

III. Parks and Recreation Element

The ~~“Basic Tenants” of the~~ Vision Statement provided in the Introduction of this Comprehensive Plan highlight the community’s desire to foster open space networking, including recreational opportunities, districts, and landmarks, as well as preserve natural features. In particular, the community sees Shelton as:

- A community that protects and enhances its natural setting of forested hillsides, natural valley landscape, streams, wetlands, waterfront, and mountains for the common benefit.
- A community with a sense of community pride evidenced by well-maintained streets, buildings, parks, houses, and yards.
- A community with an open space network linking neighborhoods, business districts, civic landmarks, and recreational opportunities with trails, sidewalks, bike paths, and natural features.

Existing Conditions

The City of Shelton Parks and Recreation Plan ~~was prepared in 1997~~ is currently being updated with an estimated completion schedule of mid to late summer 2017. Its goals and policies ~~have been~~ are incorporated into this element, and the plan is hereby incorporated for planning purposes into this Comprehensive Plan as the Parks and Recreation Element.

The City has ~~eight~~ eleven developed park/recreation sites, including Brewer Park, Callanan Park, Catalyst Park, Johnson Park, Kneeland Park, Overlook Park, Post Office Park, Loop Field, the Huff and Puff Trail, Shelton Skate Park, and Sixth Street Park. Undeveloped park sites include Eagle Point, Vogtlin-Angle Park, and the Pine Street Boat Launch and Northcliff Neighborhood Park, the property dedicated to the City in conjunction with the approval of the Terrace Heights subdivision.

In addition to the City parks, community residents use the athletic fields and play equipment available at local schools. ~~The City of Shelton and Shelton School District entered into an Memorandum of Understanding in 1996, outlining usage of each party’s resources for the community. Shelton School District facilities include:~~

- ~~Shelton High School~~
- ~~Oakland Bay Junior High School~~
- ~~Olympic Middle School~~
- ~~Bordeaux Elementary School~~
- ~~Evergreen Elementary School~~
- ~~Mountain View Elementary School~~
- ~~Choice Alternative School~~

Other community facilities that offer meeting rooms to accommodate recreational and community programs include ~~Public Utility District #3 Auditorium~~, Memorial Hall, and the ~~National Guard Armory~~ Mason Transit Transportation-Community Center. Nearby recreational areas include Walker Park (one mile east of Shelton), Mason County Recreation Area and South Mason Youth Soccer Park (2 miles northeast of Shelton), Island Lake Access (1.3 miles north of Shelton), and Arcadia Point Boat Launch (7 miles east of Shelton). The City also offers a variety of youth, teen and adult recreation programs, such as softball, volleyball and basketball.

In addition to the designated City parks, the City is blessed with a wide range of open spaces and undeveloped lands. Many of these areas feature environmentally sensitive areas and are best left in their natural state. Some areas may be suitable for passive recreational activities such as walking, bird watching, etc.

Parks And Recreation Goals And Policies

- P1. The City Parks Department shall provide the organizational support and leadership necessary for all staff to excel at the mission of the Shelton Parks and Recreation District.**
- P1a. The City shall unify staff through a central mission to excel as a team.
 - P1b. The City shall empower and lead department personnel to professional success.
 - P1c. The City shall stay engaged in the needs and concerns of the City as it relates to the Parks and Recreation Department issues.
 - P1d. The City shall ensure financial integrity of the department that encourages cost savings while sustaining quality service.

P1e. The City shall seek and create partnerships wherever possible and pursue additional funding sources.

P1f. The City shall encourage community support through positive and responsive vision and image of the City of Shelton Parks and Recreation Department.

P1g. The City Parks Department Staff shall provide superior and accessible customer service in a professional, informative, and timely manner.

P2. ~~public-~~ The City Parks Department shall plan, acquire, and develop a diverse system of quality parks and recreation facilities that are safe, attractive, and accessible to the community.

P2a. The City shall provide an open and continuing opportunity for the public to participate, comment, and offer direction to the development of recreational facilities, open space, and activities.

P2b. The City shall acquire and preserve land for coming generations, and develop parks to meet both the existing and future demand including multi-use activities and open space preservation.

P2c. The City shall analyze existing parks programs and expand them based on public input and available funding.

P2d. The City shall identify local and regional standards and trends for use in park and facility planning.

P2e. The City shall engage in ongoing dialogue with county, state, tribal, and federal organizations to assure coordination of policy plans, goals, and objectives.

P3. The City shall develop and funding strategy that takes advantage of all available resources for park acquisition, development, and maintenance.

P3a. The City should seek broad and creative funding for parks acquisition, development, and maintenance, including grants, utility funds, loans, bond levies, donations, real estate excise tax, impact fees, and any other available sources.

P3b. The City should continually monitor and analyze facility use and program fees.

P3c. The City should develop funding strategies that aim to partner public and private resources.

P3d. The City should seek adequate funding and timely development of park facilities in accordance with the annual budget and capital facilities plan.

P4. The City shall provide a system of safe, clean, and accessible parks and facilities that make effective use of existing natural features that is distributed to provide maximum benefit to the community.

P4a. The City will develop both active and passive use park facilities that are available to as many persons as possible.

P4b. The City shall provide multi-use recreational opportunities, as appropriate, at parks facilities consistent with the intended use of the site.

P4c. The City will make every attempt to locate parks and facilities in all areas of the City for maximum public benefit.

P4d. The City will provide, where appropriate, interpretive information regarding environmental attributes of its parks.

P4e. The City will provide containers for the disposal of waste and recycling at its park facilities.

P4f. The City will provide clear and concise park rules, regulations, hours, fees, and acceptable use/behaviors when appropriate.

P5. The City will promote tourism through provision of appealing parks, entryways, and programs.

P5a. The City will encourage non-city residents to participate in recreation programs.

P5b. The City will design and maintain the City's entryways to provide a positive sense of arrival to visitors.

P5c. The City should explore regional events and programs that promote visitors to the City.

P6. The City will endeavor to connect parks, neighborhoods, and recreation facilities through a system of trails and sidewalks.

P6a. The City will work with other jurisdictions, as possible, to establish linkages and connecting trails.

P6b. The City will work to develop pedestrian access and trails within existing and all future parks.

P6c. The City will work with landowners to identify natural corridors that may be able to serve as trail corridors.

P6d. The City will work to provide trails and pedestrian access that accommodates all segments of the population.

P7. The City will work to preserve and protect its natural resources through the provision of resource management strategies and programs.

P7a. Explore avenues, such as grants, that can help preserve forested areas, hillsides, and slopes.

P7b. The City will work with other entities to establish open space corridors and linkages with other significant regional open spaces.

P7c. ~~in~~ The City will work to retain City owned lands, including excess right-of-way, for open space purposes where appropriate.

P7d. The City will promote the use of native and drought tolerant vegetation in the City's parks and open spaces when appropriate for the site.
P7e. The City will work to maintain wildlife corridors to provide linkages for wildlife movement between and about wildlife habitat areas.

P8. The City will work to provide access to water for recreational uses.

P8a. The City will work to identify future sites and partnerships to acquire salt and fresh water access in the City.

P8b. The City will utilize a variety of geographic methods to acquire, restore, and preserve Creeks and other water bodies within City limits.

P9. The City will work to promote the cultural and historic features of its parks and facilities.

~~P9a.~~ The City will work to utilize historic features and events at parks sites to assist in development alternatives.

~~P9b.~~ The City will provide interpretive signage and markers to provide education regarding cultural and historic events, locations, to adequately serve all members of the public and happenings.

~~P1a~~**P10.** The City shall conduct regular surveys of neighborhoods and will maintain its parks to determine park locations, needs, and citizen preferences and =

~~P1b.~~ The City should pursue opportunities to build parks at waterfront locations.

~~P1c.~~ The City shall prioritize possible new park locations by areas that are not currently served by parks and recreational **facilities.**

~~in~~~~P1d.~~ Develop a fund to be used specifically for safe, attractive, and available condition during as much of the purchase and maintenance of open space areas, which provide an opportunity to enjoy the benefits of Shelton's unique natural setting year as possible.

~~P10a~~~~P1e.~~ Prepare a strategy for responding to landowners' offers of gifts of land, or other memorials to the City so that inquiries can be addressed quickly and consistently.

~~P1f.~~ Investigate selling small parcels of land owned by the City that are too small for park and recreation development, or are poorly located, so that the funds could be used to acquire lands conducive to the development of public open space areas.

~~P1g.~~ The City should pursue the acquisition of small parcels of land, especially near the downtown area, for use as mini parks.

~~P1h.~~ The City will endeavor to establish community parks to the number, size, and standards of the National Recreation and Park Association.

~~P1i.~~ The City should coordinate with Mason County to create and manage regional parks that will be available for and appeal to citizens throughout the City and County, as well as visitors to the area reduce replacement costs and extend the life of =

~~P2.~~ **The City shall provide facilities for a broad range of uses**

and equipment~~P2a.~~ As they are developed, the City should contain a balanced mixture of both passive and active facilities.

- ~~P2b.~~ It shall be a priority in parks development for each facility, to the extent possible, to provide a mixture of picnic areas, playgrounds, open space, and playfields for the enjoyment of Shelton's citizens.
- ~~P2c.~~ The City shall provide facilities for the use of large groups (e.g. picnic shelters) as desires are indicated through the citizen survey preventative maintenance.
- ~~P2d~~P10b. The City should facilitate individual activities (e.g. running, walking, biking) as well as group functions.
- ~~P2e.~~ To the extent possible, parks should include amenities that appeal to several age groups within one park.
- ~~P2f.~~ Parks should support a variety of activities, through the provision will establish and maintain regular maintenance of such amenities as playground equipment, picnic/game tables, trails, benches, etc.
- P3. The City should develop recreation programs that are appropriate and appealing to all age groups and ensure as broad participation in its programs as possible.**
- ~~P3a.~~ The City should continue offering programs for youth, and expand these programs as the citizen survey indicates needs and desires.
- safety inspections of parks ~~P3b.~~ The City should explore the creation of programs for teens, in response to the citizen survey results.
- ~~P3c.~~ The City should continue offering programs for adults, and expand these programs as the citizen survey indicates needs and desires.
- ~~P3d.~~ The City should explore the creation of programs for seniors, in response to citizen survey results.
- ~~P3e.~~ The City shall produce quarterly brochures to advertise available programs and facilities, as well as existing media.
- P10c. The City will endeavor to provide standardized signs, equipment, materials, and other amenities, where feasible, to support maintenance efficiencies.
- P10d. The City will encourage and promote staff training and education opportunities.
- ~~P3f.~~ To the extent possible, the City shall attempt to lower costs for program participation.
- ~~P3g.~~ The City shall remain accountable and responsive to community wants and needs.

~~P3h. The City shall continue to offer its current athletic and fitness programs, and explore the expansion of such programs as indicated through survey results.~~

~~P3i. The City shall continue to offer its current educational, enrichment, and excursion programs, and explore the expansion of such programs as indicated through survey results.~~

~~P3j. The City shall pursue the desire for and to facilitate professional development of outdoor / adventure programs, education, and excursions.~~

P11. The City will acquire land for future parks, trails, and open space when such lands are available and affordable to meet the present and future community and user demands and needs.

P11a. The City will maintain the adopted level of service standard of 5 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents as a goal, dependent upon funding availability, and adopt a minimum level of service standard of 4 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents.

P11b. The City will prioritize acquisition and development of parkland in underserved areas of the City including: Hillcrest, Beverly Heights, Northcliff, and Springfield Park/Shelton Springs.

P11c. The City will, when possible, acquire land that will enhance the size of existing City parks.

P11d. The City will acquire parkland in accordance with the annual budget and capital facilities plan.

P11e. The City will work with other entities and private landowners to secure the donation of land for parks, trails, and open space, when possible and in the best interest of the City.

P11f. The City will regularly review potential parks, trails, and open space sites in the UGA as well as related facilities needed to provide the recommended level of service.

P11g. The City will plan for the location of parks in the proximity of high-density development.

P12. The City will coordinate parks, trails, and open space planning and development with appropriate jurisdictions, organizations, and individuals to maximize opportunities for sedentary activities, as indicated through the citizen survey, minimize duplication, and enhance service to the community.

~~P3l.~~ ~~The City shall~~P12a. The City will coordinate the Parks Plan with other elements of the City of Shelton Comprehensive Plan and Development Regulations. The location and design of park facilities should further the goals of the Comprehensive Plan whenever possible.

P12b. The City will pursue ~~and continue~~ cooperative planning efforts with Mason County; in the UGA to provide parks, trails, and open space in future annexation areas.

P12c. The City will support joint planning, coordination, maintenance, and development of facilities with the Shelton School District, ~~and other community agencies for coordinated recreation programs as possible.~~

~~**P4. The City shall dedicate funds and prioritize spending to ensure well-maintained parks, programs, and facilities.**~~

~~P4a. The City shall develop funding priorities to adequately maintain and develop facilities to established standards.~~

~~P4b. The City shall establish a regular maintenance schedule for all facilities.~~

~~P4c. Current and new parks equipment will be maintained and replaced on a regular basis.~~

~~P4d. The City shall make it a priority to create and maintain adequate signage for each facility.~~

~~P4e. The City shall explore the feasibility of utilizing volunteers and civic groups to maintain and enhance City parks.~~

~~**P5. The City shall dedicate funds and coordinate with police and public safety organizations to ensure safe parks, programs, and facilities.**~~

~~P5a. The City shall coordinate with the Shelton Police Department to regularly patrol park facilities to ensure public safety.~~

~~P5b. The City parks maintenance schedule should pay particular attention to security lighting and alternatives.~~

~~P5c. The design and location of plantings and equipment in both new and renovated parks should enhance public safety.~~

~~P5d. All parks facilities and equipment shall undergo regular inspections for safety, maintenance standards, and ADA compliance.~~

~~P5e. New renovated facilities shall be designed to maximize accessibility for those with disabilities.~~

~~**P6. The City shall as a part of this ongoing transportation planning and management, establish a multimodal circulation system to link park and recreation facilities, with designated open spaces and surrounding neighborhoods. Features of this system shall include pedestrian and bicycle linkages.**~~

~~P6a. Take advantage of opportunities to provide for future parks and open space areas in both new and existing neighborhoods by purchasing or otherwise setting aside land for such uses early in the development process as consistent with the City's Park Plan.~~

~~P6b. Encourage pedestrian activity in downtown Shelton through the provision of safe and accessible sidewalks and curb cuts, as well as bikeways and trails linking neighborhoods with natural features such as Oakland Bay and Goldsborough Creek as consistent with the Shelton Parks Plan, or other related circulation plans.~~

~~P6c. Preserve existing tree-lined streets and work to establish additional street-side plantings along downtown streets.~~

~~P6d. The City shall recruit and train volunteers to establish and update a comprehensive inventory of trails and sidewalks and to identify potential missing links of opportunities.~~

~~**P7. Protect and enhance opportunities to enjoy Shelton's natural areas including forested hillsides, the natural valley landscape, streams, waterfront, views of mountains and developed park areas.**~~

~~P7a. Pursue grants to be used specifically for the purchase and maintenance of open space areas that provide an opportunity to enjoy the benefits of Shelton's unique natural setting.~~

~~P7b. Identify key parcels of land for acquisition by the City in order to provide appropriate levels of public access to natural areas.~~

~~P7c. Give priority to creating links between critical areas and designated open spaces.~~