COMMISSION ON EQUITY AGENDA
MAY 22, 2023
5:30 P.M.
IN-PERSON & REMOTE ATTENDANCE

In-person attendance: Lacey City Council Chambers, 420 College St SE, Lacey WA 98503

Remote attendance: You may view and/or provide public comment at the Commission on Equity meeting by watching live on Zoom. (https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_of7GrcteTfC7zAhcPFwcWQ)

The public may also listen to the meeting via telephone by dialing toll-free:
(888) 788-0099 or **(877) 853-5247** - when prompted enter **Webinar ID press #**: **898 3199 8158** *(participant ID not required)*

Watch live or as a recording on YouTube. (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kq8foyN82X4)

***CALL TO ORDER:* 5:30 P.M.**

1. Approval of Agenda, Previous Meeting Minutes, and Consent Items
- Approval of Agenda
- Meeting Minutes from the joint meeting with Lacey Youth Council on March 15, 2022
- Meeting Minutes from the joint meeting with the Parks Board of Commissioners on November 14, 2022
- Meeting Minutes from April 24, 2023

2. Public Comment
In-person – Lacey Council Chambers
By Zoom – Please raise your hand to provide public comment.
By Phone – Please press *9
By E-mail – Written Public Comment may be submitted to the Commission on Equity by emailing COE@ci.lacey.wa.us. All comments provided by email must be submitted by 12:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting.

3. Inspirational Item
Chair Cliff Brown

4. Business Items:

A. **Parks, Culture, and Recreation Comprehensive Plan Review**
Jen Burbidge, Parks, Culture, and Recreation Director

B. **Sign Code Discussion**
Grant Beck, Community and Economic Development Planning & Development Services Manager

5. Commissioner Reports

A. **Juneteenth Celebration Update**
Chair Cliff Brown

B. **Thurston County League of Women's Voters Equity Panel Update**
Chair Cliff Brown and Commissioner Thelma Jackson

6. Director Report

A. **LGBTQIA+ Community Forum Update**

B. **Equity Presentation at the Joint Lacey City Council and North Thurston Public School Board Meeting**

7. Adjourn

Next Meetings & Events:

- **Commission on Equity Meeting** – Monday, June 26, 2023, 5:30pm, at City Hall or remote
- **LGBTQIA+ Community Forum** – Tentatively July 10 or 12, 2023 at the Lacey Timberland Library

MINUTES OF LACEY COMMISSION ON EQUITY
TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 2022
In-Person and Remote

EQUITY COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Chair Thelma Jackson, Vice Chair Cliff Brown, Annie Clay, Kim Sauer, Kristine Stolberg, Jon Hegwood, Alanis Blackburn

EQUITY COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Makieda Hart

COUNCIL PRESENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Shannon Kelley-Fong, Assistant City Manager; Kelly Adams, Special Projects Administrator

RECORDING:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=11_7E5wT9mE&list=PL0fqffnajWBqY9mcx5atx950uoTUMFVIV&index=18

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Jackson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

1. **Focus group meeting with the Lacey Youth Council**

   The Commission on Equity (COE) held a focus group with the Lacey Youth Council (LYC). The COE heard from the LYC on ways to create a more welcoming community, continuing dialogues on race and equity in the community, how to increase participation from underrepresented community members, and remove barriers to participation, as well as other questions, concerns, ideas, feedback, etc. related to equity and inclusion. Discussion ensured.

2. **ADJOURN**
   Chair Jackson adjourned the meeting at 7:28 p.m.

BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS / COMMISSION ON EQUITY

JOINT MEETING

Wednesday, November 14, 2022 5:30 p.m., via Zoom & City Hall

Present:

PARK BOARD: Kamber Good, Wendy Goodwin, Dave Weber and Aram Wheeler

COMMISSION ON EQUITY: Alanis Blackburn, Cliff Brown, Anne Clay, Makieda Hart, John Hegwood (*joined 5:39 p.m.*), Kristine Stolberg

Excused:

Staff: Jen Burbidge, Shannon Kelley-Fong, Sarah Smith, and Jeannette Sieler

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m., by Chair Thelma Jackson

Recording: Commission on Equity/Board of Park Commissioners Joint Meeting - November 14, 2022 - YouTube

Additions or deletions to the Agenda

Chair Wheeler made a motion approve the agenda as written and Vice Chair Brown seconded. Motion carried.

Announcements & introductions

Introductions were made for Commissioners and City Staff.

Public Comments

Chair Jackson acknowledged all written public comments were received by the Commissioners. No additional public comments were made.

Corporate Sponsorship Policy Discussion

The two boards discussed the current Corporate Sponsorship Policy.

Adjourned 7:10 p.m.

MINUTES OF LACEY COMMISSION ON EQUITY
MONDAY, APRIL 24, 2023
In Person & Remote

EQUITY COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Chair Cliff Brown, Vice Chair Annie Clay, Thelma Jackson, Kristine Stolberg, Jon Hegwood, Makieda Hart, Kim Sauer

EQUITY COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Alanis Blackburn
COUNCIL PRESENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Shannon Kelley-Fong, Assistant City Manager (ACM); Jeannette Sieler, Parks, Culture and Recreation Supervisor II; Sue Falash, Parks, Culture and Recreation Manager

RECORDING: https://www.youtube.com/watch?reload=9&v=WIhMRe7g2Kg

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Brown called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA:

Approval of the Consent Agenda:

- Approval of Agenda
- Meeting Minutes from March 27, 2023
- Meeting Minutes from the Joint meeting with the Parks, Culture and Recreation Board from January 25, 2023

COMMISSIONER JACKSON MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA, CONSENT AGENDA, MEETING MINUTES FROM MARCH 27, 2023, AND MEETING MINUTES FROM THE JOINT MEETING WITH THE PARKS, CULTURE AND RECREATION BOARD ON JANUARY 25, 2023. VICE CHAIR CLAY SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Virtual – No Public Comment

In-person – No Public Comment

Written Public Comments - The deadline to submit written public comments was 12:00 p.m. the day of the meeting. Written comments are not addressed during the meeting; however, they are added to the official record. There were three (3) written public comments.

3. INSPIRATIONAL ITEM:

Commissioner Hart provided inspirational quotes from Martin Luther King Jr., Nelson Mandela, George Foreman, and Albert Hubbard focused on not giving up.

4. BUSINESS ITEMS:

A. Parks, Culture and Recreation Events Overview

Jeannette Sieler, Parks, Culture and Recreation Supervisor II provided an overview of the following annual Parks, Culture and Recreation Department events:

- Lacey Loves to Read – February
- Lacey Cultural Celebration – March
- Lacey Family Fish In – April
- Lacey Spring Fun Fair – May
- Lacey Fireworks Spectacular – July
- Lacey in Tune Series – Throughout the Summer
- Play in the Parks Series – Throughout the Summer
- Lacey Children's Day – October
- Lacey Lighted Parade and Tree Lighting Ceremony – December

B. Advisory Board Stipend Program

ACM Kelley-Fong provided an update on the Advisory Board Stipend Program. This program was previously discussed at the January 23, 2023, Commission on Equity meeting. ACM Kelley-Fong provided an update on the information received from other City advisory bodies, including the Planning Commission, Parks, Culture, and Recreation Board, Historical Board, and Lacey Youth Council. Discussion ensued.

CHAIR BROWN MOVED TO FORWARD THE COMMISSION ON EQUITY'S RECOMMENDATION FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE ADVISORY BOARD STIPEND PROGRAM TO THE CITY COUNCIL. COMMISSIONER JACKSON SECOND. MOTION CARRIED.

4. COMMISSIONER REPORTS:

A. Juneteenth Event

Chair Brown and Commissioner Hart provided an update on the Juneteenth event planning meeting with the Fred U. Harris Lodge. The meeting included discussion surrounding communication efforts, potential invitees, information booths, volunteers, and live performances.

B. LGBTQIA+ Community Forum

Vice Chair Clay provided an update on the LGBTQIA+ Community Forum. Updates included potential dates, potential venues, communication efforts, and collaboration efforts.

5. DIRECTOR REPORT:

A. Community Forum and Community Engagement Follow-up

ACM Kelley-Fong provide potential next steps to the Community Forum and Community Engagement based off community feedback from the Black and African-American Community Forum that was held on March 21, 2023. Previous engagement session feedback was categorized into common themes and can be viewed on in past COE agenda packets and website.

Chair Brown requested the City look in to transportation options for Seniors to attend the Juneteenth Event. Chair Brown also discussed a BIPOC Directory for the community. Commissioner Hart mentioned the South Sound BIPOC Business Directory. Discussion ensued.

6. ADJOURN

Chair Brown adjourned the meeting at 7:16 p.m.

LACEY COMMISSION ON EQUITY
May 22, 2023

SUBJECT: **Lacey Parks, Culture & Recreation (LPCR) Comprehensive Plan Update**

RECOMMENDATION: **Approve LPCR Comprehensive Plan updates related to diversity, equity and inclusion**

STAFF CONTACTS: Shannon Kelley-Fong, Assistant City Manager SKF

Jen Burbidge, Parks, Culture and Recreation Director JB

ATTACHMENTS:
1. Draft LPCR Comprehensive Plan
2. Pedestrian & Bicycle Plan for the City of Lacey and Lacey UGA link: 0912_2018_Lacey-Pedestrian-and-Bicycle-Plan-reduced.pdf (cityoflacey.org)

FISCAL NOTE: NONE

PRIOR REVIEW: The Parks Board has been reviewing monthly at their meetings. The Historical Commission reviewed at their October 19, 2022, January 18, 2023 and April 19, 2023 meetings. The Commission on Equity (COE) reviewed the Public Involvement (PIP) at their April 25, 2022 meeting, the Vision and Strategic Goals at their October 24, 2022 meeting and the Executive Summary, Plan Overview, Policies & Objectives and Parks Level of Service sections on February 27, 2023.

BACKGROUND:

The LPCR Comprehensive Plan gets updated every six years. It is part of the City of Lacey Comprehensive Plan and the guiding document for the LPCR Department and Parks, Culture & Recreation Board. Updating the LPCR Comprehensive Plan provides an opportunity to evaluate Lacey's park system, recreation facilities and services, assess demands and needs, set goals and policies, maintain eligibility for grant opportunities, and most importantly, provide for public input to address needs.

Edits have been made to the 2017-2023 LPCR Comprehensive Plan to create the new 2023-2029 Plan). The most updated changes can be reviewed in **Attachment 1**.

Recognizing that the City and the COE is currently working on the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Strategic Plan, and that City plans complement and support each other, we want to ensure alignment with the LPCR Comprehensive Plan. LPCR staff will be asking COE their overall input regarding the Plan, but will have COE focus on the following elements at the May meeting:

- Strategic Goal #1 – Policy 2, Objective a & b (Page 21 Draft LPCR Comprehensive Plan)
- Strategic Goal #1 - Policy 8, Objective a & b (Page 24 Draft LPCR Comprehensive Plan)
- Strategic Goal #1 - Policy 10, Objectives a, c & d (Page 24 & 25 Draft LPCR Comprehensive Plan)
- Strategic Goal #1 – Policy 12, Objective b (Page 26 Draft LPCR Comprehensive Plan). The City's Pedestrian & Bicycle Plan includes guiding principles and recommendations (see Page 6, 8, 20, 21, 22, 23 City of Lacey Ped & Bike Plan).
- Strategic Goal #3 – Reference to City of Lacey Ped & Bike Plan (Page 28 Draft LPCR Comprehensive Plan).
- Strategic Goal #5 – Reference to DEI Draft Plan. Policy 1, Objectives a-e. Policy 2 (Pages 31-32 Draft LPCR Comprehensive Plan).
- Local Area History (Page 33 Draft LPCR Comprehensive Plan)

The Draft DEI Strategic Plan currently includes the following strategy under the goal area of Policies, Programs, & Services:

> "Provide robust and community-driven park and recreation resources where physical, financial, and social barriers to use are eliminated."

The LCPR Comprehensive Plan update is nearing completion and will be going before the Planning Commission for approval on June 20, 2023 and then to Lacey City Council for final approval soon thereafter.

ADVANTAGES:

1. Provide the required 6-year update which is crucial for short- and long-term parks, culture and recreation planning, and to be eligible and competitive for grant funding.

2. Ensure the LPCR Comprehensive Plan is viewed from an equity lens in alignment with the forthcoming DEI Strategic Plan.

3. Bring forth suggested edits that could help further the goals of the City to be a welcoming and inclusive community, where full participation in government is available to all community members.

DISADVANTAGES:

1. None.

City of Lacey

Parks, Culture & Recreation Comprehensive Plan

[LACEY SPRING FUN FAIR 3.JPG]

2023 Update

CITY COUNCIL

Andy Ryder, Mayor

Malcolm Miller, Deputy Mayor

Councilmember Carolyn Cox

Councilmember Lenny Greenstein

LACEY PARKS
CULTURE & RECREATION

CITY OF LACEY

Councilmember Ed Kunkel

Councilmember Michael Steadman

Councilmember Robin Vazquez

PARKS, CULTURE & RECREATION BOARD

Wendy Goodwin, Chair
Kamber Good, Vice Chair
Commissioner Hilary Dykstra
Commissioner Bill Fosbre
Commissioner Gary Larson
Commissioner Chris Porrazzo
Commissioner Aram Wheeler
Sarah Towne, Youth Councilmember

Special Thank You to:
Dave Weber

CITY MANAGER

Rick Walk, Interim City Manager

PARKS, CULTURE & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Comprehensive Plan Team:

Jen Burbidge, Director

Sue Falash, Recreation Manager

Sarah Smith, Executive Assistant

LPCR Department Staff:

Justin Beard, Recreation Supervisor II

Doug Briggs, Recreation Coordinator

Carolyn Elliott, Department Assistant III

Sean Finney, Recreation Supervisor II

Roger Johnson, Recreation Assistant

Cody Lee, Recreation Supervisor II

Erin Quinn Valcho, Museum Curator

Jordanne Ratkie, Recreation Coordinator

Felicia Rova-Chamroeun, Museum Coordinator

Krzysztyanka Shaffer, Recreation Coordinator

Jeannette Sieler, Recreation Supervisor II

Liz Spiller, Department Assistant III

Jenny Wilson, Recreation Supervisor II

Lauren Young, Recreation Coordinator

PUBLIC WORKS

Comprehensive Plan Team:

Jamie Oakland, Parks Maintenance Supervisor

Special Thank You:

Scott Devlin, Operations Manager

Scott Egger, Director

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Comprehensive Plan Team:

Kelly Adams, Projects Administrator

Donna Feliciano, Communications Specialist

Special Thank You:

Shannon Kelley-Fong, Assistant City Manager

COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Comprehensive Plan Team:

Hans Shepard, Senior Planner

Ryan Andrews, Planning Manager

INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Gary Montgomery, GIS Analyst

CITY OF LACEY MISSION

Our mission is to enrich the quality of life in Lacey for all its citizens, and to build an attractive, inviting, and secure community. Council works in partnership with residents to foster community pride, develop the economy, plan for the future, and to preserve and enhance our environment.

PARKS, CULTURE & RECREATION VISION

Lacey Parks, Culture & Recreation creates exceptional events, experiences and environments that delight, educate and inspire the human spirit, connecting people to each other and the past, and building a strong, healthy community.

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Appendix B: Park Amenities
Appendix C: Athletic Fields Inventory
Appendix D: Survey and Data Collected

I. Executive Summary

The City of Lacey is located at the southern tip of Puget Sound, and with acres of forests, beautiful freshwater lakes and stunning views of Mount Rainier, it is an urban oasis in the South Sound and creates an inviting community identity. The Woodland Creek system flows through three lakes throughout Lacey then on to Henderson Inlet. Wetlands associated with Woodland Creek and Lacey's lakes encompass hundreds of acres and provide critical habitat to local fish and wildlife populations. The City is committed to developing a range of park facilities to provide access to these community resources, while also protecting and enhancing natural habitats for the future. These sensitive areas, including Woodland Creek and six freshwater lakes, play an important role in the health of our environment.

The City of Lacey, dedicated to parks, culture and recreation activities since its incorporation in 1966, has an amazing park system of now over 1,200 acres, with diverse, rich program offerings! The relatively young park system includes modern facilities, and is well maintained, heavily used, and highly valued by the community and visitors. Lacey's Parks, Culture & Recreation Department (LPCR) offers a full spectrum of programs and special events for all ages. The Lacey community has pride in the parks, programs, and facilities available, which include neighborhood, community and regional parks; plazas; trails; habitat reserves; and public facilities.

After two full years of the COVID-19 pandemic, something became even more clear than before: parks, culture and recreation are essential public services. Thanks to the efforts of 39 full time staff in LCPR and Public Works Department combined, and the hundreds of part time staff, seasonal employees, and volunteers working tirelessly to ensure every person in Lacey and many from around Thurston County and beyond benefit from the programs and facilities that the City of Lacey offers.

As reported by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), parks, culture and recreation are essential because they:

Promote health and wellness

People who live near parks are both physically and mentally healthier than those who do not.

Parks, culture and recreation encourages physical activities by providing space for sports, hiking and walking trails, swimming pools and many other activities designed to promote active lifestyles.

Leading provider of healthy meals, nutrition services and education.

Access to parks and other public open space promotes greater mental well-being

Provide programming and education activities that are critical to childhood development.

Leading provider of childcare and out-of-school time programming

Leader in youth sports, providing opportunities for children of all skills and abilities to play and introduce them to a wide variety of sports activities

Teaches kids about environmental responsibility, provides better cognitive oral stimulation, and promotes creativity and imagination

Children who spend a significant amount of time in nature also experience better emotional stability and improved mental health

Drive economic opportunity

Expenditures support economic activity and job creation

Employers and employees are more likely to locate near high-quality amenities

Boost home values and property tax bases

Leading source of first jobs for youth and young adults

Unite people and strengthen communities

Counters social isolation by connecting people with nature and each other

Foster positive social interactions and increase social capital within historically marginalized communities

U.S. public strongly supports parks, culture and recreation's mission and funding

Provide infrastructure that makes communities resilient in the face of natural disasters and climate change

Local agencies collectively manage more than 11 million acres of open space across the U.S.

Local agencies are on the forefront of their communities' emergency response

Climate-ready parks provide proven, cost effective and sustainable environmental solutions

People with access to parks and green spaces live longer, healthier lives

The U.S. public wants parks and recreation to protect natural resources and mitigate the impact of climate change.

Lacey Parks, Culture & Recreation faces some challenges ahead, including:

- Providing adequate facilities to **keep up with growth**.
- Continuing to move from a predominately "property acquisition era" to a greater emphasis on **park improvement and development phase**.
- Solidifying a significant **future funding** strategy dedicated to parks, culture & recreation.

Keeping up with Growth

The City of Lacey is the fastest growing city in Thurston County and as of the 2020 Census is the largest in population. Lacey's planning area, which includes the incorporated City and its unincorporated Urban Growth Area, had a population of approximately 93,218 in 2022. The total population is projected to grow around one percent per year, with a total projected population of 109,680 by the year 2040 (Thurston Regional Planning Council).

LPCR provides a multitude of programs and events to residents in North Thurston Public Schools (NTPS). NTPS 2023 enrollment is just over 14,000 students and is projected to increase to approximately 15,412 students by 2028. People who live outside NTPS and Urban Growth Area boundaries also participate in Parks, Culture and Recreation programs. As the community grows and recreational needs increase, LPCR must keep up with demand by providing adequate facilities for our residents. Currently, our indoor and developed outdoor space cannot accommodate the demand. This gap will continue increasing as projected student and residential populations grow.

An essential part of keeping up with growth is avoiding deferred maintenance, which is critical to the continued preservation, accessibility, and enjoyment of LPCR assets. A tremendous challenge is providing adequate upgrades to aging park facilities. Growth leads to more use and increased wear and tear, which results in additional degradation of park infrastructure and amenities. Lacey Parks is currently facing a significant capital maintenance backlog without a dedicated capital funding source. The result will be reactive maintenance and potentially failing assets instead of proactive investment into a long-term repairs to keep the system functioning at a consistently high level. To obtain the positive benefits that a park system provides, it is necessary to have a system for asset management and also capital funding dedicated to repair, replacement and development, and operating and maintenance funding that keeps up with the increased demand of a growing city.

Moving to a Parks Improvement and Development Phase

Over the past few decades, the City has made a great investment for the community by acquiring acres of parkland and open space. Currently, 41 percent (513 acres) of the park system is developed, with the remaining 750 acres undeveloped. The City's overall level of service for park acreage is above the national standard since most of Lacey's park planning

areas have adequate park and open space properties identified. Therefore, moving forward, priority will be given to using the City's limited financial resources for parks improvement and development, rather than property acquisition. The City will consider future acquisitions where deficiencies exist and property and funding are available.

Solidifying a Future Funding Strategy

The City needs to solidify a future funding strategy for the long-term development, maintenance, and operation of all park acreage, trail miles, and facilities. In the past, a one percent utility tax, set aside for parks and open space, was the City's primary funding source for acquisition and development. Park and Open Space Bond funds, approved by the voters in 2002, were the primary funding source for previous parks development. The final debt payment will be made in December 2026.

There are currently no ongoing funding sources dedicated to essential parks infrastructure replacement and park development. Therefore, serious consideration must be given to establishing dedicated parks, culture and recreation funds (i.e., bond issues, sales and/or property tax options). Currently park improvement and development rely heavily on the general fund and outside revenue sources, neither of which are sufficient to meet the needs of proposed park projects.

Plan Overview

The LPCR Comprehensive Plan (Plan), part of the *City of Lacey Comprehensive Plan*, provides LPCR an essential strategic vision, which directs short- and long-term actions and decisions based on community needs. The plan has ten sections that provide a clear understanding of the overall strategic goals, policies, and objectives for future parks, culture and recreation programs and facilities, as well as identified level of service standards, implementation actions and cost estimates which include potential funding options. The Plan must be updated a minimum of every six years to identify proposed capital projects and to meet the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) Board planning requirements for project grant eligibility. The current LPCR budget can be found in Appendix X.

I*nsert graphic here – vision areas of council*

Aligning with Lacey City Council Work Plan. The 2022-2024 Lacey Work Plan identifies priority work plan items which make Lacey a vibrant place to live, work and play and ensure a vibrant and diverse economy. Many of the items in the Implementation Actions section of this plan are in alignment with the Work Plan.

Operating from an Equity Framework. As Lacey continues to address the need for equity and social justice, the Plan will include policies and objectives the City can implement and improve upon to ensure equity, diversity and inclusion in partnership with community members.

Enhancing parks access. There is room for increasing access and amenities at nearly two-thirds of Lacey's existing parklands – nearly 800 acres in all, which is why this Plan articulates a shift from acquisition to development. But LPCR must balance future development with expenses related to parks development, as well as maintenance and operations.

Economic impact. Every dollar spent on outdoor recreation stimulates $1.52 in economic activity. In other words, parks and sports fields have a great return on investment! They generate spending that benefit our businesses and workers while also adding visitor dollars to our local tax base. There is a significant economic impact from heritage programs and special events (add data here).

You can't have a great City without great parks, special events, and programs! Through the 2021 Lacey Cares outreach survey, it was noted that Lacey's Parks, Culture and Recreation offerings are often cited as the number one reason people choose to live in Lacey, whether they are long-time or new community members.

FULL PAGE PHOTO HERE

II. Strategic Goals

The LPCR Comprehensive Plan's strategic goals serve as the overall structure and framework for the Plan and a guide to identify policies, objectives, and prioritized implementation actions. The Plan's goals coincide with the goals of other elements of the City of Lacey Comprehensive Plan and mutually support these elements to guide the community's future. These goals were created through the Lacey Cares and Energize Lacey public involvement process with attention to the City's mission statement and LPCRs vision.

[HUNTAMER PARK REPTILES 1.JPG] Goal #1

Develop a high-quality, equitable, diversified parks, culture and recreation system where physical, financial and social barriers are eliminated, and which includes unique facilities, events, and recreation and cultural programs. This encourages social interaction, cultivates community spirit, and strengthens the livability of Lacey in addition to meeting community needs.

Goal #2

Prioritize LPCR projects and facilities, identify corresponding current and future funding sources, leverage investments and partnerships, and maintain Lacey's eligibility for grant funding.

Goal #3

Develop a trails system that interconnects parks, schools, neighborhoods, open spaces, other trail systems, and important public facilities. [LACEY DEPOT CYCLIST 1.JPG]

Goal #4

Educate and engage the public with the heritage of Lacey and the South Sound region through mission-driven programs and exhibits and by preserving sites and artifacts of historical and cultural importance and making them accessible to the community.

Goal #5

Use sustainable systems and practices that ensure the environmental, economic, social, and cultural needs and desires of future generations will not be compromised.

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[LACEY SUMMER CONCERT & MOVIE107.JPG]

III. Public Involvement

Lacey Parks, Culture & Recreation was afforded the fantastic opportunity to spend 2021-2022 in a mode of increased public engagement. With guidance from a consultant, City staff, the Parks Board, and a special Parks Outreach Team, LPRD engaged in an extensive two-year public outreach and engagement process.

In 2021 the City and consultant Jason Robertson with JRO+CO launched Lacey Cares, a broad, community engagement initiative that gave community members an opportunity to provide input on how they would like Lacey to look and feel in the future. Following the outreach process, the feedback was sorted by major themes and organized into takeaways or action ideas to provide a concise, actionable summary of the public input.

Parks, culture, and recreation was one of the major themes of the public engagement process. Approximately 6,000 ideas were shared by community members on this topic. The City used this information to guide the next phases of community input that helped confirm priorities for the LPCR Comprehensive Plan update. The Lacey Cares Community Feedback and Key Take-Away Summary is located in Appendix X, and many of the action ideas from this summary were used in the policies and objectives section of this Plan.

Building on the community input received through the Lacey Cares initiative, the City assembled an *Outreach Team* (OT) to further explore public priorities and preferences related to parks, culture and recreation.

Outreach Team Structure

To help ensure an inclusive perspective, OT members represented a diverse range of Lacey community members and interests. In particular, members:

- Reflected Lacey's diverse socioeconomic tapestry
- Resided in diverse neighborhoods and districts
- Included at least one representative from the Lacey Parks Board
- Included both longtime and new residents with varied perspectives and experiences
- Shared a passion for engaging fellow community members and strengthening a sense of community

Outreach Team Functions

The OT served as the primary entity responsible for designing and implementing public involvement strategies related to parks, culture and recreation. The OT's goal was to help the City and partner entities and organizations understand community priorities and preferences in this specific topic area. Roles and responsibilities included:

- Actively participating in OT meetings
- Reviewing and approving proposed community outreach strategies
- Conducting public involvement activities (online or in person depending on COVID-19 restrictions)
- Developing future action proposals
- Reviewing and approving public input summaries and providing recommendations to the Parks Board
- Presenting findings to community partners

The OT met monthly from June until November 2021 and:

- Created target engagement ideas and tools
- Identified major themes based on the public engagement and the data collected.
- Developed draft goals, a prioritization tool, and preliminary findings and recommendations.
- Helped prepare the of results summary and recommendations for the Parks Board (located in Appendix X).

Direct public engagement activities took place from June through August 2021 and included presentations to community groups and in-person intercept surveys at community events and high-foot traffic locations (for example: park sites, food truck plaza, special events, etc.)

Two hundred intercept surveys with 800 inputs were received and evaluated (see results in Appendix X).

In October 2021, a LPCR Prioritization Survey was conducted to ask community members to help set priorities. Stakeholders were asked to rate community proposals and express what matters most to them to inform the LPCR Comprehensive Plan update and ensure priorities are balanced to guide future investments and partnerships in the Lacey Parks system.

There were 1,200 survey participants with respondent demographics that match Lacey's demographics in terms of race, ethnicity and household income. In addition, 93% of respondents indicated they were Lacey Parks users, and 62.5% shared that the park nearest their residence was in Lacey or the Lacey UGA. Since LPCR serves people both inside and outside the City limits this percentage is a fairly accurate picture of those utilizing Lacey Parks facilities and programs. LPCR includes events and regional facilities that draw visitors into Lacey and that, in turn, support local businesses who make up an important facet of the Lacey community, and provide economic impact which expands and supports the City's tax base

providing critical funding resources for government services including Parks, Culture, and Recreation.

The findings from the Lacey Parks Outreach Prioritization Survey are located in Appendix X.

The LPCR Lacey Cares Community Input Findings and Future Outreach Recommendations (located in Appendix X) is authored by JRO + CO and is the culmination of the OT work and the public input received during the project. The introduction states:

Over the past year, the City of Lacey has engaged the greater Lacey community in a discussion about the future and the way people would like to see their city look, feel and function. Through the Lacey Cares initiative, and subsequent outreach, LPCR has established a solid framework for future strategic planning. This document summarizes key findings related to community preferences and prioritizes and outlines next steps with respect to ensuring future initiatives are aligned with community expectations. The ultimate goal is to build a shared vision for the future of cultural and recreation assets and opportunities.

Top Conclusions (Summarized):

Survey participants are most supportive of an aquatic center or public pool with preference for an indoor pool. The Tumwater-Olympia regional aquatics center study indicates universal support, across all socioeconomic profiles, and people desire more swim lessons and access than what NTPS pools can offer (NTPS pools focus on students first).

Indoor recreation is a priority, but desired offerings vary. An indoor swimming pool is the top priority by far, playgrounds in general do not rank among highest priorities given outdoor prevalence throughout Lacey, but indoor playgrounds **are** a priority for parents looking for activities out of the rain.

Open spaces, trails and preservation of natural areas are a top priority; preservation of existing spaces, extension and connection of walking and biking trails and increased access to natural areas. Priority in neighborhoods surrounding Lacey Gateway area due to construction. Notably, over one-third of respondents selected cross-country trails as a priority (these can also be used for walking, bird watching, and other passive recreation purposes).

There is high support for one or more spray parks and/or splash pads. Splash pads received the second most votes for desired outdoor features, just behind walking trails. They received the second most Top 3 priority votes, just behind swimming pool.

There is mild interest in acquiring additional parks, relative to other priorities. Community members appreciate the options already available, and preference is to complete build out at existing parks. New ballfields did not rate as high as other priorities in general but year-round, multi-purpose, turf fields **are** popular/desired. It is important to note that in the first round, this survey went out to the general public, not sports user groups and stakeholders specifically (staff followed up with sports user groups as a follow up).

Affordable, subsidized recreation opportunities remain a top priority.

There is a clear preference for events over classes with respect to programming, however cooking, crafts and art were the highest priority for classes. Concerts in the park received the single largest vote for events preference, but others such as movies in the park and fun runs were also rated highly.

Street fairs with food and entertainment were at the top of arts and culture priorities.

Community engagement efforts continued into 2022 by re-launching the *Energize Lacey-Shaping our Community Together* public involvement initiative. A Public Involvement Plan (PIP) was developed and approved by the Parks Board and Commission on Equity (COE). The PIP is located in Appendix X. The PIP included opportunities for the public to review materials, including a Lacey Parks map and Greg Cuoio Park & Greenways project board, ask questions, take a survey, and provide input to help shape Lacey's priorities and the LPCR Comprehensive Plan update. The PIP's purpose was to use the solid framework established through the Lacey Cares initiative for future strategic planning, and to establish priorities to build a shared vision for the future of Lacey's parks, culture and recreation assets and opportunities.

From May through September 2022 City staff and Parks Board members engaged, in person, with the community at events, parks and programs. They shared information and worked to get as many surveys filled out and returned as possible. In addition, surveys were distributed in person at events, through community partners, posted on City website and social media, emailed through department monthly digital newsletter, mailed as utility bill inserts, and advertised in monthly LaceyLife publication. Staff also had tablets available for people to fill out surveys electronically on site at events and handed out materials with a QR code linking to the survey.

The Energize Lacey Community Outreach survey was created using the Top Conclusions from the work the OT had done the year prior: In 2021, Lacey Parks, Culture & Recreation engaged the Lacey community in a discussion about how they would like their City to look, feel, and function in the future. Based on the input received, Lacey Parks established a solid framework for future strategic planning but indicated that **now, Lacey Parks needs your help establishing priorities.** Lacey Parks shared that the ultimate goal was to build a shared vision for the future of Parks, Culture, and Recreation's assets and opportunities.

The Energize Lacey survey is located in Appendix X.

Significant findings from the Energize Lacey survey are:

Recreational pool was the top indoor recreation opportunity, followed by indoor playground and then indoor sport courts.

When asked if Lacey could get a spray park and where people would like to see it located, southwest Lacey was selected, followed by northeast Lacey and then southeast Lacey.

When asked what future components of Greg Cuoio Park participants were the most excited about, more trails were the first choice followed by preservation of outdoor spaces, then a larger playground.

When asked if recreation fees have ever been a barrier, most participants said no.

When asked if access to sports fields was increased (grass conversion to turf, or additional fields installed) where they would be the most likely to book, Rainier Vista and the Regional Athletic Complex were highest ranked. Soccer was the sport chosen the most for the reason to book the fields.

When asked if they have ever been turned away for field use due to fields already being full, 80% of respondents said no and 20% said yes. It's important to note, this feedback is from the general public who would not have experience booking or allocating fields.

When this survey was distributed to sports user groups and stakeholders specifically, they were asked if access to sports fields was increased (grass conversion to turf, or additional fields installed) where they would be the most likely to book, the overwhelming response was the Regional Athletic Complex. Fastpitch/Softball was the sport chosen the most for the reason to book the fields.

When asked if they have ever been turned away for field use due to the fields already being full, 36% said no and 64% said yes.

There were 710 total responses to the survey, between online and in person responses. The demographics for Lacey were represented appropriately in the survey.

Youth Council provided some feedback after reviewing the survey results and expressed interest in indoor opportunities for teens such as a teen center.

The Energize Lacey data is located in Appendix X.

The Implementation Actions of this Plan are informed by the public input described in this section.

Parks, Culture & Recreation Board takes the Lead on the LPCR Comprehensive Plan update (insert updated photos from annual report – see Jen on which photos to use)

The Parks, Culture & Board took the lead in updating the Plan and discussed it at their monthly meetings between October 2022 and June 2023.

Historical Commission takes the Lead on history and preservation

Insert photos

FUTURE ITEMS: Public meetings and hearings listed here

Commission on Equity

April 25, 2022 – Public Involvement Plan reviewed

October 24, 2022 – Vision and Strategic Goals reviewed

February 27, 2023 – First Draft Plan reviewed

Historical Commission

October 19, 2022 – Vision and Strategic Goals reviewed

January 18, 2023 – First Draft Plan reviewed

Youth Council

XX – Energize Lacey input solicited

March 16, 2023 – First Draft Plan reviewed, input received

Planning Commission / Hearing

City Council

The City of Lacey Planning Commission reviewed the Plan at the XX 2023 worksession. The Parks Board recommended the Plan for review by the Planning Commission on XX. The Planning Commission conducted a public hearing on XX, and recommended adoption of the Parks,

Culture & Recreation Comprehensive Plan by the Lacey City Council. The Land Use Committee and the Lacey City Council also reviewed the Plan.

Various state and local agencies and groups received copies of the draft Plan to provide comment. The agencies included the State of Washington Department of Commerce; the City of Olympia Parks, Arts, and Recreation Department; the City of Tumwater Parks and Recreation Department; Thurston County Public Works Parks Maintenance, Thurston Regional Planning Council (TRPC); the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO); Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife; and the State Parks and Recreation Commission. Additional state agencies were notified of the intent to adopt the LPCR Comprehensive Plan updates and were given an opportunity to request a copy of the Plan.

WEDNESDAY, MAR. 01, 2023 5:30 PM

Parks, Culture, and Recreation Board Meeting

WEDNESDAY, APR. 05, 2023 5:30 PM

Parks, Culture & Recreation Board Meeting

WEDNESDAY, MAY. 03, 2023 5:30 PM

Parks, Culture & Recreation Board Meeting

WEDNESDAY, JUN. 07, 2023 5:30 PM

Parks, Culture & Recreation Board Meeting

WEDNESDAY, MAR. 15, 2023 6:00 PM

Historical Commission Meeting

WEDNESDAY, APR. 19, 2023 6:00 PM

Historical Commission Meeting

WEDNESDAY, MAY. 17, 2023 6:00 PM

Historical Commission Meeting

WEDNESDAY, JUN. 21, 2023 6:00 PM

Historical Commission Meeting

Policies & Objectives

The City has identified the following policies and objectives to reach the Plan's Strategic Goals.

Strategic Goal #1:

Develop a high-quality, equitable, diversified parks, culture and recreation system where physical, financial and social barriers are eliminated which includes unique facilities, events, and recreation and cultural programs. This encourages social interaction, cultivates community spirit, and strengthens the livability of Lacey in addition to meeting community needs.

1. Policy: Pursue traditional and non-traditional programs and amenities for all ages and families

Objectives:

a. Continue to provide extraordinary parks and community programs that contribute to a high quality of life and attract tourism and economic development to Lacey.
b. Continue to provide local programs, summer lunch and day camp programs, aquatics, outdoor adventure, cultural arts, sports and fitness, and special events.
c. Continue to adapt youth programming to meet growing demand and priorities.
d. Continue to engage Lacey's adult population to identify and promote viable, desired programming.
e. Grow and promote community garden opportunities.
f. Be responsive to emerging program, facility, and event needs.
g. Promote City parks, culture and recreation programs and facilities to maximize community use so they are used by as many community members as possible.
h. Promote the role parks facilities and recreational programming play in bolstering community and individual wellness.
i. Provide recreation opportunities for all family structures.
j. Continue adding courts, picnic areas and other recreation amenities as feasible.

2. Policy: Implement facilities and recreation enhancements that meet the needs of the community.

Objectives:

a. Host events and educational programming that promotes the respectful engagement of cultural and generational identities and practices.
b. Provide programs and events that foster belonging and inclusion. Lacey is a welcoming community.

3. Policy: Hire, train, support, and develop a high standard of professional parks, culture, recreation and museum staff.

Objectives:

a. Partner with other agencies, cities, Thurston County, and districts to maximize scarce resources by offering joint training opportunities.
b. Actively participate in Washington Recreation & Park Association and state and regional museum association activities to network, attract qualified professionals to Lacey, and learn about training opportunities for current staff.
c. Continue the Counselor in Training (CIT) and Teen Leadership Program to encourage youth to pursue Parks, Culture and Recreation careers.
d. Evaluate training and professional development opportunities for part- and full-time staff to offer optimum service and implement plan objectives.

. 4. Policy: Continue formalizing a program to encourage and provide opportunities for volunteer stewardship of parks and natural areas.

Objectives:

a. Identify a volunteer coordinator in the department.
b. Cross promote volunteer and stewardship opportunities that are available.
c. Continue to engage with the public in this hands on way.
d. Implement an annual volunteer recognition event.

4. Policy: Protect City assets by maintaining parks, culture and recreational facilities at a high standard of care.

Objectives:

a. Conduct a parks and facility condition assessment and transition to new asset management system.
b. Ensure facilities are up to code (i.e., conduct required Playground Safety Inspections).
c. Maintain sign(age) standards.
d. Create standardized designs and specifications for construction of support facilities (i.e., restrooms and picnic shelters).

5. Policy: Create sound planning structure and accountability for all recreation business areas.

Objectives:

a. Establish cost recovery levels

b. Conduct Program Assessments

c. Determine what metrics to use for program and facility evaluation

d. Create business plans for all program areas

6. Policy: Due to shortage of athletic fields for community use, determine where additional fields can be installed on current park or school properties to ensure sufficient land is available for community sports use and regional draw.

Objectives:

a. Establish local athletic fields level of service
b. Establish plan to reach the level of service
c. Research and evaluate shared development and use of NTPS high school varsity fields.

7. Policy: Continue free and low-cost events that have community and regional draw that bring people together.

Objectives:

a. Cultural Celebration
b. Lacey Spring Fun Fair
c. 3rd of July Fireworks Spectacular
d. Lacey In Tune Summer Concerts and Movies
e. Play in the Parks series
f. Lighted Parade and Holiday Tree Lighting

8. Policy: Provide robust and community-driven parks, culture and recreation resources where physical, financial, and social barriers to use are eliminated.

Objectives:

a. Provide free public parks.

a. Provide financial assistance for programs. Enhance the financial assistance policy and program to reach kids and families in need in Lacey.
b. Provide services that are responsive, transparent, accountable, equitable and welcoming with an emphasis on providing a safe, trusted environment for underserved community members.

9. Policy: Provide paid rental spaces for special private events.

Objectives:

a. Ensure facility rentals policy meets the needs of the community.

10. Policy: Provide parks in close proximity to all residents.

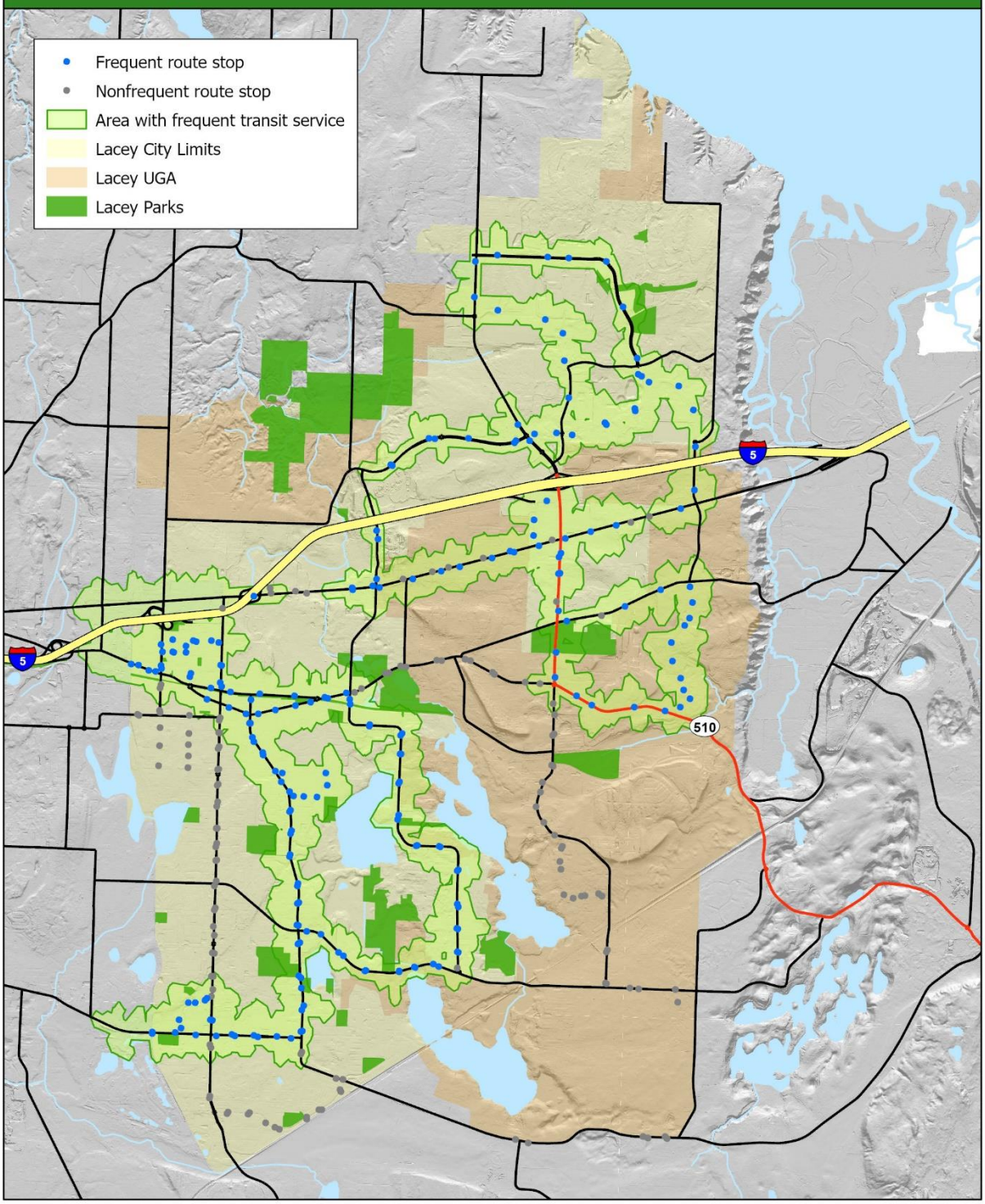
Objectives:

a. Use GIS systems to create more accurate access and demographic maps by determining actual travel sheds and by mapping City demographics.
b. Update level of service standards and work toward meeting and maintaining those levels. Identify the need for additional facilities.
c. Use frequent public transit map to evaluate public access to parks.
d. Work with partners such as InterCity Transit to increase access to parks.
e. Use Washington State Recreation Conservation Office (RCO) standards as a guideline for adequate level of service standards.
f. During development review, require developers to dedicate land for future parks, open space, and recreation facilities, if consistent with park level of service standards or other needs.

FREQUENT PUBLIC TRANSIT MAP

Areas with public transit every 30 minutes are considered frequent transit access on this map. The travel sheds indicated are .25 mile or “5-minute travel”.

Access to Lacey Parks: Public Transit



11. Policy: Ensure Lacey's Park system includes opportunities for its community members to experience nature and solitude.

Objectives:

a. Assess which properties should be developed vs. left as open space
b. Identify and acquire future park and open space sites in the City and/or Urban Growth Area understanding the City is not in an "acquisition" phase.
c. Develop parks or plazas near urban corridors so all people have opportunities

12. Policy: Ensure a robust planning process is in place to reflect site suitability and development.

Objective:

a. Prepare a master plan upon acquisition of new park property, soliciting input from all potential users and affected agencies. The master plan will reflect the suitability of the site for specific uses, the needs of the anticipated users, and the integration of the new park to the whole system.
b. Consider the intersection of parks and public infrastructure so that access to park spaces is reviewed.

Strategic Goal #2:

Prioritize LPCR projects and facilities, identify corresponding current and future funding sources, leverage investments and partnerships, and maintain Lacey's eligibility for grant funding.

1. Policy: Transitioning from an acquisition to development phase.

Objectives:

a. Focus funds on development of properties already owned.
b. Prioritize access to free public spaces.

2. Policy: Identify current and upcoming projects in this Plan.

Objective:

a. Estimate the costs for the projects in the Implementation Actions section, to include potential funding sources.

3. Policy: Investigate and identify sustainable, stable long term and revenue-producing options for funding for the projects in this Plan and for ongoing maintenance and operations.

Objectives:

a. Investigate innovative methods for financing facility development, maintenance, and operations to reduce costs, retain financial flexibility, match user benefits and interests, and increase facility capacity.
b. The City will research and consider all reasonable options to finance parks, recreation and cultural services and facilities. This may include user fees, park-impact fees, grants, general revenue, dedicated funds (i.e., bond issues, sales and/or property tax options), fees in-lieu of open-space requirements in subdivisions, private and public donations, sponsorships and volunteer services.
c. Enhance Sponsorship & Naming Rights policy.
d. Ensure that adequate maintenance resources accompany development.
e. Communicate what sustainable sources of revenue are in place or needed to maintain and expand parks, culture and recreation facilities and programs.
f. Ensure funding strategies don't create access barriers for users.
g. Communicate how City manages expenses and programming to reduce impact to taxpayers, and the different ways parks, culture and recreation provide community benefit to all.

4. Policy: Initiate and strengthen partnerships to offer optimum services to residents that would not be possible without the partnership.

Objectives:

a. Maximize limited public resources by continuing the strong partnership with NTPS to seek creative solutions.
b. Continue contracting with Senior Services for South Sound (SSSS) to provide a variety of senior services including social and recreational activities to meet community need. The City of Lacey owns the Lacey Senior Center and Senior Services for South Sound, a non-profit organization, manages and provides programs for the center. SSSS also manages the Senior Center located in the Olympia Community Center. This allows the organization to share staff and resources and effectively manage two facilities. The Lacey Senior Center serves Lacey and its urban growth area residents, as well as some regional residents.
c. Partner with Thurston County, Washington State Department of Fish & Wildlife, Washington Department of Natural Resources, and other public and private agencies, tribes or individuals, to maximize use of community resources, improve facility quality and availability, reduce costs, and meet community needs through joint planning and development efforts.

d. Seek opportunities for shared parking facilities to minimize impervious surfaces and maximize available funds.
e. Work in cooperation with utility providers to extend municipal utilities, such as sewer service and drinking water, to all public parks, whenever possible.
f. Continue to partner with private parties. Maximize existing partnerships and form new ones.
g. Continue to partner with private businesses to offer recreation programs.
h. Work with newly formed Lacey Community Foundation and other foundations and community service organizations who will help provide funding and community outreach.
i. Work with partners to offer and promote diverse activities and programs for parents and toddlers, teens, families, and wellness programs.

Strategic Goal #3:
Develop a trails system that interconnects parks, schools, neighborhoods, open spaces, other trail systems, and important public facilities.

The following policies and objectives are derived in part from the City's Pedestrian & Bicycle Plan. Please refer to the latest update for the most recent information, and for additional information regarding safety, connection and building momentum in Lacey.

1. Policy: Continue to provide a high-quality system of multi-purpose trails and corridors.

Objectives:

a. Use existing rail, utility, and unopened street rights-of-way, alleys, streams (where environmentally sound), and other corridors for urban trails. Preserve unimproved public rights-of-way for important open space, greenway linkages, and trails.
b. Acquire railroad rights-of-way for conversion to trails and compatible public uses. Identify potential corridors and sites for trails, prior to urban development.
c. Support opportunities to provide short connections to trails between local neighborhood streets and to activity centers, schools, businesses, etc. to improve the convenience of walking and biking.
d. When located in areas where future trails are shown on the adopted map, ensure that new development provides appropriate pieces of the trail system using impact fees, the SEPA process, trail right-of-way dedication, or other means.

2. Policy: Continue to provide a trail system that promotes physical activity and a health-conscious community.

Objectives:

a. Seek options for additional trail opportunities.
b. Encourage walking and bicycling for recreation and transportation purposes by linking parks to walking routes, streets, and trails.
c. Continue to partner with adjacent jurisdictions and State agencies to ensure a well-connected and maintained regional trail network and coordinated signage program, consistent with the Thurston Regional Trails Plan.
d. Support programs that encourage walking and biking.

Strategic Goal #4:

Educate and engage the public with the heritage of Lacey and the South Sound region through mission-driven programs and exhibits and by preserving sites and artifacts of historical and cultural importance and making them accessible to the community.

The following policies and objectives are derived in part from the 2023-2032 Lacey Museum Strategic Plan (see Appendix X), which is updated annually. Refer to the latest update for details and the most recent information.

1. **Policy: Preserve significant, high-quality historical and aesthetic resources that reflect our diverse community.**
    a. Work with the Lacey Historical Commission and community partners to identify, preserve, and enhance Lacey's heritage, traditions, and cultural features including historical sites, archaeological sites, buildings, structures, objects, artworks, views, and monuments.
    b. When appropriate, provide on-site educational markers to share the significance of the resource with the public.

Policy: Create and deliver high-quality mission-driven educational experiences.

c. As resources allow, deliver tours, programs, and events to the public at the museum and other historic locations as appropriate.
d. As resources allow, develop changing exhibits to educate and delight the public.
e. Ensure community participation and engagement by promoting and marketing museum activities as resources allow.

2. **Policy: Build the new Lacey Museum & Cultural Center (LMCC) and ensure its financial stability.**
    a. Secure funding and construct the building.
    b. Develop an operations and interpretive plan for the new facility that includes a sustainable funding plan with a mix of income sources including the general fund, lodging tax, earned income, grants, and donations.
    c. Develop a five-year programming and exhibits schedule for the new facility.
    d. Develop a charter membership, annual giving campaign, and community partner giving program.

3. **Preserve, care for and manage collections professionally.**
    a. Ensure the retention of professionally-trained collections staff and provide them with opportunities for professional development as the field evolves and technology changes.
    b. Continue to process new acquisitions, catch up on the backlog, and make collections accessible to the public through an online database.
    c. Within available resources, preserve collections using museum best practices.
    d. Regularly review and update the museum policy manual and develop procedures to ensure consistent implementation of the policies.
    e. Update the museum's disaster plan and coordinate with the City Safety Manager to incorporate it into the City's disaster plan.
    f. Develop a collecting plan to identify gaps and needs for the collection.

4. **Build and foster community partnerships to increase capacity and sustainability.**
    a. Continue to develop and strengthen community partnerships with educational institutions, service organizations, non-profits organizations, local governments, and others to ensure the museum's ability to meet community needs.
    b. Continue to develop strong volunteer and internship programs to support museum and community objectives.

Include New Museum & Cultural Center rendering (add collection of renderings to appendix)

Strategic Goal #5: Use sustainable systems and practices that ensure the environmental, economic, social, and cultural needs and desires of future generations will not be compromised.

The following policies and objectives are derived in part from the City's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Draft Plan which will be completed after the adoption of this Plan. Please refer to the latest update for the most recent information.

1. Policy: Increase community access and engagement.

Objectives:

a. Implement the Communications Plan, including developing a Language Access Plan to improve communication accessibility, and continue to enhance the cultural relevancy of City materials.
b. Continue to develop and implement engagement strategies that build community trust and increase participation of BIPOC and other underrepresented voices in local decision making, including on advisory bodies, task forces, and planning efforts.
c. Enhance relationships and opportunities in the community for continued dialogue and knowledge-sharing among the City, partner entitles, and community members through events, programs, forums, art, etc.
d. Be intentional and create meaningful tools and metrics that contribute to equitable outcomes.
e. Recognize and support diversity and inclusiveness through acknowledgement statements, public art, events, programs, and use of City platforms to amplify community voices.

2. Policy: Protect and preserve natural habitat for people and wildlife.

Objectives:

a. Continue to support, protect, enhance, and restore the natural environment and eliminate health disparities so that all have the opportunity to achieve their full health potential.

b. Identify, protect, and conserve wildlife habitat (nesting sites, foraging areas) and significant environmental features (wetlands, open spaces, woodlands, shorelines, etc.) and retain migration corridors.

c. Provide public access to observe wildlife, enjoy nature, and develop an appreciation for our natural environment. Interpret and provide environmental educational opportunities to instill an appreciation of critical areas and wildlife habitat in our community members.

d. Accommodate passive recreation opportunities where feasible and ensure minimal or passive development of some areas in parks to retain natural character.

e. Continue to protect and expand Lacey-managed open space and natural resources, including the urban tree canopy.

f. Identify potential sites for parks, open space, and trails, prior to urban development.

3.Policy: Connect natural areas and open space in the developed areas. Preserve these open areas to meet the future needs of increasing population.

Objectives:

a. Acquire and/or preserve areas such as wetlands, lakes, and streams to serve as natural area linkages and urban separators, when possible.
b. Maintain flexibility in planning for new parks and recreation facilities and open space to take advantage of favorable opportunities for acquisition or development.
c. Preserve parks and open areas to meet the future needs of increasing population through purchase of options, development rights, or control and tenure.
d. Extend appropriate types of trails through natural area corridors or greenways such as Woodland Creek and around natural features that provide a high quality, diverse representation of area environmental resources.
e. Involve community members in the preservation and maintenance of open spaces.

Local Area History

For thousands of years, the Lacey area was inhabited by the Coast Salish people, specifically Southern Lushootseed speakers, now known as the Nisqually and Squaxin Island tribes. They harvested food and materials from the sea, estuaries, and rivers. Their lives and cultures would be forever changed by the exploration and settlement of European and American people.

Many of Lacey's early non-native settlers traveled the Oregon Trail to the area in the mid-1800s.

In 1891, the Northern Pacific Railway extended a branch of the Tacoma, Olympia, and Grays Harbor line to the Lacey community (known as Woodland then), making possible a general store, a post office, a hotel, and a racetrack. Many became farmers or loggers, while others started industries and businesses.

Saint Martin's College was established in 1895, bringing an influx of students and immigrant workers to the area. One of the earliest radio licenses in the state was issued to the KGY, the campus station run by Father Sebastian Ruth. In 1939, it was one of 13 colleges selected by the Civil Aeronautics Authority to prototype a civilian pilot training program for men and women.

During the early 20th Century, particularly the 1920s and 1930s, Lacey became a destination for vacationers all over the region with the development of resorts on Lacey's beautiful lakes, which provided the feeling of seclusion but with the proximity to city amenities. The resorts offered swimming, fishing, boating, high dives, water slides, dance halls, and water sports. Located northeast of Chambers Lake, Mountain View Golf Course and the Mountain View Rodeo Ranch, provided opportunities for recreation and entertainment.

Caption: Dwight Jordan shows off his sulky racer at his property across from the Woodland Driving Park. *Photo courtesy Lacey Museum, Rex Jordan Collection.*

The mid-20th century, an influx of new residents brought a housing boom. Some of these were military veterans from Fort Lewis and some were seniors looking for a place to retire. Many Black people arriving in Thurston County faced housing challenges due to discrimination and redlining and ended up living in Lacey which was without racially-restricted covenants.

With the increase in population, interest from Olympia to incorporate the Lacey area into the caused a group of local business owners and representatives from the North Thurston School District, the Lacey Fire District and the Lacey Area Chamber of Commerce to joined forces to prevent annexation. After a failed attempt to incorporate the City of Lacey in 1964 and a renewed annexation attempt by Olympia, the City of Lacey was incorporated on December 5, 1966 through a vote of its residents.

Local Parks History

[WONDERWOOD PARK SIGN.JPG] After incorporation, the City of Lacey began purchasing land for the development of parks. Park properties came under the ownership of the City through several donations, dedications, and state grants from the Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation (IAC) now called the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO). Wonderwood Park, Lacey's first community park, was made possible, in part, by a state grant. In 1990, the City began collecting a 1 percent utility tax for the acquisition and development of parks and open spaces. In 2002, Lacey residents supported a $9.9 million bond issue to fund park development and renovation.

[GREG CUOIO PARK OPEN FIELD.JPG] From 2006-2016, the City acquired 527.38 acres of parks, trails, and open space through dedication, donation, partnership, state grants, and City funds. Of the 405.5 acres of property acquired as a part of Greg Cuoio Park, portions of the property are designated as part of required mitigation for water right permits granted to the City by the Washington State Department of Ecology. The chart below shows Lacey's commitment and progress to provide parks as the community grows.

Between 2017-2022 the focus changed from an acquisition phase to a development phase with the purpose being to ensure safe public access to the public lands. However, the City was able to purchase a long-time acquisition goal, the Long Lake Park 1.8-acre adjacent parcel. In addition, 20 acres of parkland was donated to the City adjacent to Mullen Road Habitat Reserve, doubling the size of this conservancy property.

Parks, Facilities, Trails, and Open Space Acquisition History

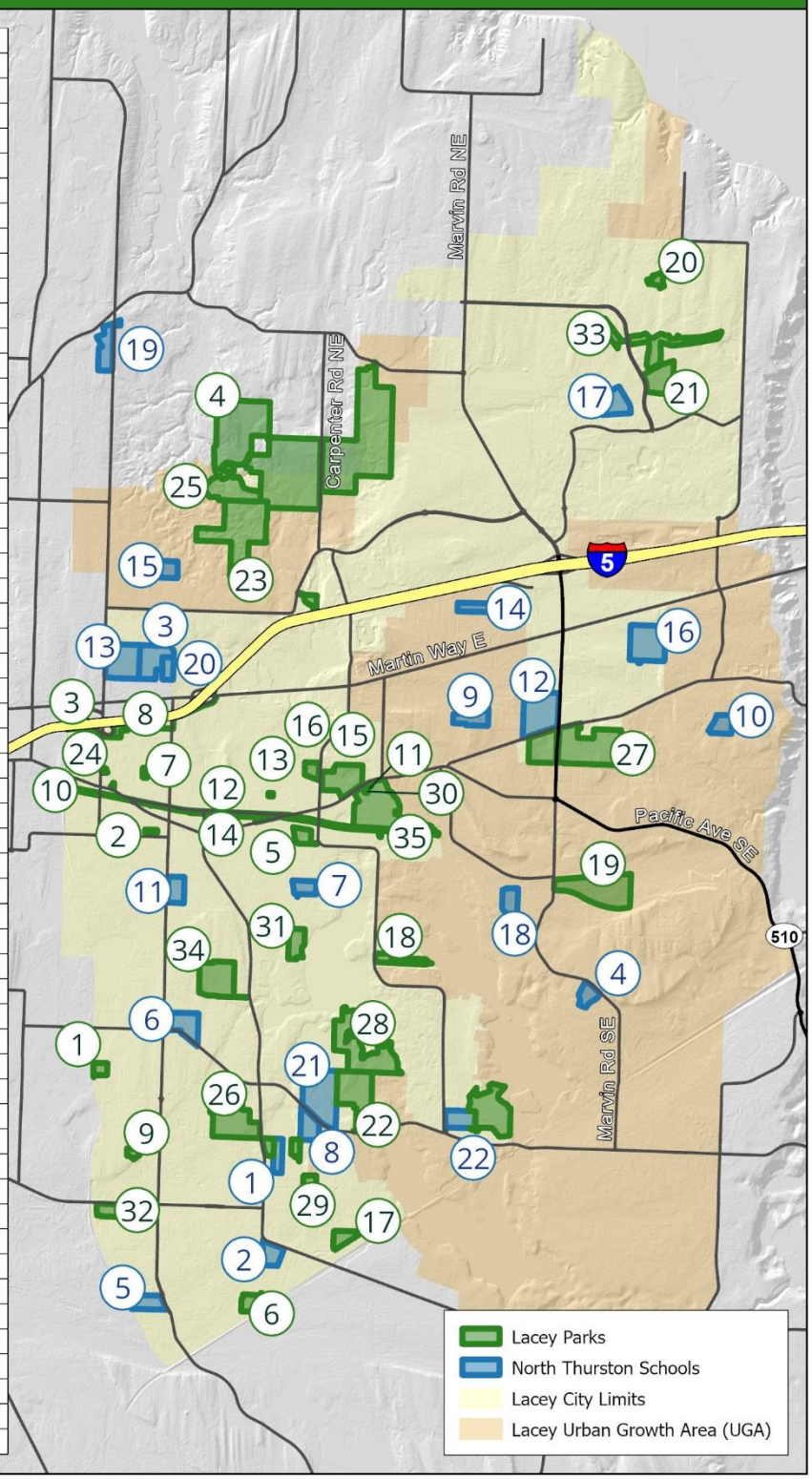
Park Facilities	Year	Acreage	Funding Source	Parks Planning Area
Lacey Community Center	1970	0.30	Donation / Lacey Lions Club	Tanglewilde/Thompson Place
Wonderwood Park	1971	20.00	State Grant / City Funds	Wonderwood
Lake Lois Park	1972	5.71	State Grant / City Funds	Tanglewilde/Thompson Place
Homann Park	1973	7.85	Donation	Wonderwood
Wonderwood Park Expansion	1973	19.30	State Grant Donation	Wonderwood
Brooks Park	1974	1.10	City Funds	Wonderwood
Civic (Flag) Plaza	1979	0.17	Donation	Woodland
Lacey Museum	1979	0.54	Donation / Land Lease	Woodland
Southwick Lake – Mt. Tahoma Tract B	1980	3.30	Dedication	Rainier Vista
Long Lake Park	1983	9.95	City Funds	Interlake
Lake Lois Park Expansion	1986	1.14	City Funds	Tanglewilde/Thompson Place
I-5 Park	1986	1.00	D.O.T lease	Woodland
West & South Plaza Parks & Woodland Square (Huntamer) Park	1988	1.97	Dedication	Woodland
Long Lake Natural Area	1988	51.46	Dedication	Interlake
Rainier Vista Community Park	1990	45.40	State Grant / City Funds	Rainier Vista
I-5 Park and Trail Expansion	1991	2.00	D.O.T lease	Woodland
Woodland Creek Community Park	1991	66.22	State Grant / City Funds	Tanglewilde/Thompson Place
Southwick Lake – Lake Hills Tract A	1991	4.88	Dedication	Rainier Vista
Woodland Creek Community Park Expansion	1992	2.43	City Funds	Tanglewilde/Thompson Place

Thornbury Park	1992	2.80	Dedication	Rainier Vista
William A. Bush Park	1992	9.88	Dedication	Rainier Vista
Rainier Vista Community Park Expansion	1992	1.00	Dedication	Rainier Vista
Lake Lois Habitat Reserve	1993	15.14	State Grant / City Funds	Tanglewilde/Thompson Place
Meridian Neighborhood Park	1993	25.22	Dedication	Hawks Prairie
Meridian Campus North Neighborhood Park	1993	5.03	Dedication	Hawks Prairie
Avonlea Neighborhood Park	1993	5.49	Dedication	Wonderwood
Thornbury Park Expansion	1993	5.35	Dedication	Rainier Vista
Wanschers Park	1993	14.89	Donation	Wonderwood
McAllister Grove Community Park	1994	57.5	Donation / City Funds	McAllister
Thomas W. Huntamer Park Expansion	1995	0.78	Donation / City Funds	Woodland
Virgil S. Clarkson Senior Center	1997		Donations / City Funds	Tanglewilde/Thompson Place
Horizon Pointe Park	1998	1.26	Dedication	Rainier Vista
Mullen Road Habitat Reserve (Timberline Wetlands)	1998	31.85	Donation	Interlake & Wonderwood
Regional Athletic Complex (RAC) City/County	1998	67.06	County / City	Meadows & Tanglewilde/Thompson Place
			State Grant	
Southwick Lake – Ivy Hill Tract A	1999	4.94	Dedication	Rainier Vista
Arbors Park	2000	1.08	Donation	Interlake
Lake Lois Habitat Reserve Expansion	2001	17.56	City Funds	Tanglewilde/Thompson Place
Pleasant Glade Park	2002	31.75	State Grant / City Funds	Pleasant Glade
			Donation	
Lakepointe Park	2002	9.58	Dedication	Rainier Vista

Jacob Smith Historical House	2002	1.20	City Funds	Rainier Vista
Draham Rd Greenbelt	2004	4.4	City Funds	Pleasant Glade
Jacob Smith House Expansion (Corporate Park exchange 2.5 acres)	2005	1.97	Property Exchange	Rainier Vista
Horizon Pointe Park	2005	9.50	Dedication	Rainier Vista
RAC Expansion	2006	4.30	City Funds	Meadows
Karen Frasier Woodland Trail	2006	31.94	State Grant / City Funds	Woodland
RAC Expansion	2007	25.99	Thurston County	Meadows
William Ives Trail	2008	36.74	Dedication	Hawks Prairie
Pleasant Glade Park Expansion	2009	10.50	City Funds	Pleasant Glade
Greg Cuoio Park	2011	407.24	City Funds/State Grants	Pleasant Glade
Southlake Trail & Natural Area parcels	2011	60.8	Dedication	Interlake
Palm Creek Headwaters	2012	86.78	City Funds	Pleasant Glade
Southwick Lake – Tract A	2015	3.14	Dedication	Rainier Vista
New Lacey Museum (5700 Lacey Blvd)	2016	1.01	City Funds	Woodland
McAllister Park	2019	-.4 acres	Purchased by Thurston County	McAllister
Long Lake Park Expansion	2022	1.81 acres	City Funds	Interlake
Mullen Road Habitat Reserve Expansion	2022	20.06 acres	Donation	Interlake & Wonderwood
TOTAL DEVELOPED PROPERTY		**513.33**	**41%**	
TOTAL UNDEVELOPED PROPERTY		**750.63**	**59%**	
TOTAL ALL PROPERTY		**1,263.96**	**100%**	

Lacey Parks, Culture, and Recreation and North Thurston Public Schools Parks and Facilities Overview

Avonlea Park	1
Brooks Park	2
Civic Plaza	3
Greg Cuoio Park	4
Homann Park	5
Horizon Pointe Park	6
Huntamer Park	7
I-5 Park & Trail	8
Jacob Smith House	9
Karen Fraser Woodland Trail	10
Lacey Community Center	11
Lacey Depot Park	12
Lacey Museum	13
Lacey Museum (Future Site)	14
Lake Lois Habitat Reserve	15
Lake Lois Park	16
Lakepointe Park	17
Long Lake Park	18
McAllister Community Park	19
Meridian Campus Park North	20
Meridian Neighborhood Park	21
Mullen Road Habitat Reserve	22
Palm Creek Headwaters	23
Plaza Park South & West	24
Pleasant Glade Park	25
Rainier Vista Community Park	26
Regional Athletic Complex	27
Southlake Trail and Natural Area	28
Thornbury Park	29
Virgil S. Clarkson Senior Center	30
Wanschers Community Park	31
William A. Bush Park	32
William Ives Trail	33
Wonderwood Park	34
Woodland Creek Community Park	35
Aspire Middle School	1
Chambers Prairie Elementary School	2
Chinook Middle School	3
Evergreen Forest Elementary School	4
Horizons Elementary School	5
Komachin Middle School	6
Lacey Elementary School	7
Lakes Elementary School	8
Lydia Hawk Elementary School	9
Meadows Elementary School	10
Mountain View Elementary School	11
Nisqually Middle School	12
North Thurston High School	13
Olympic View Elementary School	14
Pleasant Glade Elementary School	15
River Ridge High School	16
Salish Middle School	17
Seven Oaks Elementary School	18
South Bay Elementary School	19
South Sound High School	20
Timberline High School	21
Woodland Elementary	22



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V. Facility Definitions

General guidelines have been established to provide an inventory of community parks and open space to assess the capacity and levels of service for proposed development improvements and facility needs.

Plazas and Public Spaces

Plazas and public spaces are small, specialized facilities including tot lots, downtown parks, and seating areas along trails or sidewalks. **Plazas and public spaces**:

1. Are typically used by nearby residents or special user groups, such as downtown employees and shoppers.
2. Have a service radius of two to three blocks with no minimum acreage guidelines but are typically less than one acre.
3. Usually have benches or picnic tables, flags or artwork, and limited play equipment, if any.
4. Are usually located in proximity to higher-density residential or commercial areas with pedestrian access.

Tot lots, often referred to as pocket parks, which are typically dedicated as active open space within subdivisions, are owned and maintained by the development's Homeowners Association. They are only available for public use by residents who live in the development and are not included in the City's inventory but are indicated on the non-City parks map for information.

Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks are easily accessible and serve the nearby population within walking distance of all residential areas.

Neighborhood parks:

1. Should be located within one-half mile of each resident and preferably, 5 to 20 acres. Some neighborhood parks are smaller than 5 acres.
2. Are typically designated for the primary purpose of active, outdoor recreation.
3. Typically include open, multi-purpose playfields, limited athletic facilities, sport courts, children's playgrounds, and picnic facilities. Restroom facilities, if provided, are portable and/or seasonal. Parking is usually limited to parallel parking in the roadway.

4. Sites suitable for neighborhood parks are lands that can support intense development. At least 50 percent of a neighborhood park should be bordered by public roads, located in the center of the service area with convenient pedestrian access, and adjacent to or in close proximity to other open space and school sites.
5. Trails and open space, accessible to nearby neighborhoods, are considered neighborhood parks.

Community Parks

[RAINIER VISTA 3 – SKATEPARK.JPG] Community parks serve multiple neighborhoods and may serve the entire city and urban growth area by offering a diverse environment suitable for a wide range of active and passive recreational activities. **Community parks often include features unique in the community or the city, and:**

1. Provide both developed and natural areas.
2. Have a preferred size of 40-100 acres and are desired in each of the ten parks planning areas
3. Have common features such as athletic fields and courts (lighted or day-use), swimming facilities, recreation buildings, group picnic facilities, natural areas, skate parks, and local access trail systems.
4. Sites suitable for community parks include shorelines, waterfront, natural features and vegetation, and varied topography. At least 50 percent of the land should be bordered by public streets accessed from an arterial street, and a portion of the site would typically be suitable for intense development.

Regional Parks

Regional parks are areas offering recreational opportunities that attract a diverse group of people countywide or from a larger region. They provide regional residents an opportunity to enjoy outdoor recreation in a natural setting or in an intensely developed area. **Regional parks**:

1. Might include common features such as special-purpose facilities, lighted athletic complexes, waterfronts, or natural areas.

2. Typically portions require user –fees to help offset the cost of operation..

Special-Purpose Facilities

Special-purpose facilities offer major specialized or single-purpose facilities filling particular needs for specific recreational facilities. **Special-purpose facilities:**

1. Service area can be variable and is generally communitywide. The acreage, preferred size, and site factors are variable as well.
2. Common features include indoor swimming areas, golf courses, nature centers, athletic facilities, museums, and community centers.

Trails

[MULLEN ROAD HABITAT 2 - TRAIL.JPG] Trails are areas developed for recreational travel or to accent linear resources, such as a forest, stream or shoreline. **Trails:**

1. Provide the community with an opportunity to enjoy forests, shorelines and streams and places to walk, jog or bicycle along paths set apart from public streets.
2. Service areas can be variable, generally community-wide or regional, and the acreage and size can also be variable.
3. Common features include paved paths, seating areas, landscaping, shoreline, and viewpoints.

4. Suitable sites for trails include linkages between public facilities, neighboring land uses, and varied topography. They have easy public access and typically, multiple access points.

Open Space

[PLEASANT GLADE PARK 1 – OPEN SPACE.JPG] Open Space is an undeveloped area which may or may not get developed. **Open space:**

1. Development may be approved for passive recreation uses or conservation efforts. These areas typically have protection measures associated with designated natural areas.
2. May provide a buffer between land uses, ensure a rural atmosphere, reduce building density, preserve natural settings, provide visual relief, or may be used for other public purposes.
3. Size is variable.
4. Common features are natural vegetation or landscaping and steep topography. The open space may provide wildlife habitat.
5. Site suitability depends on the density of surrounding development.

Conservancy Sites

Conservancy sites are special management areas with rare, irreplaceable, natural, or cultural features. **Conservancy Sites:** **[LAKE LOIS HABITAT 2.JPG]**

1. Are created to preserve, protect, and enhance appreciation of significant or sensitive environmental and cultural features.
2. Are variable in size.
3. Commonly include wetlands, wildlife habitat, and historical sites and structures.
4. Show a presence of significant and sensitive features.
5. May be commonly called natural areas, refuges, or habitat reserves.

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[RAC BASKETBALL GAME.JPG]

VI. Levels of Service Standards

Level of service measurements (LOS) provide a quantifiable assessment of the strengths, weaknesses, and gaps of service in the City's current parks, culture and recreation system.

The purpose of a Level of Service standard ensures:

1. The City provides adequate parks, culture and recreation facilities as it develops and grows.
2. Land is acquired where there is an identified need.
3. Equitable distribution and accessibility to parks, culture and recreational facilities available to residents throughout the City and its Urban Growth Area.

Local and State Level of Service

Currently, the RCO and the state do not have required level of service standards. Because communities differ greatly, the level of service can be determined uniquely based on criteria such as quantity, distribution and access, and/or quality. Many communities use their level of service to assess how they compare to neighboring cities or cities of similar size and geographic area. Acreage alone does not give a realistic picture of how well park, culture and recreational needs are being met in a community. Convenient and accessible parks, culture and recreational facilities should be considered. For example, a community could have the majority of its acreage in several large parks, and find that, despite meeting a level of service, it does not serve the residents as well as the community with several smaller parks located within easy walking distance of homes.

National Level of Service

For many years, the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) recommended a standard of 10 acres per 1,000 population for local parks. Typically, counties, cities, park districts, and state agencies provide regional facilities. Lacey is well within this national standard. The City has just over 1,200 acres of park land for a population of 93,218 people (includes City boundary and Lacey Urban Growth Area). The national standard, based on Lacey's population, is 817.5 acres.

NRPA has recommendations for number of recreation facilities and amenities per population; however, each community is unique and therefore it is important to include this type of information in the Local level of service section.

Lacey Level of Service

Many local agencies adopt their own level of service standard because each community is different, and each place a different emphasis on the amount of park and recreational facilities desired in the community and to what extent it is developed.

The 2017 Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan identified the local level of service as having a neighborhood park/trail within one-half mile of each resident and having a community park and/or regional park in each of the ten planning areas.

To measure this level of service, the maps indicated a .5-mile radius from the outside of each City Park and a "10-minute travel" was assumed.

The 2023 LPCR Comprehensive Plan update establishes a new measurement for park distribution level of service which will more accurately reflect accessibility and a .5 mile travel shed or "10-minute travel" will be determined taking into account barriers to access that might exist (for example, neighborhoods with no through streets, bodies of water, private property, etc.).

The 2023 update will also show all publicly accessible parks, culture or open space facilities rather than just those owned by the City. This is significant due to the important health and wellness benefits of getting physical activity, and connecting with people socially. It is important to document that these opportunities exist within the community and helps to take a more collaborative approach to measuring needs in Lacey.

The quality of park amenities, intensity of development, number of people in the park, and the experience a person has at the park (based on natural features and beauty, safety, cleanliness, and welcoming environment) are difficult to assess in a level of service. Although difficult to assess, these criteria play an important role in determining if the City is meeting the community's needs. **Comments from park visitors indicate Lacey has high-quality, heavily used parks.** Here are a few examples. (A complete list is available in Appendix D.)

Comments from Park Visitors:

1. Parks are well-built and attractive
2. Parks are well-maintained and clean
3. Parks and programs are welcoming with friendly staff
4. People feel safe in our parks
5. People care about and have pride in our parks and misuse of parks by others is of concern

In the future, more formalized assessments of amenity conditions to include recreational value assignments, will be included in the level of service evaluation as indicated in the Policies & Objectives section of this plan. In addition, and also noted in the Policies & Objectives section, more demographic and health condition mapping can be utilized to assess need in the future.

It's worth noting that often, community parks and open spaces (including trails) fill the role of neighborhood parks. In fact, this occurs in most of the ten parks planning areas of Lacey. Wonderwood Park is an example of an existing park that serves neighborhood and community park needs. In this example, there would be no need to provide a neighborhood park within a .5-mile distance from Wonderwood Park.

Recreation and Cultural Level of Service

There is no formal level of service when it comes to recreation and cultural programs. Within programming there is flexibility to be able to adapt to emerging community needs, and fill gaps that other organizations are not providing.

The 2023 LPCR Comprehensive Plan establishes guiding principles for recreation and cultural services: Provide and support recreation and cultural programs that are socially responsible, economically accountable, and equitable. Ways to do this are located in the Policies & Objectives section of this Plan.

In order to be able to respond to community needs, it is important to listen to public feedback. This plan includes feedback from the 2021 Lacey Cares outreach project where priorities were sought, and the 2022 Energize Lacey outreach project where priorities were confirmed. Please see the Public Involvement section of this Plan for more information.

Significance of Partnerships

The City of Lacey's partnerships with Thurston County, North Thurston Public Schools, Senior Services of South Sound, and others are a crucial part of providing an adequate level of service. For example, the City contracts with Thurston County to provide Specialized Recreation programs for individuals with disabilities. The city also partners with Senior Services of South Sound to provide senior programs and activities. In addition, the City has a robust partnership with NTPS for joint use of facilities with the goal of providing more services to the community.

The Regional Athletic Complex, Lacey's premier sports venue, was originally made possible by an agreement with Thurston County.

[AQUATICS PICTURE 1.JPG] The City's joint-use agreement with NTPS allows each entity first-priority use. It also gives the City the opportunity to schedule many of the NTPS

athletic fields (school use comes first) and use the three high school pools for swim lessons and aqua fitness. The City also schedules other swim team use (other than City or NTPS) in order to expand opportunities to the public.

The joint-use agreement with NTPS is highly valued by community members and both City and NTPS staff. There are a number of challenges with the joint-use agreement. With the increase in school activities during the school year the City does not have as much access as the public would like. City use is limited to after the school teams use is complete and that is for the pools as well as the fields. Some of the NTPS athletic events cannot start until 5:30 p.m. leaving no time for the community user groups. This is also a major challenge with the three high school pools. Furthermore, NTPS pools water temperature is cooler than desired for City/community programs but correct for NTPS swim teams. With the limited time City staff are able to program, it is difficult to secure staff since the City can only guarantee a limited number of hours. The community has expressed a desire for more of a recreational pool than a competitive pool where lessons could take place as well as leisure features such as lazy rivers, zero depth, play toys, etc.

There is an athletic field shortage in Lacey due to increased demand from user groups, and limited resources to maintain and irrigate fields appropriately. For example, the Bucknell/Nisqually fields closure in 2016 eliminated 5 sports fields from the community inventory for groups to use. In addition, annually there are a variety of fields that need to be closed due to lots of use and long-needed upgrades and renovations and/or school use.

An emerging need is the Port of Olympia fields being taken off-line for Thurston County Little League users. Port of Olympia has 7 baseball fields going offline, which, with the already full inventory City and NTPS has, will put additional stress on existing facilities. Currently City staff are fielding more requests for the Regional Athletic Complex baseball/softball fields than can be accommodated, turning away almost double the requests for weekend tournaments

The need for synthetic soccer/football fields has been recently increasing due to a variety of new sports opportunities emerging and growing in popularity (for example, rugby, gaelic football, field hockey, ultimate frisbee, cricket). In addition, during poor weather months City staff are turning away multiple groups every weekend that want to use the turf fields that have lighting. As City staff tries to diversify users, it presents a scheduling puzzle.

NTPS has brought on grass fields at many elementary schools that were previously dirt. NTPS has also made new fields available at Salish Middle School, and has provided a synthetic turf field at Timberline High School with another on the way at River Ridge High School. In addition, improvements at Komachin Middle School will increase use of the current space.

Even with that said, due to a combination of stakeholder input (public input shows the community wants multi-use fields), for more field needs, higher than can be accommodated requests from community sports user groups, and fields being taken off line the need for more sports fields has increased significantly. Lacey's most-immediate local amenity needs include:

1. 4, full size multi-use sports fields (soccer/lacrosse/football/etc.)
2. 4, (2 baseball fields and 2 softball fields – used by both adults and youth)

Moving forward, as indicated in the Policy & Objectives section, potential shared development of NTPS high school varsity fields should be researched, evaluated and considered. If all the high school fields had synthetic turf and lights, community use could be made available (fastpitch, baseball, and potentially other types of fields as well).

Due to the rapid and continued growth, it will be important moving forward to continue to evaluate sports field needs. In the next Plan update, as mentioned in the Policy & Objectives section, a more formalized study of sports field needs would be helpful.

Open Space

In addition to park-designated land, the City has many other areas dedicated to open space. These areas differ from open spaces designated as part of the park system, however, are a valuable resource for preservation of sensitive areas such as wetlands and fish and wildlife habitat conservations. A map of these areas is being developed to identify this type of open space. These areas contribute to the overall health and sustainability of the community and contribute to the City's level of service.

In addition, the City of Lacey requires developers to provide 10 percent open space, dedicated to park use with an active component, for all new developments. These areas include tot lots, pocket parks, and trails, which also contribute to Lacey's overall level of service.

Museum Level of Services and Industry Standards

Similar to recreation and cultural programs, there is no formal level of service for museums. However, there are core standards for museums as defined by the American Alliance of Museums (AAM), which are "adaptable and expected of museums of all types and sizes, with each museum fulfilling them in different ways based on its disciple, type, budget, governance structure, and other unique circumstances." (AAM Ethics, Standards, and Professional Practices)

<u>Core Standards</u>

There are seven categories of core standards and they are summarized below.

Public Trust and Accountability.

The museum is a good steward of its resources held in the public trust, identifies the community it serves and makes appropriate decisions in how it serves them. This includes being a good neighbor,

striving to be inclusive, placing education at the center of its public service role, being committed to public accountability, and providing public access to the museum and its resources.

Mission and Planning

The museum has a clear understanding of its mission and all aspects of the museum's operations are focusing on meeting that mission. This includes ongoing and reflective institutional planning and evaluation of its activities.

Leadership and Organizational Structure

The governance, staff and volunteers understand their roles and responsibilities and carry them out ethically, legally and effectively.

Collections Stewardship

The museum legally, ethically, and effectively manages, owns, documents, researches, cares for, and uses their mission-appropriate collections.

Education and Interpretation

Exhibits, programs and interpretive content is mission-driven, based on scholarly research, and meets the needs of its existing and potential audiences.

Financial Stability

The museum operates in a fiscally responsible manner that promotes long-term sustainability.

Facilities and Risk Management

The museum maintains its facilities, ensures the safety and security of people and collections,and provides for the visitors' needs.

The Lacey Historical Commission adopted a strategic plan for the Lacey Museum in 2019 based on these core standards and has updated it annually since then. (See Appendix X, Lacey Museum Strategic Plan 2023-2032.) Six overarching goals were defined:

1. Plan and build the new Lacey Museum & Cultural Center.
2. Create and deliver high-quality experiences at the Lacey Museum & Cultural Center.
3. Preserve, care for, and manage collections professionally.
4. Identify and secure stable, long-term funding and revenue sources for the museum.
5. Increase museum awareness, visibility and value throughout the city and region.
6. Build and foster community partnerships to increase capacity and sustainability.

For more information, see Policies & Objectives section (Strategic Goal #4)

New Museum Facility

Many of these goals are centered around the need for a new museum facility, which has been on the City's Capital Facilities Plan since 2010. The current museum facility is insufficient to meet the needs of

the community and professionally care for and provide access to museum collections. These insufficiencies include:

- No fire suppression
- Lack of stable climate control
- Lack of storage space
- Lack of workspace
- Exhibit installation requires closing the museum
- Insufficient parking and space for events
- Lack of public visibility
- Inability to bring in tour groups due to space constraints
- Inaccessible to less abled patrons

In 2012, the City of Lacey Historical Commission invited members of the public to engage in the planning process for a new museum facility. City staff, Commissioners, consultants, stakeholders, and members of the public participated in several workshops during the planning process. Out of this, eight objectives for the new facility were identified:

- Increase visibility.
- Be a center for community engagement.
- Educate people of all ages, genders, ethnicities, and backgrounds about Lacey and South Sound history, heritage & culture.
- Provide opportunities for new & repeat visitation.
- Improve identification of Lacey as a unique city.
- Improve collections stewardship & accessibility.
- Strive to meet professional standards.

Increase the public trust in the museum. Four phases were identified for the new Lacey Museum & Cultural Center.

Phase 1: Construction of the Lacey Depot and train-themed playground.
This phase was completed in 2019 and was used for grant matching funds.

Phase 2: Architecture and engineering for the new museum facility and site.
This phase was completed in 2021 with a grant from the Washington State Heritage Capital Projects Fund (HCP).

Phase 3: Bringing the site to a predevelopment stage.
This phase was completed in 2022 and included the Department of Ecology Voluntary Clean-Up program, Salmon-Safe certification, and a cultural resources survey. It was funded by a second grant from HCP.

Phase 4: Construction of the Lacey Museum and Cultural Center.
This is the final phase and is dependent on available funding.

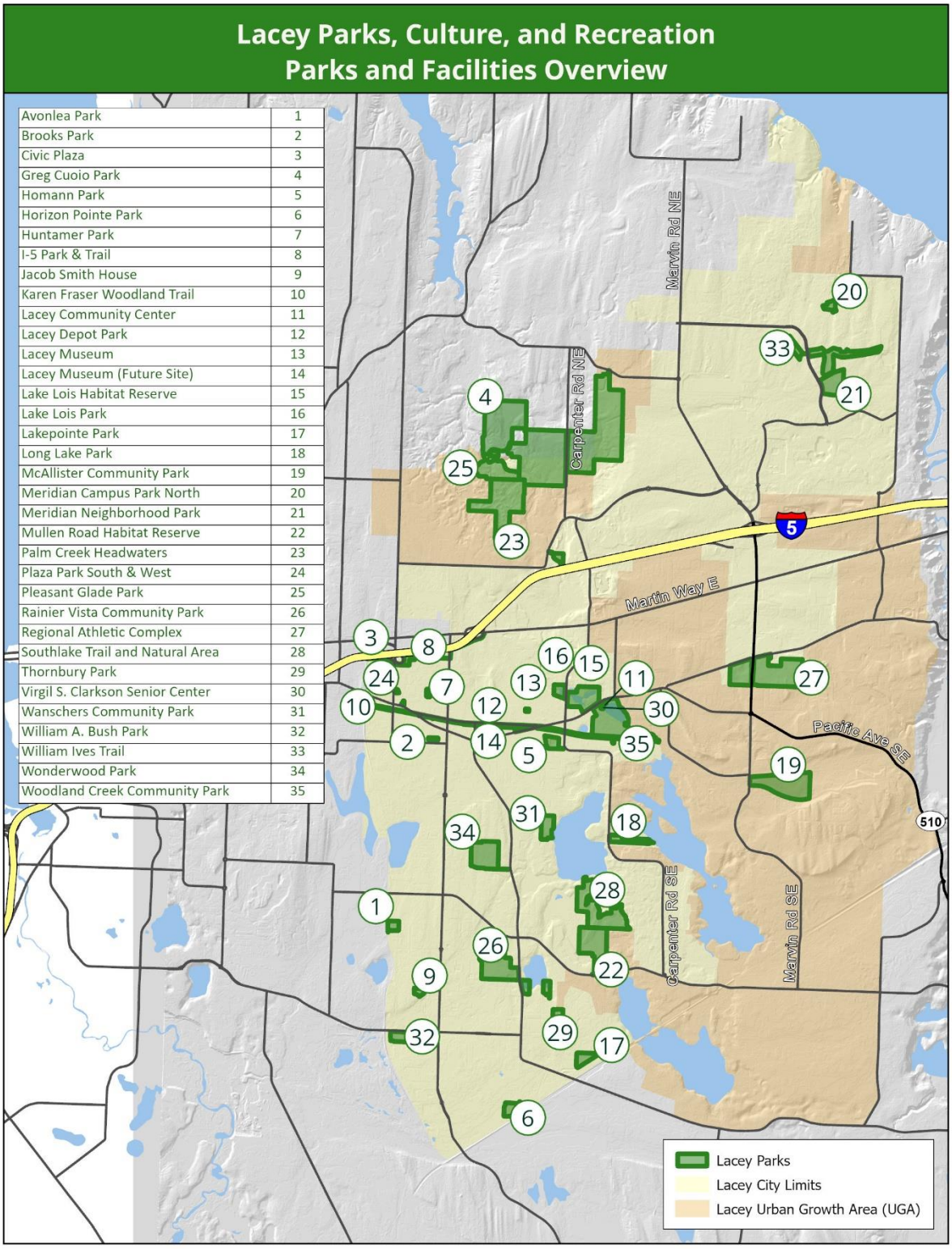
Community Partners and Champions

Bringing a project like this to fruition requires community support in many forms. The following are key museum partnerships which have provided financial support, goods and services, consultations, and collaborations (present and future).

- Washington State Historical Society
- Lacey Rotary Club
- Lacey Fire District #3
- Nisqually Indian Tribe
- Lacey Community Foundation
- Lacey Sunrise Lions
- Squaxin Island Tribe
- PARC Foundation
- North Thurston Public Schools
- Lacey Historical Society
- Saint Martin's University
- Olympia Genealogical Society
- Panorama
- Lacey Timberland Library
- Lacey South Sound Chamber
- Experience Lacey & Beyond
- South Sound Heritage Association
- North Thurston Kiwanis Club
- Friendly Flower Garden Club

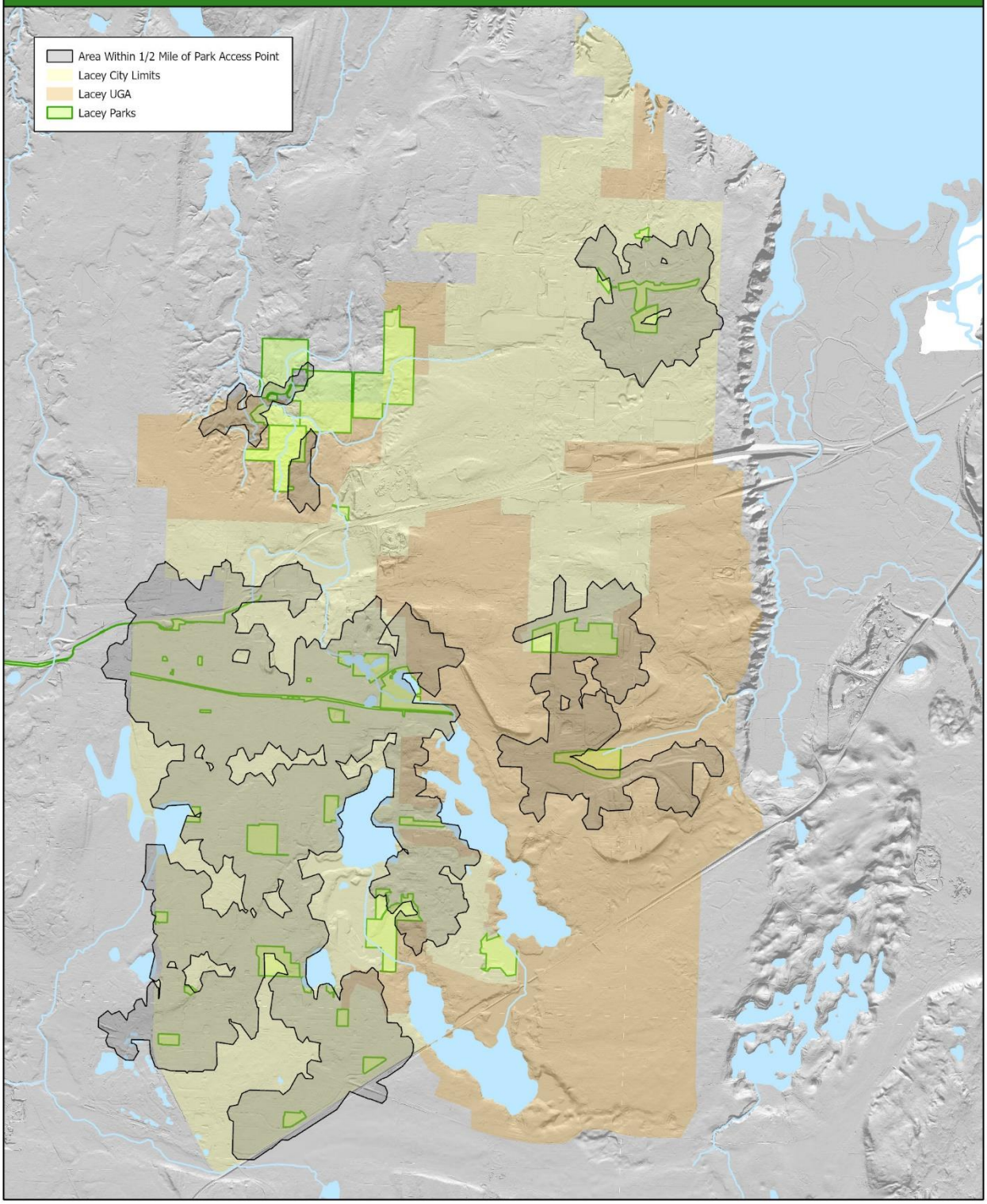
Park Name	Classification	Acreage
Arbors Park	Neighborhood	1.08
Avonlea Neighborhood Park	Neighborhood	5.49
Brooks Park	Neighborhood	1.1
Civic (Flag) Plaza	Open Space	0.17
Greg Cuoio Park	Neighborhood / Community / Regional	405.5
Greenbelt	Open Space	4.9
Homann Park	Neighborhood	7.85
Horizon Pointe Park	Neighborhood	9.5
Huntamer Park	Neighborhood / Community	1.5
I-5 Park and Trail	Open Space / Community	3
Karen Fraser Woodland Trail	Open Space	22.68
Lake Lois Habitat Reserve	Conservancy	28.56
Lake Lois Park	Neighborhood	7
Lakepointe Park	Neighborhood	9.58
Long Lake Natural Area	Open Space / Community	51.46
Long Lake Park	Neighborhood / Community	9.95
McAllister Grove Community Park Meridian Campus North Neighborhood Park	Neighborhood / Community Neighborhood	59.7 5
Meridian Neighborhood Park	Neighborhood	25.22
Mullen Road Habitat Reserve (Timberline Wetlands)	Conservancy	32.35
Palm Creek Headquarters	Open Space / Community	86.78
Pleasant Glade Park	Neighborhood / Community Park	42.25
Rainier Vista Community Park	Neighborhood / Community	46.4
Regional Athletic Complex (RAC) City/County	Neighborhood / Community / Regional	97.38
Southlake Trail Southwick Lake Thornbury Park	Open Space Neighborhood	15.55 8.2

Wanschers Park	Open Space / Community	14.89
West & South Plaza Parks	Neighborhood / Community	1.25
William A Bush	Neighborhood	9.88
William Ives Trail	Open Space	58.32
Wonderwood Park	Neighborhood / Community	40
Woodland Creek Community Park	Neighborhood / Community	72.77

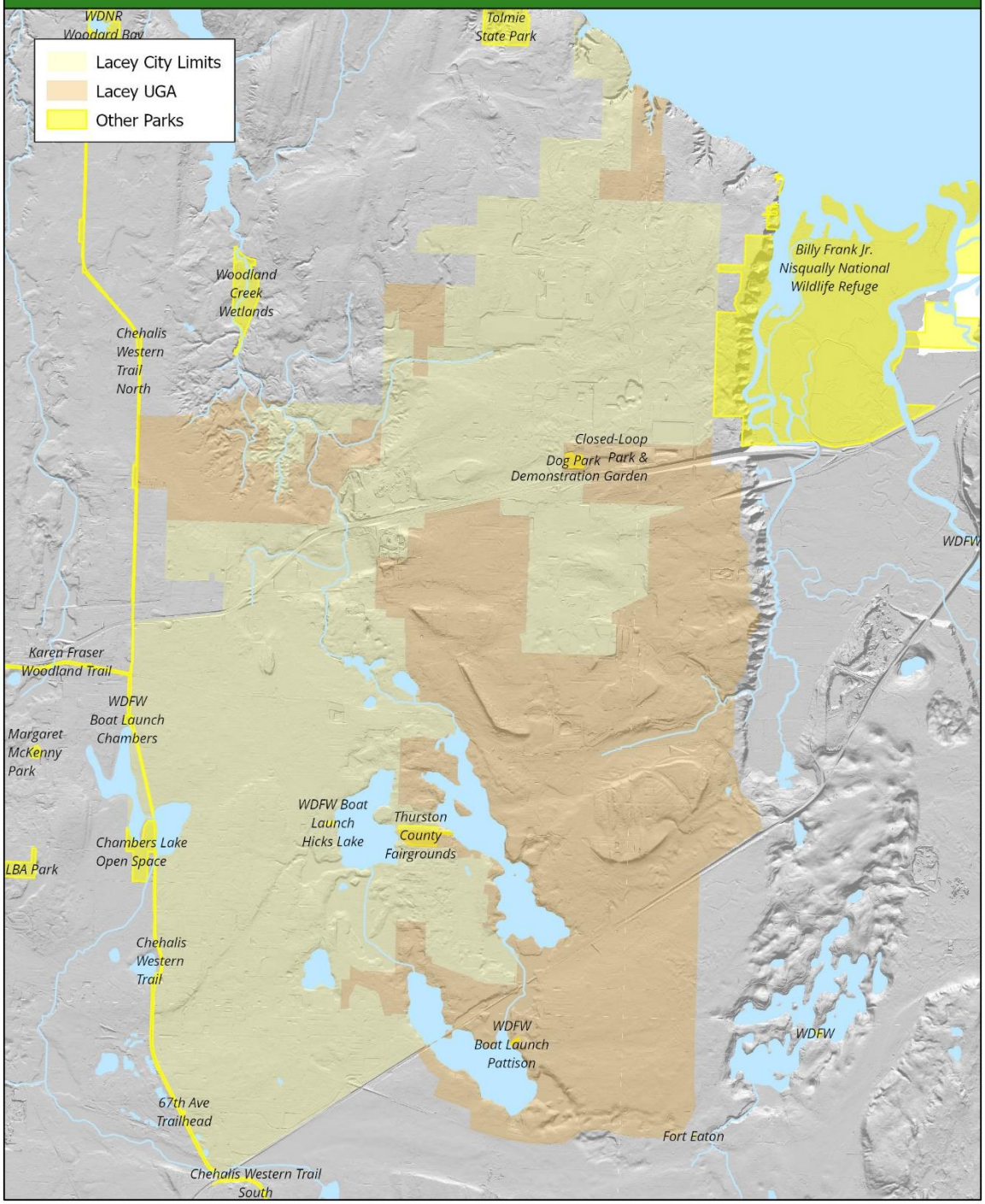


Level of Service Maps

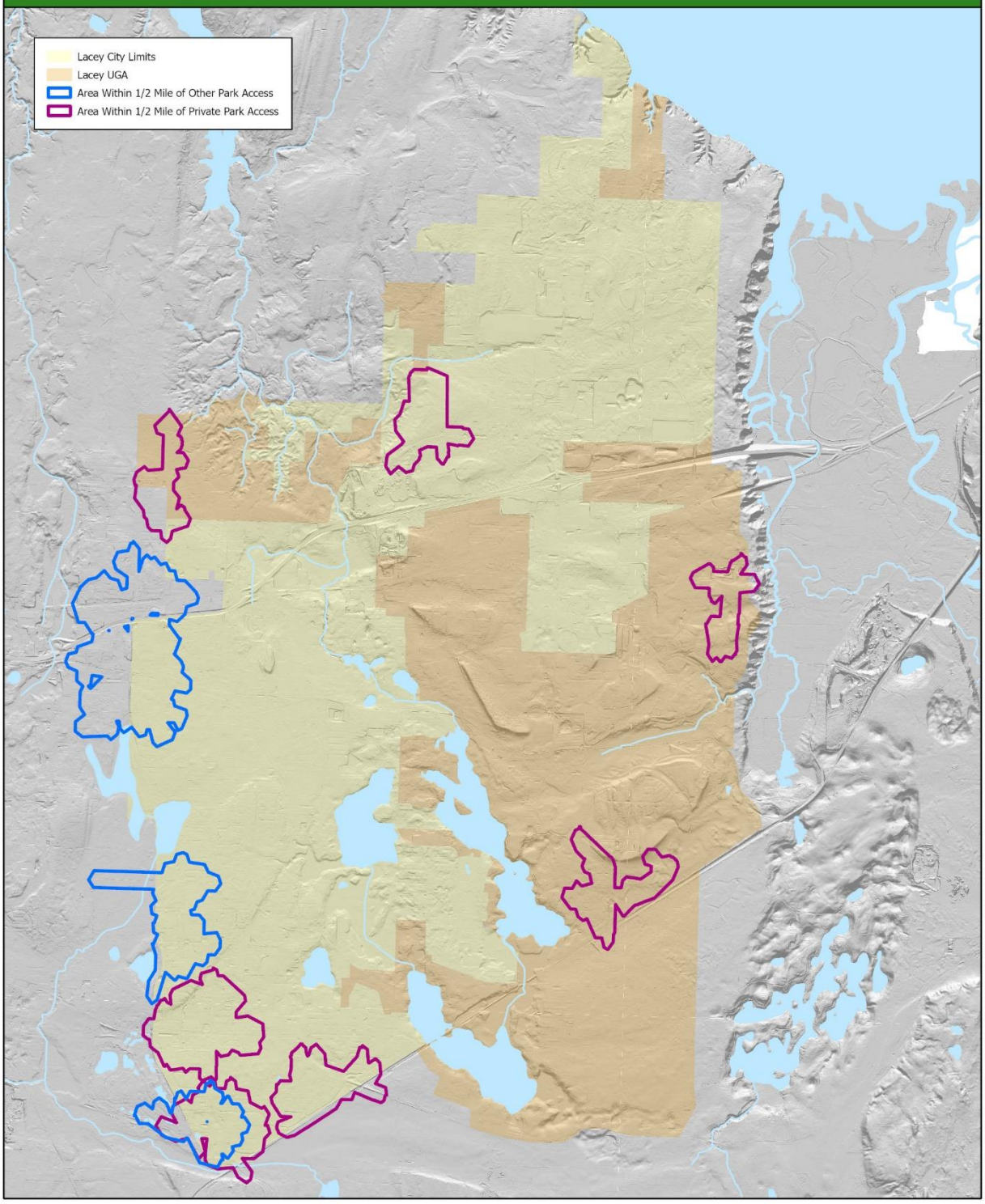
Lacey Parks Locations Access



Lacey Parks Other Parks



Lacey Parks Other Parks Access



North Thurston Public Schools provide playgrounds, fields, covered play sheds, tennis courts and other outdoor amenities that are available to the public during non-school hours but no later than dusk (unless otherwise reserved).

A reminder that school activities take priority before public use.

NTPS sports fields must be booked through Lacey Parks, and the stadiums and high school varsity fields must be booked through NTPS.

See NTPS website for operating rules for individual sites.

Gary: Add the combined map – **All Parks, Open Space & Recreational Facilities In Lacey** with their access color coded (in order to have full story on one combined map).

Although not located within Lacey's Urban Growth Area, the following facilities have a significant influence on the local recreational activities and therefore, have been included on the map:

Tolmie State Park is a 106-acre regional park, located on 61st Avenue NE, about one mile north of the Hawk's Prairie Planning Area. It has one half mile of Puget Sound shoreline, large natural area, beach, nature trail, picnic grounds and shelters, amphitheater mooring buoys, underwater scuba park, and shellfish gathering.

Billy Frank Jr. Nisqually National Wildlife Area is a 2,818-acre United States Fish and Wildlife Service conservancy property adjacent to the northeast boundary of the Planning Area. It has nature trails, an environmental education center, and significant waterfowl habitat.

Woodard Bay Natural Resources Conservation Area is a Washington State Department of Natural Resources conservancy area on Henderson Inlet about 4 miles north of the Hawk's Prairie Planning Area. It has over 4 miles of marine shoreline, 260 acres of upland, and 190 acres of tideland - all subject to limited public access. The Chehalis-Western Trail links this site to the planning area.

Luhr Beach Boat Ramp located at the mouth of the McAllister Creek, owned and operated by the Washington State Department of Fish & Wildlife, provides saltwater access

Chehalis Western Trail, a paved, regional pedestrian and bicycle trail that runs along Lacey's western border and stretches north 6.5 miles to the Woodard Bay Natural Resources Conservation Area and south 16 miles to the rural town of Rainier.

FULL PAGE PHOTO HERE

[LACEY CULTURAL CELEBRATION 1.JPG]

VII. Parks Planning Areas

The City of Lacey is located in the northeast corner of Thurston County and southern end of Puget Sound. The northern-most tip has shoreline along the Puget Sound and the southern area follows the Burlington Northern railroad near Yelm Highway. The western border is the Chehalis Western Rail line, which has been converted to a public trail. The eastern boundary generally follows the Willamette Meridian and Nisqually Bluff. US Interstate 5 bisects the City, with the majority of the community living south of the freeway. However, the City's northern portion is growing at a tremendous rate and where most of the urban growth is projected to occur over the next twenty years.

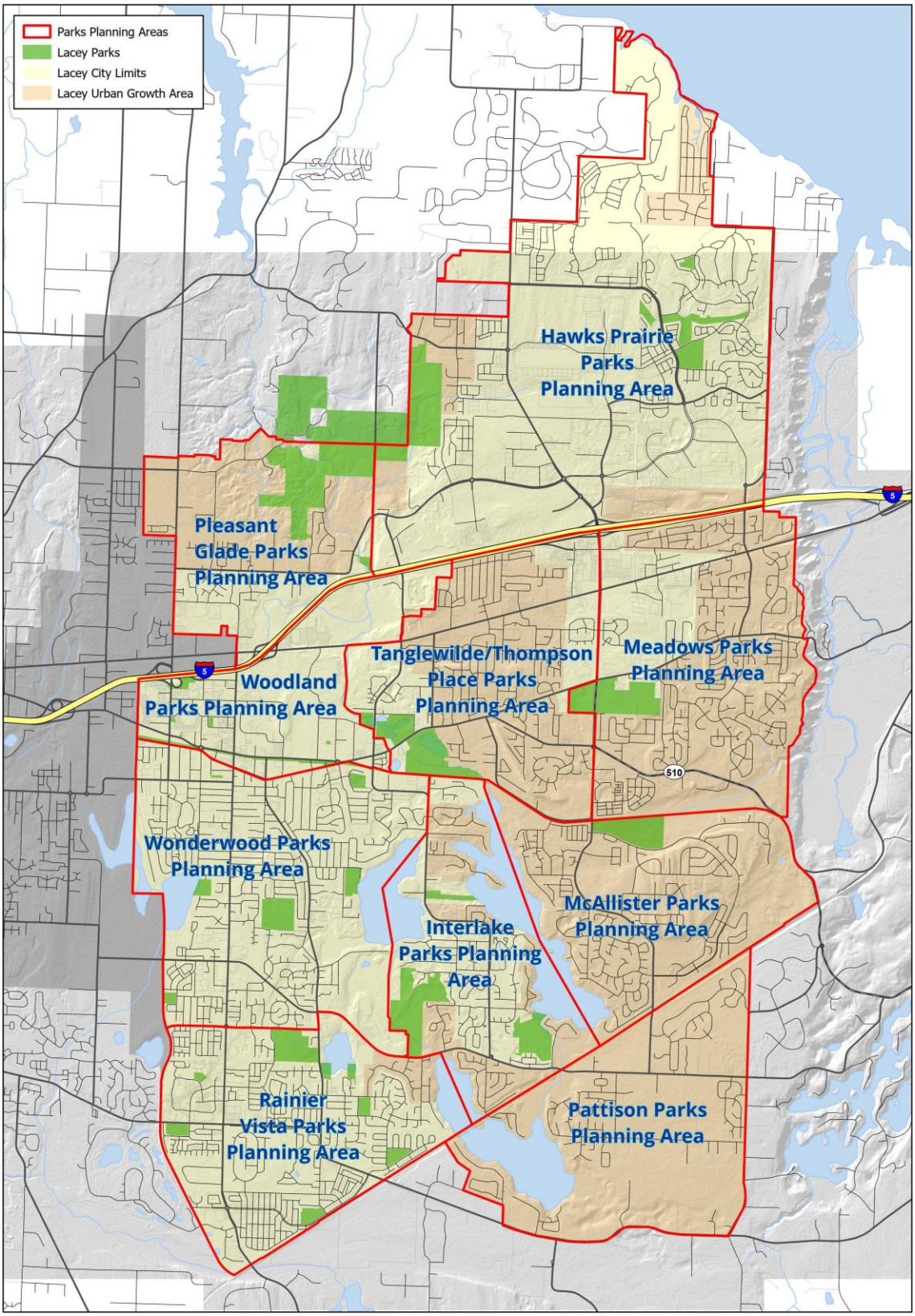
Lacey's incorporated boundaries include 12,176.4 acres (19.0 square miles) and its urban growth area includes approximately 9,121.2 acres (14.3 square miles) for a total planning area of approximately 21,297.6 acres (33.3 square miles). The Lacey Urban Growth Area (area currently in the county) is where urban growth will most likely occur over the next twenty years. The City of Lacey, plus its urban growth area, is approximately 5.25 miles wide and 9.25 miles long, at the widest points. Staff divided this overall planning area into ten smaller planning areas with an average size of 3 to 3.5 square miles. The planning areas are separated into reasonable zones, bordered by major transportation corridors (I-5, Pacific Avenue, BNRR) and natural features (lakes, creeks).

Staff considered existing community and regional facilities when identifying the ten planning areas. The same name was used in areas where the parks planning area and the planning area boundaries (established in the *Lacey Comprehensive Plan*) matched. Hawks Prairie, the largest planning area, is 7.2 square miles. As further development occurs, we may divide this area into smaller sections. Woodland, the smallest planning area, is 1.82 square miles.

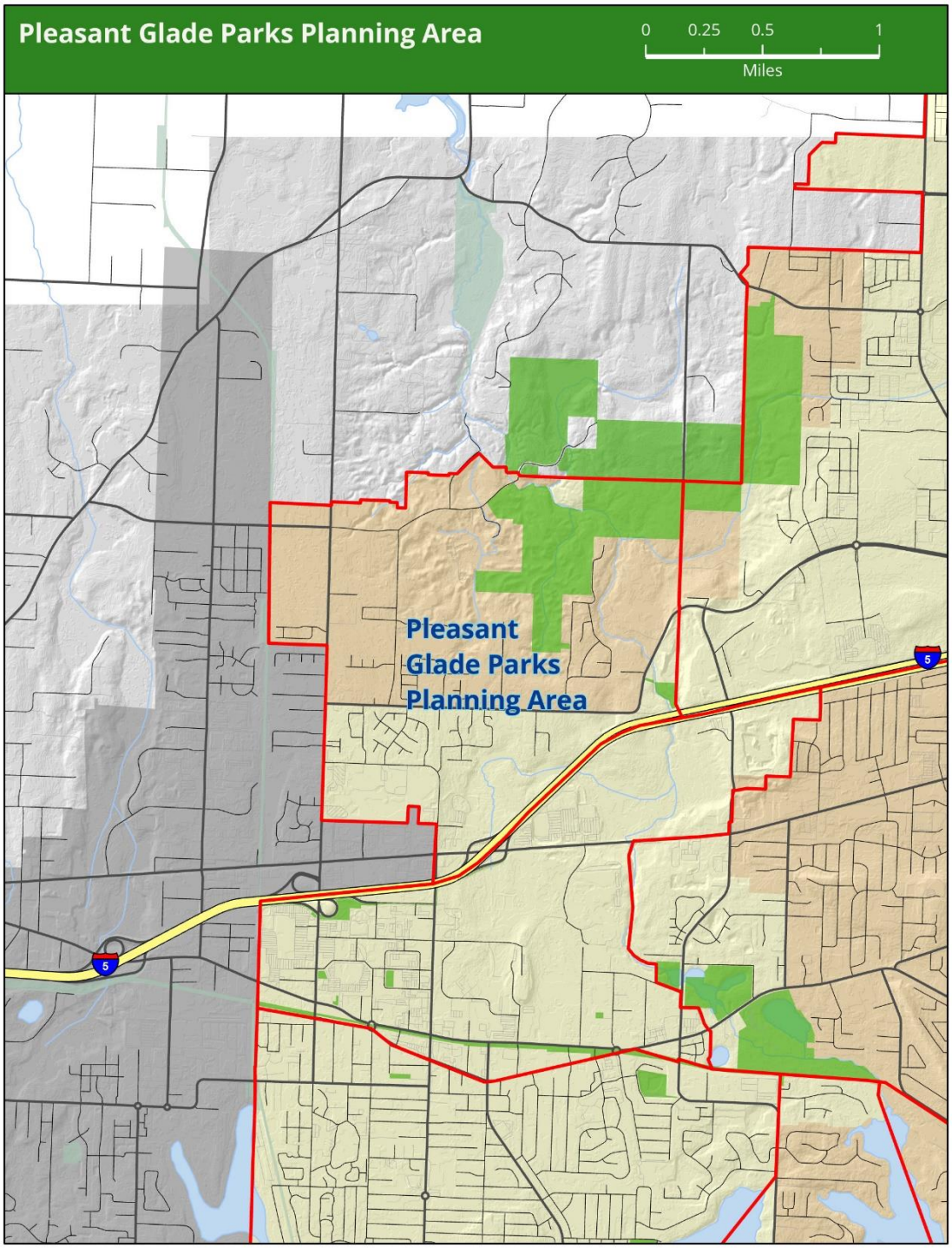
Each planning area was evaluated based on its recreational facilities and future park needs. According to the identified needs, the only planning areas that have neighborhood park deficiencies are Hawks Prairie, Tanglewilde/Thompson Place, Meadows, McAllister, and potentially Pattison. Again, even though deficiencies are noted, the overall acreage is above standard and Lacey is moving into a development phase rather than acquisition, with a focus on development and connectivity.

Each planning area has some type of important habitat for a variety of wildlife and environmentally sensitive areas, typically associated with wetlands, lakes, streams, and forest areas.

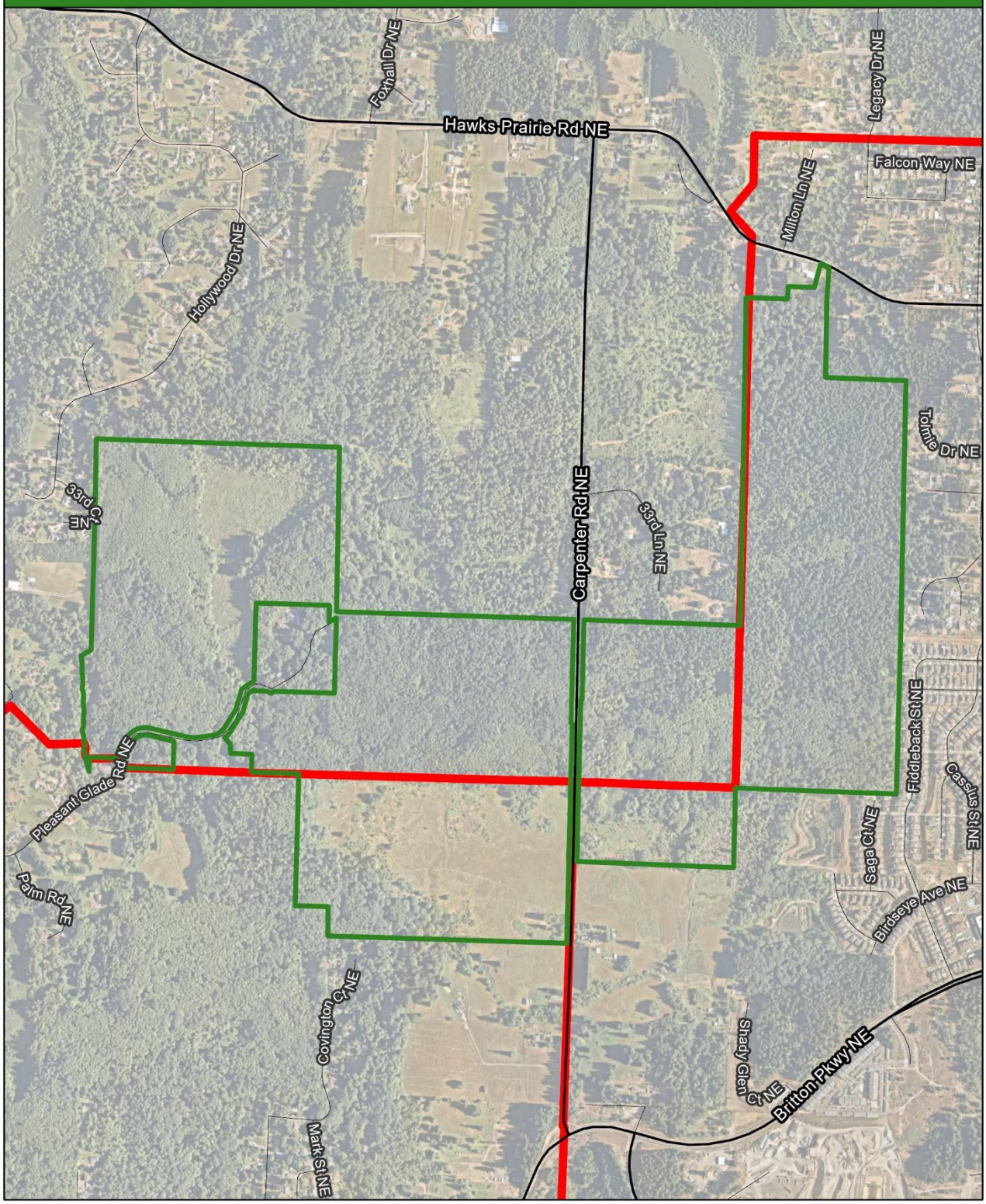
Lacey Parks, Culture, and Recreation
Parks Planning Areas



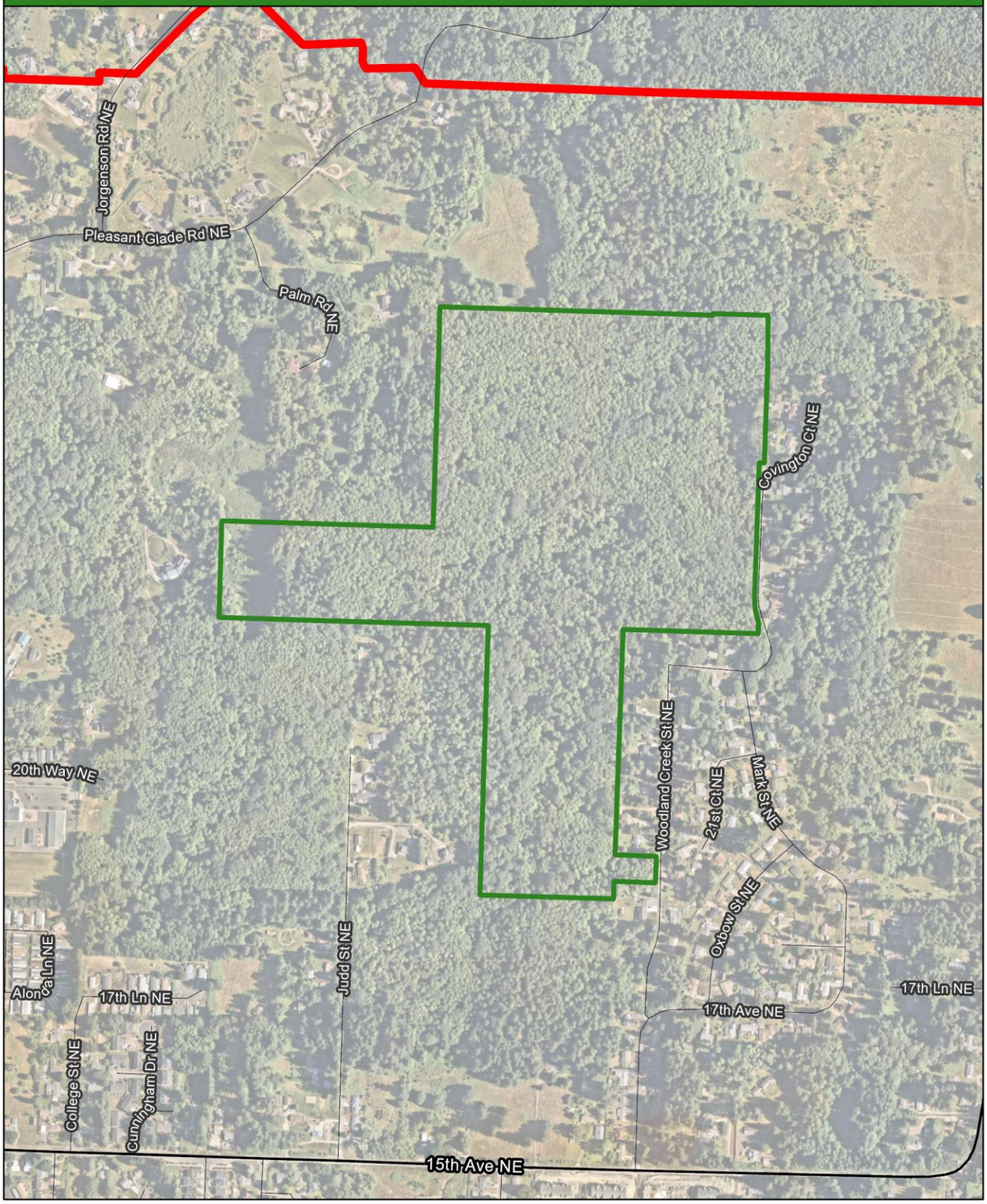
Pleasant Glade Planning Area



Greg J. Cuoio Community Park



Palm Creek Headwaters



Pleasant Glade Planning Area

Pleasant Glade Planning Area, located in the northwest corner of Lacey, encompasses 2.2 square miles. The Chehalis-Western trail is on the west, Carpenter Road on the east, US Interstate 5 to the south, and Lacey's Urban Growth Area boundary to the north. More than half of the existing planning area is located within the Lacey Urban Growth Area boundaries and is primarily rural in character. In addition, part of the City-owned Park property actually lies outside the City boundary in unincorporated Thurston County. Its zoning is mostly residential, with some commercially zoned areas. The area's 2022population was 2,965 with a population density of 1,335 people per square mile. By 2027, the population is predicted to grow to 3,064 and density will increase to 1,379 people per square mile. In 2035, 4,300 people may live in this planning area.

Existing recreational opportunities include four public schools, two trails (the I-5 bike trail and the Chehalis Western Trail), one private school, and three park sites. The Pleasant Glade Planning Area has 64.4 acres of park land per 1,000 residents. The public schools are Pleasant Glade Elementary School, Chinook Middle School, and Envision Career Academy and North Thurston High Schools. Together, the schools have many opportunities for active recreation including gymnasiums, fields, tennis courts, playgrounds, basketball courts, a running track, indoor pool, and classrooms. Northwest Christian Academy, a private school, has classrooms, football/soccer field, tennis courts, and 60 acres of open space. LPCR partners with North Thurston Public Schools to offer a free summer recreation program with free lunch and some summers this program operates at Pleasant Glade Elementary School (facility use is dependent on school availability).

In 2002, the City acquired Pleasant Glade Park, classified as a neighborhood/community park, featuring a small pond and over 2,100 feet of Woodland Creek frontage. The City completed minor park improvements in 2015 to allow for public access. In 2022, the Greg Cuoio Park & Greenways Master Plan (GCPGMP) was completed which includes future low-impact Pleasant Glade Park improvements to include multi-use trails, disc golf course, small park shelter, playground, a nature viewing area for the pond, and a small parking lot.

In 2009, Lacey acquired an adjacent parcel and in 2011, purchased 407 acres of pastoral and forested land adjacent to Pleasant Glade Park for a future active and passive community/regional park (Greg Cuoio Park). The GCPGMP indicates the intention to provide for open space preservation, water rights mitigation, natural storm water filtration, water quality protection in the Woodland Creek watershed, and wildlife habitat corridors while also allowing for a balance of some more active park amenities. The park contains significant wetland areas with creek frontage on Woodland, Fox, and Eagle Creeks. As mentioned, the GCPGMP was completed in 2022 after an 18-month planning and public involvement process.

Approximately 186 acres of Greg Cuoio Park is located in the Pleasant Glade Park Planning Area, with the remaining 175.8 acres split between rural Thurston County (44.6 acres) and the Hawks Prairie Planning Area (131.2 acres).

In 2012, the City purchased Palm Creek Headwaters, an 86.78-acre property south of and adjacent to Greg Cuoio Park. This property contains Palm Creek and as indicated in the GCPGMP will be connected to adjacent park property.

The 22-mile Chehalis-Western Trail, owned and maintained by Thurston County, extends from Woodard Bay to Offutt Lake, just north of Tenino.

Important Habitat

The natural features located in the Pleasant Glade Planning Area include wetland areas associated with Woodland Creek, which flows from Long Lake to Puget Sound, and several stands of trees with native understory and relatively few invasive plants. The entire Woodland Creek corridor, located within this planning area, falls under the Shoreline Master Program and is designated a shoreline of the state. This law helps protect the creek and prevent damaging development within the corridor and its buffer. The City of Lacey also adopted requirements for buffers around wetland and stream areas.

The City of Lacey owns a 4.4-acre parcel along Woodland Creek, shown as Greenbelt on the map, in this planning area. In addition, the Department of Fish and Wildlife has mapped important bird habitat areas along the Woodland Creek corridor.

Park Needs Assessment

The following section evaluates the park needs of the Pleasant Glade Planning Area. The assessment was part of the GCPGMP Public Involvement Plan, the Lacey Cares and Energize Lacey public outreach processes, and staff evaluation of the planning area as compared to the level of service indicated in this Plan.

78.5 percent of Pleasant Glade Planning Area's population (lives) is within a .5-mile radius of a neighborhood park. Based on adopted level of service standards, this planning area has no additional acquisition needs at this time. However, a long-term development plan has been identified through the GCPGMP with a goal of maintaining protection of sensitive areas but allowing balanced recreational use. Since the 537 acres of park property, including Greg Cuoio Park, Pleasant Glade Park and Palm Creek Headwaters are adjacent to one another they were all included in the planning process for the area.

The GCPGMP includes many phases of development to include access on all four sides of the combined 537 acres, future connectivity of all the trails in the park areas to include a

suspension bridge over Woodland Creek connecting Greg Cuoio and Pleasant Glade Parks, future restrooms, demonstration and community gardens, outdoor and indoor education, expansion of the disc golf course, off leash dog park, family mountain biking area, kids adventure track, fitness trail, and cross country course. There is a significant amount of stakeholder support for development of trails at this location for local cross country training, and meets. The local high school athletic director and coaches are interested in engaging the cross country teams in any possible activities or work parties to support installation and maintenance of trails.

The GCPGMP also identifies the need for a Park Maintenance shop to be constructed on the east side of Carpenter Road to support future expansion of the park properties.

Pleasant Glade Park: This Park has minimal development which includes a gate, picnic table, and some non-developed trails. Future planning for this park is included in the GCPGMP. The public input for this site includes a strong preference for passive use, trails and nature viewing, with some more active uses such as disc golf, park shelter use for gatherings, and a playground potentially built into the natural terrain.

Greg Cuoio Park Planning: The GCPGMP was completed in 2022 after an extensive planning and public involvement process, and City Council approved the construction of Phase 1A.

[GREG CUOIO PARK STAFF PLANNING 1.JPG]

PARK VISION

To provide open space preservation, water quality protection, and enhancement of the natural environment, balancing the natural environment with recreation opportunities to create a place for visitors and residents to experience and learn about this incredibly unique park.

The identified sensitive areas will be protected with adequate buffers. Through an in-depth public involvement process, the programming and guiding principles for the park were updated:

PROGRAMMING

- walking / biking trails (paved and unpaved)
- passive recreation (nature viewing, etc)
- picnicking / lawn games
- education / community space (outdoor and indoor)
- playgrounds
- events
- demonstration gardens
- disc golf

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- protect / restore ecology
- ensure safety / security
- cost effective / low maintenance
- new activities / programs
- inclusive design elements
- ease of access / circulation

Greg Cuoio Park Phase 1A: Phase 1A construction is intended for 2023 and 2024 with an anticipated opening date of 2024 and will consist of a safe main entry off Carpenter Road, 50 parking stalls, 18 holes of disc golf built as a gold level standard course, a large shelter and phase 1 of a large playground. Phase 1A will also include a one-mile multi-use 10’ wide gravel trail around the perimeter of the developments and many secondary natural surface trails.

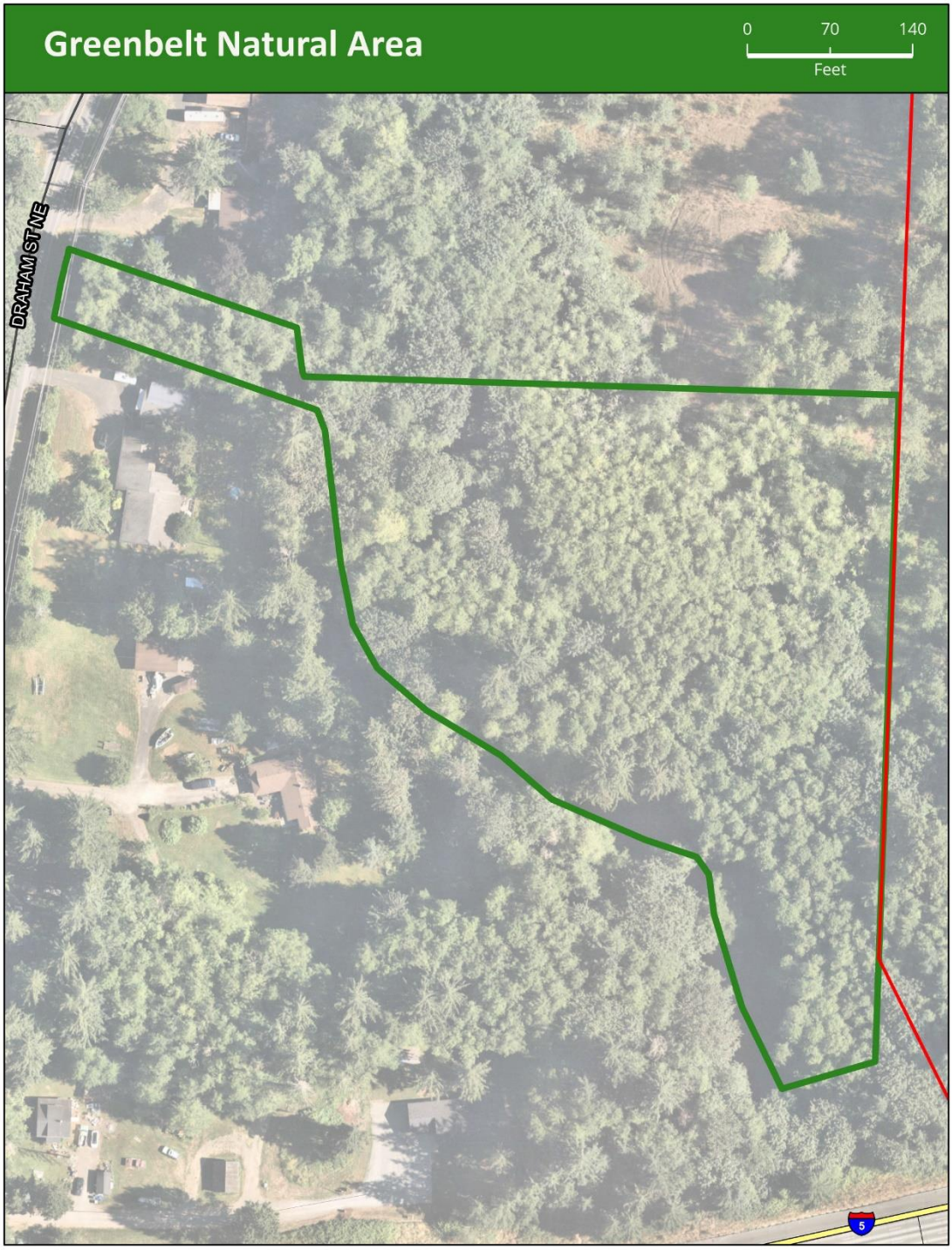
Phase 1A Improvements

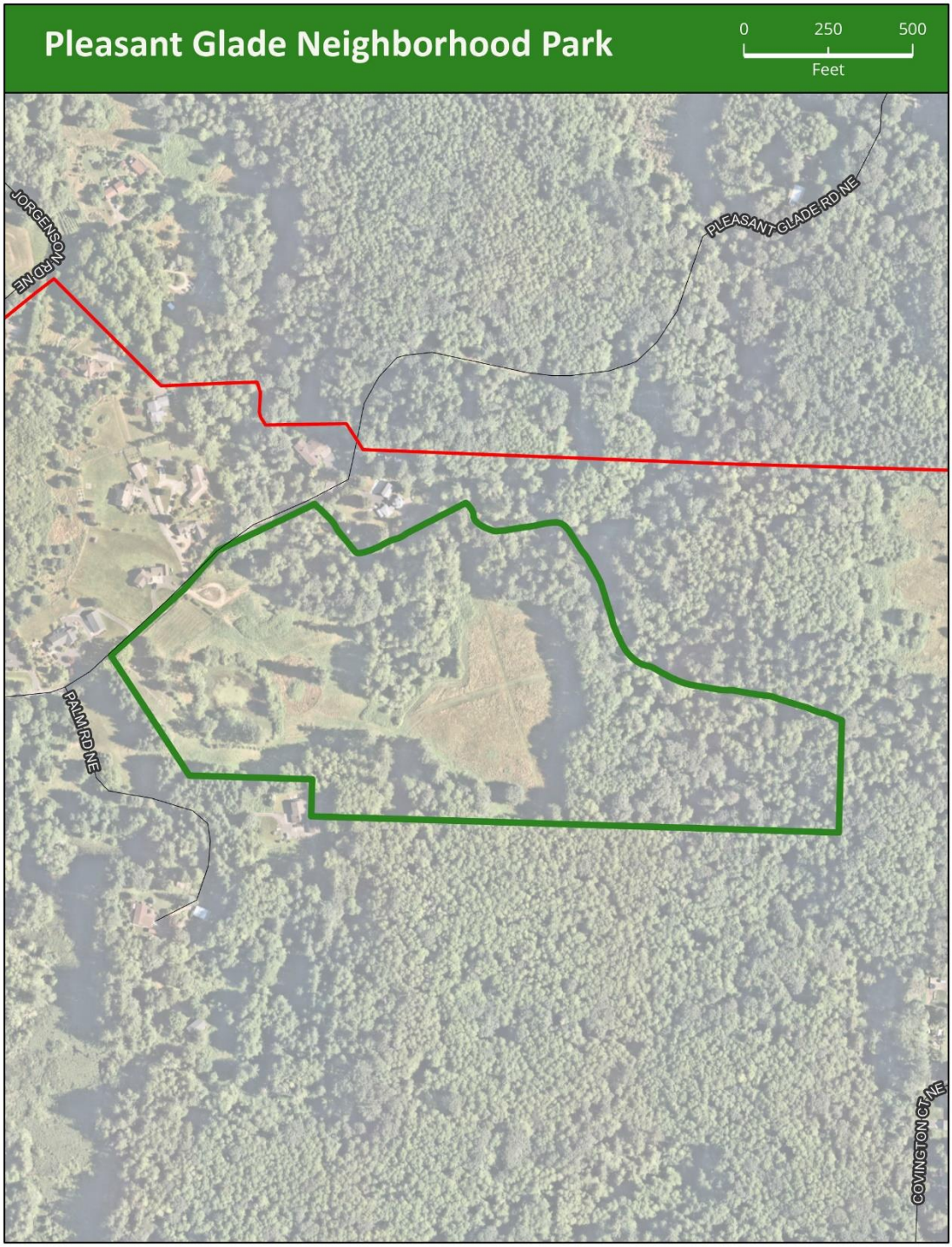
- Park access drive
- Parking lot
- Flexible open lawn
- Shelter
- Temporary restrooms
- Paved and soft surface trails
- Playground
- Emergency and maintenance access
- 18-hole disc golf course
- Signage and wayfinding

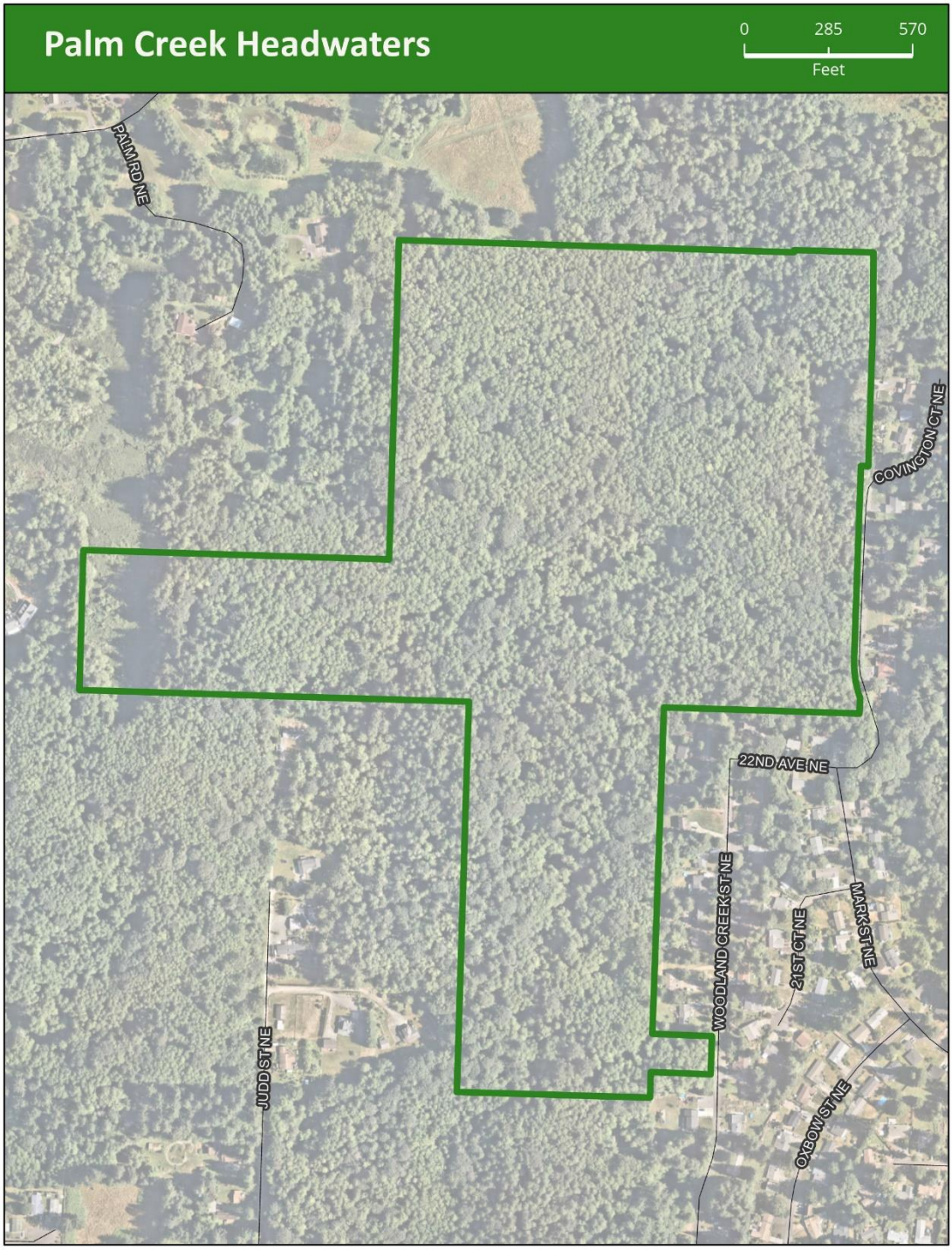
Greg Cuoio Park Future Phases: The GCPGMP outlines many future phases. Public input includes a strong desire for more trails, a second phase to the playground which can include a zipline (this would be Lacey's first one), and the dog park. Importantly, a restroom and additional parking will need to be included in the next phase.

Palm Creek Headwaters: Due to identified sensitive areas, this space will remain minimally developed according to the GCPGMP and the primary use will be natural trails.

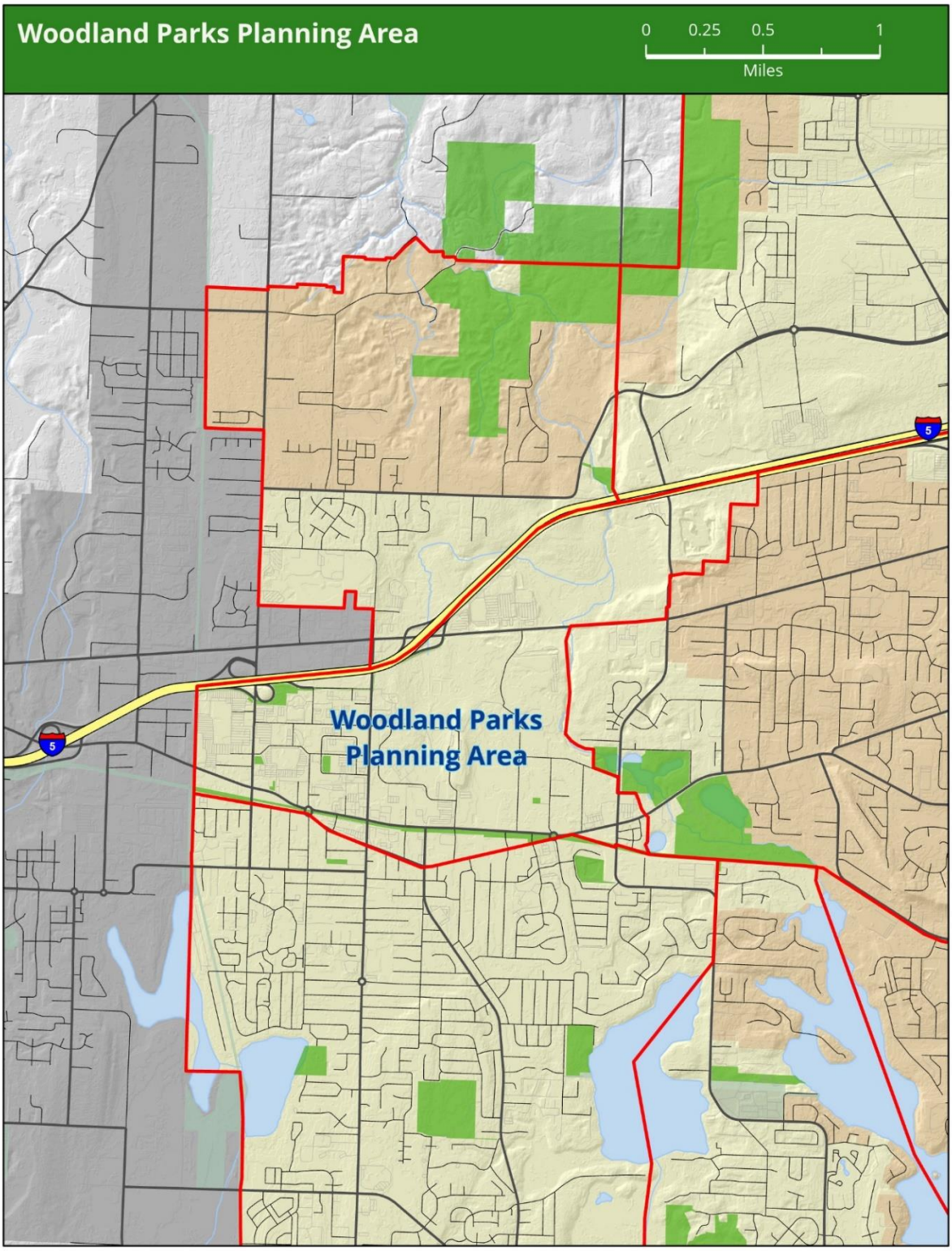
Pleasant Glade Planning Area Parks




Pleasant Glade Neighborhood Park
0
250
500
Feet
JORGENSON RD NE
PLEASANT GLADE RD NE
PALM RD NE
COVINGTON CT NE


Palm Creek Headwaters
0
285
570
Feet
PALM RD NE
COVINGTON CT NE
22ND AVE NE
WOODLAND CREEK ST NE
21ST CT NE
MARK ST NE
JUDD ST NE
OXBOW ST NE

Woodland Planning Area



Woodland Planning Area

The Woodland Planning Area, considered Lacey's downtown area, includes the Central Business District (CBD). The Chehalis-Western Trail is on the west, Carpenter Road to the east, Lacey Boulevard to the south, and US Interstate 5 to the north. Almost the entire 1.82 square mile planning area is in incorporated Lacey and is generally zoned Central Business District, Woodland District, and Moderate- and Low-Density Residential. This area contains the Lacey Historic Neighborhood and the City's earliest Donation Land Claim, which is now the Panorama retirement community. The planning area's estimated population is 2,104 with a population density of 1,158 people per square mile. In 2027, the population is predicted to be 2,427 and density will increase to 1,335 people per square mile. By 2035, 2,600 people may live in this planning area.

Existing recreational opportunities in the Woodland Planning Area include four park areas, a historic museum, and the Lacey Women's Club. The Woodland Planning Area has 1.8 acres of park land which includes the I-5 Park and Trail (leased from Washington State Dept. of Transportation), the Civic (Flag) Plaza, Thomas Huntamer Park, and West and South Plazas, which are both located in the downtown area. Two regional trails pass through this planning area: the I-5 Bicycle Trail in the northern portion and the Karen Fraser Woodland Trail through the southern portion. The parks and trails provide opportunities for bicycling along U.S. Interstate 5 and convenient access to shopping areas and the library. In 2018, the City completed its Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan, identifying future linkages for these trail systems.

[LACEY SUMMER CONCERT & MOVIE113.JPG] Thomas Huntamer Park, one of the downtown parks, has benches, picnic tables, children's play equipment, a restroom, and stage. It has been identified as a neighborhood/community park and is the site of many LPCR community events including Lacey In Tune, a popular summertime series offering lunch time and evening performances, concerts, and movies. Other City events held in Huntamer Park include Arbor Day, Children's Day, and the Holiday Tree Lighting, but many private and rented community events take place at this location throughout the year including the South Sound Chamber's annual BBQ Festival.

All the Woodland Planning Area's plazas have easy pedestrian access and tremendous urban beautification potential. There are no neighborhood parks in this planning area.

The Lacey Museum, a cultural attraction in the planning area, is located in a historic house in the Lacey Historic Neighborhood. The museum hosts long-term and changing exhibits on the heritage of the South Sound and broader topics that provide context to local history, as well as a monthly lecture series called History Talks! The museum is no longer able to meet the needs of the community for education or collections stewardship due to space constrictions. A new museum facility was added to the Capital Facilities Plan in 2010.

The City purchased property between Lacey Boulevard SE and Pacific Avenue to build the new Lacey Museum & Cultural Center and Depot Park. With funding assistance from the Washington State Historical Society, the site's master plan has been updated and construction documents for the new facility and surrounding site have been prepared. The City completed construction of a near-replica of the historic Lacey Depot along the Karen Fraser Woodland Trail in 2020 but did not hold the grand opening o until 2021 due to COVID-19 restrictions. The depot is the size of the original building that stood on the site and contains picnic tables and restrooms for seasonal public use (free drop-in use and private rentals). As part of the new museum campus, the Lacey Depot will be used for events and programs as well as a lunch spot for school field trips.

Insert info here regarding train playground in collaboration with Lacey Rotary Legacy project and new Lacey Food Truck Plaza along with new kiosk which will be installed in 2023. Include that the Lacey Depot was a 50th Anniversary landmark project of the City Council.

A Depot District Sub-Area Plan (first adopted in 2009 and later updated in 2019) works to guide development in this area while providing a framework for preserving the historic character of the neighborhood. The primary goals of the plan are to promote economic development, enhance the quality of life for residents, and create a unique and vibrant sense of place. The plan includes recommendations for land use, transportation, open space, and design guidelines for new development.

Saint Martin's Abbey and University (SMU), a private university, sits on 300 acres and is located east of College Street and north of Pacific Avenue. The college, established in 1895 by Benedictine Catholic monks, is an important historic resource for the City of Lacey.

Saint Martin's College, as it was originally known, opened its doors to its first student on September 11, 1895. At that time, it was a school for boys and young men ages 10 to 20. In 1938, it became an accredited, baccalaureate-granting institution. Although women attended classes in certain circumstances previously, it was not until 1965 that the College opened

enrollment for women in all of its programs. Old Main, the oldest building on campus, was built in 1913 after the original Old Main succumbed to fire. In 2005, the college became Saint Martin's University to better represent its offerings.

SMU provides opportunities for both active and passive recreation. Pope John Paul II High School, near Saint Martin's campus, has no park or recreation facilities of its own and relies on nearby SMU and City of Lacey amenities.

The former Northern Pacific rail line that runs along the south edge of this planning area was converted to the Woodland Trail and renamed the Karen Fraser Woodland Trail in 2018. Karen Fraser was a trailblazer becoming the youngest Lacey Councilmember and then the first female mayor and going on to be a state senator.

The Karen Fraser Woodland Trail, owned and maintained by both the City of Lacey and the City of Olympia, provides bicycle and pedestrian access to core areas of Lacey. It also connects to both the City of Olympia portion of the Karen Fraser Woodland Trail and the Thurston County Chehalis-Western Trail at the Hub Bicycle Roundabout. The Chehalis-Western trail extends to Woodard Bay at the north end and to Offut Lake at the south end, just north of Tenino. In 2010, a bridge across Interstate 5 was opened, and in 2015, the last segment of the trail was completed in the vicinity of South Sound Center with a pedestrian and bike overpass constructed over Pacific Avenue.

Important Habitat

The Woodland Planning Area's nature features include the Woodland Creek corridor and its associated wetlands. SMU also has extensive natural areas; most of the site is open space with a variety of wetland classifications.

This planning area also has a small oak stand and an important bird habitat, located along Woodland Creek. The stand of oaks is significant because they are quite rare and can provide significant habitat for various birds and small animals. However, these stands are limited and declining and, as a result, are important to preserve.

The property adjacent to and east of Woodland Creek and west of Carpenter Road between I-5 and Martin Way requires special mention. This property has areas of environmental sensitivity because of Woodland Creek, its associated wetlands, and steep slopes. Due to the noted sensitivities, most of the properties have been designated Open Space Institutional.

Park Needs Assessment

This section evaluates the park needs of the Woodland Planning Area. The assessment was part of the 2012 Lacey Museum Master Plan outreach, the 2020 Lacey Cares engagement, the

formation of the Gold Star Families Foundation of Lacey, the formation of the Lacey Community Foundation, the input and engagement from Lacey Rotary Club and staff evaluation of the planning area as compared to the level of service indicated in this Plan.

95.8 percent of the Woodland Planning Area's population is within a .5-mile radius of a neighborhood park. Based on adopted level of service standards, this planning area has no additional acquisition needs at this time. However, development of the following park properties have been identified:

Public input for this planning area includes a potential partnership for a baseball stadium.

Huntamer Park: This Park is located in the heart of Lacey. Some of the public input for this site includes the addition of a water feature and a public art installation. The play structure at the site is in need of replacement. There is a potential for replacement of the play structure with a spray park or other water feature.

Civic Plaza: In 2019 the Gold Star Families Foundation of Lacey formed to construct and maintain a Gold Star Families Memorial Monument in Lacey. Gold Star Families Memorial Monuments are located across all 50 states in honor of the Gold Star families of our nation's fallen service members. The closest to Lacey are located in Lynnwood and in Forks. Civic Plaza was the selected location, and the City obtained the permit from the Washington State Department of Transportation for the foundation's installation of the monument at Civic Plaza. The foundation started fundraising in 2020 and in 2021 the City of Lacey council approved a $30,000 contribution towards the purchase of the monument. The monument was installed in 2023.

The Lacey Gold Star Families Memorial Monument is a place of remembrance for people from all over Thurston County and even Washington State to visit, honor, and reflect on the sacrifices made by our fallen service members and their families.

New Museum & Cultural Center: The Lacey Depot construction was completed and planning and design for the site was completed in 2020 in conjunction with the Depot District Sub-Area Plan. Removal of the warehouse facility and site upgrades occurred in 2021. A funding plan is being developed to support the next phase of construction.

Community members started the Lacey Community Foundation in 2022 to support the efforts of Parks, Culture & Recreation projects in Lacey and in particular the Lacey Museum & Cultural Center.

I-5 Park & Trail: The I-5 park and trail has major concerns due to the impact of houseless individuals and vandalism.

Other needs identified in the Woodland Planning Area include more pedestrian-friendly amenities, trail connections, public spaces and the preservation of the Woodland Creek Corridor which functions as a tributary to the Deschutes River and follows the Woodland Creek.

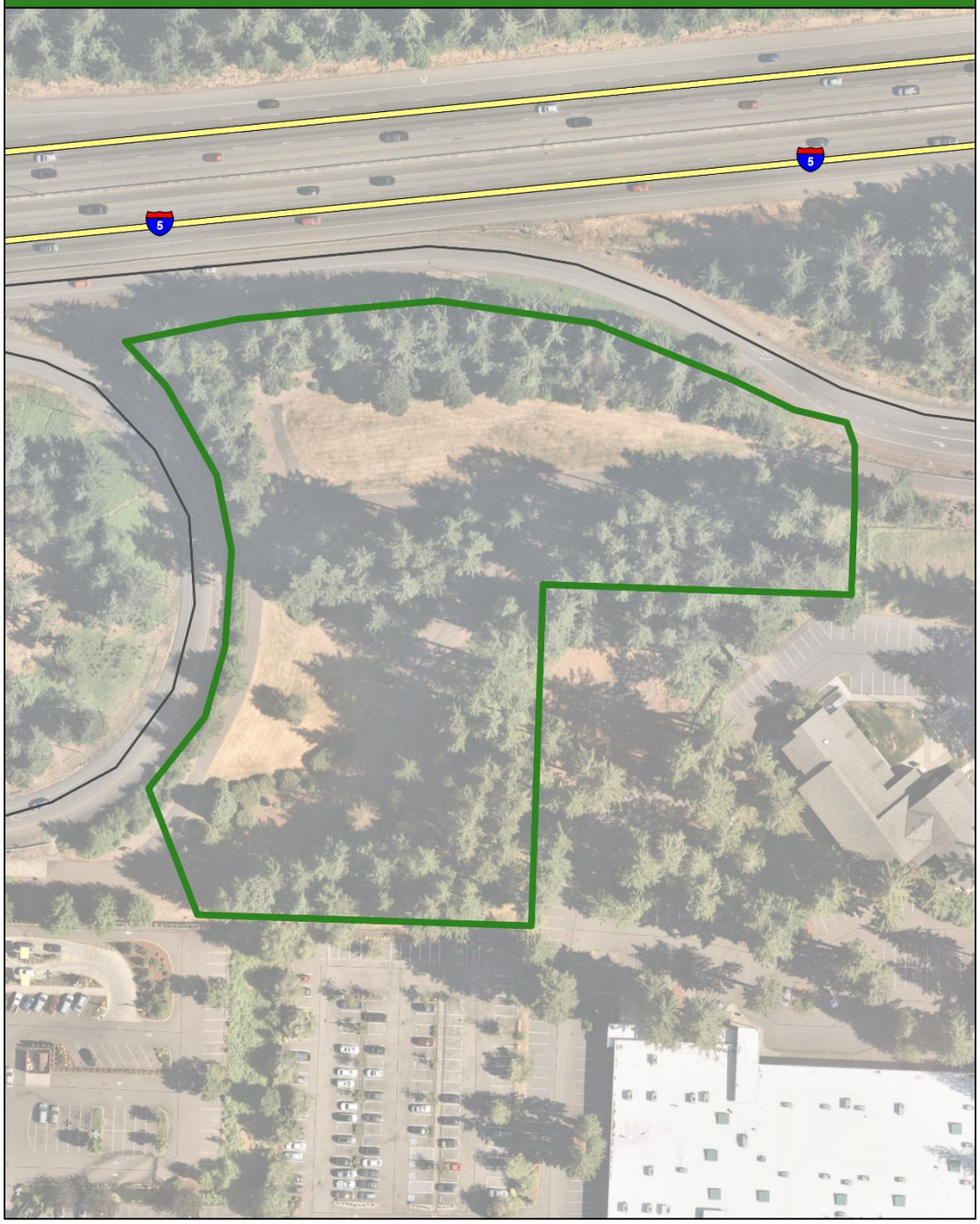
The corridor is a significant natural resource for the community, providing habitat for wildlife, supporting water quality, and offering opportunities for recreation and education. The corridor includes a variety of ecosystems, including wetlands, forests, and meadows, which support a diverse range of plant and animal species.

In addition to its ecological value, the Woodland Creek Corridor is also a popular destination for outdoor recreation. The corridor includes several miles of trails that are open to the public for hiking, running, and bird watching. It also provides fish habitat, with several species of fish returning to the corridor on an annual basis for spawning.

Woodland Planning Area Parks

Huntamer Park
0
35
70
Feet
7TH AVE SE
WOODLAND SQUARE LOOP SE

I-5 Park

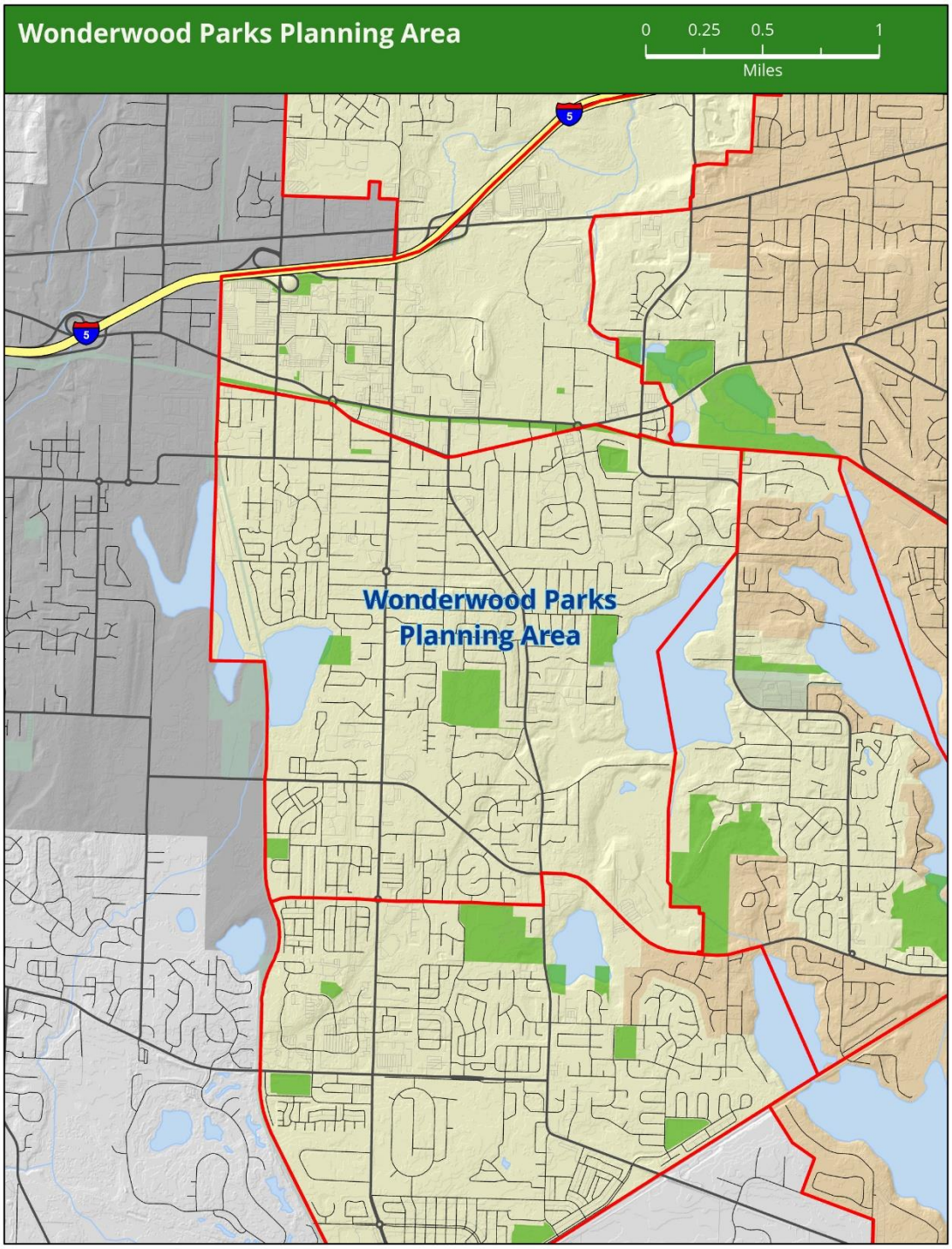


Lacey Museum
0
50
100
Feet

Plaza Park South

Woodland Planning Area Parks – cont'd

Wonderwood Planning Area



Wonderwood Planning Area

The Wonderwood Planning Area, 4 square miles, is located south of Lacey Boulevard. The Chehalis-Western Trail and Chambers Lake are to the west, Carpenter Road and Hicks Lake to the east, and 45th Avenue to the south. The planning area is located, generally, in Lacey's incorporated area. The area is primarily zoned residential, with two small neighborhood commercial areas and a small, light-industrial commercial area along Carpenter Road. The area's estimated population is 18,183 with a population density of 4,569 people per square mile. By 2027, the population is projected to grow to 18,705 increasing its density to 4,700 people per square mile. In 2035, 18,000 people may live in this planning area.

The Wonderwood Planning Area has the highest residential population in the city limits. In 2022, 32 percent of the city population and 20 percent of the total urban growth area live in this planning area. Through 2027, this area will continue to have the highest percentage of residents. In years following, growth in this area will slow compared to other park planning areas.

Recreational opportunities in the planning area include Wonderwood Park, a neighborhood/community park; Avonlea Park, a neighborhood park; Homann Park, a neighborhood park; Wanschers Park, an open space/community park; and Brooks Park, a neighborhood park. The Wonderwood Planning Area has 4.8 acres of park land per 1,000 residents. The parks in this area provide a variety of passive and active outdoor recreational opportunities and include baseball and soccer fields, tennis and basketball courts, and playground equipment. Several of the parks include trails (paved and dirt) and Wanschers Park provides public water access. Chambers Lake Natural Area provides informal access and viewing opportunities.

The Chambers Lake Natural Area is a stormwater facility managed by the City of Lacey Stormwater Division and although it has a nature trail and benches along the perimeter it is not considered a park property.

Other recreational opportunities in the planning area, not owned or managed by the City, include the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife Hicks Lake boat launch, several public schools, and Panorama, retirement community. Panorama offers its residents a private dog park, butterfly park, and community gardens. The public schools (Timberline High School, Komachin Middle School, and Mountain View and Lacey Elementary schools) provide several

athletic fields, outdoor courts (some covered), multiple playgrounds, an indoor pool, running tracks, tennis courts, classrooms, and gymnasiums. Typically, LPCR Department offers a free, summer program with recreation and educational activities in collaboration with the North Thurston Public School District free lunch program at Mountain View and Lacey Elementary schools. School sites for this program can change annually based on school schedules.

The 22-mile Chehalis-Western Trail, owned and maintained by Thurston County, extends from Woodard Bay in the north to Offut Lake in the south, just north of Tenino.

Important Habitat

The area's natural features include Chambers and Hicks lakes, both protected by the Shoreline Management Act. They also have wetlands associated with them, which makes them more sensitive to urban development. The wetlands have buffer requirements to help protect them from intrusive development.

According to the Department of Fish and Wildlife, this area also has important bird habitats located around the south end of Chambers Lake, the southern area of Hicks Lake, and in the northeast corner, near Hicks Lake.

Park Needs Assessment

The following section evaluates the park needs of the Wonderwood Planning Area. The assessment was part of the Lacey Cares engagement effort and staff evaluation of the planning area as compared to the level of service indicated in this Plan.

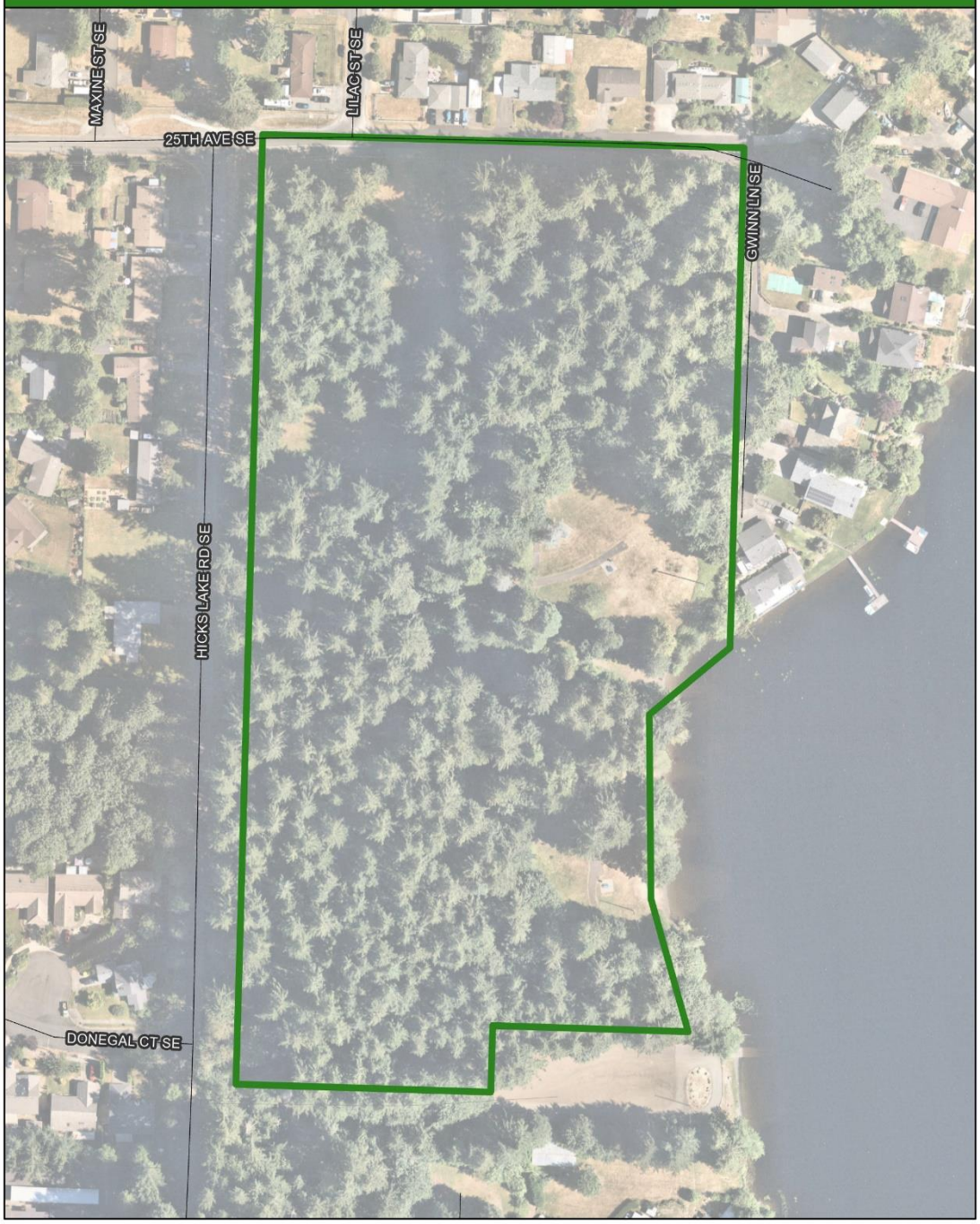
98.3 percent of the Wonderwood Planning Area's population is within a .5-mile radius of a neighborhood park. Based on adopted level of service standards, this planning area has no additional acquisition needs at this time. However, development of the following park properties have been identified:

Wanschers Park: The City has identified this park as needing an updated master plan to include parking lot renovation/expansion. Public input in the past has included a swim area, dock installation, restrooms, park shelter, spray park, and off-leash dog area.

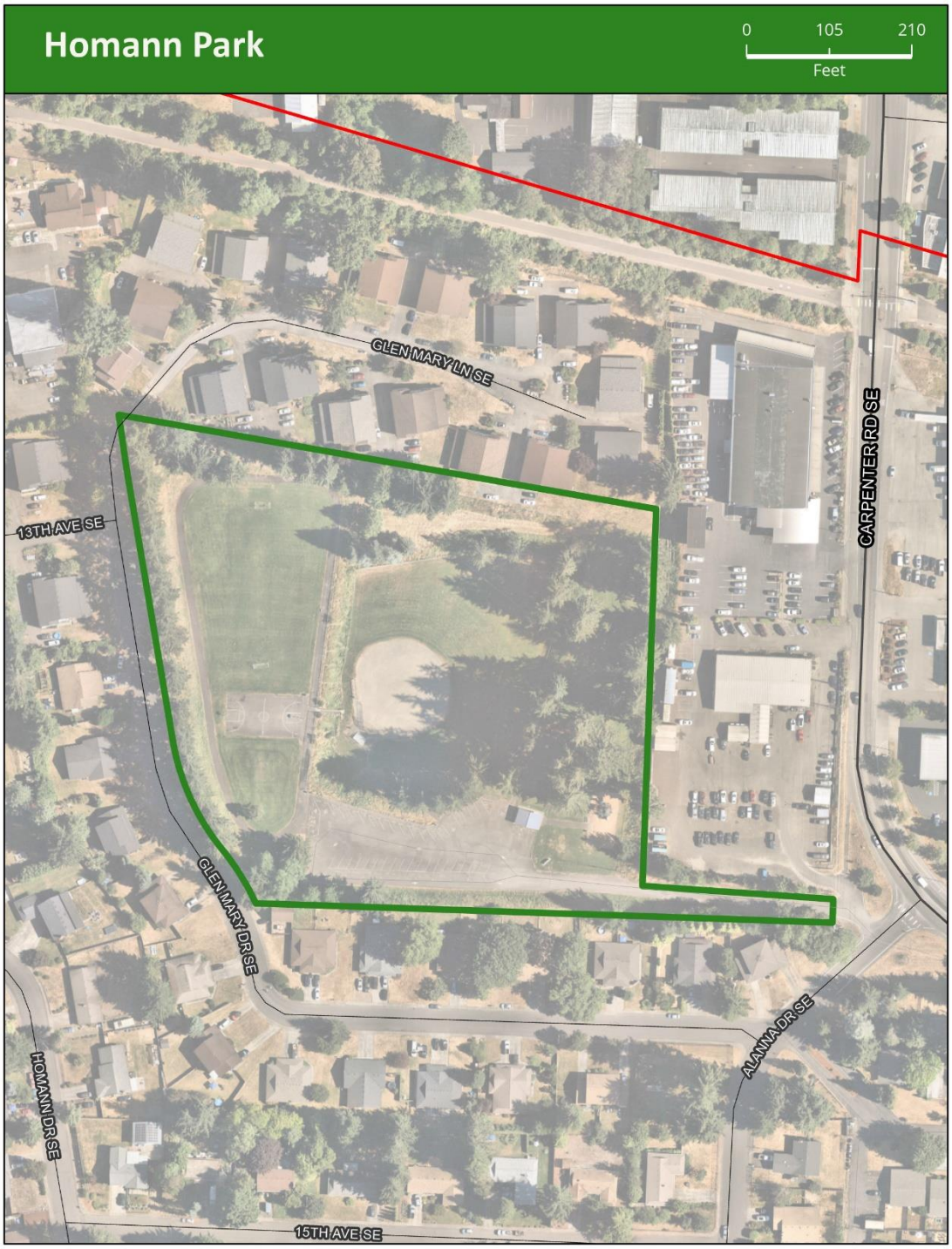
Homann Park: This facility is in need of a significant renovation of the picnic area.

Wonderwood Planning Area Parks

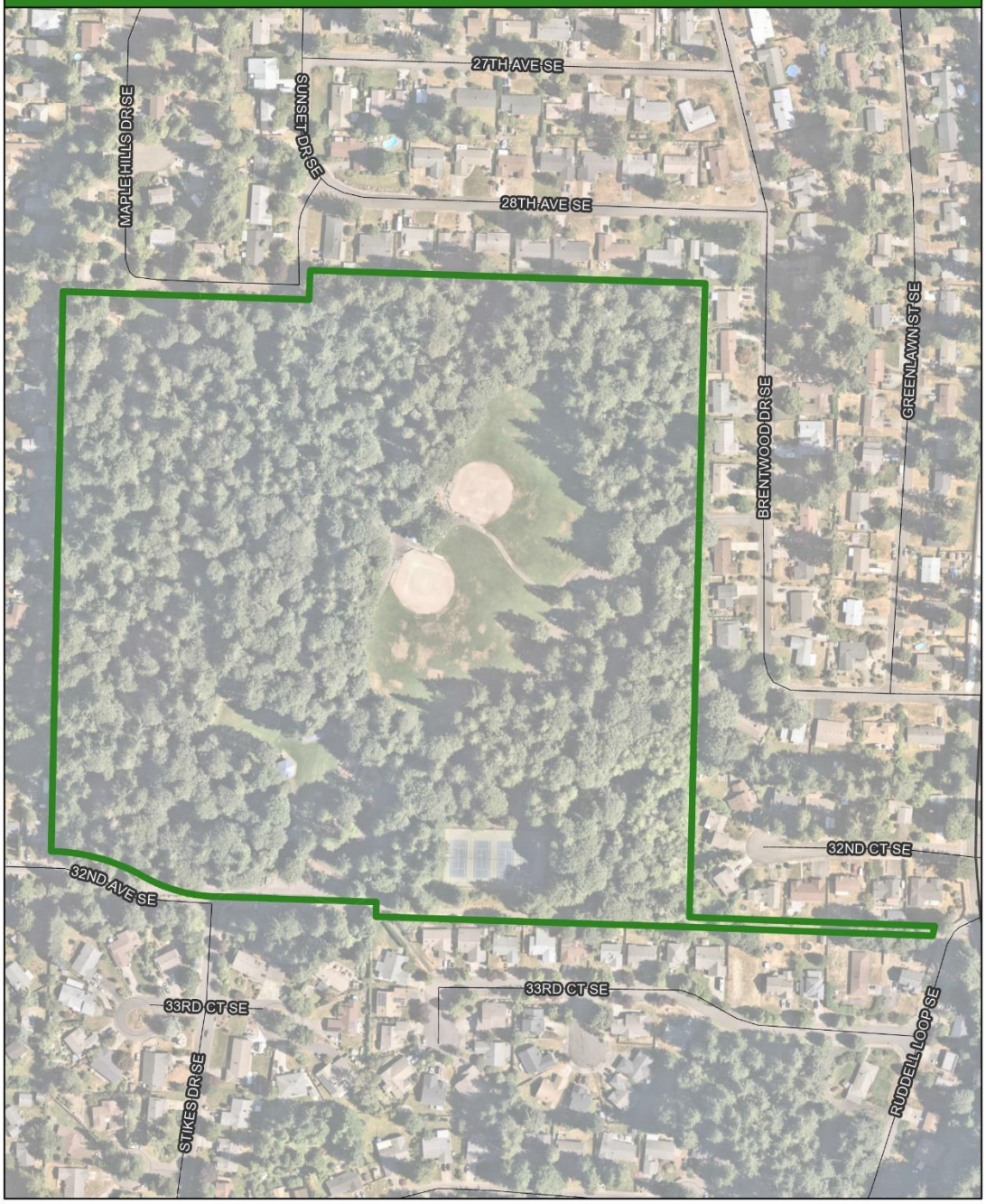
Wanschers Community Park



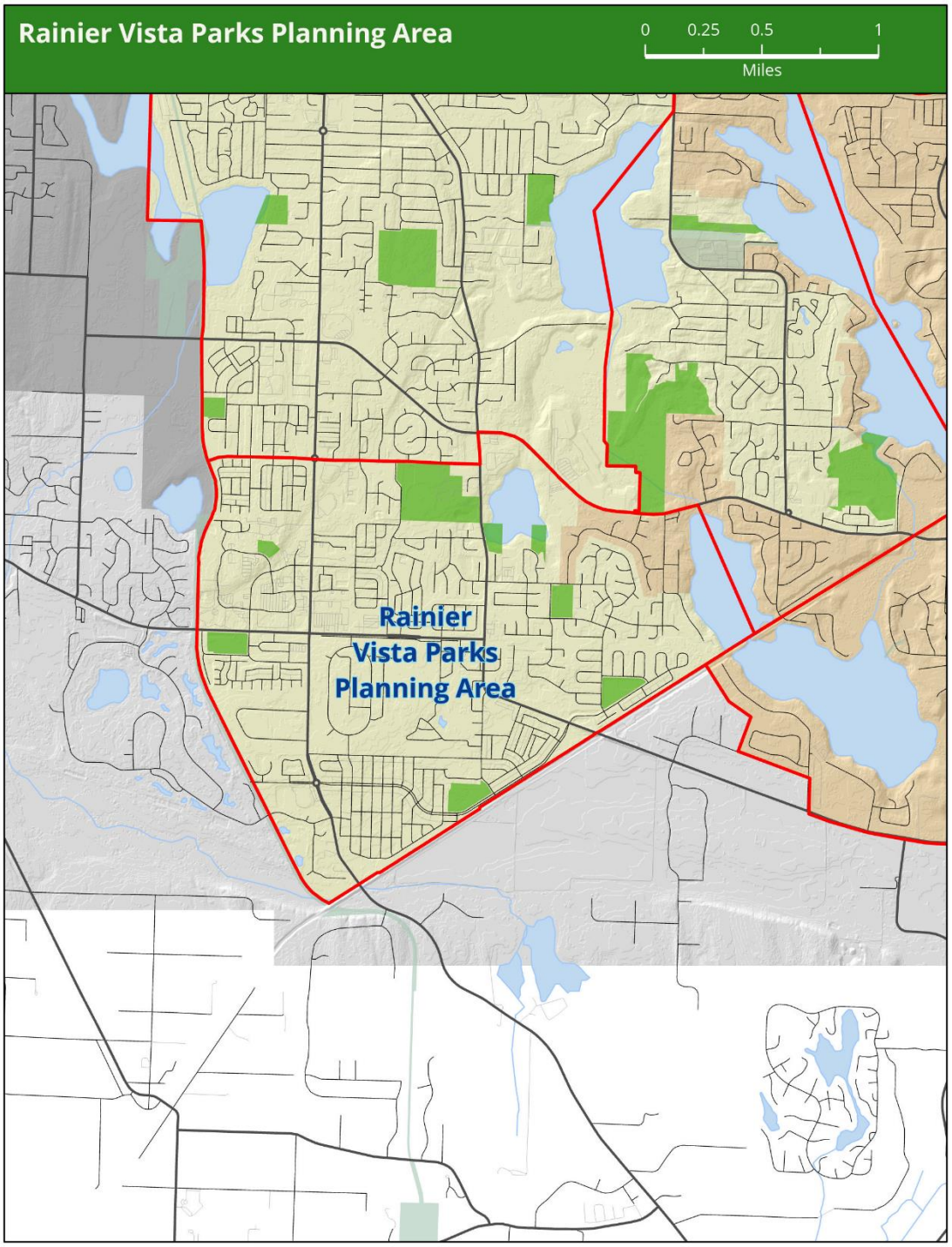
Brooks Park


Homann Park
0
105
210
Feet
GLEN MARY LN SE
13TH AVE SE
CARPENTER RD SE
GLEN MARY DR SE
ALANNA DR SE
HOMANN DR SE
15TH AVE SE

Wonderwood Park



Rainier Vista Planning Area



Rainier Vista Planning Area

The Rainier Vista Planning Area, 3 square miles, is located in the southwest corner of Lacey. The Chehalis-Western Trail is on the west, Pattison Lake on the east, the Burlington Northern railroad line to the south, and 45th Avenue to the north. A portion of the planning area is located in the Urban Growth Area, specifically the area near the northwest corner of Pattison Lake. The planning area's zoning is a combination of single- and multi-family residential and commercial. The area's estimated population is 16,194, with a population density of 5,389 people per square mile. The Rainier Vista Planning Area, the highest density of all ten planning areas, meets the standard of neighborhood park land per 1,000 residents at 2.53 acres/1,000 and community park land per 1000 residents at 3.05 acres/1,000. By 2027, the population is projected to grow to 16,477, with density increasing to 5,482 people per square mile. In 2035, 16,300 people may live in this planning area, creating a combined need of 6.7 acres of additional park land.

Recreational opportunities in the planning area include four public schools, an 18-hole golf course, the Jacob Smith House, and seven parks. The four public schools include Lakes, Horizons, and Chambers Prairie Elementary schools, and Aspire Middle School. Together, the schools have athletic fields, multi-purpose courts (two covered), gymnasiums, and classrooms.

In 2002, the City acquired the historic Jacob Smith House. Built in 1859, the house is a one and a half story Greek revival structure. Groups and individuals can rent the facility for meetings, parties, receptions, and more. In 2005, the City traded the property adjacent to the Jacob Smith House for the small "semi-private" Corporate Center Park, adjacent to the Lacey Corporate Center Apartments.

Capitol City Golf Club, a private 18-hole golf facility, open to the public, provides another recreational opportunity in this planning area.

The Rainier Vista Planning Area has five parks and one special-use facility, the Jacob Smith House, all of which are developed. The area includes four neighborhood parks: Thornbury Park, William A. Bush Park, Horizon Pointe Park, and Lakepointe Park, and one neighborhood/community park: Rainier Vista Community Park, completed in 2004. The Parks combine for 87.94 acres of park land.

The 22-mile Chehalis-Western Trail, owned and maintained by Thurston County, extends from Woodard Bay in the north to Offut Lake to the south, just north of Tenino.

Important Habitat

The natural features of the Rainier Vista Planning Area include Southwick Lake and the Southwick Lake Natural Area, the northwest corner of Pattison Lake, and associated wetlands. Southwick and Pattison Lakes fall under the Shoreline Management Act, intended to provide for coordinated development and protection of natural resources. **[RAINIER VISTA 4 – PLAYGROUND.JPG]**

According to the Department of Fish and Wildlife, the area also has important bird habitat around Southwick Lake.

Park Needs Assessment

The following section evaluates the park needs of the Rainier Vista Planning Area. The assessment was part of the *Lacey Cares* public outreach process, and the City received input and participation from Gateway Rotary. In addition, the assessment was evaluated by staff as compared to the level of service indicated in this Plan.

92.4 percent of the Rainier Vista Planning Area's is within a .5-mile radius of a neighborhood park. Based on adopted level of service standards, this planning area has no additional acquisition needs at this time. However, development of the following park properties have been identified:

Public input for this entire planning area includes a dog off-leash area, and the addition of more play equipment and swings at all parks. This parks planning area is the top choice for a spray park location in Lacey.

Rainier Vista Park:

In 2018, City staff received significant public input in support of installing outdoor Ping Pong tables. The COVID-19 pandemic slowed the timeline for this project.

The Parks Board received a significant amount of public input from the Thurston County Pickleball Association during the years 2019-2023. In 2019, the Parks Board received some near term and longer term requests (describe here, also include how many people in the association). They are fundraising to help with the cost of installing four more outdoor pickleball courts. The COVID-19 pandemic slowed the timeline for this project.

Bush Park: The ages 5-12 playground equipment at Bush Park is in need of replacement and Gateway Rotary is interested in helping fund the replacement.

Rainier Vista Planning Area Parks

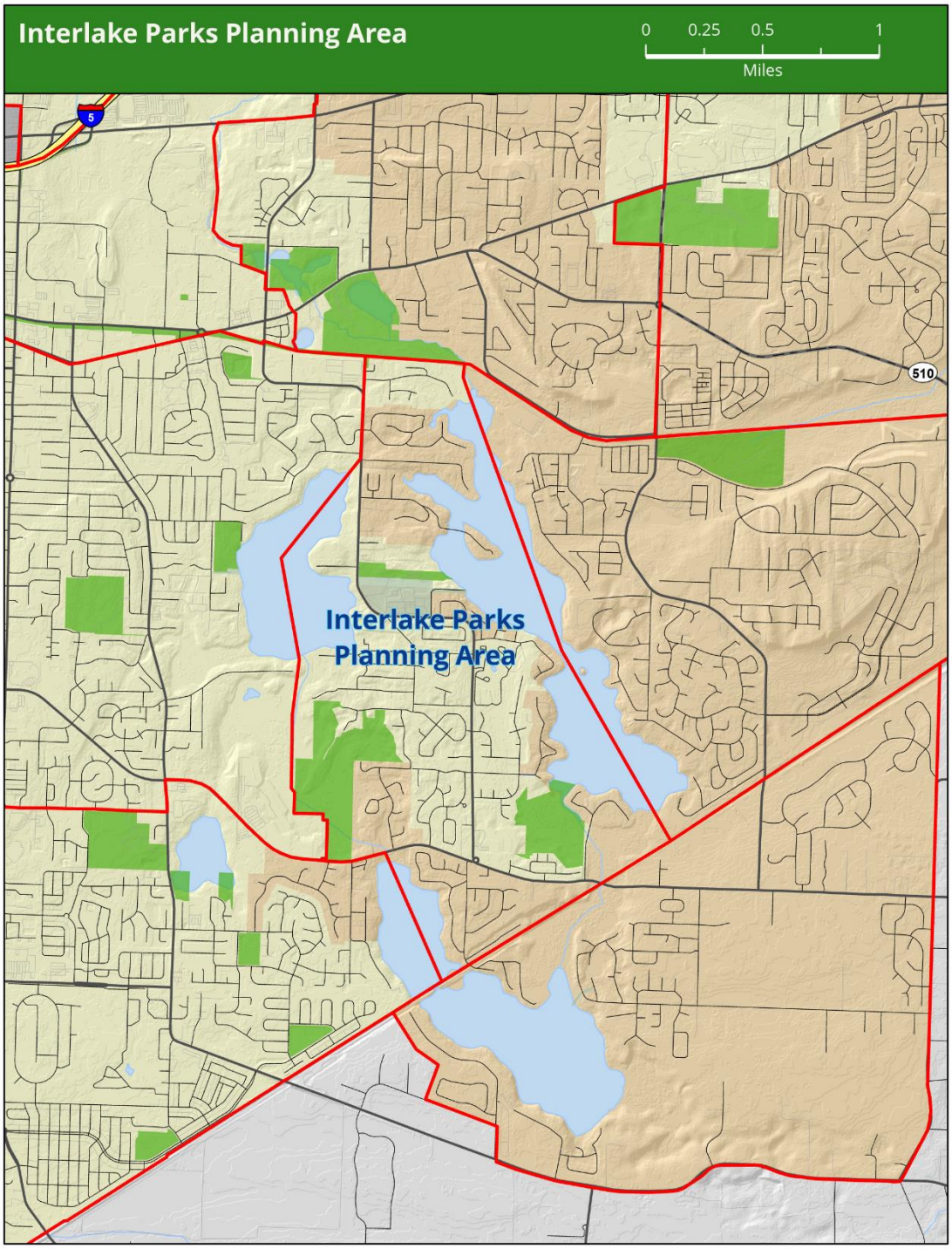
William A. Bush Park

Southwick Lake Natural Area

Lakepointe Park
0
105
210
Feet
BELTWAY LOOP SE
BELTWAY LOOP SE
CHEROKEE LOOP SE
CHEROKEE LOOP SE
60TH AVE SE
STOCKTON ST SE
COMPTON BLVD SE
BALDWIN ST SE
STEAMER DR SE
STOCKTON LN SE
BARSTOW LN SE

Jacob Smith House
0
70
140
Feet
INTELCO LOOP SE
CORPORATE CENTER DR SE

Interlake Planning Area



Interlake Planning Area

The Interlake Planning Area, 2.47 square miles, is located northeast of the Rainier Vista planning area and includes portions of Hicks, Long, and Pattison lakes. Hicks Lake and its drainage are the western border, Long Lake and its outfall, and Woodland Creek to the east, the Burlington Northern railroad line to the south and the Karen Fraser Woodland Trail and Woodland Creek Community Park to the north. Approximately one-third of this planning area is located within the Lacey Urban Growth Area. The area's zoning is primarily residential with a small section of neighborhood commercial. The area's estimated population is 5,959, with a population density of 2,415 people per square mile. By 2027, the population is expected to grow to approximately 6,012, increasing its density to 2,436 people per square mile. In 2035, 6,200 people are projected to live in this planning area.

Recreational opportunities in the planning area include a school, park, boat launch, and the Thurston County Fair Grounds. The school, Woodland Elementary, has the following recreational opportunities: athletic fields, a playground, gymnasium, covered multi-purpose court, and classrooms.

[LONG LAKE PARK BEACH 2.JPG] Long Lake Community Park, this planning area's community park, has 285 feet of beach frontage (recently increased to XXX with the new adjacent property) and is located in a wooded area. This special-use, community park offers a place to swim, play sand volleyball, enjoy a passive walk, and have a picnic. This is an extremely popular park, which emphasizes the importance of public access to the lakes in our area.

Thurston County Fairgrounds, owned and managed by the County, falls within this planning area and is adjacent to Long Lake Park. The Fairgrounds offer an equestrian arena, Expo Center, a meeting hall, display hall, and other fair-related facilities. The Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife owns and operates the adjacent boat-launch facility as noted.

Important Habitat

The natural features of the Interlake Planning Area include Hicks, Pattison, and Long Lakes, and Woodland Creek. There are significant wetland areas around the lakes and associated with Woodland Creek. These areas are sensitive because one hydraulic system connects all the lakes. Hicks, Pattison, and Long Lakes are all designated shorelines of the state. The City owns two significant wetland areas, the Mullen Road Habitat Area (formerly called Timberline Wetlands)

and the Long Lake Natural Area at the southwest end of the lake. Both of these natural areas have been designated as open space.

According to the Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW), this area has important habitat for birds and threatened or endangered animals. The DFW designated the area south of Hicks Lake and the area south of Long Lake as important bird habitat. Long Lake has been designated as an important habitat for State endangered or threatened species.

Park Needs Assessment

The following section evaluates the park needs of the Interlake Planning Area. The assessment was part of the *Lacey Cares* public outreach process and staff evaluation of the planning area as compared to the level of service indicated in this Plan.

80.7 percent of the Interlake Planning Area's population is within a .5-mile radius of a neighborhood park. Based on adopted level of service standards, this planning area has no additional acquisition needs at this time. The areas not within the .5-mile radius of neighborhood parks are lands that are privately owned along lakes/waterways. There are opportunities for future access as outlined below.

Public input for this planning area includes a spray park location.

Mullen Road Habitat Reserve: This Park has been identified as open space. Public input for this site includes access to trails while preserving the natural habitat. There are some limited trails in the habitat reserve but most of it is protected. **[MULLEN ROAD HABITAT 2.JPG]**

In 2022, an additional 20 acres adjacent to the Mullen Road Habitat was donated to the City of Lacey by a private developer to fulfill Thurston County's open space requirements for a Thurston County development that's close in proximity. The new portion has some accessible trails as indicated on the access map.

Long Lake Park: Public input includes adding more parking, providing a fishing pier, and acquiring the land adjacent to the park for expansion.

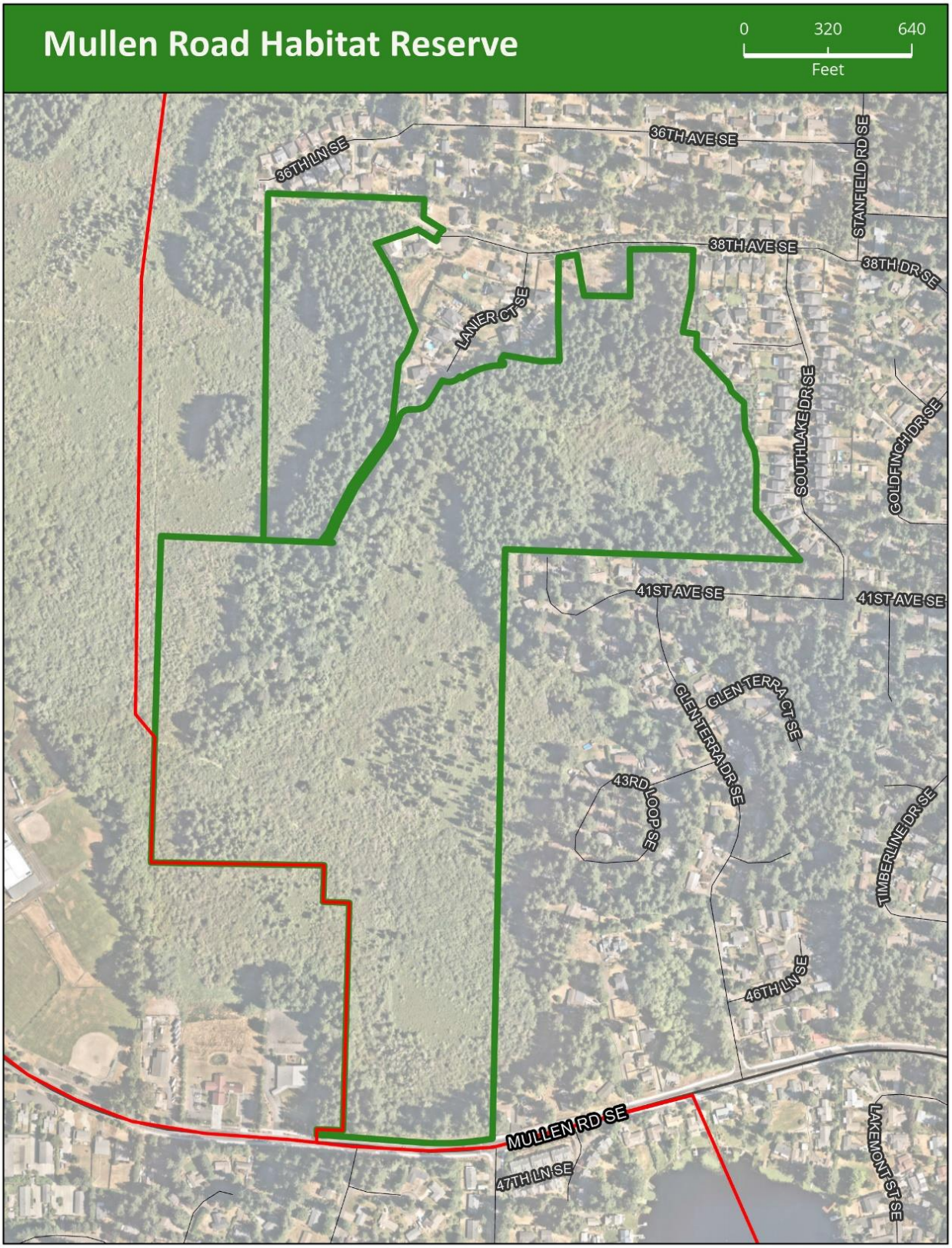
1. In 2018 a consultant was hired to conduct a safety assessment of Long Lake Park Beach. Some near term and longer-term changes were identified. For the near term, the dock was removed and the swim area reconfigured for safety. The changes were made prior to the summer of 2019. The swim dock from Long Lake was able to be repurposed to become a fishing dock at Longs Pond / Woodland Creek Community Park. Longer term changes include decreasing the slope of the beach and changing the beach material

from pea gravel to a recommended sand product. Longer term changes also include a more updated access trail from the parking lot to the beach.

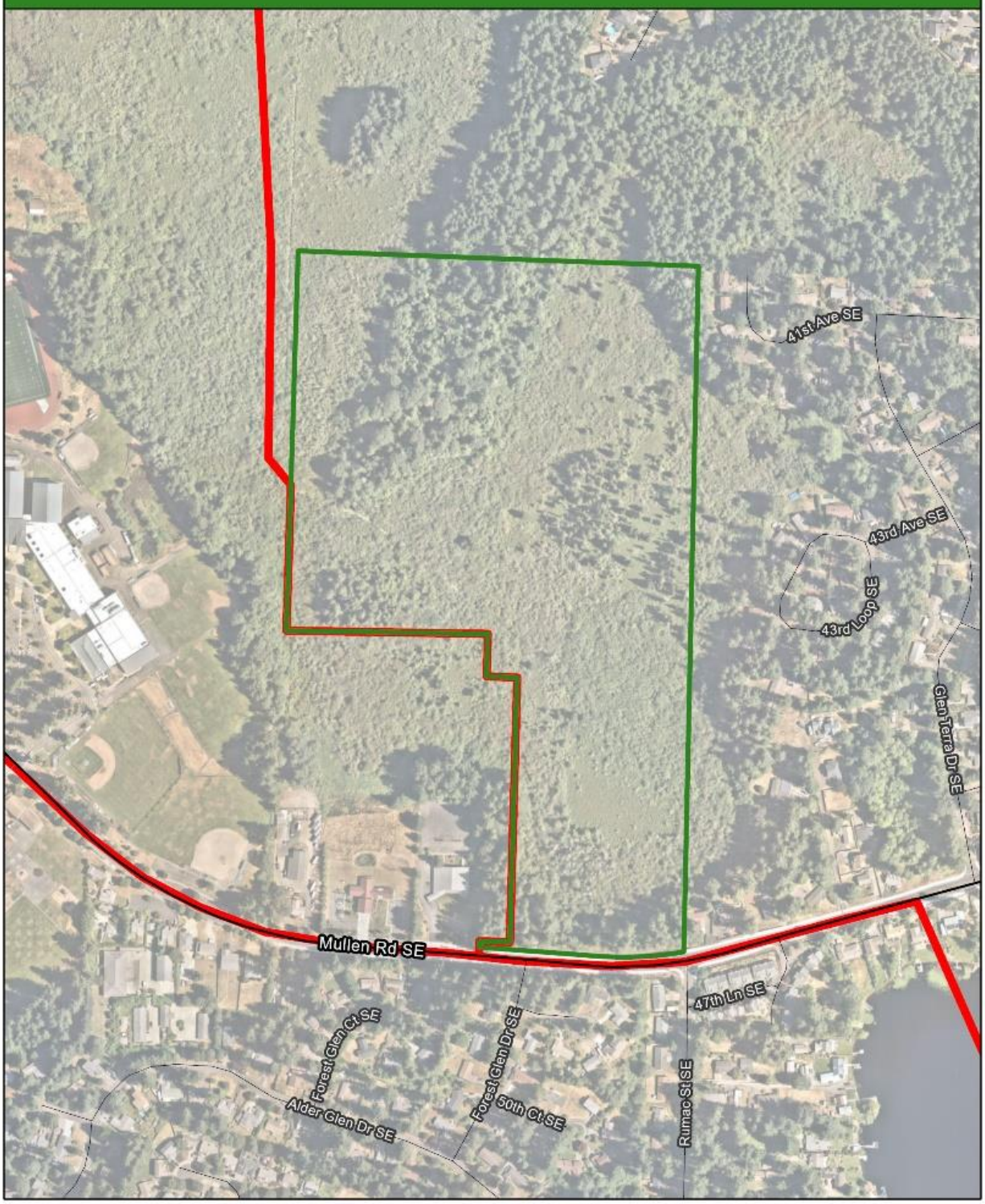
The same consultant was able to provide some recommendations for use of the adjacent private property should it become available to the City for purchase. In 2022, it did become available and the City was able to purchase the 1.8 acre property directly south and adjacent to Long Lake Park. This property, which falls between the City's park property and the WDFW boat launch, has been a long term goal for acquisition as mentioned in previous planning documents including the Long Lake Park Master Plan.

Moving forward, there is a need for an updated master plan for the park to include the new, adjacent property and determination of overall amenities and upgrades for the site.

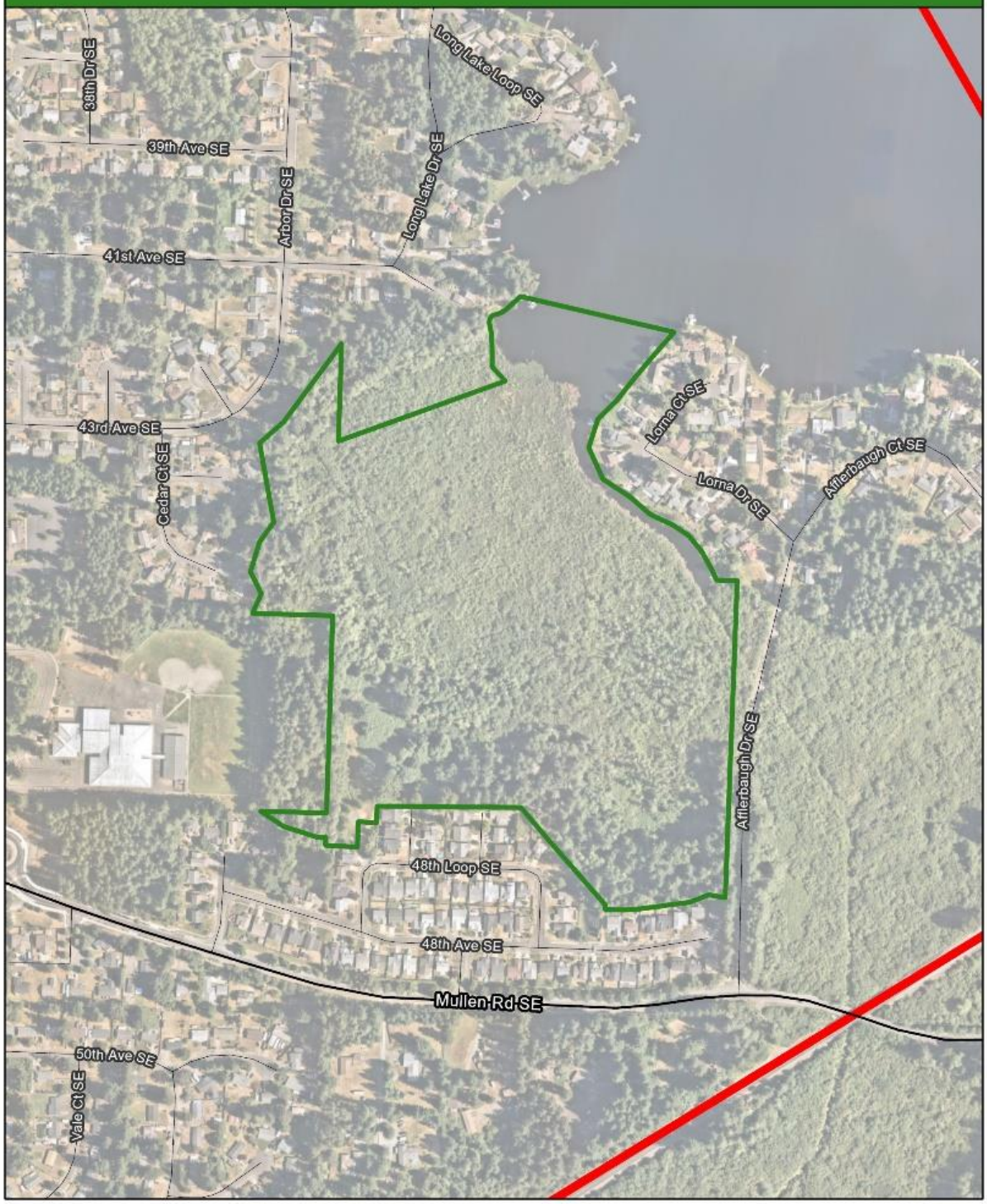
Long Lake Natural Area: Public input includes access to trails while preserving the natural habitat. Public input in this planning area also includes public access to freshwater lakes. For example, explore partnership with homeowner's association to gain water access off 41st Avenue.


Mullen Road Habitat Reserve
0
320
640
Feet
36TH LN SE
36TH AVE SE
STANFIELD RD SE
38TH AVE SE
38TH DR SE
LANIER CT SE
SOUTHLAKE DR SE
GOLDFINCH DR SE
41ST AVE SE
41ST AVE SE
GLEN TERRA CT SE
GLEN TERRA DR SE
43RD LOOP SE
TIMBERLINE DR SE
46TH LN SE
MULLEN RD SE
47TH LN SE
LAKEMONT ST SE

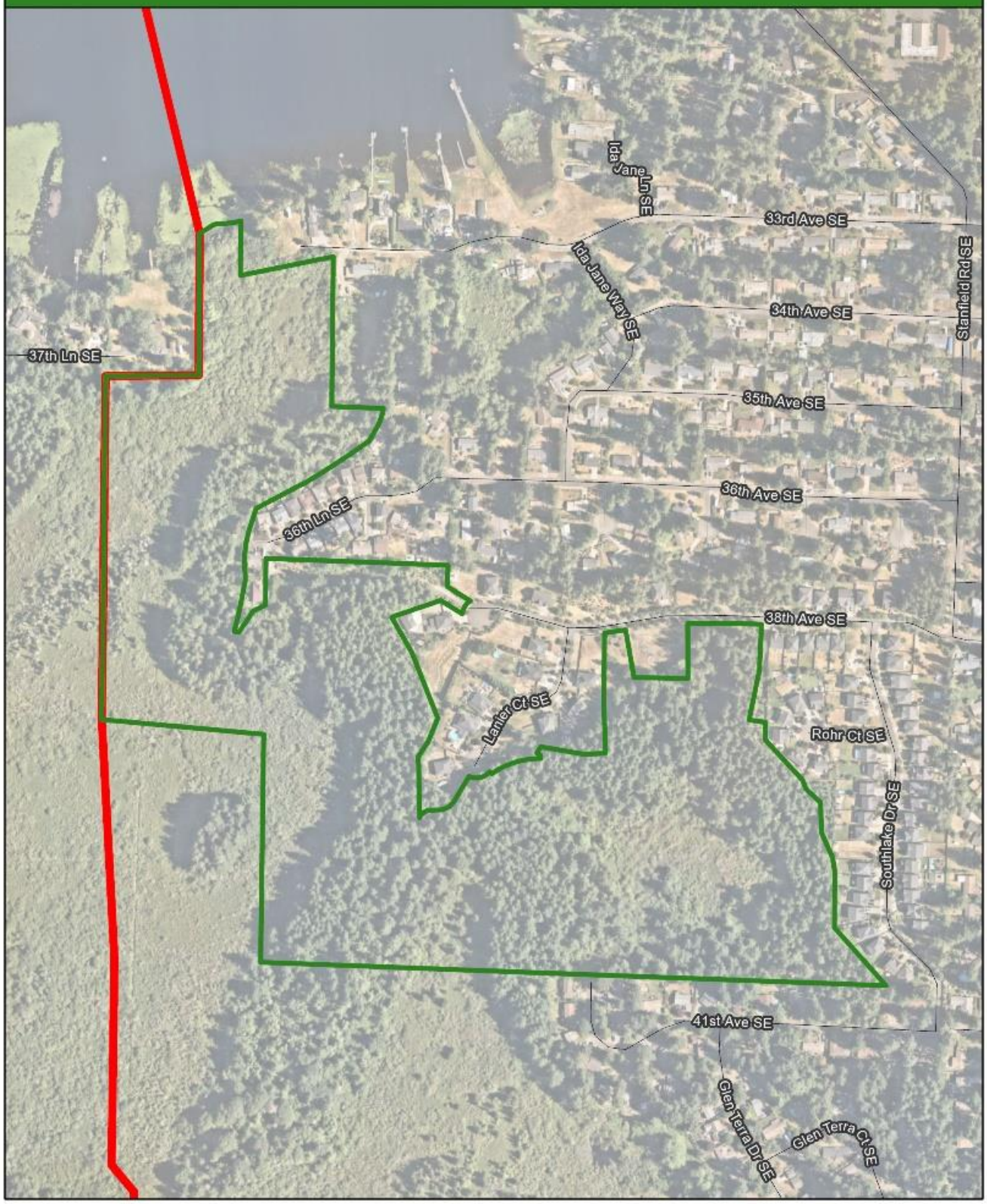
Mullen Road Habitat Reserve



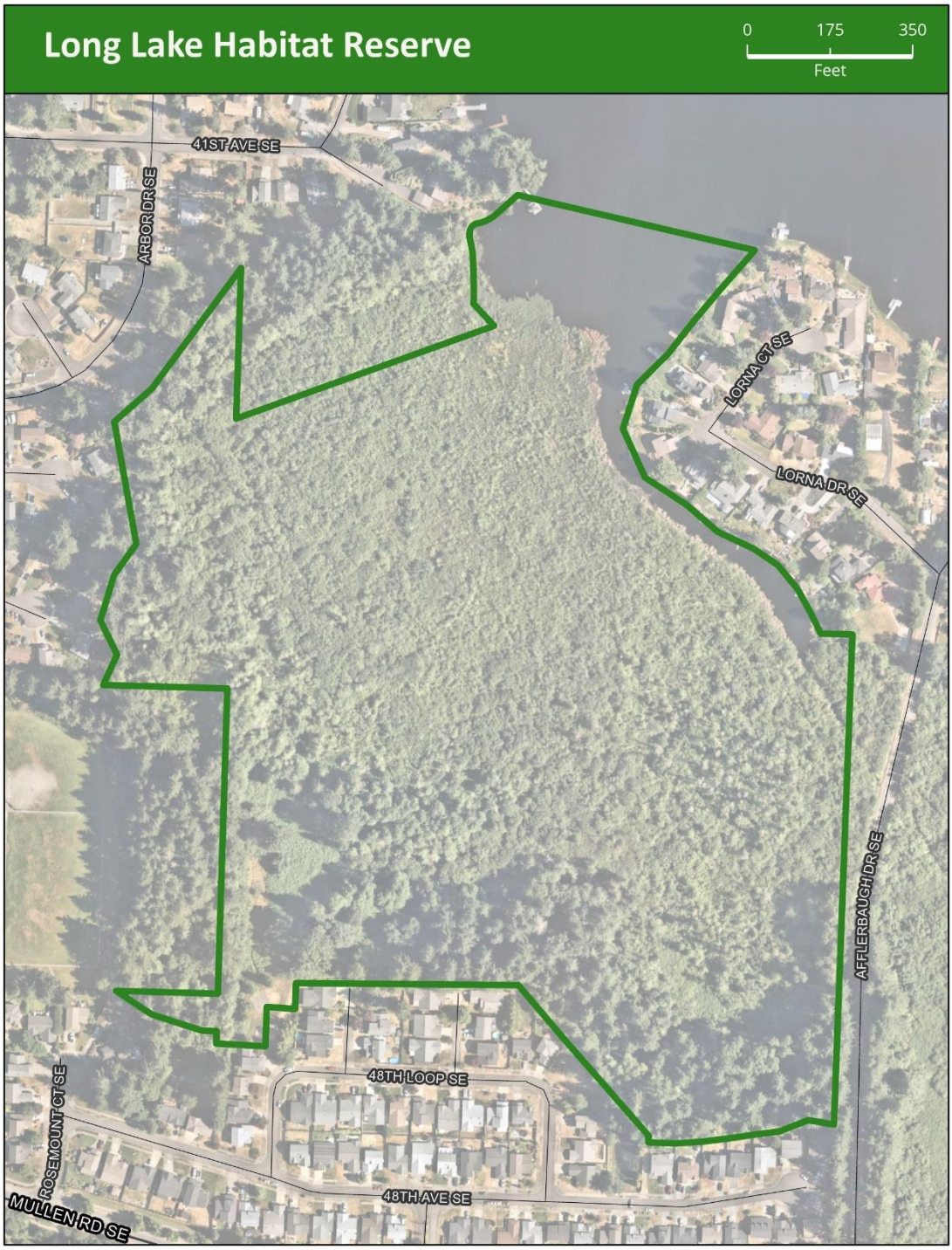
Long Lake Habitat Reserve



Southlake Trail and Natural Area

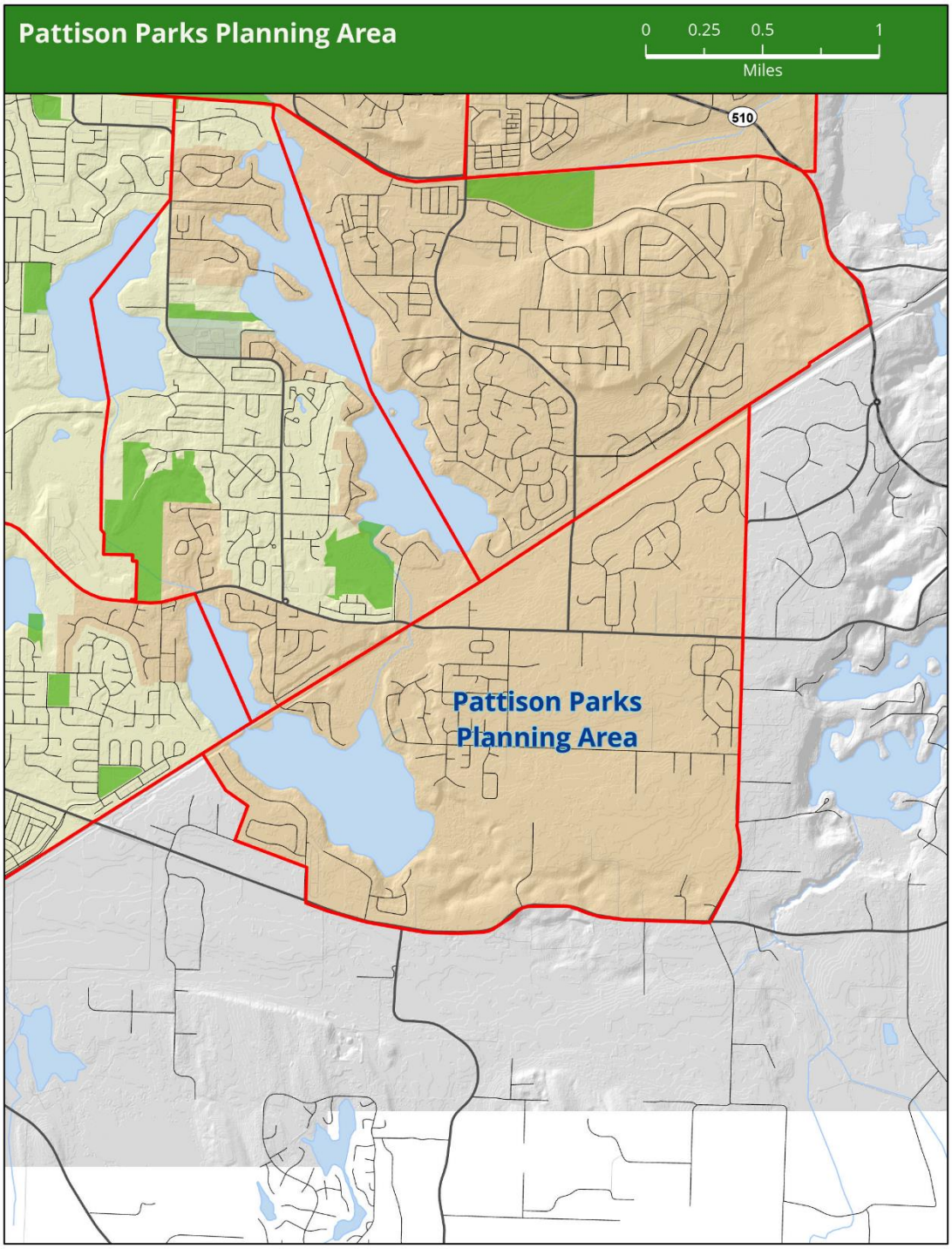


Interlake Planning Area Parks



Interlake Planning Area Parks - cont'd

Pattison Planning Area



Pattison Planning Area

The Pattison Planning Area, 3.09 square miles, is in the southeast area of Lacey's Urban Growth Area. The Burlington Northern railroad is to the northwest, Meridian Road to the east, and Yelm Highway to the south. The entire planning area is located outside Lacey's incorporated area. Most of the planning area is zoned McAllister Geological Sensitive Area, intended to protect ground water resources. It also has a small Neighborhood Commercial area. Most of the uses are residential. The area's estimated population is 4,134 with population density of 1,338 people per square mile. By 2027, the population is projected to grow to approximately 4,182 increasing density to 1,354 people per square mile. In 2035, 7,000 people are currently projected to live in this planning area. However, the ability to extend sewer to this area (due to the specific requirements for groundwater protection in the McAllister Springs Geologically Sensitive Area) will greatly affect this area's projected population.

The only recreation opportunity in this planning area is the Pattison Lake Boat Launch. The Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife operates the launch, the only public access to Pattison Lake.

A historic opportunity outside the planning area, but nearby, is the Fort Eaton marker. This monument marks the site where a fort was located during an Indian War in 1855.

Important Habitat

The natural features in the Pattison Planning Area include the southern half of Pattison Lake, Woodland Creek, and McAllister Springs. The McAllister Geologically Sensitive Area is an aquifer recharge area, therefore, sensitive to development. The emphasis in this zone is on protecting water quality, as the McAllister Springs are an important water source. Pattison Lake is a designated shoreline of the state. The Shoreline Management Act regulates the development and use of certain (specific?) shorelines in the State.

There is also important bird habitat located east of the southern half of Pattison Lake. The threatened or endangered species habitat is located around the entire southern half of Pattison Lake. Oak stands, located to the west of the southern half of Pattison Lake, provide unique habitat.

Park Needs Assessment

The following section evaluates the park needs of the Pattison Planning Area. The assessment was part of the *Lacey Cares* public outreach process and staff evaluation of the planning area as compared to the level of service indicated in this Plan.

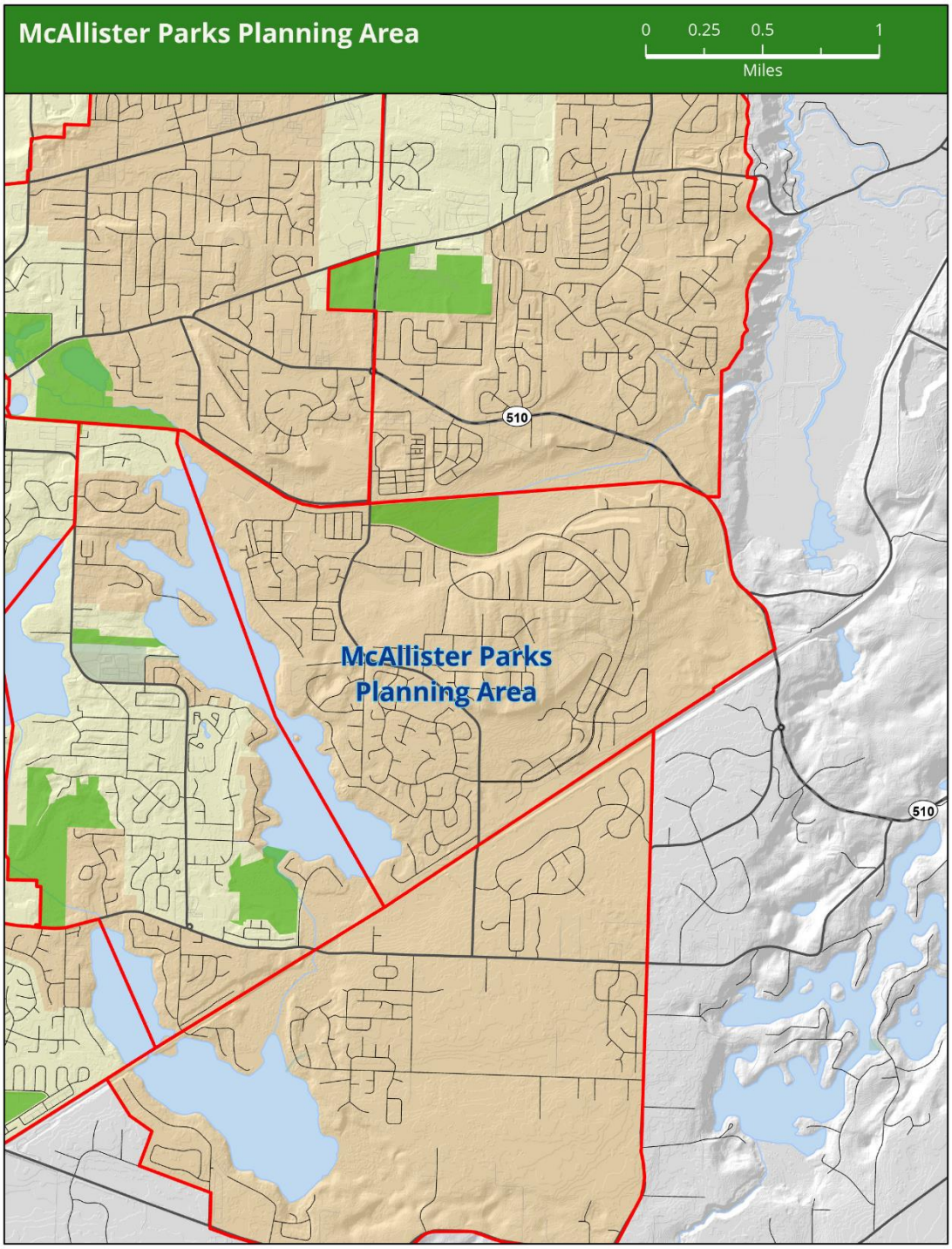
11.7 percent of the Pattison Planning Area's population is within a .5-mile radius of a neighborhood park.

Due to the environmental sensitivity of this area for critical groundwater resources, the extension of sewer lines is necessary for further development in this area to occur at projected population levels. The Land Use Element of the Comprehensive Plan identifies this area as needing further study to determine if it would be more appropriately designated as a potential "urban reserve" area or removed from the urban growth boundary. The acquisition of additional park land or improvements in this area should not proceed until further study occurs.

The Pattison Planning Area has no parks. While there are community park lands in nearby Interlake (Long Lake Community Park) and McAllister (undeveloped McAllister Community Park) planning areas, all community and neighborhood parks are well over three miles away. The only recreational opportunity within the area is a boat launch operated by the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife. The launch is the only public access to Pattison Lake.

Public input in this planning area includes public access to wetlands and natural areas. <u>Nothing will be done in this area until further study occurs.</u>

McAllister Planning Area



McAllister Planning Area

The McAllister Planning Area, 2.82 square miles, is north of the Pattison Planning Area. Long Lake is on the west and the Burlington Northern railroad splits into two lines on the east side of the area and runs along both the north and south sides of the area. The north line is active up to the Karen Fraser Woodland Trail. All of the planning area is located outside the incorporated city limits. Its zoning is primarily residential with a small area of light industrial. The area's estimated population is 5,262, with a population density of 1,865 people per square mile. By 2027, the population is predicted to grow to 5,665, increasing its density to 2,007 people per square mile. In 2035, 9,800 people are projected to live in this planning area.

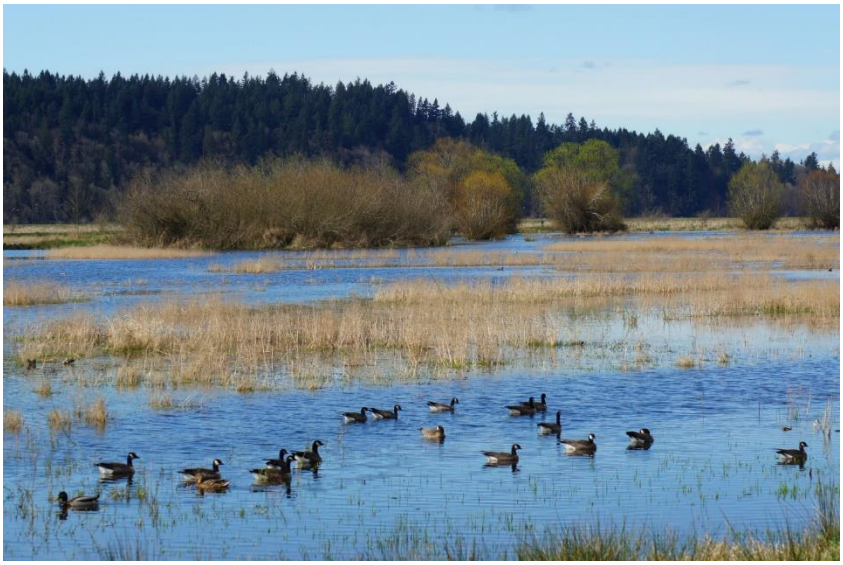
Recreational opportunities in the area include two elementary schools and an undeveloped park. The schools are Evergreen Forest and Seven Oaks Elementary schools, which have athletic fields, a multi-purpose field, playgrounds, a covered multi-purpose court, gymnasiums, and classrooms.

Once developed, the approximately 60-acre, undeveloped, McAllister Community Park will be a passive and active recreational facility. The future park site includes a portion of McAllister Creek and its associated wetland area that will be protected for passive recreation. A future school site is located adjacent to McAllister Park. The park and school will make efficient use of public monies by sharing facilities for community recreation and student needs.

Important Habitat

The natural features of this area are Long Lake, portions of McAllister Creek, and their associated wetlands. Long Lake is a state shoreline and must be developed under the provisions of the state Shoreline Management Act and the local Lacey Shoreline Master Program.

According to the Department of Fish and Wildlife, this area also has important habitat for birds and state-threatened or endangered species. This planning area has the urban growth area's largest oak stands, which provide unique and important habitat for birds and other small animals. In 2015, Thurston County approved the Oak Tree Preserve, an 814 single-family lot, residential development



located on land containing large stands of oak trees. Efforts to incorporate the preservation of these trees was included in this development. The deciduous stands of trees can provide significant habitat. However, these stands are limited and declining and, as a result, are important to preserve.

Park Needs Assessment

The following section evaluates the park needs of the McAllister Planning Area. The assessment was part of the Lacey Cares public outreach process. In addition, assessment was done as a component of a series of public meetings and input received in 2019 during the Parks Board review of a potential disc golf course at the undeveloped McAllister Park. Staff has also reviewed the planning area as compared to the level of service indicated in this Plan.

9.9 percent of the McAllister Planning Area's population is within a .5-mile radius of a neighborhood park. It is very likely this percentage will increase in the future.

Currently, this planning area has need for potential acquisition in the southern and eastern areas. The following development of McAllister Park Planning Area has been identified:

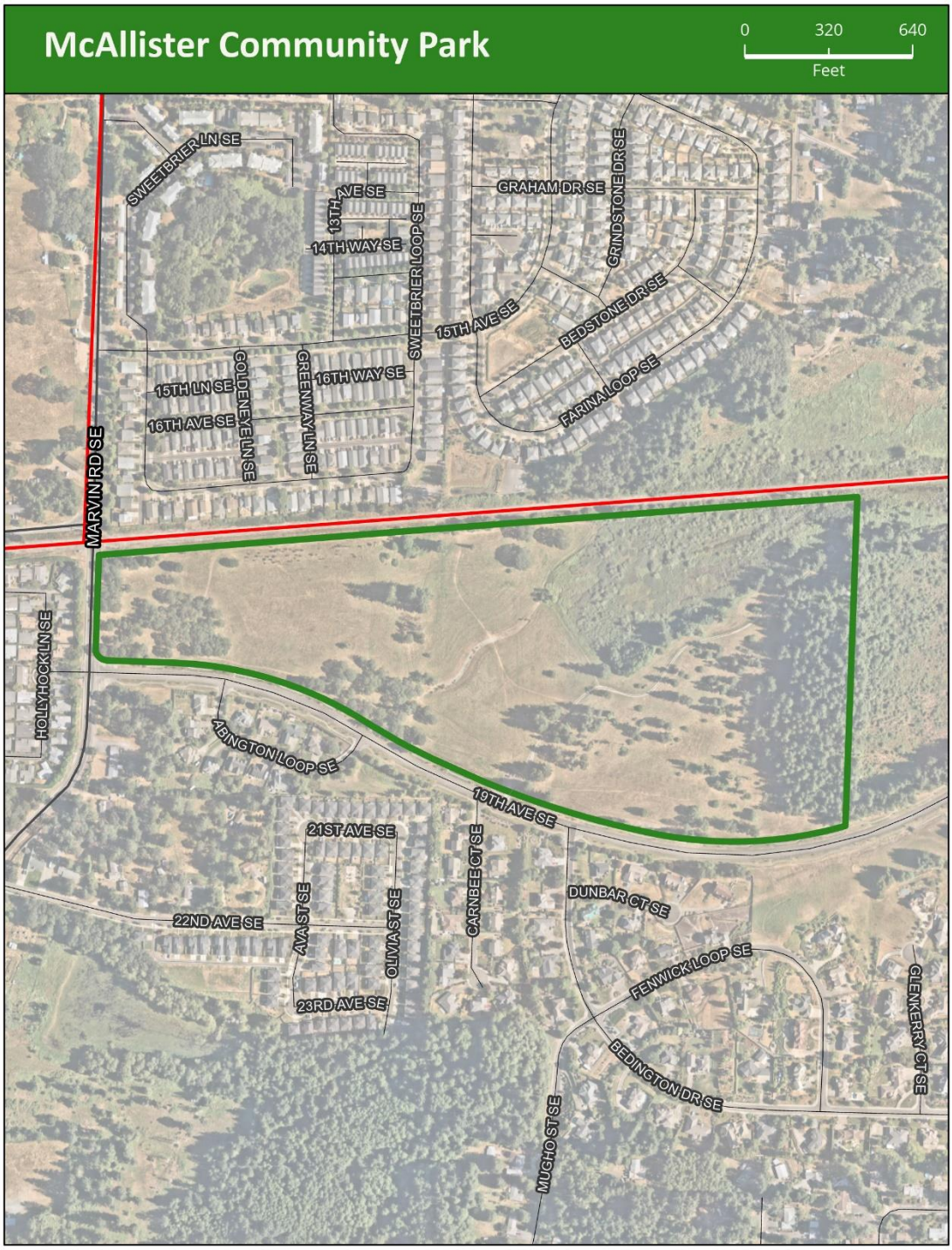
McAllister Park: Public input for this site includes developing the park according to the master plan, including a dog off-leash area (assuming water quality is sound). However, significant input was received in 2019 from a group called McAllister Citizens for Preserving our Natural Heritage (MCPNH). MCPNH is made up of approximately 175 local residents who live in the community and enjoy the park in its natural undeveloped state. They propose to categorize McAllister Park as Open Space or Conservancy in perpetuity and rename it McAllister Heritage Park. MCPNH also proposes to develop a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) using Thurston County guidelines as outlined in the proposal. The proposal is included in Appendix X.

Development at this park is not listed in the short term (2023-2028) section of the Implementation Actions; therefore, the recommendation is the park should stay as is until a formal update to the current Master Plan is considered.

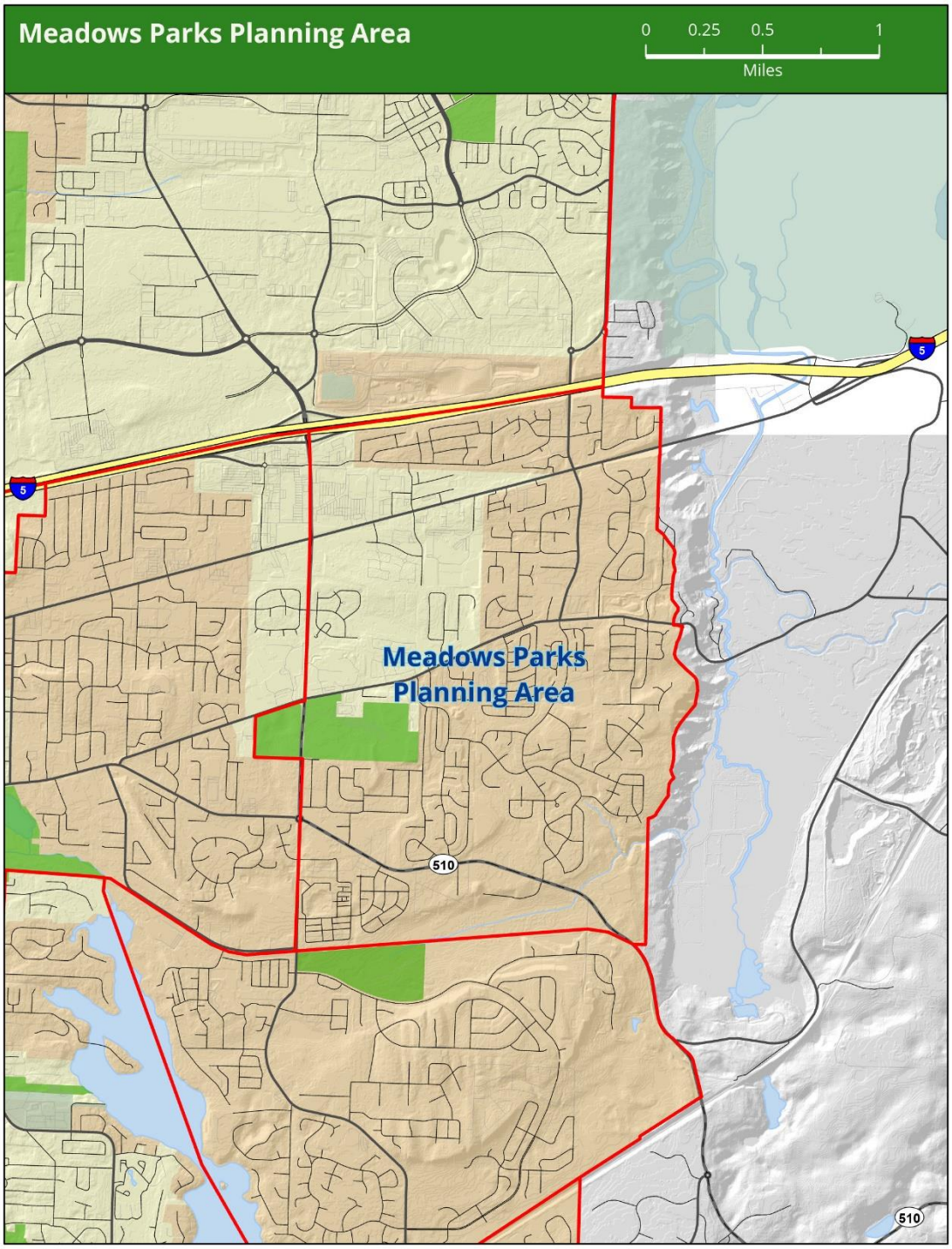
BNRR line: Conversion to the Karen Fraser Woodland Trail Phase III, when the opportunity arises. Thurston County initiated some meetings in 2021 to discuss the upcoming road improvements. There is a potential for Thurston County to convert the current railway to a trail and a potential for the City to maintain the trail corridor in the future.

Public input in this planning area also includes acquisition of Long Lake waterfront, if the opportunity arises.

McAllister Planning Area Park



Meadows Planning Area



Meadows Planning Area

The Meadows Planning Area, 3.52 square miles, is located on the eastern side of the community. Marvin Road is to the west, the Nisqually Bluff to the east, the Burlington Northern railroad to the south, and US Interstate 5 to the north. The Regional Athletic Complex was incorporated into the City of Lacey in XXXX. Most of the area is located outside the incorporated area of the City of Lacey and is zoned primarily residential. Most of the commercial area is located within the incorporated areas. The area's estimated population is 14,976, with a population density of 4,258 people per square mile. By 2027, the population is projected to grow to approximately 15,534, increasing its density to 4,417 people per square mile. In 2035, 15,400 people are projected to live in this planning area.

[RAC AERIAL VIEW.JPG] Current recreational opportunities in the planning area include two public schools and the Regional Athletic Complex (RAC). The Meadows Planning Area currently has 4.8 acres of park land per 1,000 residents; however, this is regional park land with community and even neighborhood park elements. The schools are Meadows Elementary School and River Ridge High School. Together, the schools have a multi-purpose field; baseball, softball, and soccer fields; a playfield; playgrounds; a covered multi-purpose court; gymnasiums; a track; an indoor pool; and classrooms. The RAC, which is partially funded by a Public Facilities District is a 72-acre park which includes soccer, softball and baseball fields, basketball courts, picnic areas, play areas, and associated facilities. The complex is both community and destination facing, more community use during the week and attracting visitors for tournaments more on the weekends. The RAC Phase III, 26.4 acres of undeveloped property lies to the west, across Marvin Road, at the southwest corner of Steilacoom Road and Marvin Road for the purpose of expanding the RAC potentially with a private/public agreement to include commercial activity which would enhance visitor experience and further attract attendees from out of the area for wellness and economic benefits. The RAC is not only used for sports and drop in park users, but is rented out for special events such as Poly Fest, Juneteenth, fun runs and more.

Important Habitat

The planning area has a small section of important oak habitat, located in the southwestern corner. The deciduous stands of trees can provide significant habitat for various birds and small animals. However, these stands are limited and declining and as a result are important to preserve. Oak trees were preserved during the construction of the RAC. This planning area also contains some geologically sensitive slope areas as part of the Nisqually Bluff, which provide~~s~~ important habitat for birds and animals living in the Billy Frank Jr. Nisqually National Wildlife Area. Portions of McAllister Creek and associated wetlands also run through this planning area.

The property the City manages west of Marvin Road (to expand the RAC) contains Oregon white oak stands and a portion is habitat for the Mazama pocket gopher, a priority species per the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Park Needs Assessment

The following section evaluates the park needs of the Meadows Planning Area. The assessment was part of the Lacey Cares engagement effort and staff evaluation of the planning area as compared to the level of service indicated in this Plan.

32.8 percent of the Meadows Planning Area's population is within a .5-mile radius of a neighborhood park.

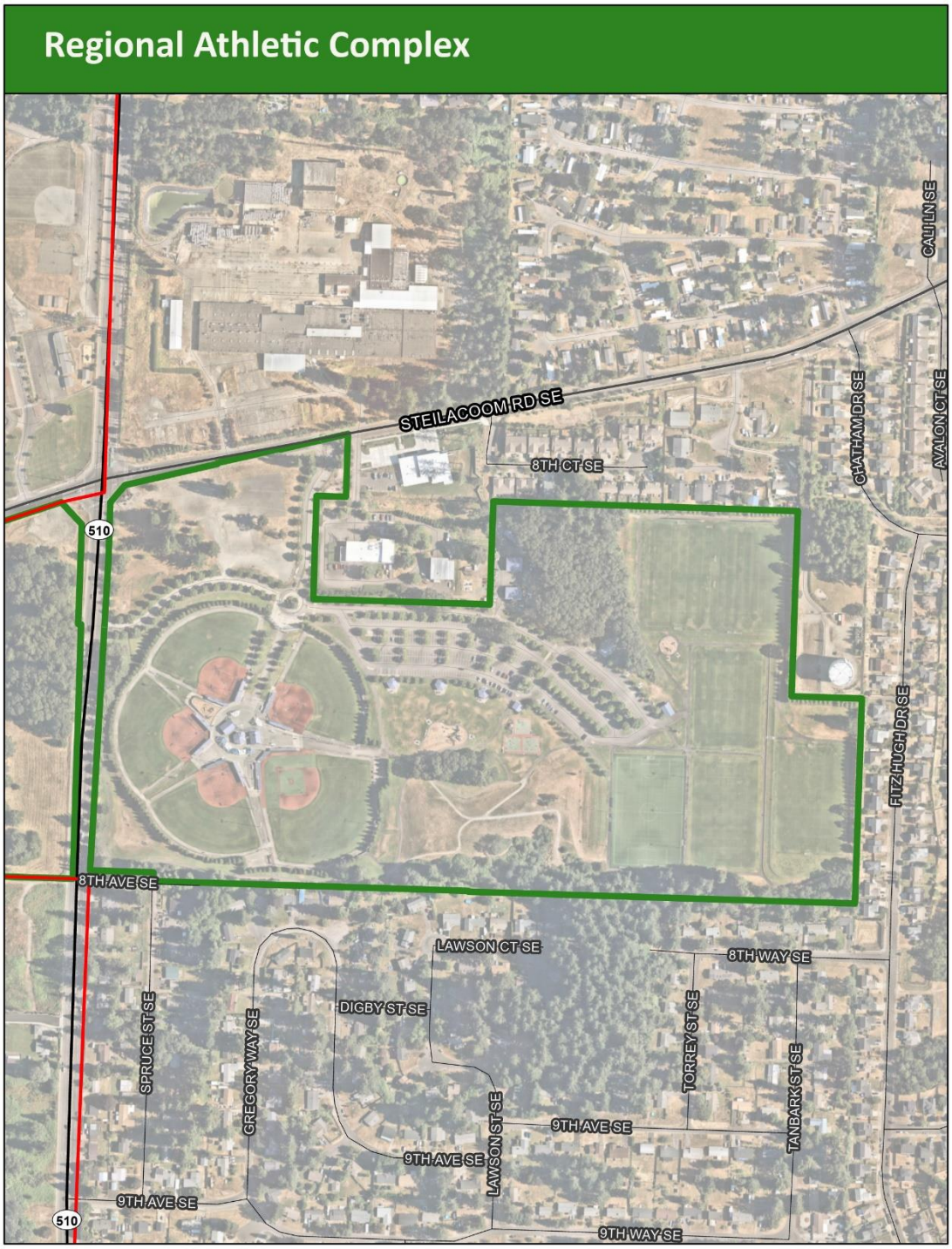
Currently, this planning area has need for potential acquisition in the northern and eastern areas. The following developments have been identified:

Regional Athletic Complex (RAC): Sports user groups/public input for this site included sports field development with turf, lights, and additional parking. The gravel lot has been designed and is scheduled for construction in 2023. The new parking lot will maximize parking spaces and will include space for school bus parking and electric vehicle charging stations. The new lot will include lights and security cameras.

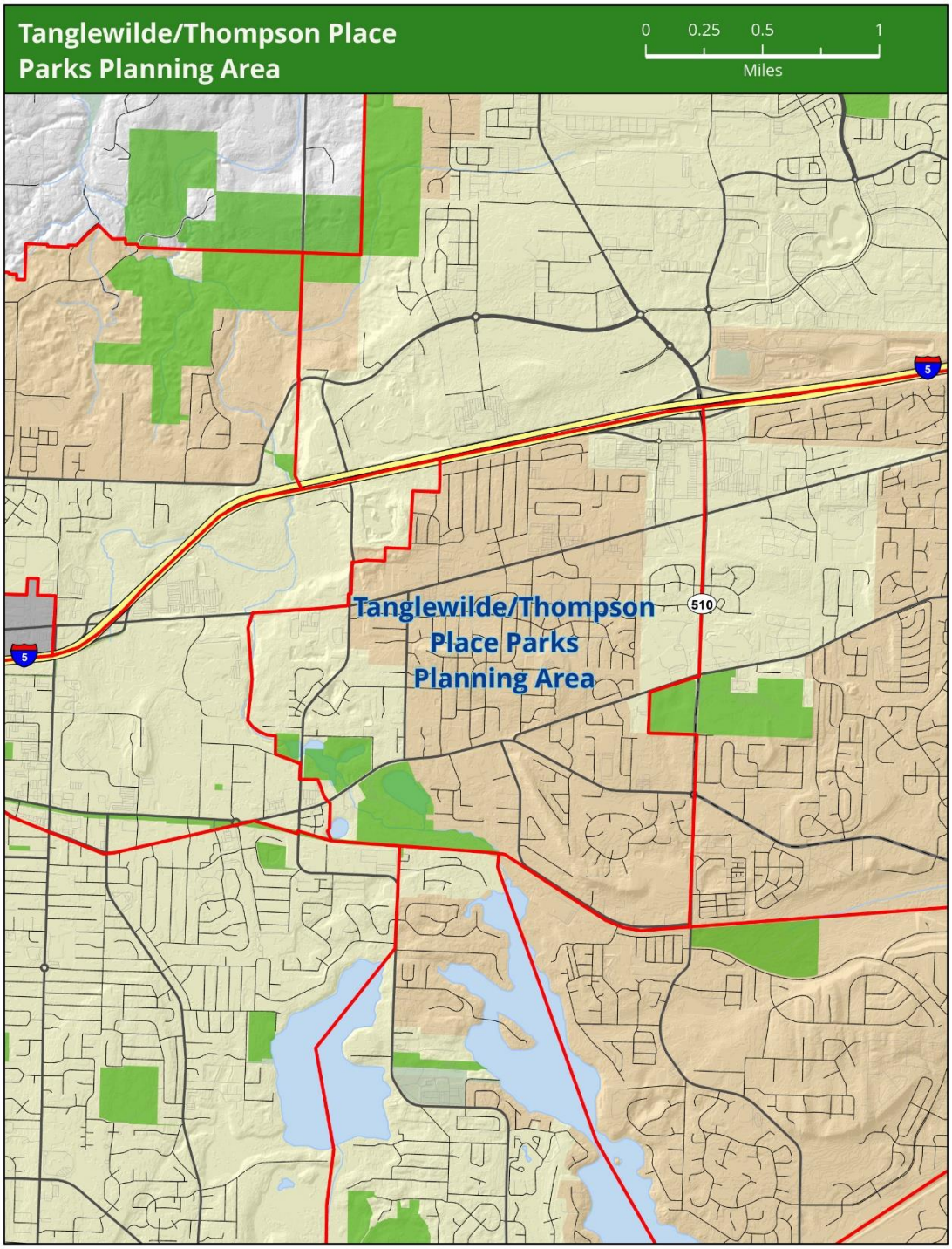
The RAC has a robust list of improvements needed. Most notably, conversion to LED lighting needs to happen within the next few years. In addition, sports field netting, a playground replacement, concrete improvements, irrigation control update, synthetic turf field replacements, and drainage upgrades are needed within the next 6 years. Conversion of soccer field 2 from natural grass to synthetic turf with the addition of lights is also desired but a funding source for this large project has not been identified.**RAC Phase III:** This property is currently undeveloped. Site-use feasibility is being explored due to mazama pocket gopher issues. Sports user groups/public input for this site includesmore youth, softball and baseball fields and more multi-use soccer fields.

Other public input includes the potential construction of a large indoor sports facility. Jen update with indoor sports feasibility study highlights and include public input for teen component.

Meadows Planning Area Park



Tanglewilde/Thompson Place Planning Area



Tanglewilde/Thompson Place Planning Area

The Tanglewilde/Thompson Place Planning Area, 2.96 square miles, is bound by Carpenter Road to the west, Marvin Road to the east, the Burlington Northern railroad line and Lacey Woodland Trail to the south, and US Interstate 5 to the north. Part of the area is located within the incorporated area of Lacey, but most is located in the urban growth area. Its zoning is primarily residential, with some commercial areas. The area's estimated population is 9,532, with a population density of 3,187 people per square mile. By 2027, the population is predicted to grow to 9,989, increasing its density to 3,340 people per square mile. In 2035, 10,500 people are projected to live in this planning area.

Recreational opportunities in this area include three schools, two public parks, the Karen Fraser Woodland Trail, a regional trail, and the Tanglewilde Park and Recreation Center (managed by a park and recreation district). The public schools include Lydia Hawk and Olympic View Elementary schools and Nisqually Middle School. Together, the schools have athletic fields, a multi-purpose field, playfield, playgrounds, two covered multi-purpose courts, a running track, gymnasiums, and classrooms.

This area's two parks are Lake Lois Park/Habitat Reserve, designated Open Space/Community Park, and Woodland Creek Community Park. Lake Lois Park has a ¼ mile interpretive trail with benches. Woodland Creek Community Park is the site of the Lacey Community Center, Virgil S. Clarkson Senior Center, and the "White House," which hosts a number of recreation programs and events. In Fall 1996, Phase I of the Lacey Community Center was completed. In June 2003, the 5,035-square- foot Virgil S. Clarkson Senior Center opened. The senior center is heavily used and was expanded in 2012.

Woodland Creek Community Park also includes a wildlife viewing area, trailhead for the Karen Fraser Woodland Trail, picnic shelters and tables, an open play area, playground equipment, a fishing dock, a junior disc golf course and restroom. The Park has several natural features including Woodland Creek, Long's Pond, and the associated wetlands. Woodland Creek Community Park is the site of the annual Family Fish-In and many other events.

In 2010, the Karen Fraser Woodland Trail was completed along the southern portion of the planning area, creating an important bicycle and pedestrian access to Lacey's core area, Olympia, and providing connection to the regional Chehalis Western Trail.

In 2022 the Jackson Family/Goose Pond Historic Marker was installed along the Karen Fraser Woodland Trail close to Dr. Thelma and Nat Jackson's family home and Goose Pond. The marker highlights the Jackson Family history, their road to Washington, and the impact they have had on the community. In addition, local artist Jennifer Kuhns created and dedicated a mosaic of the Jacksons to the City where it was temporarily installed at the Lacey Community Center.

This planning area also includes Tanglewilde Park, a private recreational facility, maintained by the Tanglewilde Park and Recreation District for residents of the subdivision to use. The outdoor pool is open to the public during the summer. The five-acre park has an outdoor swimming pool, a wading pool, picnic area, playground, two tennis courts, and a basketball court. Jen update with their new info

Another potential recreational opportunity in this area is the proposed Young Child & Family Center of Lacey (YCFC) on the NTPS 15-acre site adjacent to Nisqually Middle School on Marvin Road. This property is referred to as the Nisqually or former Bucknell site.

Young Child & Family Center of Lacey

NEED

There is a critical need for early learning and indoor recreation resources in Lacey. The demand for high-quality childcare programs has outpaced industry growth for several years with a nation-wide decrease in supply starting in 2019. The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated this crisis. Beginning in the spring of 2020, COVID-related operating restrictions and decreased enrollment have caused over 30% of childcare centers to close.

According to the Washington State Department for Children, Youth & Families (DCYF), the vast majority of NTPS service area falls within an "extreme childcare access desert." This same area was significantly impacted by COVID-related operating restrictions in early learning programs with over 40% of programs closing for some period during the pandemic. Further, access to these programs is not equal and the impacts of COVID on the childcare industry overall have placed a greater burden on rural and low-income families.

NTPS invited the City of Lacey and South Sound YMCA to the table to consider innovative solutions to filling the unique learning needs of children ages 3-5 both in and outside of the classroom. The partners put their heads together and started considering feasibility of a learning center combined with family recreation focus in order to both fill the educational gap and create opportunities to create healthy families thereby healthy community. Lacey Parks

shared that the 2021 Parks Outreach project showed indoor aquatics and other indoor recreation spaces coming in at the top for public expressed local needs.

POTENTIAL

NTPS owns property that could house a Young Child & Family Center on Marvin Road adjacent to Nisqually Middle School. On the site, a facility could provide early learning classrooms that would be equipped to serve up to 600 students annually in full-day programs. The center could also have family-friendly spaces for parenting classes and other agencies and organizations could have space on-site to provide programming related to the health and wellbeing of young children and families. This could include an on-site medical partner, mental health services, and community-based resources. A commercial grade kitchen could be included for nutrition classes and large group events. The recreation components could include a pool, indoor playground, and other opportunities for family-based physical activities. Outside site plan could include a small spray park and/or nature playground. Spray parks are included as a top priority to members of the Lacey community as was highlighted during the public outreach.

FUNDING

Both NTPS and the City are limited in their capacity to fund a project like this. Lacey Parks has been engaging the public (see Public Involvement section of this Plan) to confirm priorities. The next NTPS bond cycle is 2028.

A significant challenge is families going without early learning and indoor recreation opportunities for the next 3-5 years. Additionally, constructions costs are increasing every year.

Important Habitat

Natural features located in the Thompson Place Planning Area include the Lake Lois Habitat Reserve, Woodland Creek, Long's Pond, Goose Lake, and associated wetland areas. Woodland Creek becomes a shoreline of the state in this planning area due to its flow volumes, which are increased by natural springs. This occurs at the north side of the planning area prior to it flowing under Interstate 5.

This planning area includes important bird habitat and an oak stand. The bird habitat follows the Woodland Creek drainage. The City of Lacey demonstrated its commitment to habitat protection by preserving this area in the form of two parks along the corridor and a required two-hundred-foot setback for development from the creek. The oak stand is located in Lake Lois Park and has been preserved.

Park Needs Assessment

The following section evaluates the park needs of the Tanglewilde/Thompson Place Planning Area. The assessment was part of the *Lacey Cares and Energize Lacey* public outreach processes

and staff evaluation of the planning area as compared to the level of service indicated in this Plan.

58.6 percent of the Tanglewilde/Thompson Place Planning Area's population is within a .5-mile radius of a neighborhood park.

Currently, this planning area has need for potential acquisition in the northern portion. The following developments have been identified:

Woodland Creek Community Park: Public input for this site includes adding swings, additional parking, and making more master-plan improvements. Some of these include a bigger fishing dock, constructing a trail around the pond, and connecting to the sidewalk along Pacific Ave, providing an off-leash dog area.

Public input, and the master plan includes a community garden at this site. The City has an opportunity to pursue Woodland Creek Food Forest development in collaboration with non-profit partners. Community input particularly in support of a one acre food forest. A survey was done in XX Summarize the findings here, and the survey is located in Appendix X.

The fishing age limit was changed by DFW which now allows seniors to fish in Long's Pond.

Lacey Community Center: This is a special-use facility. Public input for this site includes adding more parking and potentially adding Phase II.

Virgil S. Clarkson Senior Center: Partner and community input supports the addition of Phase 3 to the building. Additional parking close to the building is also needed.

Karen Fraser Woodland Trail: Public input for this site includes connecting Woodland Creek Park to McAllister Park when the opportunity arises.

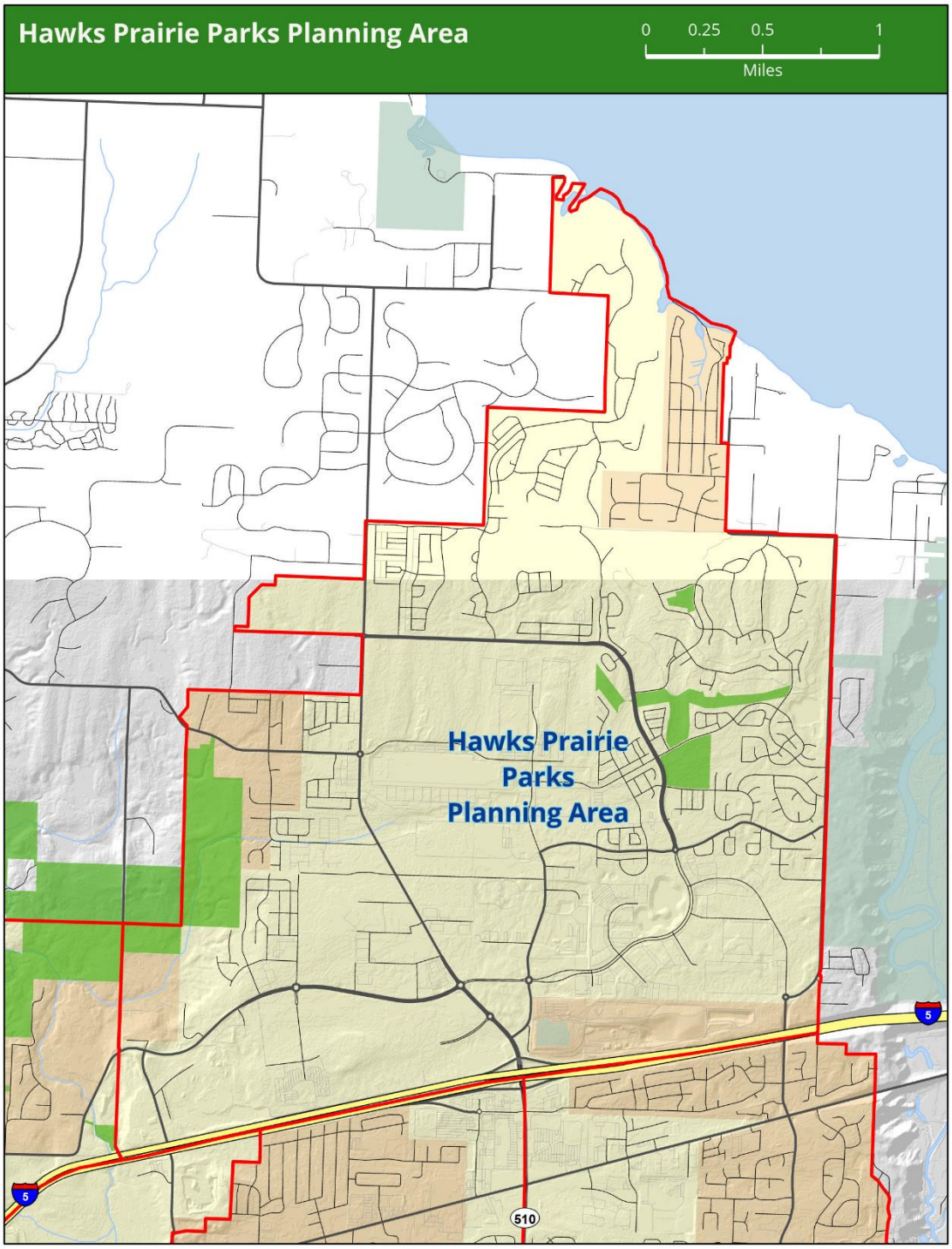
Lois McKinney House: This historic structure is currently vacant, and in extremely poor condition. Historical Commission and public input includes pursuing the opportunity to renovate and open this facility as an interpretive center or other partnership for use at some point in the future.

Tanglewilde/Thompson Place Planning Area Parks

Tanglewilde/Thompson Place Planning Area Parks - cont'd

Lacey Senior Center
0
50
100
Feet
PACIFIC AVE SE

Hawks Prairie Planning Area



Hawks Prairie Planning Area

The Hawks Prairie Planning Area covers the most northern section of Lacey. The urban growth area boundary and Carpenter Road NE are on the west, Meridian Road on the east, US Interstate 5 on the south, and Puget Sound on the north. Most of this planning area is in the incorporated area of Lacey. The land area of this planning area is 7.32 square miles, the largest of the ten areas. There are many different zones in this area including commercial, light industrial, residential, and the Hawks Prairie Business District. The area's estimated population is 15,214 with a population density of 2,109 people per square mile. By 2027, the population is predicted to grow to 15,591, increasing its density to 2,161 people per square mile. In 2035, 16,600 people may live in this planning area.

In the future, the Hawks Prairie Planning Area will likely need to be split and/or boundary lines adjusted due to the size of the planning area and the significant amount of growth occurring there.

Recreational opportunities in this area are primarily limited to the Meridian Campus area and portions of the future Greg Cuoio Park. The planning area is zoned for schools and parks, but only the Meridian Neighborhood Park has been developed with play equipment, a picnic shelter, basketball court, and informal multipurpose field. There are two golf courses in the area, The Woodlands and The Links, collectively called "The Golf Club at Hawks Prairie." Both are 18-hole golf courses, privately owned for public use. Meridian Campus North Neighborhood Park, a five-acre park, is located in the northern portion of Meridian Campus. This planning area's combined neighborhood parks acreage is 29.2. There is also a 36.6-acre wildlife corridor with a public walking trail known as the William Ives Trail. In 2009, the City constructed a pedestrian trail linking the Meridian Neighborhood Park with the William Ives Trail.

Jubilee, a 55+ community, has a clubhouse with swimming pool, tennis courts, and various other amenities accessible only to its community members. The community also maintains a private trail that extends from the development to the Puget Sound shoreline. The Beachcrest Home Owner's Association has a private marina and beach with Saltwater access for residents and guests, only.

Important Habitat

The natural features in the Hawks Prairie Planning Area include the Puget Sound, streams, and wetlands. Puget Sound is a shoreline of the state and is important because it is the only saltwater coastline in Lacey. The City of Lacey has no public saltwater access.

This planning area has important oak tree stands that provide habitat to birds and small animals. Deciduous stands of trees also provide significant habitat. These stands are limited and declining and, as a result, are important to preserve. The Nisqually Bluff also provides important habitat for birds and animals and are (is) an important habitat features for the adjacent Billy Frank Jr. Nisqually National Wildlife Area, located to the east.

Park Needs Assessment

The following section evaluates the park needs of the Hawks Prairie Planning Area. The assessment was part of the *Lacey Cares* public engagement process and staff evaluation of the planning area as compared to the level of service indicated in this Plan.

48.5 percent of the Hawks Prairie Planning Area's population is within a .5-mile radius of a neighborhood park.

The City has potential to partner with NTPS when they develop new school sites, which would supplement neighborhood park needs. In addition, to increase connectivity, the City will explore trail linkages to access parks and other existing trails in the neighboring planning areas.

The Hawks Prairie Planning Area's population increased more than any other planning area over the last several years. The challenge over the next few years will be to develop the park amenities to meet the needs of the growing population. Another need in this planning area is access to Puget Sound. This is Lacey's only planning area that touches the Sound. A park along the water would be an added bonus to the community. The City could explore the possibility of a public/private partnership for joint development.

This planning area currently has need for potential acquisition in southern and western portions.

Public input for this parks planning area includes a spray park location. Other public input includes adding pickleball courts somewhere in Northeast Lacey. Other public input includes the potential construction of a large indoor sports facility in this planning area. Jen update with indoor sports feasibility study highlights and include public input for teen component.

Meridian Neighborhood Park: Public input for this site includes the addition of sports field/s and exploring the feasibility of a skate park or other skate feature, and the potential for outdoor pickleball courts.

Meridian Campus North Neighborhood Park: This site has been identified for master planning and eventually development. The City has received a significant number of inquiries as to when this planning process will take place.

Hawks Prairie Planning Area Parks

Meridian Campus North Park
0
70
140
Feet
SHEPARD WAY NE
CAMPUS HIGHLANDS DR NE
DUDLEY DR NE

IX. Implementation Actions

The City will take action during the planning period 2023-2029 to satisfy demand and need. The actions are listed in the Parks Capital Improvement Program (PCIP) by category, and are prioritized based on the 2021 Lacey Cares and 2022 Energize Lacey public outreach processes and identified needs, stakeholder input to the Parks Board, Parks Board and City staff input and the City Council 2022-2024 Work Plan adopted in September of 2022.

Please see Appendix X for the PCIP.

The costs included in the PCIP are estimates only. If the projects are approved to move forward, actual project cost must be confirmed and the impact to maintenance and operations considered. During the planning period, opportunities not envisioned at the time of this writing, may arise that could achieve goals, objectives, and/or priorities. Many variables, such as utility and street improvements, grant funds available and secured, partnership potential, volunteer assistance, facility components and design, and levels of maintenance, affect these costs. This plan allows for flexibility.

All of the projects will require public funding. Therefore, serious consideration must be given to establishing a dedicated parks, culture and recreation funds (i.e., bond issues, sales and/or property tax or park district options). Continued public input and participation are critical before moving forward on these park assets.

The PCIP will be updated annually and the information will be used to update the City's Capital Improvement Plan and Capital Facility Plan.

Further actions have been identified for the planning period 2030 – 2042, as listed below.

2030 - 2042

Parks Development

1. Pursue additional phases of development for Greg Cuoio Park per the Greg Cuoio Park & Greenways Master Plan.
2. Pursue further development of Woodland Creek Community Park per master plan

Facility Upgrades

1. Explore improvements to the White House at Woodland Creek Park for indoor recreation
2. Explore the option of restrooms and parking lots at neighborhood parks
3. Explore renovation of Lacey Community Center restrooms and other facility upgrades that might be needed.

Master Planning

1. Explore planning for Brooks Park
2. Explore planning for Arbors Park
3. Explore update of Wanschers Park Master Plan
4. Explore update of McAllister Park Master Plan

Indoor Ice Rink

Explore feasibility and potential partners

Acquisition

During the transition from an acquisition phase to a development phase, Lacey will consider acquisitions when a deficit has been identified and property and funding are available.

Pursue/explore acquisition of:

1. Community Park land for Pattison Lake public access.
2. Park land in Hawks Prairie, Meadows, Wonderwood, and McAllister Planning Areas.