AN ORDINANCE of the City Council of the City of Kent, Washington, amending the Park and Open Space Element and the Capital Facilities Element of the City’s Comprehensive Plan related to the adoption of a Park and Open Space Plan. (CPA-2009-1B).

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 and Open Space Element provides the foundation and guidance for the park system within the City. The Park and Open Space Element includes an inventory of existing parks and open spaces, level of service standards, a summary of public participation, goals and policies, and opportunities for regional coordination.

B. In general, the Capital Facilities Element provides guidance for the provision and maintenance of public services and capital facilities.
required to support anticipated growth over the next 20 years. The Capital Facilities Element includes a summary of park facilities and level of service standards that need to be amended with the information from the updated Park Plan.

C. The Growth Management Act ("GMA") requires the City to establish procedures governing amendments to the Comprehensive Plan that limit amendments to once each year unless certain circumstances exist. RCW 36.70A.130(2).

D. The amended Park and Open Space Element, Capital Facilities Element, and Park Plan have undergone an extensive 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 Reporter.

E. 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 amendments. No comments were received.

F. On February 13, 2010, the City’s SEPA responsible official issued a Determination of Nonsignificance (DNS) for the proposed amendments. The DNS explained that the proposal would not have probable significant adverse impacts on the environment.
G. The Land Use and Planning Board held workshops regarding these amendments to the Comprehensive Plan on January 11, 2010, and a public hearing on March 8, 2010. The amendments were also considered by the City Council’s Parks and Human Services Committee on March 18, 2010. On May 4, 2010, the City Council approved incorporation of the Park Plan into the Comprehensive Plan as an appendix as well as corresponding amendments to the Park and Open Space Element and the Capital Facilities Element of the Comprehensive Plan. These amendments were made in accord with Kent City Code 12.02.050.

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 is incorporated into the Comprehensive Plan as an appendix. The Park and Open Space Element and Capital Facilities Element of the City of Kent’s Comprehensive Plan are amended as attached and incorporated as Exhibit “A” and Exhibit “B” respectively.

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.

3

Comprehensive Plan Amendment
Park and Open Space Plan
CPA 2009-1B
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.

ATTEST:

BRENDA JACOBER, CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

TOM BRUBAKER, CITY ATTORNEY

PASSED: 6\textsuperscript{th} day of May, 2010.
APPROVED: 6\textsuperscript{th} day of May, 2010.
PUBLISHED: 7\textsuperscript{th} day of May, 2010.
I hereby certify that this is a true copy of Ordinance No. 3951, 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

P:\Civil\Ordinance\CompPlanAmendParkOpenSpacePlan2010.docx
CHAPTER TEN

PARK & OPEN SPACE ELEMENT

INTRODUCTION

The Park & Open Space Element works in concert with the Comprehensive Park and Recreation Plan, which provides direction for the planning, acquisition, development, and renovation of parks, open space, and recreational facilities for the years 2004–2010. The Comprehensive Park and Recreation Plan is developed with participation from city and service area residents. It identifies existing publicly-owned parks and facilities and their needed improvements; opportunities for partnerships; potential funding sources; and a course of action. The Interim Comprehensive Park, Recreation & Community Services Plan (2000) is updated whenever community priorities change, new funding or resource opportunities become available, or events occur that were not anticipated at the time the previous plan was written. The Park & Open Space Element provides a foundation from which the Comprehensive Park and Recreation Plan is implemented. The Park & Open Space Element outlines goals and policies for the planning, acquisition, and maintenance of open space, recreational amenities, connectivity between existing parks and neighborhoods, and the protection of environmentally-sensitive areas.

Kent’s service area goes beyond the city limits and Planning Area, serving the entire Kent School District. The Parks and Recreation Department also serves portions of the Highline School District and Federal Way School District that are within the city limits. The expanding and aging population within Kent’s service area has increased the demand on existing park and recreational facilities and programs. City residents are concerned about protecting undeveloped open space before the City and designated annexation areas are fully developed, and with providing parks and programs to make Kent a desirable place in which to live and work. The large industrial and corporate uses in the Kent Valley should be encouraged to incorporate recreational elements into new developments.

A Comprehensive Park and Recreation Plan was prepared in 1972, 1982, 1988, and 1994. The action program outlined in the 1994 and Interim Comprehensive Parks, Recreation & Community Services Plan has been successful. Pursuant to the Comprehensive Park and Recreation Plan, a variety of new community parks, neighborhood parks, trails, youth athletic fields, and playgrounds
have been acquired and developed from general fund sources and local, state, and federal grants. Specific accomplishments include the development of Wilson Playfields, Morrill Meadows Community Park, the West Hill Skate Park, Chestnut Ridge Neighborhood Park, Salt Air Vista Neighborhood Park, Green View Neighborhood Park, the Disc Golf Course, renovations of Linda Heights Neighborhood Park, Garrison Creek Neighborhood Park, Russell Road Park, and acquisition of Service Club Community Park, Valley Floor Community Park, 272nd Street Neighborhood Park, 132nd Street Neighborhood Park, and additional land at Clark Lake Park.

Continued urban development may outpace Kent's ability to maintain the current level of service and to improve the quality of the park and recreational experience unless public resources, policies, and funds are coordinated among the City, King County, Kent's school districts, and private partnerships. The policy directions in the previous plans were updated both to accommodate the impacts of current and projected growth and to be consistent with the City's overall planning efforts under the Growth Management Act.

Priorities in the Comprehensive Park and Recreation Plan are periodically updated after an assessment of existing parks is conducted and the City receives input from interested users of City-owned and/or managed parks and recreational facilities. For the 2000 update of the Comprehensive Park and Recreation Plan, a variety of participatory outreach methods were used to involve citizens in the comprehensive planning process: telephone surveys, displays with comment sheets at public buildings and the community summit, direct mail to school groups (PTAs) and recent patrons of City rental facilities, inserts into quarterly program brochures, a newspaper article, two public hearings, and meetings with City staff.

The Park & Open Space Element briefly analyzes the supply, demand, and need for public and private park and recreational facilities and services within Kent's Planning Area and sets goals and policies which reflect the analysis. The Comprehensive Park and Recreation Plan provides a more detailed analysis and identifies an action to implement each goal. The action program will be updated annually after the Capital Improvement Plan is adopted, and as the City Council establishes new goals.

Kent's park system is administered by the Director of the Kent Parks, Recreation & Community Services Department, with the policy direction set by a three-member City Council Parks Committee. An Arts Commission advises staff and approves public art and cultural programming. The twelve members of the Arts Commission are appointed by the Mayor with the consent of the City Council and serve one-to-five year terms without compensation or salary. The seven-member
Golf Advisory Board, appointed by the Mayor with the consent of the City Council, advises staff concerning the activities and improvements at the Riverbend Golf Complex.

The mission of the Kent Parks, Recreation 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 Kent Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department provides a variety of park and recreational programs and community services that serve diverse interests in the population. For example, the department: 1) manages recreational programs and athletic leagues for youth, teen, adult, and seniors; 2) conducts educational classes and workshops; 3) organizes special events like the Fourth of July Splash, Canterbury Faire, and special arts programs; 4) supports resource programs for special populations; 5) operates youth day camps and before- and after-school care; 6) maintains the golf course; 7) maintains City parks, street trees, and open space areas; 8) maintains all City buildings and grounds such as fire stations, City Hall, and Kent Commons; 9) manages the Human Services Program which offers home repair and links Kent residents with service providers, counseling, therapy, food, clothing, education, emergency assistance, crisis intervention assistance for youth, teens, families, and homeless people.

The Park & Open Space Element works in concert with the 2010 Parks & Open Space Plan to provide direction for the planning, acquisition, development and redevelopment of parks, open spaces and recreational facilities for the years 2010-2030. Park Plans were prepared and updated in 1972, 1982, 1988, 1994, and 2000. The 2010 Park & Open Space Plan was developed with participation from city and service area residents. It evaluates existing demographics, facilities and service needs, presents goals and policies, estimates park and recreation demand, outlines intergovernmental coordination opportunities, examines potential funding sources and provides long- and short-term capital recommendations for the next 20 years.

The 2010 Park Plan has been updated to accommodate the impacts of current and projected growth and to be consistent with the City's overall planning efforts under the Growth Management Act. A variety of participatory outreach methods were used in the 2010 update of the Park & Open Space Plan to involve citizens in the comprehensive planning process. These efforts include: online and written surveys, displays with comment sheets at parks facilities, public workshops, email updates to
interested parties, utility mailers, newspaper articles, and public hearings through the formal plan adoption process.

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Kent's service area goes beyond the city limits and Planning Area, serving the entire Kent School District. The Parks and Community Services Department also serves portions of the Highline School District and Federal Way School District that are within the city limits. The expanding and aging population within Kent's service area has increased the demand on existing park and recreational facilities and programs. City residents are concerned about maintaining existing facilities as well as the provision of parks, open spaces and programs that make Kent a desirable place to live and work.

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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 features 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 or may arise from use of this product.
FIGURE 10.1
PARKS & RECREATION FACILITIES

LEGEND
EXISTING CONDITIONS
- Natural Resource (Open Space/Greenways/Trails)
- Neighborhood Parks
- Community Parks
- Recreation Facilities
- Undeveloped
- Other Public Parks and Open Space
- Maintenance Facilities
- Trails
- CITY LIMITS
- POTENTIAL ANNEXATION AREA

Downtown Detail:

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

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Source: City of Kent Planning Services

Kent Comprehensive Plan
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 features depicted herein. 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 or may arise from use of this product.
A teen art studio is located in an undeveloped park. An indoor ice arena opened in 2001 on land owned by the City and leased to a private corporation.

The number and size of existing buildings available for recreational activities limit the number of programs and participants that can be served. At the Resource Center and several school facilities, individuals and groups have been turned away routinely because of the lack of program space. Through the public input process for the Interim Comprehensive Parks, Recreation & Community Services Plan, City residents identified the need for another community center like Kent Commons that could serve teens, youth, adults, seniors, and the physically and developmentally challenged. Figure 10.4 illustrates a range of recreational facilities and schools that provide recreational opportunities within Kent.

**ANALYSIS OF PARK LAND AND FACILITY NEEDS**

The need for park and recreational land and facilities was estimated using a variety of methods, including population ratios, participation rates, and level of service (LOS) measurements. The results of these methods were compared and then synthesized to define a proposed land and facility standard for the next eight (8) years.

**Level of Service**

In previous comprehensive plans, Kent used a nationally recognized acceptable standard from the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) to determine level of service (LOS) measurements.

The NRPA standard was 39.3 acres for all types of park land (neighborhood, community, open space, regional parks, etc.) per 1,000 people in the community. The City of Kent used the NRPA standard for many years as the basis for the standard of twenty (20) acres per 1,000 people (ten [10] acres of local park land and ten [10] acres of open space).

The NRPA no longer recommends a standard for facility and park land based on population ratios. Today the NRPA recommends that since every community is different, the standards should be developed by the community and used as a guide in planning. The City uses the previous standard as a guide when acquiring land for a neighborhood park.
If the City chooses to maintain this standard of twenty (20) acres per 1,000 population, the City of Kent would need:

- 1685.5 acres based on a 2002 city population of 84,275.
- 475.9 acres based on a 2000 Kent PAA population of 23,797.
- 1,917.2 acres based on a 2010 City population of 95,860
- 525 acres based on a 2010 Kent PAA population of 26,247

In 1993, the City exceeded the NRPA standard of twenty (20) acres per 1,000 by 0.72 acres per 1,000. However, in 2003 the City had 15.98 acres per 1,000 population falling below the 1993 NRPA standard by 33.8 acres. This equates to a loss of 4.74 acres per 1,000 people. The first level-of-service (LOS) for park land was established in 1993, in the City of Kent comprehensive plan (see Table 10.1).

Table 10.1
1993 LOS FOR PARK LAND

| Neighborhood Recreation Facilities | Investment/capita | $151.52 |
| Community Recreation Facilities   | Investment/capita | $496.26 |
| Neighborhood Park Land            | Acres/1,000 population | 2.53 |
| Community Park Land               | Acres/1,000 population | 18.19 |
| Golf Courses                      | Holes/1,000 population | 0.56 |

Table 10.2 shows a comparison of levels-of-service (LOS), within the city-limits, with projected population growth.
Table 10.2
KENT LOS OVER TIME

<table>
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<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Neighborhood Parks</td>
<td>2.53</td>
<td>1.58</td>
<td>1.56</td>
<td>1.45</td>
<td>1.13</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Parks</td>
<td>18.19</td>
<td>18.4</td>
<td>14.0</td>
<td>13.72</td>
<td>14.85</td>
<td>13.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golf Course (holes/1000)</td>
<td>0.56</td>
<td>0.60</td>
<td>0.38</td>
<td>0.38</td>
<td>0.32</td>
<td>0.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreation—Facilities</td>
<td>2.33</td>
<td>2.12</td>
<td>1.36</td>
<td>1.20</td>
<td>1.13</td>
<td>1.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(square-feet/person)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>41,000</td>
<td>45,000</td>
<td>70,140</td>
<td>79,524</td>
<td>84,275</td>
<td>95,860</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The 1993 level of service for public recreation facility space was 2.33 square feet per 1,000 people with 95,500 square feet of facility space available for use, this includes 2,400 square feet of the Par 3 Clubhouse, 11,296 square feet of the Riverbend Golf Course Clubhouse, and 1,800 square feet of the Driving Range Pro Shop. The level of service for public recreation facilities in 2002 was 1.13 square feet per 1,000 people. With no added space since 1993, the LOS has dropped significantly.

The LOS has decreased every year since 1993 primarily due to annexations and growth. The implications of forecasted population growth through 2010 are that unless the City acquires additional land, the LOS for park land will continue to drop. The City of Kent needs to set a LOS that meets citizen needs. If the standard for neighborhood parks is set at 1.13 acres per 1,000 (the current level), the City would need to acquire 12.62 additional acres in order to accommodate the population growth in the next ten years. If the LOS standard for community parks and open space is set at 14.85 acres per 1,000 (the current level), the City would need to acquire 176.2 acres by 2010.

Implications of Future Growth

The population forecasts for Kent’s Potential Annexation Area imply significant demand in the future for all types of park and recreational land and facilities. Changing demographics such as our aging population will place additional demand on parks and facilities. This has a major impact on the City of Kent because the existing park and open space inventory in the Potential Annexation Area is not at the same LOS as the City LOS of twenty (20) acres per 1,000 people. Most of the facilities that serve the Potential Annexation Area are located within the current city limits of Kent.
As population increases and areas are annexed into the city, the city parks department must acquire more land to provide the same level of service. Many people choose to live in Kent for the recreation and quality of life here. If people go to parks and can’t get a parking space or picnic table, they believe the issue can be resolved simply by adding a few more spaces and tables at existing parks. However, often parks cannot safely or efficiently accommodate more parking. Typically people don’t want to be close to others when having a picnic, and don’t want to see tables spaced too closely together. As the population increases, there will be a need to acquire additional land and develop parks at the established LOS to maintain the quality of the city’s parks and open space system.

Park Land Requirements by 2010

The 2010 population forecast indicates a need to acquire all types of park lands to maintain the City’s current LOS, but particularly indicates a need to provide neighborhood parks in developing and annexation areas, and to acquire community park land where needed within established neighborhoods.

With the Potential Annexation Area (PAA) population of 23,797 in 2000, and a projected population of 26,247 by 2010, the current PAA level of service (LOS) is 16.32 (LOS for Community Park is 15.94 acres and 0.38 LOS for Neighborhood Park) acres per 1,000 population. This total LOS is comparable to Kent’s 16.75 acres per 1,000 LOS within the city limits. (Note: North Green River Park acreage and Soos Creek Park acreage within the PAA are estimated.) However, the Neighborhood Park LOS of 0.38 acres per 1,000 population is considerably less than the 1.13 acres per 1,000 population within Kent’s city limits. By 2010, the LOS in the PAA drops to 14.80 acres per 1,000 population, which is greater than the 14.01 acres per 1,000 LOS within Kent’s city limits. However, Neighborhood Park LOS for Kent’s PAA of 0.34 acres per 1,000 is considerably less than Kent’s LOS of 1.00 acre per 1,000 population.

Urban development soon may encroach upon or preclude the preservation of, and public access to, the more environmentally sensitive and appealing sites. Urban development also may encroach upon or otherwise preclude the purchase and development of close-in, suitable lands for athletic fields, recreational centers, and other more land-intensive recreational facilities.
The LOS standard makes an assumption that the land acquired will be developed and usable. The LOS assures that as the community develops, undeveloped land will be acquired. Raw land does not satisfy the demand for recreation by a growing community, but depending on the presence of environmentally critical functions, may satisfy a demand for preservation of these functions. Park
development and expansion accommodates active recreational opportunities. Preservation of environmentally sensitive areas accommodates protection of natural environmental systems. Where appropriate, funding must be identified for acquisition and development of land for open space and recreational facilities. The Capital Improvement Plan adopted annually by the City Council identifies an action plan, with a balanced funding strategy.

**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 communities 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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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>41,000</td>
<td>45,000</td>
<td>70,140</td>
<td>79,524</td>
<td>84,275</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighborhood Parks</td>
<td>2.53 ac.</td>
<td>1.58 ac.</td>
<td>1.56 ac.</td>
<td>1.45 ac.</td>
<td>1.13 ac.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Parks</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golf Course (holes/1000)</td>
<td>0.56</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>0.38</td>
<td>0.38</td>
<td>0.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreation Facilities (sq. feet/person)</td>
<td>2.33</td>
<td>2.12</td>
<td>1.36</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>1.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall LOS (acres/1000)</td>
<td>20.72</td>
<td>19.98</td>
<td>15.56</td>
<td>15.17</td>
<td>15.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall LOS (sq. ft./person)</td>
<td>2.33</td>
<td>2.12</td>
<td>1.36</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>1.13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table 2: LOS 2009 & 2031

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2031</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>88,380</td>
<td>133,347</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural Resource</td>
<td>9.2 ac.</td>
<td>6.5 ac.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighborhood Parks</td>
<td>0.92 ac.</td>
<td>.68 ac.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Parks</td>
<td>1.27 ac.</td>
<td>.83 ac.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreation Facilities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indoor (sq. ft/person)</td>
<td>1.86</td>
<td>1.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor (acres/1000)</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>1.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undeveloped</td>
<td>1.05 ac.</td>
<td>0.70 ac.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall LOS (acres/1000)</td>
<td>15.24</td>
<td>10.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall LOS (sq. ft./person)</td>
<td>1.86</td>
<td>1.13</td>
</tr>
</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.

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.

**Park Land Requirements**

Population forecasts indicate a need to acquire all types of park lands to maintain the City’s current LOS. Urban development may encroach upon or preclude the preservation of, and public access to, the more environmentally sensitive and
appealing sites. Urban development may also encroach upon or otherwise preclude the purchase and development of close-in, suitable lands for athletic fields, recreational centers, and other more land-intensive recreational facilities. Where appropriate, funding must be identified for acquisition and development of land for open space and recreational facilities. The 2010 Parks & Open Space Plan’s short- and long-term capital recommendations identify key acquisitions and capital projects as well as potential funding sources that will help maintain the current LOS. The Capital Improvement Plan adopted annually by the City Council identifies an action plan and a balanced funding strategy.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

In addition to the public participation process that included an extensive telephone survey conducted for the 1995 Comprehensive Plan, the City of Kent conducted an additional telephone survey in the spring of 2000 for the update to the Interim Comprehensive Parks, Recreation & Community Services Plan. There also were direct mailings; displays boards and comment sheets made available to the public at City and regional facilities; an open house; and public hearings on the draft plan and projects. Details of the public participation process are provided below.

TELEPHONE SURVEYS

As an integral component of the public participation process that was undertaken for the Interim Comprehensive Parks, Recreation & Community Services Plan, the City of Kent conducted a telephone survey in the spring of 2000. The survey targeted registered voters who reside within the city limits and within the PAA service area. The survey sample included 398 households that were randomly drawn from voter registration lists. The survey is statistically accurate within a range of +/- 5%. Input was also obtained via the July 1998 Kent Parks and Recreation Study, and the 1999 and 2000 Citywide external study telephone surveys. The results from all the surveys are presented below under “General Results”.

General Results

Approximately 60% of the participants are very satisfied with Kent’s parks and facilities; 38% are moderately satisfied; and 2% are unsatisfied. Unsatisfied respondents mention the need for additional facilities, such as an ice skating rink; athletic fields; teen and youth programs; trails; and a new swimming pool. People say they participate in recreational activities such as walking; bicycling; camping; and golfing. Parks used most often include Lake Meridian Park; Soos Creek Park; West Fenwick Park; Russell Road Park; Riverbend Golf Course; and Lake Fenwick Park.
Suggested improvements to existing parks include additional picnic tables, play equipment, and parking. Thirty-six (36%) percent of residents use Kent Commons, and 12% use the Senior Activity Center. Sixty (60%) percent of respondents say they attended festivals and special events in Kent, and over half felt the City should offer more.

**Funding**

Approximately 73% of all respondents to the 1998 Kent Parks and Recreation Study survey indicated a willingness to finance a general obligation bond for park and recreational improvements with top priorities to athletic fields and Clark Lake Park acquisition and development. However, 29% of the respondents were unwilling to fund a bond, primarily because they felt that they were taxed too heavily already. In the 2000 Telephone Survey, 68% of respondents want to build a new swimming pool. Of those respondents, 30% are willing to pay an additional $50.00 per year for the pool and one-half of the respondents indicate they prefer to pay for the pool with user-fees.

**Recreational Program Priorities**

All respondents assigned the highest priority to youth athletics, youth/teen programs, before and after-school programs, swimming, and programs for the physically and developmentally challenged.

**Growth Management**

Over one-half (59%) of the respondents believe existing park and recreational facilities are sufficient to meet projected population growth over the next five (5) years, if the City does not annex any new areas. This compares to 40% of the respondents who believe existing facilities are inadequate to serve population growth, and the less than 1% who don’t know. Citizens state that if more areas are annexed, new parks need to be provided in those annexed areas. In the 1994 survey conducted for the 1995 Comprehensive Plan, 69% of the respondents felt that the level of service (LOS) standard should not be reduced.

**DISPLAYS AND COMMENT SHEETS**

In 2000, displays were placed in the lobby of the Kent Downtown Library, Kent Commons, Resource Center, Senior Activity Center, and City Hall. Similar input to the telephone survey was received. Suggested improvements to existing facilities included adding more swings, lighting new and existing ball fields, and renovating existing tennis courts. Requests for new parks and facilities included safe walking trails, trail connections to parks, neighborhoods, and other trails; more family bicycle trails; more open space; botanical gardens; another community center for seniors, teens,
physically-challenged; cultural programs; pool; outdoor hockey; more tennis/pickleball courts; more
picnic tables and shelters; another large community park; more open spaces, especially around Soos Creek Park; more parks; more indoor gymnasiums; all-weather sport field; rock climbing wall; volleyball; and art center with kilns.

PUBLIC HEARING AND MEDIA COMMENTS

In June 2000, requests from the public hearing included acquiring land along Soos Creek Park; extending the trail to connect with Lake Meridian Park; and soliciting input from residents outside the city limits who use our parks and programs.

DIRECT MAIL COMMENTS

In the spring of 2000, letters were mailed to one hundred (100) school Parent/Teacher Associations (PTAs); to two hundred (200) renters of parks and facilities in the past year; and to neighborhood associations. Similar input to the telephone survey was received from direct mail responses: increase youth and family program offerings; improve existing youth ballfields; provide a restroom and concession at Commons Playfield; provide more basketball and soccer programs and more ballfields for teens; expand the indoor park; and provide more accessible play equipment.

CITY STAFF COMMENTS

Similar input to the telephone survey was received from City staff. City staff hears and records comments from park and program patrons. In addition, staff uses City sites and programs. Park and facility needs mentioned are batting cages; lit tennis courts; off-leash dog park with dog waste disposal; lit walking paths; vehicle access to Briscoe Park; youth track field; BMX facility; East Hill skate park; special event park; full basketball courts; and model airplane/boat facility. Despite the critical need to develop new parks and facilities, staff commented that the life cycle upgrades to existing parks and facilities must not be sacrificed.

PARK PRIORITIES

The most frequently requested priorities for new development in the next five (5) years include:

- New parks and facilities acquisition and development;
- More play equipment areas;
- Ice skating rink;
• Lighted athletic fields (baseball, softball, soccer, and courts);
• Bicycle and pedestrian trails;
• Wetland preservation;
• New swimming pool;
• Increased lighting in parks and trails; and
• Teen and youth programs and facilities.

High priorities for new facilities and parks include an indoor and outdoor teen center; community parks; swimming pool; facilities for the physically and developmentally challenged; neighborhood parks; walking and bicycling trails in parks; a community recreation center; and preservation of natural areas; wetlands; woodlands; steep hillsides; and other sensitive wildlife areas and open spaces. Additionally, suggested improvements to existing parks include additional parking; play equipment; more restrooms; and more picnic tables and benches.

CONCLUSION

Results of the citywide 1999 and 2000 statistically valid telephone surveys are representative of the community and generally will indicate whether the community would support a new facility or park. Analysis of survey results is usually the first step in determining the need for new parks, facilities, and programs. Feasibility studies, analysis of standards and public demand generally indicate a true need for new parks and facilities.

The input from these methods were compared to the inventory and level of service standard and analyzed to define priorities for the next eight (8) years listed in Table 10.3. The availability of funds will determine which priorities are realized.

Table 10.3
PARKS AND OPEN SPACE PRIORITIES

• Develop neighborhood parks at Canterbury, 132nd Street, West Hill (Seattle Water), East Hill (274th), and Valley (Riverview). Include trails in the park and connect neighborhoods;
• Continue the replacement schedule for play equipment and expand existing play areas;
• Develop lighted athletic fields at the Service Club Community Park;
• Develop a youth and teen park on the East Hill for skating, rock climbing, BMX bicycling, and in-line hockey;
- Acquire wetlands and natural areas at Clark Lake;
- Conduct a feasibility study for a new swimming pool;
- Conduct a feasibility study for a new center for youth, teen, and physically challenged programs;
- Conduct lighting audits in existing parks;
- Connect the Soos Creek Trail to Lake Meridian Park; and
- Acquire land to connect Morrill Meadows and East Hill Neighborhood Park.

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 in order 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. Opportunities to take part in each stage of the planning process were advertised on the City's phone system and website, in the Kent Reporter, within utility mailings, through targeted emails, and through various postings at park facilities.

**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 parks system, deficiencies, and priorities for the future. The survey was made available online at the City's website, and written surveys were available at parks facilities and distributed to neighborhood groups.

A total of 631 responses were received, 45 percent of which noted that they were citizens 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.

**Public Workshop**

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 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.

**Website**

The City's website was utilized as a tool for ongoing communication regarding the status of the update process. Survey results were posted as well as the draft Parks & Open Space Plan. Email notices were sent to interested survey participants at
each milestone in the update process, inviting the public to participate and provide additional input.

In order to address the community’s parks and open space needs, short- and long-term recommendations and funding options are discussed in the Park and Open Space Plan.

**Opportunities for 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.

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

**PARK AND RECREATION GOALS AND POLICIES**

The goals and policies of this element address parks, open space, facilities, historic and cultural resources, and recreational and cultural programming. The goals and policies are divided into separate sections, however, they function as a coherent and comprehensive vision. This is reflected in the overall goal of the Park & Open Space Element.

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

**WILDLIFE RESOURCE GOALS & POLICIES**

Incorporation of unique ecological features and resources into the City-park system in order to protect threatened species, preserve habitat, and retain migration corridors for local wildlife, is a priority of the City. Such incorporation is intended to limit habitat degradation associated with human activities.

**Goal P&OS-1:**

Designate critical wildlife habitat resources and areas.

**Policy P&OS-1.1:** Identify and conserve critical 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-1.2:** Acquire 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-1.3:** Enhance habitat within parks, open space, and environmentally sensitive areas by maintaining a healthy urban forest with native vegetation that provides food, cover, shelter, and by utilizing best management practices.

**Goal P&OS-2:**

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-2.1:** 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-2.2:** 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.

OPEN SPACES AND URBAN SEPARATORS GOALS & POLICIES

Development of a high-quality, diversified and interconnected park system that preserves and sensitively enhances significant open spaces, is a priority of the City. The establishment of greenbelts as urban separators, is a strategy that promotes connectivity of Kent’s open space system.

Goal P&OS-3:
Establish an open space pattern that will provide definition of and separation between developed areas, and provide open-space linkages among park and recreational resources.

Policy P&OS 3.1: Define and conserve a system of open space corridors as urban separators to provide definition between natural areas and urban land uses within the Kent area.

Policy P&OS 3.2: Increase linkages of trails, in-street bike lanes, or other existing or planned connections with natural areas and open space within developed areas, particularly along the Green River, Mill Creek, Garrison Creek, and Soos Creek corridors; around Lake Fenwick, Clark Lake, Lake Meridian, Panther Lake, and Lake Young; and around significant wetland and floodways such as the Green River Natural Resource Area (GRNRA).

Policy P&OS 3.3: Preserve through acquisition as necessary, environmentally sensitive areas as natural area 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-4:
Identify and protect significant recreational lands before they are lost to development.

Policy P&OS 4.1: 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-o-way.
Policy P&OS-4.2: 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.

HISTORIC & CULTURAL RESOURCES GOALS & POLICIES

Development of a high-quality, diversified park system that includes preservation of significant historic and cultural resources, and that develops programs to recognize the City's multicultural heritage, is a priority of the City.

Goal P&OS-5:
Preserve, enhance, and incorporate historic and cultural resources and multicultural interests into the park and recreational system.

Policy P&OS-5.1: 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-5.2: 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-5.3: 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-6:
Incorporate man-made environments and features into the park and recreational system.

Policy P&OS-6.1: 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-6.2: Work with property and facility owners to increase public access to and utilization of these special features.

TRAIL AND CORRIDOR ACCESS SYSTEMS GOALS & POLICIES

Development of 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, is a priority of the City.

Goal P&OS-7:
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-7.1: 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-7.2: 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-7.3: Provide connections from residential neighborhoods to community facilities like Kent Commons, the Senior Activity Center, Special Populations Resource Center, and King County’s Kent Swimming Pool, schools, parks, and commercial districts.

Policy P&OS-7.4: 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-7.5: With proposed vacating of right-of-way and street improvement plans, consider potential connectivity with existing or proposed trail corridors, parks, and neighborhoods.

Policy P&OS-7.6: 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-7.7: 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 the Kent's environmental resources.

Goal P&OS-8:
Furnish trail corridors, trailheads, and other supporting sites with convenient amenities and improvements.

Policy P&OS-8.1: 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-8.2: 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-8.3: 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.

RECREATIONAL FACILITIES GOALS & POLICIES

Development of a high-quality, diversified recreational system for all abilities, ages and interest groups, is a priority of the City.

Goal P&OS-9:
Work with other agencies to preserve and increase waterfront access and facilities.
Policy P&OS-9.1: 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-9.2: 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-10:
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-10.1: 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-10.2: 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-10.3: 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-11:
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-11.1: Maintain and expand multiple-use indoor community centers, such as the Senior Activity Center, Special Populations Resource Center, and Kent Memorial Park Building, that provide arts and crafts, music, video, classroom instruction, meeting facilities, eating and health care, day care, latch-key, and other spaces for all age groups, including preschool, youth, teens, and seniors on a year-round basis.
Policy P&OS-11.2: Maintain and expand multiple-use indoor recreational centers, such as Kent-Commons and King County's Kent-Swimming-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-11.3: 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-11.4: 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-12:
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-12.1: Where appropriate and economically feasible (i.e., self-supporting), develop and operate special interest recreational facilities like golf, ice skating, and archery ranges.

Policy P&OS-12.2: 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, and camping on a regional basis.

Goal P&OS-13:
Develop and operate a balanced system of neighborhood and community parks, with active and passive recreational opportunities throughout the City.

Policy P&OS-13.1: Acquire and develop parks to meet the level-of-service needs as Kent's population grows and areas are annexed.
Policy P&OS-13.2: Identify neighborhoods bordered by arterial streets and geographic features that act as natural barriers. Set aside neighborhood park land within each area to meet the levels of service.

Policy P&OS-13.3: 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-13.4: Encourage new single-family and multifamily residential, and commercial developments to provide recreation elements.

RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS GOALS & POLICIES

Development of high quality recreational programs and services that meet all community group needs, is a priority of the City.

Goal P&OS-14:

Develop and operate recreational programs, including historical and cultural activities, that interest all physical and mental abilities, age, skill level, and income groups in the population.

Policy P&OS-14.1: Provide arts and crafts, classroom instruction in music and dance, physical conditioning and health care, meeting facilities, day care, after-school, and other program activities for all abilities, age, cultural and income groups in the community.

Policy P&OS-14.2: Provide soccer, baseball, softball, basketball, volleyball, tennis, and other instruction and participatory programs for all abilities, age, skill level, and income groups in the community.

Policy P&OS-14.3: Assist historical and cultural heritage societies to develop and display artifacts, reports, and exhibits; and conduct lectures, classes, and other programs that document and develop awareness of Kent's heritage.

CULTURAL ARTS PROGRAMS AND RESOURCES GOALS & POLICIES

Development of high quality, diversified cultural arts facilities and programs that increase community awareness, attendance, and other opportunities for participation, is a priority of the City.
Goal P&OS-15:
Work with the arts community to utilize local resources and talents to increase public access to artwork and programs.

Policy P&OS-15.1: 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-15.2: 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-16:
Acquire and display public artwork to furnish public facilities and other areas and thereby increase public access and appreciation.
**Policy P&OS-16.1:** 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.

**DESIGN AND ACCESS STANDARDS GOALS & POLICIES**

Design and development of facilities that are accessible, safe, and easy to maintain, with life-cycle features that account for long-term costs and benefits, is a priority of the City.

**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 and requirements.

**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 flowering plants, working toward a landscape that is colorful year-round.

**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-facility safety and security features for park 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.

**FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND COORDINATION GOALS & POLICIES**
Creating effective and efficient methods of acquiring, developing, operating, and maintaining facilities and programs that distribute costs and benefits to public and private interests, is a priority of the City.

**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-aside 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: Initiate 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.

Policy P&OS-22.4: Where appropriate, provide recreational programs, like golf and ice skating, for those interested groups who are willing to finance the cost of the programs through user fees, registration fees, volunteer efforts, or other means and methods.

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.

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.

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 life-cycle 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.
CHAPTER EIGHT

CAPITAL FACILITIES ELEMENT

The Capital Facilities Element is a required element of the City's Comprehensive Plan, mandated by the Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA). This element contains goals and policies related to the provision and maintenance of public services and capital facilities required to adequately support anticipated growth during the next twenty (20) years. The goals and policies of this element are consistent with the Land Use, Transportation, and Park & Open Space Elements. Further, the Capital Facilities Element, in its incorporation of the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) by reference and partial publication addresses the development activities undertaken by the City to accommodate the demand for public services. The CIP is updated annually to coincide with the Council budgeting process. The CIP lists adopted and funded capital and operating projects with costs and revenues identified over a six (6) year period.

While the Capital Facilities Element includes summary information, inventories and levels-of-service pertaining to parks, open space, and transportation facilities; more comprehensive consideration of these policy areas are provided in the Park & Open Space and Transportation Elements of the Comprehensive Plan. Other City-provided services and facilities are considered more fully within this element. Some of these services and facilities are internal to the effective functioning of Kent City government, but most services and facilities considered in this element serve the public directly.

The Capital Facilities Element contains goals and policies to guide the provision and maintenance of public services and capital facilities with performance measures for assessing the adequacy of public services and capital facilities to meet population and employment growth. The Capital Facilities Element considers over the next twenty (20) years the performance of public services and related capital needs in maintaining or elevating the provision of public services according to adopted level-of-service (LOS) standards.
REQUIREMENTS OF THE GROWTH MANAGEMENT ACT

The Growth Management Act (GMA) requires the Comprehensive Plan to identify existing and future public facilities needed to be consistent with the Land Use Element. Updates of the Capital Improvement Program (CIP), which contains a list of adopted capital projects including costs and projected revenues, are incorporated into the Capital Facilities Element through the annual budgeting process by City Council ordinance. The GMA requires that services and facilities provided to residents and businesses by adjacent jurisdictions and public agencies must also be considered. Several providers of public services and facilities serve Kent, and the operating plans of these agencies are referenced in the Comprehensive Plan.

Concurrency and Levels-of-Service

One of the goals of the GMA is to have public services and capital facilities provided concurrent with or prior to development. This concept is known as “concurrency,” also called "adequate public facilities". In the City of Kent, concurrency requires 1) services and facilities which serve the development to be in place at the time of development (or for some types of facilities, a financial commitment to be made to provide for services and facilities within a specified period of time) and; 2) services and facilities which serve the development to have sufficient capacity to serve the development without decreasing level-of-service (LOS) below minimum standards adopted in the Capital Facilities Element. In order to make use of the LOS method, the City selects the way in which it will measure performance of each service or amount of each type of facility (i.e., response time, acres, gallons, etc.). It also identifies the current and proposed LOS standard for each measurement. The standards adopted should be considered to reflect the quality of life against which performance of services or provision of facilities are measured for concurrency.

The GMA specifically requires concurrency for transportation facilities. The GMA, through the Countywide Planning Policies (specifically LU-29) requires all other public services and facilities to be "adequate" (see RCW 19.27.097, 36.70A.020, 36.70A.030, and 58.17.110). Concurrency management will ensure that sufficient public service and facility capacity is available for each proposed development.

Capital Facilities Planning and Finance

The GMA requires cities and counties to approve and maintain a six (6) year capital facilities plan which includes requirements for specific types of capital facilities, measurable level-of-service (LOS) standards, financial feasibility, and assurance that adequate facilities will be provided as population and employment growth occurs. The Annual Budget Document and six-year Capital
Improvement Program (CIP) fulfill the GMA requirement for facilities planning; but, in addition, these documents serve as a foundation for City fiscal management and eligibility for grants and loans. These documents and the Capital Facilities Element provides coordination among the City’s many plans for capital improvements, including other elements of the Comprehensive Plan, operating plans of departmental service providers, and facilities plans of the State, the region, and adjacent local jurisdictions.

The CIP identifies the location and cost of needed facilities, and the sources of revenue that will be used to fund the facilities. The CIP, which is a component of this Element, is approved through the annual budgeting process. Subsequently adopted amendments to the CIP and the Annual Budget Documents are hereby incorporated by reference into this Element. The Capital Facilities Element contains or refers to LOS standards for each public service and facility type, and requires that new development be served by adequate services and facilities. Operating plans of the City and other public services and facilities providers also contain information associated with levels-of-service. The Annual Budget Document and Six-Year CIP contain broad goals and specific financial policies that guide and implement the provision of adequate public services and facilities.

The CIP must be financially feasible; in other words, dependable revenue sources must equal or exceed anticipated costs. If the costs exceed the revenue, the City must reduce its levels-of-service, reduce costs, or modify the Land Use Element to bring development into balance with available or affordable facilities.

The GMA mandates forecasts of future needs for capital facilities and the use of standards for levels of service of facility capacity as the basis for public facilities contained in the CIP (see RCW 36.70A.020 [12]). As a result, requested public services and facilities detailed in the CIP must be based on quantifiable, objective measures of service or facility capacity, such as traffic-volume capacity per mile of road and acres of park land per capita, or average emergency response times.

BACKGROUND

Population And Service Areas
The City of Kent population has grown through annexations, in-migration and births to 84,275 as of 2002. Kent’s Planning Area, which includes the Potential Annexation Area (PAA), has a 2000 population of 103,521. Based on estimates from the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC), the projected population for the Kent Planning Area in 2020 is anticipated to number approximately 124,903. Some service agencies of the City and other public service providers have different geographic boundaries and may therefore assume different service population figures. Operating
plans of these service providers should be referenced for more accurate population and service area information. Maps provided in this Element indicate service areas for agencies servicing homes and businesses within Kent, its PAA, and adjacent areas.

**Setting the Standards for Levels-of-Service**

Because the projected demand for public services and capital facilities will be largely influenced by the appropriate level-of-service (LOS) measure adopted in the Capital Facilities Element, the key to adequate and timely provision of public services and capital facilities is the establishment of measurable and achievable LOS standards. LOS standards are measures of the quality of life of the community. The standards should be based on the Community's vision of its future and its values. The final legal authority to establish LOS standards rests with the City Council, because the City Council enacts the LOS standards that reflect the Community's vision.

Selection of a specific LOS to be the "adopted standard" during the original Comprehensive Plan Capital Facilities Element drafting was accomplished by a 12-step process. The process could be described in brief as an assessment of inventoried City facilities and population, along with the costs of funded capital projects, including “non-capacity” projects that were under consideration at that time. The LOS standards were reflective of strategic capital facilities programming in the early 1990s. While capital improvement programs and capital facilities plans will continue to reflect strategic needs for capital projects during six (6) year cycles, many of the present levels-of-service reflect robust performance measures. Such performance measures are oriented toward assessing the quality of public services, and proposed capital projects would be expected to maintain or improve the level-of-service.

Every year, as required by the Growth Management Act, department service providers reassess land use issues, inventories of public services and facilities, level-of-service standards, and projected revenues to determine what changes, if any are needed. The capital facility operating plans of the City of Kent, and other providers of services and facilities to Kent homes and businesses, contain technical information used in such reassessments, and are incorporated into the Capital Facilities Element by reference.
DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES, INVENTORIES AND
LEVELS-OF-SERVICE BY SERVICE TYPE

Measuring performance of and citizen satisfaction with City services has provided important indicators of achievements and needs for public services, and by extension, capital facilities. Budget requests for service programs and facilities are responsive to performance measures, which are impacted by growth. As will be frequently noted, many of the previously used measures for establishing level-of-service standards were more reflective of existing capital facilities inventories than of the performance of public services and provision of facilities that continue to directly contribute to the quality of life in Kent. Services or facilities operating below the established minimums for levels-of-service could be an indication that a need may exist for service improvements, programmatic changes, new or improved facilities, or a re-evaluation of the level-of-service standards. The current LOS for each service or facility may be found in the operating documents referenced in this Element, and in the City of Kent Performance Measurement Report.

Police and Corrections

The City of Kent Police Department provides a variety of patrol, investigative and community education services to Kent and neighboring jurisdictions as appropriate. The Police Department also provides correctional services, programs and facilities for the detention and rehabilitation of criminal offenders. The City of Kent Police Department has been periodically re-accredited by the nationally-recognized Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA), for the quality of its performance on several objectives relating to field and administrative police work, and community involvement. This accreditation enables the Police Department to access grant funding, additional risk management training, and decreased operating insurance costs. The Corrections Division is pursuing a separate accreditation from the American Corrections Association that would entitle access to grant funding.

Police Services and Facilities Inventory

The Police Department serves Kent residents and businesses through its Patrol, Investigations, and Administrative Support Divisions. The Police Department contracts 911 emergency response through Valley Communications. The Police Headquarters building is located on the City Hall campus at 232 Fourth Avenue S. The City of Kent Corrections Facility is located at 1201 South Central. The Police/Fire Training Center is located on the East Hill at 24611 116th Avenue SE. Figure 8.1 illustrates the location of police services areas and facilities. Police facilities are listed in the Table 8.1.
Table 8.1
POLICE FACILITIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Capacity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Evidence Area - City Hall</td>
<td>220 Fourth Avenue S</td>
<td>1,250 s.f.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midway Substation</td>
<td>25440 Pacific Highway S</td>
<td>750 s.f.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Hill Substation</td>
<td>20676 - 72nd Avenue S</td>
<td>132 s.f.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Police East Hill Substation</td>
<td>24611 - 116th Avenue SE</td>
<td>880 s.f.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Police Headquarters</td>
<td>232 Fourth Avenue S</td>
<td>18,000 s.f.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Police/Fire Training Center</td>
<td>24611 - 116th Avenue SE</td>
<td>8,000 s.f.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Firing Range</td>
<td>24611 - 116th Avenue SE</td>
<td>3,670 s.f.</td>
</tr>
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<td>West Hill Substation</td>
<td>26512 Military Road S</td>
<td>910 s.f.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Springwood Substation</td>
<td>27405 - 129th Place SE, #23</td>
<td>850 s.f.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Panther Lake Substation</td>
<td>21006 - 132nd Avenue SE</td>
<td>3,850 s.f.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Potential conversion of Fire Department Logistics Building.

Correctional Services and Facilities Inventory
The City of Kent Correctional Facility (CKCF) capacity is one hundred-thirty (130) beds. The correctional facility has an intergovernmental contract with the Federal Marshal’s Office. Due to the opening of the Federal Correctional Facility in SeaTac, federal prisoners are housed at the CKCF infrequently. The average length of stays at the CKCF increased from 14 days in 2001 to 15 days in 2002. The Kent Police Department has focused efforts to address the increasing demands for jail capacity. The CKCF Programs Division added day reporting and work crew programs in 2002 to the existing electronic home detention, work release and work time credit programs. The CKCF is undertaking the challenge of becoming a fully-accredited correctional facility through the American Corrections Association, with an audit planned for the third quarter of 2003. Accreditation for the CKCF would provide increased access to grant funding and reduced liability insurance costs. Correctional facilities are listed in Table 8.2 and their locations are illustrated in Figure 8.1. Performance measures for Police LOS standards are found in Table 8.3.
Table 8.2
CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Capacity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Correctional Facility</td>
<td>1230 South Central Avenue</td>
<td>130 beds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corrections Annex</td>
<td>8309 South 259th Street</td>
<td>3,093 s.f.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kent Municipal/Aukeen District Court</td>
<td>1210 South Central Avenue</td>
<td>4,051 s.f.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 8.3
POLICE LOS STANDARDS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Performance Measure</th>
<th>LOS Standard</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Responsive Police Service Average response times to Top Priority Calls</td>
<td>6 minutes or less to scene from receipt of emergency call</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Sense of Safety Annual Citizen Satisfaction Survey respondents’ perceived level of safety</td>
<td>85% of respondents indicate feeling “somewhat safe” to “very safe” in Kent</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As of 2002, the Kent Police Department is satisfactorily meeting both of the LOS standards.

FIRE & LIFE SAFETY SERVICES

The City of Kent Fire Department is responsible for delivering fire protection and emergency medical services to the City, and to the geographic area within King County Fire District #37 that includes the City of Covington. Fire Suppression & Emergency Medical Response units provide the most directly recognizable services to homes and businesses in Kent and other service area jurisdictions. Other fire districts adjacent to Kent may provide response assistance as requested. The Emergency Management Office and Fire Prevention Office carry out several objectives, including assessment and reduction of potential fire and life hazard risks through educational outreach programs and development plan inspections throughout the City. The Kent Fire Department received accreditation offered jointly by the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC), the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI), and the International Cities/Counties Management Association (ICMA).
Fire & Life Safety Services and Facilities Inventory

The City owns six (6) fire stations: Station 71 (in the southern portion of Downtown Kent); Station 72 (Lake Meridian area); Station 73 (West Hill); Station 74 (East Hill); Station 75 (east, near Covington); and Station 76 (north, in the industrial area). A seventh station is located in Fire District #37 and is owned by the Fire District. Each station is equipped with at least one fire engine or ladder truck that carries emergency medical supplies and equipment. Each station is staffed with a minimum of three (3) personnel 24 hours per day, 365 days per year. Each station has future capacity for additional staffing. Fire District #37’s Capital Facilities Plan identifies two (2) future stations that will serve the City. Station 78, which will open in January 2008, will be located in the City of Covington and will serve the east side of the City of Kent. There is also a proposed station serving the North Benson/Panther Lake neighborhood. The North Benson/Panther Lake station will be inside the potential annexation area for the City of Kent. The Fire District is currently collecting level-of-service fees for the future construction and purchase of land for these projects. In addition, Stations 75 and 76 have a King County Medic One paramedic unit housed in the station. Each unit is staffed with two (2) personnel. These units are part of the countywide Advance Life Support (ALS) system. Table 8.4 lists each station, location, number and type of units in service, total station capacity, and minimum staffing. Figure 8.2 illustrates locations of fire and life safety services and facilities.

Current data collection for the level-of-service indicates that the Fire Department is not meeting the standard. The Kent Fire Department is refining its data collection and analysis support functions in order to identify areas in need of capital and operating improvements. Such improvements would be pursued to meet the established levels-of-service. Performance measures for fire and life safely LOS standards are found in Table 8.5.

Police/Fire Training Center

The Police/Fire Training Center is located on East Hill at 24611 116th Avenue Southeast at Station 74. The Center, housed in an 8,000 square foot building, provides audio and visual equipment and other facilities for in-service training for City of Kent police officers and fire fighters. Instruction is conducted by Kent Police and Fire Department personnel, and by nationally known instructors from organizations such as the International Association of Police Chiefs and the State Fire Service. In addition to providing a facility for training City of Kent personnel, the training center also accommodates a satellite training program sponsored by the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Units in Service</th>
<th>Capacity</th>
<th>Minimum Staffing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Station 71</td>
<td>504 West Crow Street</td>
<td>Engine 71 and 4 Bays</td>
<td>4 Bays</td>
<td>5 – (3) Engine (2) Aid 71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Station 72</td>
<td>25620 -140th Avenue SE</td>
<td>Engine 72</td>
<td>3 Bays</td>
<td>3 – Engine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Station 73</td>
<td>26512 Military Road S</td>
<td>Engine 73</td>
<td>3 Bays</td>
<td>3 – Engine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Station 74</td>
<td>24611-116th Avenue SE</td>
<td>Ladder 74; Aid 74; and Battalion Chief</td>
<td>3 Bays</td>
<td>6 – (3) Ladder; (2) Aid (1) Battalion Chief</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Station 75</td>
<td>15635 SE 272nd Street</td>
<td>Engine 75</td>
<td>3 Bays</td>
<td>3 – Engine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Station 76</td>
<td>20676 - 72nd Avenue S</td>
<td>Engine 76</td>
<td>3 Bays</td>
<td>3 – Engine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Station 77</td>
<td>20717 - 132nd Avenue SE</td>
<td>Engine 77</td>
<td>3 Bays</td>
<td>3 – Engine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Station 78</td>
<td>Corner of 180th Avenue SE and SE 256th Street</td>
<td>Proposed Engine</td>
<td>3 Bays</td>
<td>Operational 1/1/08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Benson/Panther Lake Area</td>
<td>In area of 108th Avenue SE and SE 216th Street</td>
<td>To Be Determined</td>
<td>To Be Determined</td>
<td>To Be Determined</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 8.5
FIRE & LIFE SAFETY LOS STANDARDS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Performance Measure</th>
<th>LOS Standard</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Structure Fires - All</td>
<td>Response Time by percentage (fractile)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Structure Fires – Single-family residential and standard commercial</td>
<td>Response Time by percentage (fractile)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Structure Fires – Commercial target hazards</td>
<td>Response Time by percentage (fractile)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Structure Fires – High risk target hazards</td>
<td>Response Time by percentage (fractile)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Life Support – Life threatening</td>
<td>Response Time by percentage (fractile)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CITY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES - GENERAL GOVERNMENT

The City of Kent Operations Department manages several facilities and buildings necessary to the administrative and maintenance functions of the City. These include City Hall and the City Council Chambers, and the Centennial Center; all located in the heart of Downtown Kent. Table 8.6 below lists the name, location and capacity of each facility:

Table 8.6
CITY ADMINISTRATION OFFICES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>CAPACITY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>City Hall</td>
<td>220 - 4th Avenue South</td>
<td>35,230 s.f.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City Hall Annex</td>
<td>302 West Gowe Street</td>
<td>4,045 s.f.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Centennial Center</td>
<td>400 West Gowe Street</td>
<td>71,600 s.f.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

The City of Kent Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department manages parks and open space resources, as well as the Senior Activity Center, Kent Commons, Kent Resource Center, and Riverbend Golf Complex; provides a wide range of recreational programs throughout the facilities; and administers funding in support of a variety of community service activities. Details for community service activities can be found in the Human Services Element, the Housing Element, and the 2003-2007 Consolidated Plan for Housing and Community Development. The 2000 Interim Comprehensive Parks, Recreation & Community Services Plan - Park & Open Space Plan and the Park & Open Space Element of the Comprehensive Plan provides greater detail about facilities and LOS standards.

Parks and Recreation Facilities

The City of Kent owns and leases manages 95.7 acres of neighborhood park land and 1,247.3 acres of community park land-1,434 acres of park land within the current City limits. King County owns 0.5 acres located in Kent. Within Kent’s Potential Annexation Area (PAA), King County owns 734 acres of park land. The Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department manages a wide variety of facilities located on park land, including the Senior Center, Kent Commons, Special Populations Resource Center, play fields, and trails. The Park & Open Space Element contains a current inventory of lands leased and owned by the City. Figure 10.1 and 10.2 of the Park & Open Space Element illustrate locations of parks and recreation facilities.

Parks and Recreation Level-of-Service Standards

The City of Kent Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department generally pursues land acquisitions to meet anticipated demand for open space based upon estimated population growth. As suitable land becomes available for development, the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department considers purchases in balance with the anticipated population growth for the entire City. More detailed levels-of-service for Parks and Recreation services and facilities are provided in the Park & Open Space Element and the Interim 2000 Comprehensive Parks, Recreation & Community Services Plan - Park & Open Space Plan.
PUBLIC UTILITY SERVICES
The City of Kent is one among several providers of public utility services, for water distribution and storage, sewerage, and stormwater management. Other public providers adjacent to City of Kent utilities franchise areas coordinate with the City of Kent Public Works Department through interlocal service agreements. Privately-provided services such as energy distribution and storage, cable television, and telephone services are discussed in the Utilities Element.

Sanitary Sewer Facilities
The service area of the City of Kent Sewer Utility encompasses twenty-three (23) square miles and includes most of the incorporated City, as well as adjacent franchise areas within unincorporated King County. Since the existing collection system already serves most of the City's service area, expansion of this system will occur almost entirely by infill development, which will be accomplished primarily through developer extensions and local improvement districts. In general, the existing sewer system is sized based on existing standards which will carry peak flows generated by the service area for ultimate development. However, the City of Kent Comprehensive Sewerage Plan has identified various undersized lines, as well as others that require rehabilitation. King County-METRO has assumed the responsibility for interception, treatment, and disposal of wastewater from the City of Kent and communities throughout south, east and north King County at the South Treatment Plant located in Renton. Therefore, the City does not incur any direct capacity-related capital facilities requirements or costs for sanitary sewer treatment. METRO pump stations in Pacific, Black Diamond, and three (3) in the vicinity of the South Treatment Plant (Interurban and New Interurban) serve South King County.

King County will provide additional wastewater capacity to serve a growing population in the Puget Sound area by constructing a new North Treatment Plant in the north service area (to be located in the vicinity of the boundary of King and Snohomish counties) and by expanding the South Treatment Plant to handle additional flow from south and east King County. The North Treatment Plant is anticipated to provide a capacity of thirty-six (36) million gallons per day (mgd) when operational in 2010, and the expansion of the South Treatment Plant in the year 2029 will increase system capacity from one hundred fifteen (115) mgd to one hundred thirty-five (135) mgd. Two conveyance improvements serving the South Treatment Plant are scheduled for completion both in the near-term and long-term. The improvements of Sections 1, 2, and 3 of the Parallel Auburn Interceptor are anticipated to be completed by 2004, and the planned three (3) to five (5) mgd expansion of effluent storage capacity is projected to be completed by 2029.

Adjacent sewer utilities providing service to Kent homes and businesses include Soos Creek Water & Sewer, the City of Auburn, Lakehaven Utility District, Midway Sewer District, the City of Tukwila and the City of Renton. Service connections exist between the City of Kent and these service purveyors, and interlocal agreements ensure continuous service. A complete inventory of sanitary sewer facilities and appropriate levels-of-service are found in the City of Kent Comprehensive Sewerage Plan, and operating comprehensive plans of adjacent purveyors of sewer service. These documents are on file with the City of Kent Public Works Department. Figure 8.3 illustrates the locations of the sanitary sewer service areas and facilities.
LEGEND
•• CITY LIMITS
•• POTENTIAL ANNEXATION AREA
 Metro Collector
 • SEWER PUMP STATION
 Kent Sewer Franchise Area
 Metro Collector
 Midway Sewer District
 Tukwila Sewer District
 Sewer District #23
 Sewer District #14
 Renton Sewer & Water
 Lakehaven Utility District
 Soos Creek Sewer & Water
 Auburn Sewer

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SEWER SERVICE AREAS & FACILITIES

FIGURE 8.3
Stormwater Management Facilities

The majority of the City of Kent is located within the Green River watershed, with stormwater flowing either directly to the Green River or to the Green River via a tributary creek. A smaller portion of the City, generally located west of I-5, flows either to Massey or McSorley Creeks, which drain directly to Puget Sound. Significant creek systems draining to the Green River are:

- Johnson Creek;
- Midway Creek;
- Mullen Slough;
- Mill Creek (Auburn);
- Mill Creek (Kent);
- Springbrook/Garrison Creek;
- Soosette Creek;
- Soos Creek/Meridian Valley Creek; and
- The “Lake Meridian Outlet” Creek.

The last three creeks listed are tributary to Big Soos Creek, which in turn drains to the Green River east of Auburn. Figure 8.4 illustrates the drainage basins of Kent’s storm drainage service area.

The stormwater system is comprised of an extensive network of ditches, pipes, and stormwater quantity and quality control facilities which connect individual parcels with the City’s surface water systems. The City also owns, operates and maintains several regional quantity and quality control facilities. These are the Green River Natural Resources Area (GRNRA), the Upper and Lower Mill Creek Detention Facilities, the 98th Avenue Garrison Creek Detention Facility, the Meridian Meadows Detention Facility, and the South 259th Street Detention Facility, the Horseshoe Acres Pump Station and the constructed wetland at Lake Fenwick.

Using the City’s GIS database records, the Drainage Master Plan (DMP) indicates a total of 17 City-wide drainage basins within the planning area (corporate limits) totaling approximately 28 square miles. In addition, the storm drainage system consists of approximately 285 miles of pipeline along with an extensive system of open channels. The DMP was structured to first look at the existing watersheds and drainage basins, determine the subbasins within the watershed, analyze any open channel components (receiving water) for insufficient capacity, determine and prioritize projects needed to reduce flood risks, improve water quality, enhance fish passage and instream/riparian habitats, and efficiently serve planned growth, determine alternative solutions to alleviate potential flooding, and determine cost-effective solutions to the identified needs. Each project within the DMP has been reviewed for multiple benefits then given either a “High, Medium, or Low” ranking. Further details on each project are located in Chapter 7, Table 7-1 of the DMP. Total project costs range from $52 Million to $67 Million.

The City has operated a stormwater utility since 1981 as a means of financing the design, construction, operation, and maintenance of the City’s surface water system. Fees are collected based on specific subbasin location, type of development, and percent impervious surface coverage. Revenue is used for operation and maintenance activities and capital improvement programs.

Specific requirements (level-of-service standards) for on-site stormwater management and stream protection are contained in the City’s 2002 Surface Water Design Manual, which is a modified
version of the 1998 King County Surface Water Design Manual. Portions of the stormwater system are improved to these standards as public and private development projects are constructed. These standards will be adjusted as necessary to meet equivalency requirements of the Washington State Department of Ecology Stormwater Management Manual for Western Washington (20015) in the future.

The Drainage Master Plan (DMP) encompasses all Capital Improvement Program (CIP) related projects for stormwater systems with the city limits. The 2008 DMP replaces the 1985 DMP and the Capital Improvement Programs completed individually for the Mill, Garrison, Springbrook Creek and Soos Creek Basin CIP. The 2008 DMP has incorporated elements of the CIP, such as flood conveyance needs for open channels, determination of replacement needs of the City’s stormwater pipe system, drainage facility requirements of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), and levee repair and replacement needs for flood protection along the Green River. The DMP further recommends specific projects for enhancing critical areas and fish passage and addresses engineering staff needs to oversee such projects.

Program components of the DMP include compliance with the Washington State Department of Ecology (DOE)-mandated Nation Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase II Permit and Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Programs. These unfunded federally mandated programs were included in the DMP to determine if there were deficiencies in the City’s current operation and maintenance and monitoring programs and identify subsequent additional workload and staff requirements needed to fully meet the permit requirements. The DMP has included recommendations to meet the required elements of the TMDL and NPDES Phase II Permit for tracking, monitoring, maintenance, and operation elements including the necessary resources to meet these needs.

Critical area habitat protection is an important aspect of water quality, habitat protection and flood protection. To be successful in improving the water quality of the streams and open channel systems within the City, there is a continuing priority of acquisition of buffers along the main stream corridors. Section 8 of the DMP further discusses the needs of this program and provides areas of potential expansion of habitat protection. As properties become available, the City’s environmental engineering section will continue to pursue grant funding and work towards the protection of habitat and water quality.

The existing storm drainage pipelines, approximately 285 miles, form a labyrinthian connection of pipes, catch basins, and manholes under the public right of ways with the ability to alleviate the surface flooding that would occur on the city streets. As these pipes age and reach their service life, a replacement program has been established by the PW Operations and Maintenance staff to repair or replace segments of the pipes each year. During the life of the pipe system, segments may be targeted also for improvements before the end of the service life, usually due to inadequate capacity after years of development. An analysis was completed of the existing storm drainage pipes within the City. A total length of 135,000 feet of 18" or larger diameter pipe was analyzed for capacity and 55,350 feet or 41% has failed to meet the minimum requirements for passing a 25-year storm event. These systems are noted within the DMP for updating.

As a result of the 1998 listing of Chinook Salmon and Bull Trout listing under the Federal Endangered Species Act, the City has been participating in various regional salmon restoration efforts, including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Green/Duwamish Ecosystem Restoration Program and the steering committees for Watershed Resource Inventory Areas (WRIA) 8 and 9. WRIA 8 includes the watersheds of the Cedar and Sammamish Rivers as well as Lake Washington.

*Capital Facilities*
FIGURE 8.4

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WRJA 9 includes the Green/Duwamish River Watershed as well as some nearshore area of Puget Sound. The salmon recovery plans will require capital expenditures for various stream restoration projects. There is a possibility of federal and state matching funds for these projects.

King County and its cities (including Kent) also participate in the King County Flood Control Zone District. The District is funded by a property tax on parcels county-wide. The principal responsibility of the District is the maintenance and repair of all levee systems within King County.

In addition, the City is involved in other regional programs to provide an expanded greenway along the Green River. This involvement may require future capital expenditures.

The inventory of current stormwater management facilities is on file with the City of Kent Public Works Department.

**Stormwater Management Facilities Financing Options**

The City has operated a stormwater utility since 1981 as a means of financing the design, construction, operation, and maintenance of the City’s surface water system. Fees are collected based on specific subbasin location, type of development, and percent of impervious surface coverage. Revenue is used for operation and maintenance activities and capital improvement programs.

A number of funding options are available to the City to meet the needs of a fully functional stormwater program. The options typically used are street funds, general funds, special assessments (Local Improvement Districts), special fees, general facility charges, fees in lieu of on-site detention, public – private partnerships, conventional debt, special grants and loans, and stormwater utility charges. **A further discussion of these types of funding follows:**

A Street Fund sets aside a portion of the drainage infrastructure often constructed with streets, and the street department tends to provide system maintenance in the right of way. However, stormwater management is not the primary function of a street department, and competing demands for these limited street funds may not be the most appropriate means to actively promote the City’s ongoing objectives in stormwater management. Therefore, securing funding for the DMP through the street fund is not an option.

The General Fund, as with the street fund, is a non-dedicated funding source for stormwater programs, is subject to competing demands on an annual basis, and therefore proves to be an unreliable source for ongoing commitments. The City currently does not use the general fund as a revenue source for the stormwater program and it is assumed this will not be a source of future drainage program funding.

The third type of funding is special assessments, also known as Local Improvement Districts (LID). LIDs are most appropriate for specific capital improvements that benefit identifiable geographic service areas. By nature, these options are voluntary; that is, the property owners choose through a vote whether or not to accept the assessment on themselves. This restriction causes program funding to be unreliable; furthermore, the assessed valuation basis of charging provides only a loose nexus between the amount charged and the benefit received. The City currently is assuming that no funding will be secured from the use of Special Assessments or Local Improvement Districts for the DMP implementation.
A fourth funding option would involve the City charging special fees for operating activities such as inspections. These fees are best applied when they are set to recover the costs, or a portion of the costs, of the specific activity for which payment was received. Special fees are not generally intended to fund an ongoing stormwater program in its entirety; however, they would be well suited for the recovery of specific program-related costs. The DMP is currently not funded through Special Fees, and using a conservative funding approach, these Special Fees are not included as a funding source at this time.

General Facility Charges (GFC) are one time fees paid at the time of development and are intended to recover an equitable share of the costs of existing and planned future facilities that provide capacity for growth. They are an essential tool used to recover the cost of growth from growth. Estimated future revenues from the GFC are expected to average $860,000 per year. Current estimates are for a potential of approximately 13,000 additional ESUs within the City, and GFCs for those could be a source of revenue in the next 10 years assuming that the development will occur in that time period. A high estimate using the City’s current GFC per ESU would generate approximately $16 million over 10 years, assuming all development would occur within the next 10 years.

Creating a fee in lieu of on-site detention is another method of funding required capital projects. The fees are most appropriately used to fund regional facilities through the payments of developing properties. These fees are collected when a developing property decides not to construct facilities to mitigate runoff on site. As such, fees in lieu must be used in concert with requirements for on-site mitigation and a community’s goals favoring regional facilities over on-site solutions. When a property does construct such facilities, the fee is not charged. While effective in funding a part of (regional) infrastructure construction, fees in lieu are not a reliable source for ongoing stormwater programs. Due to the high cost of the purchase of buildings and real estate for additional new regional detention facilities, and the potential for widening of stream channels and expansion of existing regional detention facilities, additional regional detention facilities are not included in the DMP.

Another funding option is a Public/Private Partnership for funding a portion of the DMP. This partnership is a different approach to funding stormwater capital construction and results in joint or private funding of specific improvements. This approach helps mitigate the direct impacts of new development. While a popular idea, in practice it is difficult to persuade private development to fund stormwater projects if other funding alternatives are available to the City. Estimates of future funding developed from public/private partnerships are not incorporated into the drainage fund as there would be no guarantee of a level of funding able to fund the projects and programs included within the DMP.

A Conventional Debt, such as revenue bonds and general obligation bonds, is available to fund stormwater capital construction. While these mechanisms are well suited for funding large capital construction projects, an ongoing revenue stream is required to support the annual debt service owed on the amount borrowed. The low estimate for incurring conventional debt is $10 million over the next 10 years for the DMP. The high estimate is a series of new revenue bonds issued every 2 to 3 years depending on the project need over the next 10 years. The high estimate would be approximately $218 million generated in conventional debt to fund implementation of the DMP.
Special Grants and Loans could be used as a supplement to conventional debt service. Special grants and loans may be an important option for the City. Many state and federal programs are available for applications, including the Centennial Clean Water Fund, the Public Works Trust Fund, the State Revolving Fund, the Flood Control Assistance Account Program, and the Federal 319 Non-point Source Program. These programs draw more applications every year than there are available funds, and they are highly competitive. Most of the assistance programs award aid in the form of low interest loans that still require an ongoing revenue stream to support payback or a percentage of matching contributions by the City. Although the DMP will continue to pursue special grants and loans funding sources, it is risky to base future revenue funding on past success of securing grants. A low estimate of grant availability is $50,000 per year, and a high estimate is $500,000 per year.

The storm water utility service charge provides a significant portion of the stormwater management costs. The utility service charges are recovered through ongoing rates to utility customers. This option is and could continue to be a financially independent entity free of reliance on the other City funds, with all of its revenues dedicated to surface water management programs and capital construction. Currently, the City receives approximately $8.6 million in stormwater utility service charges per year, a low estimate assuming that the rate would not change. A high estimate, including future growth as stated within the GMA, would include an assumed increase within the utility rate to increase revenues collected to $12 million per year.

The City’s existing rate structure features area- or basin-specific rates, a density multiplier, and an impervious surface area basis. Details of the rate structure can be found in Section 10.5 of the DMP. Under the existing rate structure, all customers pay a uniform base rate, $2.57 per month. Additionally, a basin specific rate is charged ranging from $1.68 per month to $5.05 per month. There are 17 basins and these basins are grouped into eight different basin specific rate categories. Refer to Section 10.5 of the DMP and Kent City Code 7.05.090 for additional information. The key assumptions used within the rate study are as follows: a customer base annual growth rate of 0.58 percent, an annual inflation rate of 4 percent, personnel benefits costs escalation of 6 percent per year, construction cost escalation of 5 percent per year, and an annual fund earnings rate of 2.5 percent. The Capital Improvement Projects for stormwater systems and the drainage component of the street projects are assumed to be implemented over a 10-year period (2009 to 2018). Finally, system replacement funding will be equal to annual depreciation expense.

Water Supply, Distribution, and Storage Facilities

The service area of the City of Kent Water Utility encompasses twenty-four (24) square miles and serves most of the incorporated City. Some small areas of unincorporated King County and the City of Auburn are also served by the City of Kent Water Utility. Adjacent franchise areas of neighboring water purveyors serve the remainder of Kent and the PAA. To the east, the service area boundary coincides with the boundary of Water District No. 111 and the Soos Creek Sewer and Water District. To the north, the service area boundary coincides with the mutual Kent/Renton and Kent/Tukwila city limits. To the west, it coincides with Highline Water District’s boundary, and to the south, the City’s service area boundary coincides with the City of Auburn, and Lakehaven Utility District.

The principal sources of water supply for the City’s proprietary water system are Kent Springs and Clark Springs. During high demand periods, the capacity of these two sources is exceeded, and supplemental well facilities are activated. These sources are adequate to meet current and near
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future peak day demands, however, they are insufficient to meet long term peak day demands. In 2002, the City executed an agreement to participate as a partner along with Tacoma Water Utility, Covington Water District, and Lakehaven Utility District in the Green River Second Supply Water Project. Water from this source of supply, coupled with the City's existing sources, is sufficient to meet the City's long-term peak day demand projections.

System wide, annual water consumption is roughly 2.7 billion gallons, with average day demands of 7.5 million gallons per day and peak day usage of approximately 13.75 million gallons per day. Utilizing current land use and population projections for 2030, annual use would rise to 3.6 billion gallons, or 9.9 million gallons per day. Existing water supply can produce roughly three times this amount, or 30 million gallons per day; however, additional storage reservoirs will be needed to deliver this water to customers.

Water system interties are presently available with the Highline Water District, the City of Tukwila, the City of Renton, the Soos Creek Sewer and Water District, Water District No. 111, the City of Auburn, and the City of Tacoma. However, based on water use projections developed for the Water System Plan, these interties would only be required to serve as emergency back-up if problems with existing sources were to arise.

The water distribution system exists throughout the City's service area. Expansion will take place almost entirely through infill development, which will be accomplished primarily through developer extensions. Most of the remaining projects identified in the City's Comprehensive Water System Plan would be constructed to provide water service at existing levels of service. However, several key improvements to the system have been identified. Proposed projects include construction of a new maintenance facility on Kent's East Hill, development of a new 640 pressure zone on the East Hill to improve water pressures at high elevations, a new reservoir on the West Hill to meet increasing storage demands, and water main replacements, including upsizing older portions of the distribution system to improve capacity.

The Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) list developed for the Comprehensive Water System Plan was based on identifying: 1) system deficiencies via a hydraulic modeling analysis, 2) long-term maintenance and operations needs, and 3) projects that are required to meet local, state and federal requirements. The existing water system has and continues to provide clean, safe, and reliable water; however, improvements to the system are needed to improve it for future development and meet existing requirements. The costs of improvements to the water system range from $150-million to $160 million in 2008 dollars, and funding of these projects will be accomplished through a combination of water rate increases and bonding.

A Comprehensive Water System Plan update is required by the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) every six (6) years. The City's most recent Water System Plan was submitted to DOH in 2002 completed in 2008. Adjacent water utilities providing service to Kent homes and businesses include Soos Creek Water & Sewer, the City of Auburn, Lakehaven Utility District, Highline Water District, King County Water District #111 and the City of Renton. Service connections exist between the City of Kent and these service purveyors, and interlocal agreements ensure continuous service. Water supply service area and facilities serving Kent's Planning Area are illustrated on Figure 8.5. A detailed inventory of current water system facilities, and City water rights records, and operating plans of adjacent service agencies are on file with the City of Kent Public Works Department. As noted previously, the purchase of additional water rights from the
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Tacoma P5 Pipeline project will provide a sufficient supply of water for future peak demand for the next twenty years.

TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES

Within the City there are city, state, county, and private roads totaling 273.38 centerline miles. Of those that the City maintains, there are 48.02 lane miles of Principle Arterials; 116.51 lane miles of Minor Arterials; 129.84 lane miles of Collectors; and 241.91 lane miles of Residential roads. There are also nine (9) bridges in Kent. A complete assessment of transportation facilities is considered in the Comprehensive Plan Transportation Element, and the Comprehensive Transportation Plan anticipated in 2004. Figure 9.1 and 9.3 found in the Transportation Element illustrates Kent’s transportation facilities.

PUBLIC EDUCATION FACILITIES AND LEVEL-OF-SERVICE

Most of Kent’s residential areas are served by the Kent School District No. 415. The Renton School District serves students from an area of Kent near the north city limits, and Kent students residing along the western city limits attend Federal Way Schools or Highline Schools. Kent students residing along the southern city limits might attend Auburn Schools. Most school districts also have historically considered acceptance of transfer requests or waivers for students residing in households located outside of district boundaries. Detailed inventories of school district capital facilities and levels-of-service are contained in the Capital Facilities Plan (CFP) of each school district. The CFPs of the Kent, Auburn and Federal Way School Districts have been adopted as part of the City’s Capital Facilities Element. Updates of the CFPs of these three (3) districts reflect changes in their CIPs, and school impact fees assessed on residential development within Kent are adopted annually. CFPs for other school districts serving Kent households are incorporated by reference, although no school impact fees are collected by these school districts for residential development within Kent. Estimated total student enrollment figures of Kent’s Planning Area households for each school district are provided in the Table 8.7 below.

Locations of schools within the Kent School District and the boundaries of other school districts serving Kent’s Planning Area are illustrated in Figure 8.6.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 8.7</th>
<th>ESTIMATED STUDENT ENROLLMENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16,909</td>
<td>108</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PUBLIC LIBRARY FACILITIES AND LEVEL-OF-SERVICE

The City of Kent is served by the King County Library System in the 22,500 square foot Kent Library building at 212 2nd Avenue West, which was built in 1992. Replacement of a portion of the roofing for the Kent Library is anticipated to occur during the next ten years. The King County Library System is planning to develop 10,000 square feet of library space in the East Hill area, pending passage of a bond measure scheduled tentatively for March 2004. The Covington Library facility, which serves many Kent East Hill residents, would also become the largest library in South King County after a planned 15,000 square foot expansion. Detailed information regarding the King County Library System is available on the internet at www.kcls.org.

Location of the Kent Library building and King County libraries located in proximity to Kent’s Planning Area are illustrated in Figure 8.6.
CAPITAL FACILITIES PLAN COSTS & REVENUES

The following section outlines the capital costs and financing for the public facilities which are provided by the City of Kent per the most recent Capital Improvement Program (CIP) (see Figure 8.7 and Table 8.8). This type of information for the Kent, Auburn and Federal Way School districts is available in the districts’ capital facilities plans, which have been adopted by reference as part of the Capital Facilities Element.

Figure 8.7
2004 – 2009 CAPITAL FACILITIES PLAN
PROJECT COST STATISTICS
(In 000’s)

Table 8.8
2004 – 2009 CAPITAL FACILITIES PROJECTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Projects</th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>11,220</td>
<td>2,804</td>
<td>1,521</td>
<td>2,599</td>
<td>2,768</td>
<td>1,853</td>
<td>22,765</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Safety</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>9,745</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>10,665</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parks, Recreation &amp; Community Services</td>
<td>3,891</td>
<td>2,789</td>
<td>5,595</td>
<td>3,568</td>
<td>3,323</td>
<td>3,796</td>
<td>22,962</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Government</td>
<td>1,010</td>
<td>985</td>
<td>8,047</td>
<td>954</td>
<td>11,093</td>
<td>4,637</td>
<td>26,726</td>
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<tr>
<td>Utility Fund Projects</td>
<td>1,737</td>
<td>10,063</td>
<td>4,229</td>
<td>6,122</td>
<td>21,593</td>
<td>2,647</td>
<td>46,392</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Projects</strong></td>
<td>17,938</td>
<td>16,881</td>
<td>29,137</td>
<td>13,443</td>
<td>38,977</td>
<td>13,133</td>
<td>129,510</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Not included in this plan:
Estimated $40,000,000 voted bond issue for Public Safety.
FINANCING

The revenue sources that are available to the City of Kent for capital facilities include taxes, fees and charges, and grants. Title 3 of the Kent City Code, Revenue & Finance, specifies the collection and allocation of revenue sources. Some sources of revenue for capital facilities can also be used for operating costs. A comprehensive list of revenue sources and a discussion of limitations on the use of each revenue source is contained in the Capital Improvement Program (CIP). Existing City revenues are not forecast, nor are they diverted to capital expenditures from maintenance and operations.

The financing plan for these capital improvements includes the revenues listed in the pie chart below (see Figure 8.8 and Table 8.9). The chart lists the major categories of Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) revenue sources and the amount contributed by each source.

Detailed project lists and financing plans are contained in the Capital Improvements Program (CIP). As noted earlier, annual updates to the CIP and City Budget Document are incorporated by reference into this Capital Facilities Element.

Figure 8.8
2004 – 2009 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM SOURCES OF FUNDS
(In 000's)
Table 8.9
SOURCES OF CIP FUNDS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sources of Funds</th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Capital Improvement Fund</td>
<td>2,191</td>
<td>2,219</td>
<td>2,280</td>
<td>2,293</td>
<td>2,353</td>
<td>1,927</td>
<td>13,263</td>
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<tr>
<td>Street Fund</td>
<td>1,320</td>
<td>1,804</td>
<td>1,521</td>
<td>1,399</td>
<td>1,468</td>
<td>1,203</td>
<td>8,715</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utility Funds</td>
<td>1,737</td>
<td>8,563</td>
<td>2,979</td>
<td>6,122</td>
<td>2,593</td>
<td>1,397</td>
<td>23,392</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internal Service Funds</td>
<td>745</td>
<td>765</td>
<td>940</td>
<td>734</td>
<td>873</td>
<td>667</td>
<td>4,724</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>1,225</td>
<td>470</td>
<td>2,440</td>
<td>1,555</td>
<td>1,050</td>
<td>1,200</td>
<td>7,940</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bond Proceeds</td>
<td></td>
<td>18,737</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>29,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PW Trust Fund Loan</td>
<td>9,000</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td></td>
<td>500</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>11,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Funding Sources</td>
<td>1,720</td>
<td>1,560</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>840</td>
<td>1,640</td>
<td>1,739</td>
<td>7,739</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Sources of Funds</strong></td>
<td>17,938</td>
<td>16,881</td>
<td>29,137</td>
<td>13,443</td>
<td>38,977</td>
<td>13,133</td>
<td>129,510</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Not included in this plan:
Estimated $40,000,000 voted bond issue for Public Safety.
PUBLIC SERVICES & CAPITAL FACILITIES GOALS AND POLICIES
GENERAL GOALS & POLICIES

Goal CF-1:
As the City of Kent continues to grow and develop, ensure that an adequate supply and range of public services and capital facilities are available to provide satisfactory standards of public health, safety, and quality of life.

Policy CF-1.1: Assess impacts of residential, commercial and employment growth on public services and facilities in a manner consistent with adopted levels-of-service.

Policy CF-1.2: Ensure that public services and capital facilities needs are addressed in updates to Capital Facilities Plans and Capital Improvement Programs, and development regulations as appropriate.

Policy CF-1.3: To ensure financial feasibility, provide needed public services and facilities that the City has the ability to fund, or that the City has the authority to require others to provide.

Policy CF-1.4: Periodically review the Land Use Element to ensure that public services and capital facilities needs, financing and levels-of-service of the Capital Facilities Element are consistent and adequate to serve growth where it is desired.

Policy CF-1.5: Coordinate the review of non-City managed capital facilities plans to ensure consistency with the City of Kent Comprehensive Plan.

Goal CF-2:
Base standards for levels-of-service upon the appropriate provision of public services and facilities as outlined in the operating comprehensive plans of the City and other providers of services and facilities to Kent and its Potential Annexation Area.

Policy CF-2.1: Establish levels-of-service appropriate to the core mission of City departments in their provision of services and access of facilities to the public.

Policy CF-2.2: When appropriate and beneficial to the City, its citizens, businesses, and customers, pursue national organizational accreditation for all City of Kent agencies providing public services and facilities. Such accreditation should be linked with performance standards applied by City agencies.
Policy CF-2.3: Coordinate with other jurisdictions and providers of services and facilities to ensure that the provision of services and facilities are generally consistent for all Kent residents, businesses, and others enjoying City services and facilities.

Goal CF-3:
Encourage effective non-capital alternatives to maintain or improve adopted levels-of-service. Such alternatives could include programs for community education and awareness, energy conservation, or integration of methods and technologies to improve service delivery.

Goal CF-4:
Ensure that appropriate funding sources are available to acquire or bond for the provision of needed public services and facilities.

POLICE AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES GOALS & POLICIES

Goal CF-5:
Ensure that residents, visitors and businesses in Kent continue to feel safe throughout our community.

Policy CF-5.1: Establish, maintain, and monitor effective services and programs with the goal of increasing the sense of safety throughout our community. Such services and programs should be consistent with other Comprehensive Plan goals and policies.

Goal CF-6:
Establish, maintain and strengthen community relationships through direct contact opportunities, community awareness, education and volunteer programs.

Policy CF-6.1: Establish and maintain direct contact between representatives of the Police Department and concerned citizens, community groups, schools, business operators, local media, and human services providers.

Policy CF-6.2: Establish and maintain community education programs that promote the awareness of public safety, community-based crime prevention, domestic violence prevention, alcohol and substance abuse, and available human services for impacted populations.

Policy CF-6.3: Establish and maintain volunteer programs that meet the Police Department objectives of increasing community awareness, involvement, public safety, and crime prevention.
Goal CF-7:
Maintain responsive, quality patrol service throughout Kent’s service area and other areas requiring response capability assistance.

Policy CF-7.1: Consider average response times as a level-of-service measure in assessing needs for patrol service improvements.

Policy CF-7.2: Maintain or improve annually-calculated average response times to emergency calls, where potential loss of life or confirmed hazards exist.

Policy CF-7.3: Maintain or improve annually-calculated average response times to non-emergency calls, where no immediate danger or potential loss of life is indicated.

Policy CF-7.4: Coordinate with the City Information Technology Department and the Valley Communications Center to improve response times.

Policy CF-7.5: Periodically evaluate the effectiveness of existing patrol practices, and research best practices as appropriate.

Policy CF-7.6: Provide staff training as needed to incorporate best practices that will improve responsiveness of patrol services.

Policy CF-7.7: To improve long-term patrol service effectiveness, work with various members of the community to improve staff awareness of localized issues and community resources.

Goal CF-8:
Provide effective and professional investigation services.

Policy CF-8.1: Consider annually-calculated crime clearance rates as a level-of-service measure in assessing needs for patrol service improvements.

Policy CF-8.2: Maintain or improve annually-calculated Part I crime clearance rates, which is a measure of the rate of arrests or clearances for reported crimes.

Policy CF-8.3: Periodically evaluate the effectiveness of existing investigations practices, and research best practices as appropriate.

Policy CF-8.4: Provide staff training as needed to incorporate best practices that will improve responsiveness of investigations services.
Policy CF-8.5: To improve long-term investigations service effectiveness, work with various members of the community to improve staff awareness of localized issues and community resources.

Goal CF-9:
Provide effective corrections services that protect the community and reduce repeat offenses among corrections clients.

Policy CF-9.1: Coordinate with the Kent Municipal Court to ensure appropriate correctional processes and facilities are available for criminal offenders.

Policy CF-9.2: Maintain or improve facilities available for the incarceration of criminal offenders. If additional facilities capacity is necessary, coordinate with other agencies to locate and provide appropriate facilities for the purposes of incarceration.

Policy CF-9.3: Establish and maintain effective alternatives to incarceration for lesser criminal offenses.

Policy CF-9.4: Periodically evaluate the effectiveness of existing corrections practices, and research best practices as appropriate.

Policy CF-9.5: Provide staff training as needed to incorporate best practices that will improve responsiveness of corrections services.

Policy CF-9.6: Acquire and maintain accreditation through the American Corrections Association.

FIRE & LIFE SAFETY SERVICES GOALS & POLICIES

Goal CF-10:
Ensure that residents, visitors and businesses in Kent continue to feel safe and prepared for emergency response throughout our community.

Policy CF-10.1: Establish, maintain, and monitor effective services and programs with the goal of increasing the sense of life safety and emergency preparedness throughout our community. Such services and programs should be consistent with other Comprehensive Plan goals and policies.
Goal CF-11: Establish, maintain and strengthen community relationships through direct contact opportunities, community awareness, education and volunteer programs.

Policy CF-11.1: Establish and maintain direct contact between representatives of the Fire Department and concerned citizens, community groups, schools, business operators, developers and building contractors, local media, and human services providers.

Policy CF-11.2: Establish and maintain community education programs that promote the awareness of life safety, fire prevention, hazardous materials, and available human services for impacted populations of emergency events.

Goal CF-12:
Promote an understanding that preventative measures and appropriate responses to emergency events are a critical factor in limiting the extent of impacts resulting from an initial event.

Goal CF-13:
Establish and maintain responsive, quality fire and life hazard prevention services throughout Kent’s service area and other areas.

Policy CF-13.1: Maintain or improve the level of confidence citizens have in their ability to respond to personal or household emergencies.

Policy CF-13.2: Maintain or improve the level of confidence citizens have in their ability to respond to natural or man-made disasters that could impact their community.

Policy CF-13.3: Periodically evaluate the effectiveness of existing fire and life hazard prevention practices, and research best practices as appropriate.

Policy CF-13.4: Provide staff training as needed to incorporate best practices that will improve responsiveness of fire and life hazard prevention services.

Policy CF-13.5: To improve long-term fire and life hazard prevention service effectiveness, work with various members of the community to improve staff awareness of localized issues and community resources.

Goal CF-14:
Provide effective, efficient, equitable and professional fire suppression and emergency medical response services throughout the City of Kent Fire Department service area.
Policy CF-14.1: Consider the response time percentage as the primary level-of-service measure in assessing needs for fire suppression and emergency medical response service improvements.

Policy CF-14.2: Maintain or improve the level-of-service to emergency calls, where fire or other community safety hazards are reported to exist.

Policy CF-14.3: Maintain or improve the level-of-service to personal emergency medical calls, where no immediate danger exists to the community-at-large.

Policy CF-14.4: Periodically evaluate the effectiveness of existing fire suppression and emergency medical response service practices, and research best practices as appropriate.

Policy CF-14.5: Provide staff training as needed to incorporate best practices that will improve responsiveness of fire suppression and emergency medical response services.

Policy CF-14.6: To improve long-term fire suppression and emergency medical response service effectiveness, work with various members of the community to improve staff awareness of localized issues and community resources.

PARKS, RECREATION & COMMUNITY SERVICES
GOALS & POLICIES

The goals, policies and levels-of-service (LOS) appropriate to the services provided by the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department are contained in the Park & Open Space; Housing; and Human Services Elements of this Comprehensive Plan.

PUBLIC UTILITIES SERVICES GOALS AND POLICIES

Goal CF-15:
Ensure that public utilities services throughout the City, its Potential Annexation Area (PAA) and other areas receiving such services are adequate to accommodate anticipated growth without significantly degrading the levels-of-service for existing customers.

Policy CF-15.1: Establish, maintain, and monitor effective provision of public utilities services and facilities.

Policy CF-15.2: Coordinate the planning and provision of public utilities services and facilities with other agencies providing such services to Kent and PAA homes and businesses.
Policy CF-15.3: Consider existing demand units in assessing levels-of-service for future provision of services and facilities.

Goal CF-16:
Foster recognition of the significant role played by natural features and systems in the appropriate siting, design and provision of public utility services.

Policy CF-16.1: Educate City staff, developers, and other citizens on the interaction between natural features and systems, such as wetlands, streams, and geologically hazardous areas, and the provision of public utility services.

Goal CF-17:
Coordinate with individuals and organizations to create a long-term, sustainable strategy for local and regional natural resource protection.

Policy CF-17.1: Continue to evaluate operating plans, programs, regulations, and public facility designs to determine their effectiveness in contributing to the conservation and recovery of species listed under the Endangered Species Act.

Policy CF-17.2: Continue to participate in regional and Water Resource Inventory Area planning efforts to support the conservation of listed species.

Policy CF 17.3: Continue to participate in local and county wide flood control efforts to support the repair and maintenance of flood control facilities.

Goal CF-18:
Support environmental quality in capital improvement programs, implementation programs, and public facility designs to ensure that local land use management and public service provision is consistent with the City's overall natural resource goals.

Policy CF-18.1: Protect and enhance environmental quality via maintenance of accurate and up-to-date environmental data associated with public services and facilities.

Policy CF-18.2: Provide public service agencies with general and site-specific environmental information to identify possible on and off-site constraints and special development procedures as early in the facility planning process as is possible.
Policy CF-18.3: Indemnify the City from damages resulting from development in naturally constrained areas. To the extent possible or feasible, require accurate and valid environmental information.

Policy CF-18.4: Continue a periodic storm drainage/environmental inspection program to ensure constant maintenance and upkeep of storm systems and on-going compliance with general environmental processes.

Policy CF-18.5: Ensure that decisions regarding fundamental site design are made prior to the initiation of land surface modifications. Grade and fill permits, which do not include site development plans, may be issued by the City where such activities do not disturb sensitive areas, such as wetlands.

Policy CF-18.6: Require site restoration if land surface modification violates adopted policy or if development does not ensue within a reasonable period of time.

Policy CF-18.7: As additional land is annexed to the City, assign zoning designations, plan for appropriate public facilities locations and capacities in a manner that will protect natural resources and environmentally sensitive areas.

Policy CF-18.8: Continue to support waste reduction and recycling programs in City facilities, and in the City at large, to meet State and County waste reduction and recycling goals.

Policy CF-18.9: Work cooperatively with tribal, federal, state and local jurisdictions, as well as major stakeholders, to conserve and work towards recovery of ESA listed threatened and endangered species.

Goal CF-19:
Protect and enhance natural resources for multiple benefits, including recreation, fish and wildlife resources and habitat, flood protection, water supply, and open space.

Policy CF-19.1: Maintain the quantity and quality of wetlands via current land use regulation and review, and increase the quality and quantity of the City's wetlands resource base via incentives and advance planning.
Policy CF-19.2: Protect wetlands not as isolated units, but as ecosystems, and essential elements of watersheds. Base protection measures on wetland functions and values, impact on water supply quality and quantity, and the effects of on-site and off-site activities.

Policy CF-19.2: When jurisdictional boundaries are involved coordinate wetland protection and enhancement plans and actions with adjacent jurisdictions and the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe.

Policy CF-19.3: Maintain rivers and streams in their natural state. Rehabilitate degraded channels and banks via public programs and in conjunction with proposed new development.

Policy CF-19.4: On a regular basis, evaluate the adequacy of the existing public facilities operating plans, regulations and maintenance practices in relation to goals for water resource and fisheries and wildlife resource protection. When necessary, modify these plans, regulations and practices to achieve resource protection goals.

Policy CF-19.5: Protect the quality and quantity of groundwater used for water supply.

Policy CF-19.6: Update the City of Kent Critical Areas Maps as new information about aquifer recharge areas and wellhead protection areas becomes available.

Policy CF-19.7: In accordance with GMA regulations, update public facilities operating plans and regulations to identify, protect, and preserve wildlife species and areas of local significance.

Policy CF-19.8: Protect the habitat of native and migratory wildlife by encouraging open space conservation of beneficial habitat through public capital improvement projects.

Goal CF-20:
Ensure that public facilities development on lands adjacent to the shorelines of the Green River are compatible with shoreline uses and resource values, and support the goals and policies of the City of Kent's Shoreline Master Program.

Policy CF-20.1: Minimize the loss of vegetation with development and operation of new public facilities. Continue to recognize the value of trees and other vegetation in protecting water quality.
Policy CF-20.2: Promote and support a systematic approach to enhancing the City-owned facilities through carefully planned plantings and ongoing maintenance of street trees, public landscaping, and greenbelts. Require the use of native and low water use vegetation.

Policy CF-20.3: Require protection of ecologically valuable vegetation, when possible, during all phases of public facilities development. In cases where development necessitates the removal of vegetation, require an appropriate amount of native or low water use landscaping to replace trees, shrubs, and ground cover, which were removed during development.

Policy CF-20.4: Record and protect established greenbelts associated with public facilities to preserve existing natural vegetation in geologically hazardous areas, along stream banks, wetlands, and other habitat areas, and where visual buffers between uses or activities are desirable.

Goal CF-21:
Regulate development of public facilities in environmentally critical areas to prevent harm, to protect public health and safety, to preserve remaining critical areas, and enhance degraded critical areas in the City.

Policy CF-21.1: Encourage appropriate enhancement of existing environmental features such as rivers, streams, creeks, and wetlands.

Goal CF-22:
Implement and maintain a stormwater management program that assures compliance with the requirements of the Western Washington Phase II Municipal Stormwater Permit which is part of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination Program administered by the Washington State Department of Ecology.

Policy CF-22.1: Reduce the discharge of pollutants to the maximum extent practicable.

Policy CF-22.2: Use all known, available, and reasonable methods of prevention, control and treatment to prevent and control pollution of waters of the state of Washington.

Policy CF-22.3: Implement an education program aimed at residents, businesses, industries, elected officials, policy makers, planning staff and other employees of the City. The goal of the education program is to reduce or eliminate behaviors and practices that cause or contribute to adverse stormwater impacts.
Policy CF-22.4: Provide ongoing opportunities for public involvement through advisory councils, watershed committees, participation in developing rate-structures, stewardship programs, environmental activities or other similar activities.

Policy CF-22.5: Implement an ongoing program to detect and remove illicit connections, discharges, and improper disposal, including any spills not under the purview of another responding authority, into the municipal separate storm sewers owned or operated by the City.

Policy CF-22.6: Develop, implement, and enforce a program to reduce pollutants in stormwater runoff from new development, redevelopment and construction site activities.

Policy CF-22.7: Develop and implement an operations and maintenance program that includes a training component and has the ultimate goal of preventing or reducing pollutant runoff from municipal operations.

Policy CF-22.8: Develop a comprehensive long-term stormwater monitoring program. The monitoring program will include two components: stormwater monitoring and targeted Stormwater Management Program effectiveness monitoring.

Policy CF-22.9: Produce an annual report which includes the city's detailed Stormwater Management Plan, tracking elements, and documentation of compliance with the Phase II permit.

Goal CF-23:
Encourage environmental sensitivity and low-impact development principles in the design and construction of all projects.

Policy CF-23.1: Encourage participation in low-impact development and environmentally sensitive builder programs.

Policy CF-23.2: Adopt development standards that minimize environmental impacts of development through an appropriate balance of regulations and incentives. Incentives could be tied to compliance with criteria applied throughout the development process.

Policy CF-23.3: Set public facility projects of the City as an example by incorporating techniques of low-impact development design, construction, operation and maintenance.

Goal CF-24:
Capital Facilities
Promote Low-Impact Development and limited disturbance of natural hydrological systems, so that water quantity and quality are protected throughout the development process and occupation of the site.

**Policy CF-24:** Establish site design criteria for allowing natural hydrological systems to function with minimum or no modification.

**Policy CF-24.2:** Promote the use of rain gardens, open ditches or swales, and pervious driveways and parking areas in site design to maximize infiltration of stormwater and minimize runoff into environmentally critical areas.

**Policy CF-24.3:** Promote inclusion of passive rainwater collection systems in site and architectural design for non-potable water (gray-water) storage and use, thereby saving potable (drinking) water for ingestion.

**Goal CF-25:**
Provide water to the City's existing customers and for future development consistent with the short and long range goals of the City.

**Policy CF-25.1:** Maintain a constant supply of municipal water for existing and future customers and future development consistent with the short and long range planning goals of the City.

**Policy CF-25.2:** Identify capital improvement projects needed to meet the potable water supply and fire protection needs of current customers and the forecast for future demand within the areas served by the City of Kent Water System.

**Policy CF-25.3:** Identify and implement funding mechanisms necessary to construct capital improvement projects to meet existing and future system requirements and projected growth.

**Policy CF-25.4:** Implement a maintenance program to ensure the system is operated as efficiently as possible. Utilize the City's Infrastructure Management System to 1) track system component inventory, 2) record maintenance history and 3) produce preventative maintenance work schedules for the water system infrastructure.

**Policy CF-25.5:** Ensure system capacity (i.e. sources, pump stations transmission mains, etc.) is sufficient to meet current and projected peak day demand and fire flow conditions.
Policy CF-25.6: Seek to meet future supply needs with existing and new sources of supply under the City’s ownership or partnering.

Policy CF-25.7: Maintain an efficient water supply system through the identification and repair of distribution leakage and other water system losses, and reducing other system water uses as they are proven cost effective.

Goal CF-26:
Protect public health and safety by providing an adequate supply of high quality water to the City’s customers. The City will pursue steps to ensure that it will continue to meet or exceed all water quality laws and standards.

Policy CF-26.1: Maintain a stringent water quality monitoring and cross-connection control program consistent with current federal and state drinking water regulations.

Policy CF-26.2: Maintain adequate water supply and infrastructure to meet water system needs and fire flow demands throughout the areas served by the City.

Policy CF-26.3: Utilize reasonable measures to protect the water system and the water quality and quantity provided to customers. Give priority to those security improvements identified as being the most critical or those providing the most cost effective benefit to the water system.

Policy CF-26.4: Develop and maintain an emergency response plan to eliminate or reduce the significant impacts to customers and the water system in the event of an emergency.

Policy CF-26.5: Ensure staff are continuously available to respond to water system issues and emergencies.

Goal CF-27:
The City of Kent recognizes a clean water supply as a critical and finite resource and will secure the health and safety of the customers through protection of existing and future groundwater resources from contamination.

Policy CF-27.1: Participate in regional efforts to protect groundwater resources including but not limited to the South King County Groundwater Committee.

Policy CF-27.2: Establish a groundwater monitoring network for early detection of potential contamination in aquifers.
Policy CF-27.3: Notify all applicable regulatory and emergency response agencies of the City's Wellhead Protection Areas.

Policy CF-27.4: Track and provide comments on land use applications within wellhead protection areas. Follow up on all of those identified as creating potential risk to the water supply until protections are in place or are determined to not affect the water system.

Policy CF-27.5: Identify and track parcels of land identified as potential contaminant sources in the Wellhead Protection Program. Provide comments to applicable regulatory agencies related to the protection and sustainability of the City's groundwater resources.

Policy CF-27.6: Educate residents, businesses and the owners of identified potential contaminant sources in wellhead protection areas about aquifer protection.

Policy CF-27.7: Encourage the use of Best Management Practices in land management activities to reduce the use of pesticides and fertilizers.

Policy CF-27.8: Promote the use of native landscaping to reduce the need for pesticide and fertilizer application.

Goal CF-28: Maintain the economic vitality of the City by ensuring adequate water supply is available to meet existing and future customer needs, and future development as projected to meet the short and long range goals of the City.

Goal CF-29: Meet Water Use Efficiency Goals and implement additional water conservation measures to ensure the efficient use of water resources.

Policy CF-29.1: Implement, evaluate and monitor measures to meet the City's adopted Water Use Efficiency Goals.

Policy CF-29.2: Develop and implement on-going educational activities regarding water conservation as identified in the Water System Plan. This includes but is not limited to the annual Water Festival, speaking at public forums and classrooms, booths at fairs and theme shows, utility billing inserts, natural yard care programs and utilizing the City's website.

Policy CF-29.3: Provide rebates for low water use toilets and washing machines as they apply to the Water Use Efficiency Goals.

Policy CF-29.4: Promote the use of native and drought resistant plants in landscaping in public and private projects to reduce the need for irrigation.

Policy CF-29.5: Include consumptive water use data on customer bills to encourage water conservation.
**Policy CF-29.6:** Develop and implement a water rate structure that promotes the efficient use of water.

**TRANSPORTATION SERVICES & FACILITIES**

**GOALS & POLICIES**

The goals, policies and levels-of-service (LOS) related to the provision of transportation services and facilities are contained in the Transportation Element of this Comprehensive Plan and the future Comprehensive Transportation Plan to be completed in 2004.

**ESSENTIAL PUBLIC FACILITIES GOALS & POLICIES**

The City of Kent has established siting criteria for essential public facilities, which are defined by the State in RCW 36.70A.200(1) to “include those facilities that are typically difficult to site, such as airports, state education facilities and state or regional transportation facilities as defined in RCW 47.06.140, state and local correctional facilities, solid waste handling facilities, and in-patient facilities including substance abuse facilities, mental health facilities, group homes, and secure community transition facilities as defined in RCW 71.09.020.” The following goals and policies reaffirm Kent’s commitment to a fair process for locating such facilities.

**Goal CF-30:**

*The City shall participate in a cooperative inter-jurisdictional process to determine siting of essential public facilities of a county-wide, regional, or state-wide nature.*

**Policy CF-30.1:** Proposals for siting essential public facilities within the City of Kent or within the City's growth boundary shall be reviewed for consistency with the City's Comprehensive Plan during the initial stages of the proposal process.

**Policy CF-30.2:** When warranted by the special character of the essential facility, the City shall apply the regulations and criteria of Kent Zoning Code Section 15.04.150, Special use combining district, to applications for siting such facilities to insure adequate review, including public participation. Conditions of approval, including design conditions, shall be imposed upon such uses in the interest of the welfare of the City and the protection of the environment.
Policy CF-30.3: *In the principally permitted or conditional use sections of the zoning code, the City shall establish, as appropriate, locations and development standards for essential public facilities which do not warrant consideration through the special use combining district regulations. Such facilities shall include but not be limited to small inpatient facilities and group homes.*

Goal CF-31:
The City shall participate in a cooperative inter-jurisdictional process to resolve issues of mitigation for any disproportionate financial burden which may fall on the jurisdiction which becomes the site of a facility of a state-wide, regional or county-wide nature.