Playfields Expansion
- Valley Floor Athletic Opportunities

Development/Redevelopment

Neighborhood & Community Parks
- Off-Leash Dog Park(s) on East Hill
- West Hill Neighborhood Park
- 132nd Street Neighborhood Park
- West Fenwick Park – Phase II Renovation
- Van Doren’s Landing Park – Renovation
- Lake Meridian Park – Play Area Expansion & Dock Replacement
- Springwood Park - Renovation
- Tudor Square Park – Renovation
- Eastridge Park – Neighborhood Park Renovation
- Meridian Glen Park – Neighborhood Park Renovation
- Pine Tree Park – Master Plan Phase I Development
- Russell Woods Park – Renovation
- Seven Oaks Park – Neighborhood Park Renovation
- Old Fishing Hole – Master Plan, Phased Renovation
- Garrison Creek Park – Renovation
- Briscoe Park – Master Plan, Phased Renovation
- Kiwanis Tot Lot #3 – Neighborhood Park Renovation
- Salt Air Vista Park – Master Plan & Phased Renovation
- Scenic Hill Park – Master Plan & Phased Renovation
- Panther Lake Annexation Area Community Park
- Downtown Parks - Renovation
- Eagle Creek Park
- Riverview Park
- Lake Meridian Park – Parking, Drainage, Master Plan
- East Hill/Morrill Meadows Park Redevelopment
- Commons Park – Master Plan

**Natural Resource/Open Space/Greenways/Trails**
- Clark Lake Park – Restoration Work, Phase I
- Mill Creek Greenway Phase I – Trail development
- Lake Fenwick Park – Restoration & Dock Replacement
- West Fenwick Park/Lake Fenwick – Greenway Trail Development
- Green Kent Partnership – Master Plan, Restoration
- Trails, Bikeways and Paths Plan
- Panther Lake Water Access Park
- Clark Lake Park – Future Phases, Retreat/Environmental Ed. Center
- Mill Creek Greenway Phase II
- Greenway Trails & Connections
- Green River Corridor – Trail Renovation & Enhancements
- Mountain Biking Trails

**Recreation Facilities**
- Community Sports Fields – Lighted Synthetic Turf Facilities partnered with Kent School District
- Kent Memorial Park – Master Plan, Phased Renovation
- Russell Road Park – Phased Renovation for Multi Use Capacity
Chapter 6 - Implementation

- Service Club Park – Trails, Additional Phase
- Valley Floor Athletic Complex
- Aquatic Center
- Wilson Playfields –Play Structure, Additional Parking/Support Facilities
- Community Centers/Community Buildings – Potential East & West Hill Facilities

Short Term Capital Recommendations (2010-2020)
The challenge over the next 10 years will be to balance the need to re-invest in existing parks while taking advantage of unique opportunities as they arise. As financing becomes increasingly difficult; wise choices in how we invest in our system cannot be understated. With this in mind, the short-term recommendations have been separated into acquisition and development/redevelopment categories.

Analysis of neighborhood and community parks shows a great need to re-invest in our existing parks. There is an immediate need to redevelop and renovate existing facilities where improvements are beginning to show their age or where parks are due for master planning in order to determine how they may better serve the changing community. Given this need, acquisition and development projects will be secondary to the redevelopment and renovation of existing facilities in the immediate short term (3-4 years). The recommendations listed below include those parks with the greatest need for reinvestment. Maintaining Kent’s legacy depends on making renovation and redevelopment efforts such as these an ongoing priority, particularly in the next 10 years.

While acquisition and development are secondary to reinvestment, a few key development projects and acquisitions will help address specific needs. The first, a dog park located on the East Hill, will provide a much needed amenity as expressed in our park survey. The development of West Hill and 132\textsuperscript{nd} Street Neighborhood Parks will provide park amenities for two neighborhoods which currently lack neighborhood park space. Completion of key property acquisitions will help to further the development of Clark Lake Park and East Hill/Morrill Meadows Park. Acquisition within the Panther Lake Annexation Area will provide much-needed park space for an area that is currently underserved.

Furthering connectivity within and between parks and activity areas via a unified greenway and trail system is another key component of the vision expressed in this Park Plan and the short-term recommendations. Greenways provide a contrast to urban density. They combine the natural functions and separations provided by a greenbelt with the linear and connected orientation of a parkway, providing practical connections from individual neighborhoods to various parts of the City.
Kent is lucky to have established north-south greenways and opportunities for potential east-west greenways and trail connections. Making use of the underutilized Mill Creek Greenway through trail development and acquiring missing connections within the Green River Greenway are two specific areas the greenway system can be developed in the short term.

Kent's trail system enhances passive recreation opportunities and provides connections to our downtown, employers in the valley and our neighboring cities. There is opportunity for our existing system to be expanded to provide additional ways for residents to connect to parks and other points of interest. A future Trails, Bikeways and Paths Plan will examine the opportunities in greater detail. It is recommended that the City initiate a coordinated planning effort that includes both on and off right-of-way connectivity.

Providing multi-use athletic fields is another priority expressed within the short-term recommendations. The expense associated with purchasing raw land and developing new complexes underscores the need to be creative in how our existing athletic fields are redeveloped so that they can provide maximum benefit to users. Taking advantage of potential partnerships and available technology will also maximize space and investment.

Development of a new aquatic facility to replace the aging Kent Meridian Pool remains a short term goal. Given the relatively high capital cost of this project, a partnered approach with public, private and/or non-profit agencies will likely be required to build and operate this facility.

The following list of projects should be given priority in the short term. This list is intended to serve as a blueprint for action and to be utilized as a tool to develop the Parks CIP. Circumstances will influence which and how many of these recommendations can be accomplished in the anticipated timeframe.

**Acquisitions**

**Neighborhood & Community Parks**
- East Hill Park Expansion
- Panther Lake Annexation Area Acquisitions
- Naden Avenue Property Assemblage

**Natural Resource/Open Space/Greenway/Trails**
- Clark Lake Park Property Assemblage
- Green River Corridor - Missing Links
Development/Redevelopment

Neighborhood & Community Parks
- Off-Leash Dog Park(s) on East Hill
- West Hill Neighborhood Park
- 132nd Street Neighborhood Park
- West Fenwick Park – Phase II Renovation
- Van Doren's Landing Park – Renovation
- Lake Meridian Park – Play Area Expansion and Dock Replacement
- Springwood Park – Renovation
- Tudor Square - Renovation
- Eastridge Park – Neighborhood Park Renovation
- Meridian Glen Park – Neighborhood Park Renovation
- Pine Tree Park – Master Plan Phase I Development
- Russell Woods Park – Renovation
- Seven Oaks Park – Neighborhood Park Renovation
- Old Fishing Hole – Master Plan, Phased Renovation
- Garrison Creek Park – Renovation
- Briscoe Park – Master Plan, Phased Renovation
- Kiwanis Tot Lot #3 – Neighborhood Park Renovation
- Salt Air Vista Park – Master Plan & Phased Renovation
- Scenic Hill Park – Master Plan & Phased Renovation

Natural Resource/Open Space/Greenway/Trails
- Clark Lake Park – Restoration Work, Phase I
- Mill Creek Greenway Phase I – Trail development
- Lake Fenwick Park – Restoration & Dock Replacement
- West Fenwick Park/Lake Fenwick – Greenway Trail Development
- Green Kent Partnership – Master Plan, Restoration
- Trails, Bikeways and Paths Plan

Recreation Facilities
- Community Sports Fields – Lighted synthetic turf facilities partnered with Kent School District
- Kent Memorial Park – Master Plan, Phased Renovation
- Russell Road Park – Phased Renovation for Multi Use Capacity
- Aquatic Center
FIGURE 8
LONG & SHORT TERM IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

LEGEND

Long Term:
Development/Redevelopment
- Neighborhood and Community Parks
- Natural Resource/Open Space/Greenways/Trails
- Recreation Facilities
Acquisitions
- Neighborhood and Community Parks
- Recreation Facilities

Short Term:
Development/Redevelopment
- Neighborhood and Community Parks
- Natural Resource/Open Space/Greenways/Trails
- Recreation Facilities
Acquisitions
- Neighborhood and Community Parks
- Natural Resource/Open Space/Greenways/Trails

Potential Annexation Areas
Kent Parks

SCALE: 1" = 4,000'
Financing
Achieving both the short- and long-term recommendations will require the community’s commitment and a willingness to explore innovative solutions. Funding for Park capital projects has typically come from two sources; councilmanic bonds and Real Estate Excise Tax (REET). Over the past five years, REET revenues have decreased by 25 percent. Continued economic slowdown will limit available funding for the next several years, so the City must look for alternative means of financing capital projects if it wants to implement the Park and Open Space Plan. It should be noted that the recommendations above are tentative and dependent upon financing. The following is a summary of funding sources that may be used in the future to fund short- and long-term capital projects.

Real Estate Excise Tax (REET)
REET consists of money derived from one-half percent of the selling price of real property within the City of Kent. Cities planning under the State’s Growth Management Act must generally use these funds for capital projects as described by State law. Beginning in 2002, one-quarter percent (REET2) was allocated for capital improvements related to parks in the City’s CIP. REET revenues fluctuate with the local real estate market, which directly affects the amount of money the Parks CIP receives from this source of revenue.

Voter-approved Bonds /Levies
General obligation bonds can be generated by either the City or the County and can be used for acquisition or development. Voter-approved bonds are typically repaid through an annual “excess” property tax levy authorized for this purpose by State statute through the maturity period of the bonds, normally 15 to 20 years. Broad consensus is needed for passage, with a 60 percent “yes” vote required. A validation requirement also exists, where the total number of votes cast must be at least 40 percent of the number of votes in the preceding general election.

A levy is another voter-approved funding source for financing capital improvements. Unlike a bond issue, no validation is needed and a “yes” vote of 50 percent plus one passes a levy. The proceeds may be received on an annual, pay-as-you-go basis, or bonds may be issued against the levy amount in order to receive the proceeds all at once.

Non-voter-approved Bonds
Councilmanic bonds are general obligation bonds issued by the City or County Council without voter approval. Under State law, repayment of these bonds must be financed from existing City revenues, since no additional taxes can be implemented to support related debt service payments.
Revenue bonds are typically issued for development purposes, and often cost more and carry higher interest rates than general obligation bonds. Revenue bond covenants generally require that the revenues received annually would have to equal twice the annual debt service payment. Revenue bonds are payable from income generated by an enterprise activity.

**King County Conservation Futures Tax**
Conservation Futures tax levy funds are a dedicated portion of property taxes in King County and are available, by statute, only for acquisition of open space, agricultural and timber lands. The King County Council approves funding for projects based on submittals from cities and the County. Kent has received Conservation Futures funds for acquisitions around Clark Lake and Panther Lake.

**Grants**
The Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO), formerly known as the Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation (IAC), administers a variety of grant programs from several federal and state sources to eligible application sponsors for outdoor recreation and conservation purposes. The amount of money available for grants varies from year to year and most funding sources require that monies be used for specific purposes. Grants are awarded to state and local agencies on a highly competitive basis, with agencies generally required to provide matching funds for any project proposal.

The following are state or federal programs administered by the RCO to provide agencies funding to acquire and develop park, open space and recreational lands and facilities:

- Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, or WWRP
- Land and Water Conservation Fund
- Recreation Trails Program
- Youth Athletic Facilities Fund
- Boating Facilities Program
- Non-Highway and Off-Road Vehicle Activities Program (NOVA)
- Salmon Recovery Funding Board
- Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account
- Firearms and Archery Range Recreation Program

**Donations/Partnerships**
As traditional funding sources begin to fund less, the City must search for creative and dynamic methods of financing the projects identified in the Park Plan. This can include donations, endowments, volunteer support and partnerships with community businesses, organizations and residents.
Volunteers stretch City dollars and empower residents to participate in the development and maintenance of the park system. One of our longest partnerships has been with the scouting community. Boy and girl scouts of all ages are mainstays at our volunteer events, where they can earn badges. A number of troops go on to formally “adopt” a park for regular clean-ups. The first young man to do his Eagle scout advancement project with Kent Parks was in 1983. Over 160 have followed in his footsteps, including several young women earning the Girl Scout-equivalent Gold Award. All make an effort to offset the cost of materials for their projects, which enables the City to assist 15-25 each year. Churches and high/middle school students earning community service credits also provide strong volunteer support.

In recent years, corporate partnerships have included Comcast Cares Day, several Home Depot collaborations, REI projects involving numerous work groups and park areas, Boeing Community Service Days and Hawkeye Consultants, who have harvested the garden at Neely-Soames Home since 2006 and, in 2008, added Earthworks to their regular annual Adopt-a-Park efforts. Both Comcast and the Home Depot have provided cash and inkind support as well as scores of employee volunteers.

The Green Kent Partnership is the next step in a cohesive volunteer program. After the 20-year plan has been created to restore Kent’s urban forests and natural areas, volunteer stewards will be trained to help implement the plan, each responsible for managing one acre of public land.

In 2003, the Kent Parks Foundation was established to keep park programs strong, costs affordable and help those in need. Cash donations in any amount can purchase trees, benches and other amenities. Donations of land through the non-profit Foundation are also possible and can allow residents the opportunity to leave a legacy for future generations.

Many options exist for potential donors to conserve their land in trust for public use by future generations. Creative financing of property acquisition or donation can be a benefit for both the seller/donor and the City.

**Impact Fees/Developer Mitigation Fees**

As determined in the Comprehensive Plan, developers are required to improve private recreation facilities or in some cases pay a park mitigation fee as part of the permit review process. These developer contributions cannot supplant other revenue sources within a project. They are in addition to existing funding and must be used for a specific purpose within a certain geographic area. The City has
Chapter 6 - Implementation

received approximately 2.2 million dollars in park mitigation fees from developers since 1998. As land available for development decreases, this source of revenue is expected to diminish.

**Real Estate Transactions**
Selling or trading parcels of land that the City now owns but does not think will be used for park purposes could be considered as a method to finance acquisition or development of more suitable sites. Renting or leasing park-owned property can offset the cost to acquire or manage property. Less than fee-simple property acquisition techniques, such as life estates and conservation easements, can also be used to help reduce the cost of property acquisition. Leasing property for non-park purposes, e.g, wireless communication facilities, can also provide a source of revenue to offset capital costs.
7. Appendices

A. Public Involvement

The public outreach effort is a critical component of every land use planning process. Involving Kent residents and park users in the process of identifying park needs ensures a successful planning process, provides for a mutual exchange of ideas, and helps meet the community’s needs. As stakeholders in the planning process, residents and park users can work with the City to ensure park and open space needs are accurately identified, planned for, and funded.

The Park Plan update process has benefited from public involvement, which has been utilized in determining needs and priorities and in determining long- and short-term recommendations. This section outlines the public involvement that has helped shape the recommendations contained in the 2010 Park and Open Space Plan.

Park Plan Survey

A survey was taken during the spring of 2009 in order to obtain the community’s ideas and opinions about the existing park system, deficiencies, and priorities for the future. The survey was made available online at the City’s website, and written surveys were distributed to all of our facilities and neighborhood councils. The survey was advertised on the City’s phone system and website, in the Kent Reporter, utility mailings, and through various postings at park facilities.

A total of 631 responses were received, 45 percent of which noted that they were residents of Kent. Due to the nature of the distribution of the survey, it is not a statistically valid survey. However, it does provide a sense of the community’s desires and needs. Respondents rated trails, open space and natural areas as extremely important followed by major parks and small neighborhood parks. The top three needs expressed in the survey were a swimming facility, an off-leash dog park and park security and maintenance.

Detailed results for each question are below. Due to the length of responses to open ended questions, they are not included in the Plan, but are available for review on the City’s website and in the Park Planning & Development Office.

2009 Park Plan Update Survey Results

Total Responses - 631

1. Do you live within the City of Kent?
   a. Yes - 45%
   b. No - 54%
   c. I don’t know - 1%
2. How many years have you lived in the City of Kent?
   a. 1-10 - **20%**
   b. 11-20 - **13%**
   c. 21-30 - **9%**
   d. 31-40 - **4%**
   e. 41 or more - **3%**

3. Do you consider yourself a resident of East Hill, Valley or West Hill?
   a. East Hill - **34%**
   b. Valley - **8%**
   c. West Hill - **11%**
   d. Don't know - **2%**

4. How many children under the age of 18 live in your household?
   a. 0 - **60%**
   b. 1-2 - **35%**
   c. 3 or more - **5%**

5. What is your age?
   a. 17 or under - **1%**
   b. 18-29 - **15%**
   c. 30-39 - **31%**
   d. 40-49 - **27%**
   e. 50-59 - **15%**
   f. 60-69 - **7%**
   g. Over 70 - **4%**

6. What is your gender?
   a. Male - **59%**
   b. Female - **41%**

7. Which parks and recreation facilities do you or your household currently use?
   See spreadsheet

8. What improvements, if any, would you like to see at these parks?
   See spreadsheet

9. For this City as a whole, what do you feel are the biggest needs in terms of Park and Recreation?
   1. Swimming Facility
2. Off-leash dog park
3. Security & Maintenance
4. Biking & Walking Trails
5. Connections/non-motorized access to Parks
6. Mountain Biking Trails
7. Frisbee Golf
8. Athletic Fields

10. Within our parks, what three activities do you and your family members participate in the most?
   a. Walking – 34%
   b. Biking – 33%
   c. Swimming – 7%
   d. Fishing – 4%
   e. Organized recreation i.e.: baseball, soccer – 11%
   f. Use of play equipment – 12%
   g. Other, please specify: see spreadsheet

11. What recreation opportunities would you like to see in Kent that you can’t find here now?
   See spreadsheet

12. Using a 0 to 10 scale with 10 meaning “extremely high importance” and 0 meaning “extremely low importance” please rate the importance of the following park amenities: MOST IMPORTANT NUMBERED IN ORDER – HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF #10 RATING. * EACH CHOICE WAS SCALLED SEPERATELY.
   a. Small neighborhood parks that serve families and individuals (5 – 19%)
   b. Major parks that serve all areas of the city (4 – 22%)
   c. Outdoor athletic fields for youth (6 – 18%)
   d. Outdoor athletic fields for adults (11 – 11%)
   e. Expanded recreational trails in and out of parks (2 – 41%)
   f. Parks with fishing, boating and swimming (12 – 9%)
   g. Indoor recreation facilities for social programs, events and athletics (10 – 12%)
   h. Natural areas and open space (3 – 37%)
   i. An accessible playground large enough to serve the entire community (13 – 8%)
   j. Off leash dog park (7 – 18%)
   k. Spray park/water park (14 – 7%)
   l. Off Road Biking Trails (1 – 45%)
m. BMX park (9 – 16%)  
n. Swimming pool (8 – 16%)  

13. Have you or anyone in your household participated in a City of Kent recreation program, activity or cultural event in the last 12 months?  
a. Yes – 44%  
b. No – 51%  
c. Don’t know – 5%  

14. What types of recreation programs, activities or cultural events have you and/or your household participated in the last 12 months?  
a. Youth/Teen athletics – 13%  
b. Adult athletics – 17%  
c. Youth enrichment, such as ballet or piano lessons – 5%  
d. Adult enrichment, such as cooking or aerobics – 9%  
e. Concerts – 21%  
f. Festivals – 24%  
g. Senior Center activities – 4%  
h. Adaptive Recreation (Special Needs) – 1%  
i. Youth/teen activities – 7%  
j. Other – Please specify  

15. What could the City change about its programs that would make them more attractive for you and your household?  
See spreadsheet  

16. Are you aware that the City offers scholarships so that all children can participate in programs regardless of ability to pay?  
a. Yes – 24%  
b. No – 76%  

17. Would you like to be notified of future public meetings and opportunities to participate in the update of the Comprehensive Plans?  
a. Yes – add contact info ____________________________  
b. No thank you  

Public Workshop  
Once the survey results were tabulated and the Park Plan update was well underway, a public workshop was held in the fall of 2009 to further refine the areas of focus in the Park Plan and supplement the comments received through the survey. Participants were given a comment sheet with specific questions about the
different elements of the plan that were presented at the meeting. Participants commented on the need to maintain our existing facilities and to make use of underutilized areas. They also expressed a desire for better connectivity between parks and throughout the City.

Public Process
In preparing the Park Plan, several public meetings occurred in order to provide the public, the Land Use and Planning Board, and the Parks Committee an opportunity to review and comment on the proposed Park Plan update.

The City's website was utilized as a tool for ongoing communication regarding the status of the update process. Survey results were posted as was the draft plan. E-mail notices were sent to interested survey participants at each milestone in the update process, inviting the public to review the draft plan, participate in public hearings and provide additional comment.

In addition, the Park Plan complied with State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) requirements. An Environmental Checklist was completed and a Determination of Non-Significance was issued on February 13, 2010. Public comment periods associated with the environmental review process were provided.

Public Meetings & Hearings
The Draft Park Plan was presented and discussed at a series of public meetings and hearings held before the Land Use and Planning Board, Parks Committee and the City Council.

B. Relevant Regulations

Critical Area Regulations
Since the adoption of the 2000 Plan, new environmental regulations were passed and implemented at the state and local level. These new regulations resulted in changes to the City’s Land Use Code, Critical Areas Ordinance and Shoreline Master Program and may impact how the park system develops. Critical areas such as wetlands, streams, lakes, and wildlife habitat areas occur throughout Kent Parks. Therefore, these regulations have implications on the development and management of the park and open space system. Development and maintenance practices will likely change to better protect critical areas and their resources.

Growth Management Act (GMA)
The Growth Management Act (GMA) establishes 13 statewide planning goals that must be considered locally within the City’s Comprehensive Plan and development regulations. Several of these planning goals apply to parks, including open space retention, development of recreational opportunities, conservation of wildlife
habitat, public facilities sufficient to support growth, and attention to historic resources. The Park Plan and Park and Open Space Element of the Comprehensive Plan evaluate our system relative to relevant GMA goals.

**State Shoreline Management Act Guidelines**

The State Shoreline Management Act requires local governments to regulate their shorelines through adoption of a local Shoreline Master Program. The City completed an update to the Shoreline Master Program in 2009 in order to conform to the state’s update of master program guidelines. The updated Master Program will impact park operations and development in the following areas: Green River, Lake Meridian, Lake Fenwick, Panther Lake, Soos Creek, the Green River Natural Resource Area pond, Springbrook Creek and Jenkins Creek.
## C. Capital Facilities Plan

### Parks - Planning & Development

**2010 - 2015 Division Requests**

**Amounts in Thousands**

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**Total Proposed Revenue**

| Total | 33,178.0 | 5,090.0 | 3,496.0 | 4,901.0 | 7,451.0 | 6,255.0 | 5,975.0 |

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## Parks - Planning & Development
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#### Amounts in Thousands

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D. Ordinance Adopting Plan
STATE OF WASHINGTON, COUNTY OF KING }  
AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

PUBLIC NOTICE
Linda M. Mills, being first duly sworn on oath that she is the Legal Advertising Representative of the Kent Reporter

a weekly newspaper, which newspaper is a legal newspaper of general circulation and is now and has been for more than six months prior to the date of publication hereinafter referred to, published in the English language continuously as a weekly newspaper in King County, Washington. The Kent Reporter has been approved as a Legal Newspaper by order of the Superior Court of the State of Washington for King County.

The notice in the exact form annexed was published in regular issues of the Kent Reporter (and not in supplement form) which was regularly distributed to its subscribers during the below stated period. The annexed notice, a:

Public Notice

was published on May 7, 2010.

The full amount of the fee charged for said foregoing publication is the sum of $123.13.

Linda M. Mills
Legal Advertising Representative, Kent Reporter
Subscribed and sworn to me this 7th day of May, 2010.

Kathy Dalseg, Notary Public for the State of Washington, Residing in Covington, Washington
P. O. Number: