

Edmonds PROS PLAN

Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan 2022-2027



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive Summary	iv
Chapter 1: Introduction / Planning Forward.....	1
Chapter 2: Community Profile	6
Chapter 3: Community Engagement	14
Chapter 4: Classifications & Inventory	20
Chapter 5: Parks & Open Space	30
Chapter 6: Recreation Programs	82
Chapter 7: Trails & Connections	92
Chapter 8: Goals & Objectives	104
Chapter 9: Capital Planning & Implementation	114
Appendices	123
Park Site Assessments	123
Survey Summary	153
Online Meeting Summary #1	173
Online Meeting Summary #2	181
Stakeholder Summaries	197
Recreation Trends	211
Implementation Tactics	223



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

For the first time in the City's history, a community-based planning project had an emphasis of diversity and equity in its outreach in efforts to more inclusively capture the community's ever-evolving priorities related to parks, open space, trails and recreation facilities and programming. There were focused efforts to extend the invitation for community engagement to traditionally under-represented or unheard voices in Edmonds. To foster this, online and direct mail community surveys; web-based, handouts and presentation materials; and live translation during community meetings were provided in Chinese, Korean and Spanish languages.

In addition to having these voices in the planning effort, it also began building working relationships with Edmonds' community-based organizations. This will enable the City to connect with new community partners to expand our recreation and cultural arts programming and lay a foundation for future city planning projects.

The PROS Plan community engagement was successful, even with the challenges of implementing this project during a pandemic and adhering to safety guidelines that changed how public involvement is typically facilitated. The mailed and community-wide survey response was extraordinary with nearly 2,000 submitted. Combined with open houses/ community meetings (online), stakeholder interviews and significant public comments of the draft plan, the goal of robust community engagement was achieved. These in-depth and broader reaching efforts resulted in more current and reflective community goals and objectives and key recommendations from the previous 2016 PROS Plan.

The Parks, Recreation, Cultural Arts & Human Services Department looks forward to implementing this Plan that is representative of the whole Edmonds community.

Angie Feser, Director
Parks, Recreation, Cultural Arts & Human Services Department



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2022 Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan (PROS Plan) is a six-year guide and strategic plan for managing and enhancing park and recreation services in Edmonds. It establishes a path forward for providing high quality, community-driven parks, trails, open spaces and recreational opportunities.

The Plan provides a vision for the City's park and recreation system, proposes updates to City service standards for parks and trails and addresses departmental goals, objectives and other management considerations toward the continuation of quality recreation and cultural services to benefit the residents of Edmonds.

This Plan was developed with the input and direction of Edmonds residents. The Plan inventories and evaluates existing park and recreation areas, assesses the needs for acquisition, site development and operations and offers specific policies and recommendations to achieve the community's goals.

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER CITY PLANS

The 2022 PROS Plan is the six-year, functional plan for the Parks, Recreation, Cultural Arts and Human Services Department, serving as the blueprint for the management, enhancement and growth of the City of Edmonds parks and recreation system and anticipates the programming and capital infrastructure investments necessary to meet the community's need for parks, recreation, open space, trails, and arts and culture. It assists in guiding decisions related to planning, developing and maintaining parks, open space and recreational facilities. This Plan also identifies priorities for recreation programs, special events, and arts and culture activities.

The PROS Plan is intended to cover the open space and recreation



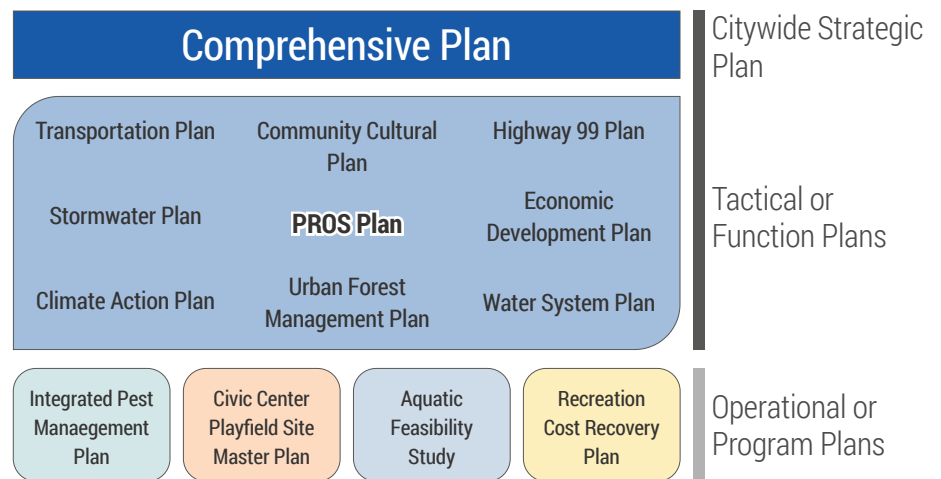
Enjoying and learning about local wildlife at Frances Anderson Center Field. Credit: Jeanine Harles

properties, programs and initiatives owned, managed, coordinated by, or may become a direct asset of the City. The purview of the Plan is specific to the functional and administrative needs for the Parks, Recreation, Cultural Arts and Human Services Department, in a manner similar to the Water System Plan, Stormwater Plan or Transportation Plan. The PROS Plan is not intended to regulate actions over private lands, but it does describe certain objectives that may be beneficial to the Edmonds community if applied to non-city lands. Overarching city policy continues to be directed by City Council and through the development and implementation of the City's Comprehensive Plan

and other city-wide plan and policy documents, such as the Climate Action Plan and Urban Forestry Management Plan. The following

graphic illustrates where the PROS Plan sits in relation to other city-wide plans and more focused operational or program plans.

Figure ES1: Relationship of PROS Plan to Other City Plans





Cooling off at the City Park. Credit: Jeanine Harles

PARK AND RECREATION SYSTEM OVERVIEW

The Parks, Recreation, Cultural Arts and Human Services Department serves as the community's key resource for providing parks, trails and open spaces, recreation, cultural arts, aquatic facilities and programs and supports tourism and economic development, as well as providing an enhanced quality of life for its citizens. Thousands of participants and visitors join the many programs offered each year.

The recreation facilities and services available within the City of Edmonds are a major community asset and support the physical, mental and social health of community members. The City hosts recreation and arts and culture programs in its parks and in several municipal buildings, most notably the Frances Anderson Center.

The City of Edmonds currently manages over 265 acres of parks and open space, providing nearly a mile of public waterfront access, active recreational facilities for team sports, playgrounds at 14 parks, more than 13 miles of walking paths and trails, and approximately 80 acres of open space.

The system of parks supports a range of active and passive recreation experiences. In addition, the City provides athletic fields, sport courts, spray park, and an outdoor pool, among other amenities. Edmonds residents also can access additional parks, trails, open spaces and recreational facilities provided by the cities of Lynnwood and Mountlake Terrace, Snohomish County, Edmonds School District and other entities.

Mission Driven

The Department's mission statement provides a framework for future planning and guided the development of goals and project recommendations for this PROS Plan:

To provide Edmonds citizens with a balanced system of open space, parks, recreation and cultural arts to ensure a healthy and active quality of life.

The Department also plays a vital role in many aspects of community life, with staff support to the Edmonds Memorial Cemetery Board, Planning Board, Edmonds Youth Commission, Edmonds Arts Commission, Tree Board, Creative District Advisory Committee, and Mayor's Conservation Advisory Committee.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The PROS Plan process included a substantial community engagement program, with the intent to hear from a broad range of community voices and to focus on diversity and inclusion through engagement in Chinese, Korean and Spanish languages. The formulation of the PROS plan has included the following community engagement opportunities:

- Community survey, which received 1,958 responses (available in Chinese, English, Korean and Spanish)
- Two virtual public meetings - with simultaneous interpretation in Chinese, Korean and Spanish
- Stakeholder group discussions and one-on-one interviews
- Tabling and outreach at community events
- Eight sessions with the Edmonds Planning Board
- Four sessions with the Edmonds City Council
- Ongoing social media and email feedback

GOALS AND POLICIES

This PROS Plan includes goals and objectives intended to guide City decision-making to ensure the parks, arts, trails and recreation system meets the needs of the Edmonds community for years to come. These goals and objectives were based on community input and technical analysis. They include:

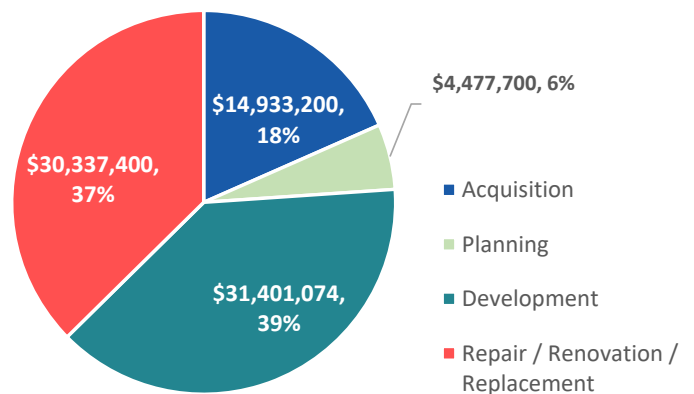
- **Engagement:** Encourage and facilitate meaningful public involvement in park and recreation planning.
- **Diversity, Equity & Inclusion:** Decrease barriers and provide increased opportunities for participation and representative cultural, heritage and art programs, events representing the diversity of Edmonds demographics.
- **Parks, Trails & Open Space:** Provide an interconnected park system that offers a wide variety of year-round recreation opportunities and experiences which support and enhance Edmonds’ cultural identity and the natural environment.
- **Waterfront Use & Access:** Preserve and pursue opportunities to expand public access and enjoyment of Edmonds’ waterfront.
- **Natural Resource & Habitat Conservation:** Conserve and provide access to natural resource lands for habitat conservation, recreation, and environmental education.
- **Climate Change, Adaptation & Resiliency:** Adapt to climate change and increase local park system resiliency by improving environmental conditions, stewardship and sustainability in parks, trails, open spaces and recreation facilities within planning, development, maintenance, and operations.
- **Recreation Programs & Facilities:** Provide a varied and inclusive suite of recreation opportunities and experiences to promote health and wellness, year-round activity and social engagement.
- **Cultural Services:** Provide arts and cultural opportunities and experiences to promote an engaged and vibrant community.
- **Park Operations & Administration:** Maintain and operate a modern, efficient park system that provides a high level of user comfort, safety and aesthetic quality, and protects capital investments.

FUTURE IMPROVEMENTS

Edmonds is preparing for continued growth, with a forecasted 2035 population of approximately 45,550. New investments in parks and recreation will be necessary to meet the needs of the community, support youth development, expand opportunities for inclusion, provide options for residents to lead healthy, active lives, and foster greater social and community connections.

Serving existing and future residents will require improvements to existing parks and expansion of the park, trail and recreation system. The 6-year Capital Facilities Plan proposes approximately \$81.1 million of investment in acquisition, development and renovation to the park system.

Figure ES2: Capital Facilities Plan Summary by Project Type



Stretching and wellness with a yoga class. Credit: Karen Ulvestad



To ensure existing parks provide desired recreational amenities and opportunities, the Plan includes a significant land acquisition program focusing on underserved areas in south and southeast Edmonds to ensure sufficient land for outdoor recreation. The Plan supports trail corridor improvements to enhance bicycle and pedestrian connections, and it maintains support for the expansion and enhancement of the Edmonds Marsh Estuary.

Key recommendations from the 2022 PROS Plan include the following:

- **Acquisitions to Fill Park System Gaps:** The acquisition of additional neighborhood parks is necessary to address existing gaps in park services and address inequities in parkland distribution.
- **Open Space & Conservation Acquisitions:** The City should continue to seek options to expand its open space holdings and pursue acquisitions that adjoin city properties or conserve unique natural areas, such as wetlands, forested areas and vistas.
- **Park Development & Enhancements:** A number of parks have aging infrastructure that warrants significant repairs such as sports court resurfacing or complete replacements.
- **Yost Pool Replacement:** While continuing to manage the existing infrastructure to keep Yost Pool open to the community, the City should refine their options for replacement of the facility.
- **Trail Connections:** Trail connections, including sidewalk and bike lanes improvements, are needed to help link destinations across the community.
- **ADA, Accessibility & Other User Convenience Enhancements:** The City should make improvements to existing parks as needed to ensure proper maintenance, usability and quality of park features and grounds to remove barriers and improve universal access.
- **Municipal Code Update:** The Edmonds municipal code includes definitions of certain park classifications, and these definitions were last updated in 2001.
- **Engagement & Outreach:** Community events, volunteer efforts and partnership projects bring the community together and enable improvements to the park and recreation system.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

The recommendations for park and recreation services noted in this Plan may trigger the need for funding beyond current allocations and for additional staffing, operations and maintenance responsibilities. Given that the operating and capital budget of the Parks, Recreation, Cultural Arts and Human Services Department is finite, additional resources may be needed to leverage, supplement and support the implementation of proposed objectives, programs and projects. While grants and other efficiencies may help, these alone will not be enough to realize many ideas and projects noted in this Plan.

Partnerships & Community Collaboration

Dedicated coordination and collaboration with other public divisions and agencies, as well as private and community organizations, businesses and Edmonds residents, will greatly enhance the City's ability to fulfill the community's aspirations and the goals of this Plan.

Through enhanced internal coordination, the City can pursue trail corridors that meet both recreation and transportation needs and review of development applications with consideration toward potential parkland acquisition areas, planned path corridors and the need for easement or set-aside requests. Continued partnerships with the Edmonds School District, Port of Edmonds, Snohomish County and nearby cities can improve recreation options for Edmonds residents through joint use, development and programming of park and recreation facilities.

The Edmonds community has a history of, and an expressed interest in, contributing to the development and stewardship of the City's park, natural areas, marine environment and recreation resources. The City has a variety of existing agency and community-based organization partners and should continue to explore additional and expanded partnerships to help implement these Plan recommendations. Additionally, more focused volunteer projects can include park clean-up days, invasive plant removal, tree and other plant installations, and community event support, among others. Finally, by engaging property owners, the City can explore opportunities to expand the park and trail system, while protecting critical natural resources.

While supporting organized groups and community-minded individuals continues to add value to the Edmonds park and recreation system, volunteer coordination requires a substantial amount of staff time, and additional resources may be necessary to leverage and more fully take advantage of the community's willingness to support park and recreation efforts.

Funding

The City of Edmonds currently relies on Park Impact Fees (PIF), Real Estate Excise Tax (REET), grants and general funds to finance individual projects. Dedicated, new funding may be required to finance upgrades to and growth in the park and recreation system to meet community needs. Updating the existing PIF program, which assesses fees on new development to meet the increased demand for parks resulting from the new growth, will allow the City to obtain future acquisition and development funding from residential development. A short-term bond or levy could augment PIF revenue to support parkland acquisitions and development, trail development, waterfront opportunities and general park element upgrades. Such mechanisms would require both political and public support. Federal, state and local grant programs offer additional potential opportunities to leverage available local revenues to fund specific development projects.

Enjoying the waterfront and the winds with a kite.

Credit: Jeanine Harles



You'll find expansive views of the Olympic Mountains, postcard-perfect sunsets, ferry traffic, and kiteboarders sailing through the air. Everywhere you turn in this town there is something marvelous, from the scenery to the public art.

- from Visit Edmonds



CHAPTER 1

PARKS & RECREATION PLANNING FORWARD

PLAN PURPOSE

The City of Edmonds 2022 Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan (PROS Plan) is an update to the 2016 Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan that builds on the previously completed planning work and incorporates the feedback from an extensive community engagement process conducted in 2021. This Plan creates a vision for an innovative, inclusive and interconnected system of parks, trails and open space that promotes recreation, health, environmental conservation and fiscal responsibility as integral elements of a thriving, livable Edmonds.

The PROS Plan serves as a blueprint for the management, enhancement and growth of the City of Edmonds parks and recreation system. It assists in guiding decisions related to planning, developing and maintaining parks, open space and recreational facilities. This Plan also identifies priorities for recreation programs, special events and arts and culture activities.

The 2022 PROS Plan provides updated system inventories,

Providing Edmonds citizens with a balanced system of open space, parks, recreation and cultural arts to ensure a healthy and active quality of life.



community profile, needs analyses and a comprehensive capital project list. The Plan identifies parks and recreation goals and establishes a long-range plan for the Edmonds parks and recreation system, including action items and strategies for implementation over the next six to ten years. The recommendations in this Plan are based on community input, evaluations of the existing park system, operating conditions and fiscal considerations.

The PROS Plan is part of the City's broader Comprehensive Plan and is consistent with the guidelines established by the Growth Management Act. The PROS Plan, updated approximately every six years, allows Edmonds to remain current with community interests and retain eligibility for state grants through the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO), which administers various grant programs for outdoor recreation and conservation efforts. This plan has been regularly updated (1996, 2001, 2008 and 2016) to remain relevant to Edmonds as the city evolves and changes.

PLANNING PROCESS

This PROS Plan represents the culmination of a year-long planning effort and reflects the community's interests and needs for parks, open space, trails and programming. The planning process, which included a variety of public outreach activities, encouraged public engagement to inform the development of the priorities and future direction of Edmonds' park and recreation system. Community members expressed their interests through surveys, public meetings, stakeholder discussions, online outreach, tabling and direct outreach and Planning Board meetings.

In addition to community engagement, the actions identified in this Plan are based on:

- An inventory and assessment of the City's existing park and recreation facilities to establish the system's current performance and to identify needed maintenance and capital repair and replacement projects,
- Service level and walkability assessments to quantify the system's ability to serve current and future residents.

The Plan's capital facilities section and accompanying implementation and funding strategies are intended to sustain and enhance, preserve and steward the City's critical parks and recreation infrastructure.

DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

The Parks, Recreation, Cultural Arts and Human Services Department serves as the community's key resource for providing parks, trails and open spaces, recreation, cultural arts, aquatic facilities and programs and supports tourism and economic development, as well as providing an enhanced quality of life for its citizens. Thousands of participants and visitors join the many programs offered each year. There are 47 city-owned park sites totaling 230 acres, 20,000 square feet of flowerbeds and about one mile of waterfront shoreline in the Edmonds park system.

Also, in 2021, the Department expanded to include the Human Services Division, which is intended to serve Edmonds residents in need of assistance, provide guidance and help residents find resources across a variety of issues for the wide demographic spectrum that comprises the city. Since the COVID-19 outbreak the Human Services Division has had a particular

focus on helping connect those individuals and families that are financially or housing-stressed with local and regional resources that can help.

The Department maintains active community partnerships with the Edmonds School District, Edmonds Boys and Girls Club, Edmonds College, Edmonds Historic Museum, Edmonds Arts Festival Foundation, Edmonds Center for the Arts, Port of Edmonds, Sno-King Youth Club, Edmonds Chamber of Commerce, both Edmonds Rotary Clubs, Edmonds Floretum Garden Club, Edmonds in Bloom, Underwater Dive Park Stewards, several Environmental Stewards groups, the Dale Turner YMCA, Sno-Isle Edmonds Library, neighboring cities of Mountlake Terrace and Lynnwood, as well as Snohomish County, among other organizations.

The Department has 24 full-time employees in five primary areas of focus including Parks Maintenance, Recreation Services, Cultural Arts Services, Human Services and Administration.

Parks Maintenance maintains six waterfront beach parks, a fishing pier, and 41 community, neighborhood, special use and open space parks. The division also maintains the Veterans Plaza located at Public Safety complex, Dayton Street Plaza, Frances Anderson Center Bandshell and Hazel Miller Plaza, in addition to Yost Pool and Hazel Miller Spray Park at City Park. The division is responsible for preserving, maintaining and upgrading all playground structures and equipment as needed. The Parks Maintenance crew maintains the street trees, street landscape beds including downtown corner parks and hanging flower baskets and all City-owned sport fields, as well as assists with numerous City events.

Recreation Services creates and implements recreational programs and environmental education and stewardship programs along with arts, tourism and cultural opportunities for city residents. Staff supervise community recreation, adult enrichment, athletics, aquatics, wellness, outdoor recreation, urban agriculture, nature and ranger/naturalist activities and a preschool. Staff supervise recreation program registration, facility rentals and athletic field rentals. The division also oversees the Frances Anderson Center, Meadowdale Community Clubhouse, the Plaza Room, programming in the Edmonds Waterfront Center weekday evenings and

is responsible for the concessionaire agreements, which includes the Yost Pool agreement, two outdoor education program agreements and various recreation programs.

The Cultural Services division offers programs that highlight the scope of the arts in Edmonds, from a Community Cultural Plan for the city, a Public Art collection and concerts in the parks, to rotating visual art exhibits and a nationally recognized writers conference. The division works with the Edmonds Arts Commission to update and implement the Community Cultural Plan, an element of the Comprehensive Plan. Cultural Services works with the Economic Development Department on cultural tourism and support for the Washington State-certified Downtown Edmonds Creative District.

The Human Services division oversees an allocated contracted full-time dedicated social worker, provides resource navigation, assists in securing shelter for residents as needed and supports the distribution of grants for individuals in need of assistance. In collaboration with Snohomish County, neighboring local jurisdictions, non-profit and faith-based organizations, the Human Services Division works to support the increase of affordable housing while remaining focused on homelessness prevention.

Administration focuses on long-range planning, acquisition and development of park facilities, the development of park site master plans, and pursuing and administering grants. Administration provides overall support for the Department in areas of budgeting, communications, customer service, contracts and capital projects administration, among others.

The Department's mission statement provides a framework for future planning and guided the development of goals and project recommendations for this PROS Plan:

To provide Edmonds citizens with a balanced system of open space, parks, recreation and cultural arts to ensure a healthy and active quality of life.

COMMISSIONS & BOARDS

The Department plays a vital role in many aspects of community life, with staff support to the Edmonds Memorial Cemetery Board, Planning Board, Edmonds Youth Commission, Edmonds Arts Commission, Tree Board, Creative District Advisory Committee, and Mayor's Conservation Advisory Committee.

Planning Board

The Planning Board serves in an advisory capacity to the City in regional and local planning and assists in the development of the comprehensive plan and zoning ordinances. The board also advises the Mayor and City Council on the development of all city parks and recreation facilities.

Arts Commission

Founded in 1975, the City of Edmonds Arts Commission (EAC) ensures the arts are a vital part of our community's quality of life, economic vitality and central identity. The commission is comprised of seven appointed members who advise and make recommendations to the Mayor, City Council or other City commissions or boards on matters pertaining to the arts and the aesthetic of the public realm.

Youth Commission

The Edmonds Youth Commission is a youth-led commission whose mission is to protect, preserve and enhance the quality of life for Edmonds youth by advising City Council and the public on issues relating to youth policies, programs and opportunities.

Tree Board

The Tree Board is a seven-member committee that encourages the planting, protecting, and maintaining of trees for long-term community benefit.

Creative District Advisory Committee

The advisory committee, appointed by the mayor and City Council, provides recommendations related to the five-year work plan established when the Creative District was certified in late 2018.

Mayor's Conservation Advisory Committee

This advisory group, appointed by the Mayor, provides recommendations related to community stewardship actions in Edmonds to conserve wildlife habitat, and enhance healthy air, land and water.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS SINCE 2016

The 2016 PROS Plan guided City officials, management and staff in making decisions about planning, operating and implementing various parks and recreation services. The following represents a short list of the major accomplishments realized following the adoption of the previous Plan:

- Renovated Waterfront Walkway, removed creosote bulkhead to restore shoreline habitat and installed artwork on south end of the Waterfront Walkway
- Updated Seaview Park with inclusive playground
- Installed Veterans plaza and memorial
- Prepared Urban Forestry Management Plan
- Purchased the land, master planned, secured funding and initiated redevelopment of Civic Center Playfield
- Completed the Fishing Pier Renovation
- Completed the Dayton Street Plaza
- Developed 30% design for Marina Beach Park
- Conducted citywide tree inventory and map and hired a full time arborist
- Accepted donation of Shirley Johnson property

The Parks, Recreation, Cultural Arts and Human Services Department also faced multiple challenges since the 2016 PROS Plan was adopted. The COVID-19 pandemic considerably impacted the Department. The Frances Anderson Center, Meadowdale Clubhouse and Yost Pool were closed in March 2020 and all recreation and cultural programs, special events and facility rentals were canceled, which eliminated a critical funding source for the Department. Athletic field reservations and picnic shelter/area reservations were also canceled, but resumed on a limited basis in the summer of 2020.

CURRENT CHALLENGES

Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic and the associated health mandates for social distancing have transformed the way municipalities plan for and conduct public engagement. To develop this Plan, the City implemented a sound public process that was compliant with health mandates by using a range of online tools for communications, engagement and community feedback.

Health mandates related to the pandemic also had dramatic impacts on the City's recreation programming and operations, requiring the temporary closure of some facilities, capacity and use restrictions, and the cancellation of recreation programming. However, with a better understanding of transmission and prevention, Edmonds has begun to offer limited in-person recreation programs and community events. In addition, the increase in use of parks and open space had a significant impact on parks maintenance operations in both safety measures, increased demand for routine maintenance such as litter and garbage, restroom cleaning, and vandalism repair.

Equity, Inclusivity & Accessibility:

Maintaining and enhancing social equity across recreational opportunities and facilities should be a core function of municipal park and recreation systems. Through this PROS Plan, the City of Edmonds made a concerted effort to reach out to, connect with and engage its historically underrepresented communities, and the City also invested in and committed to outreach in the four major languages of the community: Chinese, English, Korean and Spanish. Also, with substantial past investments in downtown, the City is re-examining the distribution of park and recreation resource investments in other areas of the city, with the goal to advance equity across Edmonds.

Further, portions of the City's parks, trails and open space system were developed before the 1999 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was implemented. The conditions assessment identified several deficiencies related to ADA compliance. The City must continue to find ways to provide safe and equitable access to parks, trails, open space areas, facilities, recreation programs and other services.

Asset Management & Aging Infrastructure

The City of Edmonds' parks, trails and open space system is facing numerous challenges related to aging infrastructure. Deferred maintenance and changing demands translate to the need for up-to-date assessments of the condition, function and quality of park system assets, in addition to understanding where deficiencies may exist. Park aesthetics and amenities are important to usage patterns. Also, a user's perception of personal safety is a determining factor in how one uses and feels in and around parks, trails and open spaces.

The conditions assessment of the Edmonds parks, trails and open space areas included in this PROS Plan (see Appendix A) provided a baseline of current conditions to inform the development of the capital project list and implementation strategies. The fiscal needs of the parks system are substantial and long-term funding strategies are needed.

Research on recreation also provides information on how park distribution, park proximity, park facilities and conditions have an impact on people's desire to engage in physical activity. It may be valuable to re-evaluate current park designs and maintenance policies to ensure barrier-free, engaging park environments and operational efficiencies. The City will continue to play a major role in enabling healthy lifestyles for the Edmonds community and should continue to enhance the park system and recreation program offerings.

Active Older Adults

The City of Edmonds' relatively older population, low rates of disability among residents over 65, and high rates of participation among residents of all ages, indicate a potential local need for active recreation opportunities for active older adults. Nationwide, active seniors are often looking at retirement age differently, and many are transitioning to new careers, finding ways to engage with their community, and focusing on their health and fitness. To meet the needs of active older residents, the City will need to consider how the City's park and recreation facilities, partnership with the Senior Center, and programming can meet the needs of this growing group.

Balancing Passive & Active Uses

Edmonds residents have worked to preserve and maintain the City's greenspaces over many decades. The park system currently includes nearly 76 acres of open space. These areas serve a critical environmental purpose, including sustaining a robust tree canopy, supporting wildlife, clean air and reducing pollutants in stormwater runoff. Some open space areas include passive use trails and provide much-needed natural respite, while other open space areas (e.g., wetlands) function as conservation or wildlife viewing areas.

From accessible playgrounds to splash pads to natural play areas, the range of play experiences offered by the City will change and diversify over time, and the population of Edmonds has increased over time. The demand for new amenities must be balanced against preserving and maintaining open space and natural areas. New amenities may require the use or re-use of existing parkland, or more parkland may be required to support the community's future needs.

GUIDING DOCUMENTS

This PROS Plan is one of several documents that comprise Edmonds' long-range planning and policy framework. Past community plans and other relevant documents were reviewed for policy direction and goals as they relate to parks, open space, trails, recreation and arts and culture opportunities across Edmonds.

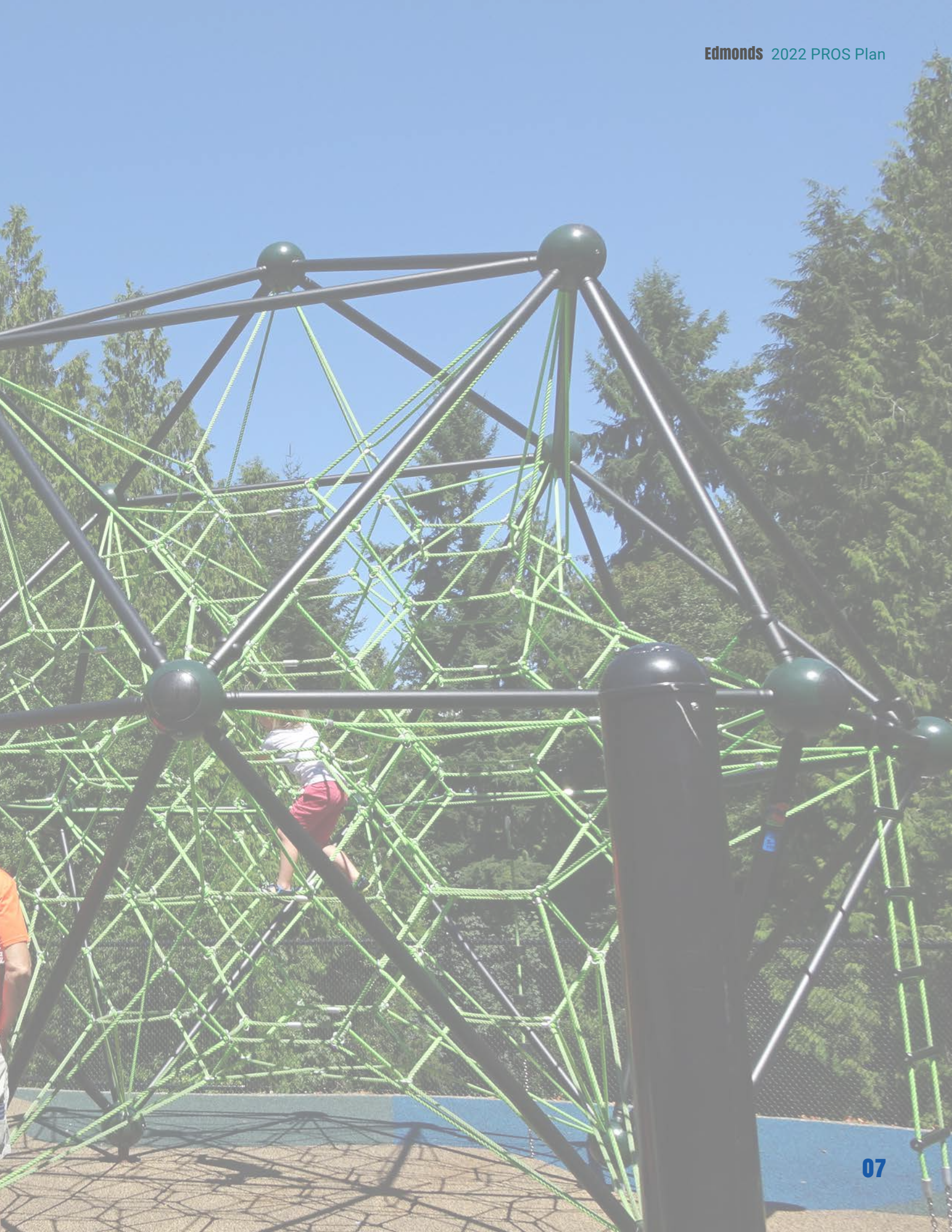
- Aquatic Feasibility Study (2009)
- Community Cultural Plan (2014)
- Comprehensive Transportation Plan (2015)
- Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan (2016)
- City of Edmonds Comprehensive Plan (2017)
- Highway 99 Subarea Plan (2017)
- Urban Forestry Management Plan (2019)
- Streetscape Plan (2006)

COMMUNITY PROFILE

Located along the shores of Puget Sound, the City of Edmonds lies about 15 miles north of Seattle. Incorporated in 1890, Edmonds is now home to 42,470 residents. Edmonds' walkable downtown features a variety of restaurants, art venues, and shopping all within an easy walk to shorefront parks.

Surrounding downtown are neighborhoods of family homes interspersed with forested green spaces. The city's primary general commercial areas are concentrated along Highway 99 on the eastern edge of the city. Edmonds is bordered to the north and west by Puget Sound and the community of Woodway, to the east by the cities of Mountlake Terrace and Lynnwood, and to the south by the City of Shoreline. The city also surrounds the smaller residential community of Esperance in unincorporated Snohomish County.

The City of Edmonds provides a wide range of government services and is dedicated to maintaining the community's unique cultural, recreational, and environmental assets, while supporting sustainable, locally-focused economic growth. The city's parks, open spaces, trails, and recreational opportunities are highly valued for recreation, respite, and their ecosystem attributes.



DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

Edmonds is home to just under 42,500 residents is the third largest city in Snohomish County by population. The city is comprised of many older adults and relatively less families with children as compared to nearby communities, see Figure 1. The city's residents are generally very well educated and have higher incomes than other county residents. Many residents are employed in the education, health care, professional, or retail trade sectors, including at the Edmonds School District, Premera Blue Cross, the Swedish Medical Center, Providence Regional Medical Center, and major retail chains. Residents also commute to other areas of the Seattle metropolitan region for work.

Figure 1. Population Characteristics: Edmonds, Snohomish County, and Washington

Demographics	Edmonds	Snohomish County	Washington
Population Characteristics			
Population (2020)	42,470	827,957	7,705,281
Population (2010)	39,709	713,335	6,724,540
Population (2000)	39,515	606,204	5,894,121
Percent Change (2000-20)	7.5%	37.0%	31.0%
Persons w/ Disabilities (%)	11.2%	11.8%	12.7%
Household Characteristics			
Households	17,761	293,823	3,202,241
Percent with children	24.8%	33.7%	30.6%
Median Household Income	\$89,229	\$86,891	\$73,775
Average Household Size	2.35	2.68	2.55
Average Family Size	2.92	3.16	3.09
Owner Occupancy Rate	70.7%	67.1%	63.0%
Age Groups			
Median Age	45.9	38	37.7
Population < 5 years of age	4.6%	6.3%	6.1%
Population < 18 years of age	17.9%	22.7%	22.2%
Population 18 - 64 years of age	60.3%	64.2%	62.7%
Population > 65 years of age	21.8%	13.1%	15.1%

Sources: Washington Office of Financial Management Population Estimates, 2020
U.S. Census, 2000 Census, 2010 Census, 2015-2019 American Community Survey

Population & Anticipated Growth

The City of Edmonds incorporated in 1890 as primarily a logging and mill town. By 1960, the city had grown to just over 8,000 residents. Major annexations in the 1960s, particularly the annexation of areas northeast of downtown in 1963, dramatically increased the city's population to nearly 24,000 residents, see Figure 2. In the coming decades, the city's population grew at a modest 1-1.5% rate per year, before seeing more rapid growth in the 1990s.

Over the past twenty years, Edmonds has returned to a slow growth trend, which is expected to continue over the next two decades. The Puget Sound Regional Council, which completes land use and population forecasts for regional cities, anticipates that the city will grow to about 47,790 residents by 2040, an increase of about 13% from 2020.

In 2020, Edmonds was home to 17,761 households with an average size of 2.35 people, smaller than

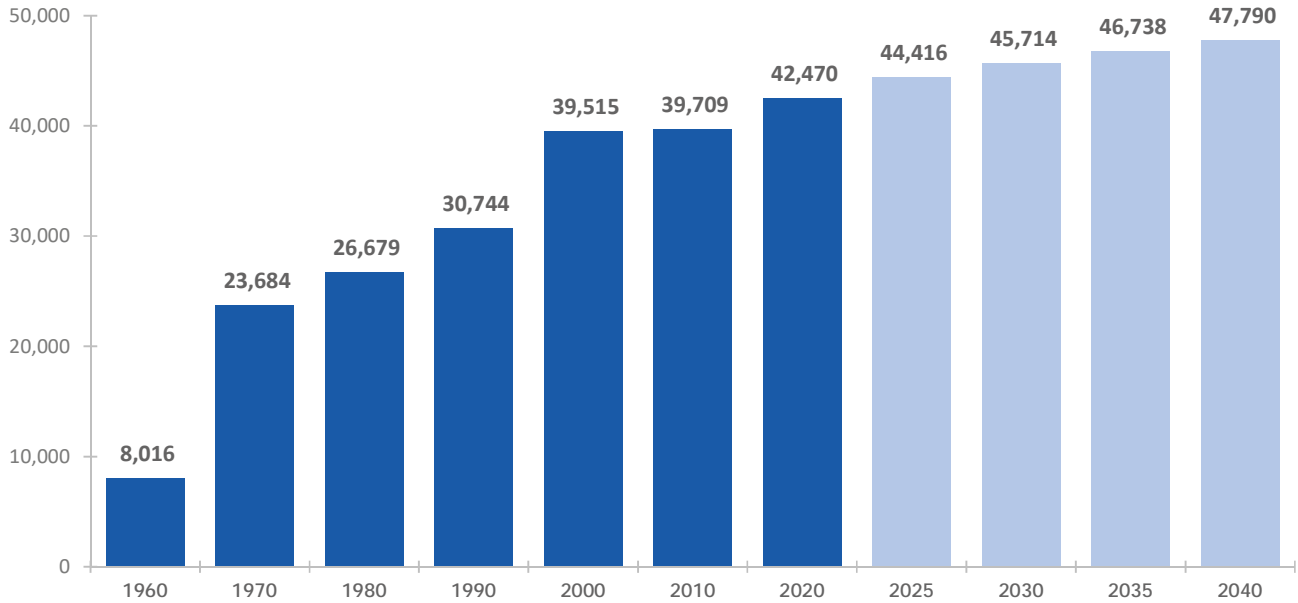
the average for the county (2.68) and state (2.55). One in four households (25%) were families with children under 18 and 23% were individuals living alone.

The size of a community and its anticipated growth over time are key indicators of whether existing park and recreation facilities will be sufficient to meet future needs. Population growth can also result in increased residential density and/or the development of currently vacant land within a

city, potentially increasing the need for away-from-home recreation opportunities while simultaneously reducing potential locations for park and open space acquisition. Advance planning for parks and

recreation facilities can help ensure residents can enjoy sufficient, conveniently located parks, open space, and recreation facilities while the community grows and evolves.

Figure 2. Population of Edmonds - Actual and Projected: 1960-2040



Environmental education program walk



Taste Edmonds



Age Group Distribution

Edmond’s residents have a median age of nearly 46 years (2019), which is significantly higher than that of the county and state (both approximately 38 years). The city also has a relatively low number of families with children (25% of all households). These demographics have important implications for park and recreation needs. Adults between 45 to 64 years old make up the city’s largest 20-year population group, comprising 33% of the overall population in 2019, see Figure 3.

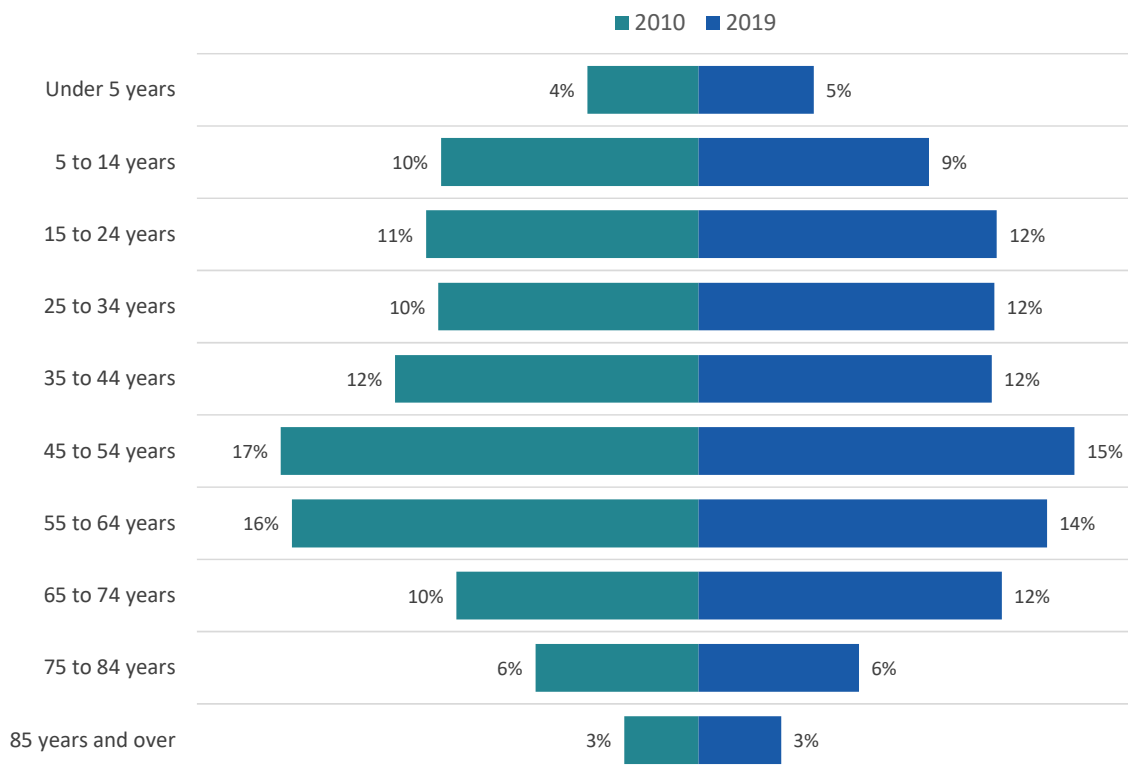
- Adults ages 25 to 34 years are users of adult programs. Approximately 10% of residents are in this age category. These residents may be entering long-term relationships and establishing families.
- Adults between 35 and 54 years of age represent users of a wide range of adult programs and park facilities. Their characteristics extend from having children using preschool and youth programs to becoming empty nesters. This age group makes up 29% of the city’s population.
- Older adults and seniors, ages 55 and older, make up approximately 35% of Edmond’s population. One in seven residents is over the age of 70. This broad age group

represents users of adult and senior programs. These residents may be approaching retirement or already retired and may be spending time with grandchildren. This group also ranges from very healthy, active seniors to more physically inactive seniors.

While nearly three in four residents are age 25 or older, 26% of residents are children and young adults.

- Youth under 5 years of age make up 4% of Edmond’s population, see Figure 3. This group represents users of preschool and tot programs and facilities, and are often trails and open space users, frequently in strollers. These individuals are the future participants in youth activities.
- Children ages 5 to 14 years make up current youth program, whole-family program, and event participants. Approximately 10% of the city’s population falls into this age range.
- Teens and young adults, age 15 to 24 years, are in transition from youth programs to adult programs and participate in teen/young adult programs where available. Members of this age group are often seasonal employment seekers. About 11% of city residents are teens and young adults.

Figure 3. Age Group Distributions: 2010 & 2019





Race and Ethnicity

According to the 2019 American Community Survey, Edmonds residents identified as 80% White, 8% Asian, 6% as two or more races, 2% as Black or African American, and less than 1% as American Indian or Alaskan Native, Pacific Islander, or another race. Approximately 8% of people identified as Hispanic or Latino of any race. Edmonds is less racially diverse than Snohomish County or Washington State as a whole, where 75% of residents identify as White. The population of Edmonds has become only modestly more diverse over the past decade, see Figure 4.

Figure 4. Changes in Racial Composition - 2000 to 2019

Racial Identification	2010	2019
White	83.4%	80.1%
Asian	7.1%	8.0%
Two or more races	4.1%	5.6%
Some other race	1.8%	3.5%
Black or African American	2.6%	1.6%
American Indian and Alaska Native	0.7%	0.3%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.3%	0.8%
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	5.3%	7.9%

In 2019, approximately 17% of Edmonds’s residents spoke a language other than English at home; Asian and Pacific Island languages and other Indo-European languages comprise the largest non-English language groups. Just over 5% of residents speak English ‘less than very well’. Edmonds has a smaller percentage of people who speak a language other than English at home than compared to Snohomish County as a whole (21%).

Nationally, the design and marketing of municipal recreation programs have historically been biased against serving these communities. In addition, residents who speak languages other than English may face barriers in finding, accessing, and participating in park and recreation facilities and programs. The City of Edmonds should consider how it could best provide recreational opportunities, programs, and information that are accessible and relevant to, and meet the needs of, all community members.

Persons with Disabilities

The 2019 American Community Survey reported 11% (4,676 persons) of Edmonds’s residents ages 5 years and older have a disability that interferes with daily life activities. This is lower than rates in the county (12%) and state (13%). Approximately 7% of residents between 18 and 64 live with a disability. Among residents 65 and older, the percentage rises to 31%, which is lower than the percentage found in the general senior population of Washington State (35%).

Planning, designing, and operating a park system that facilitates participation by residents of all abilities will help ensure compliance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). In addition to ADA, there are other accommodations that people with disabilities may need to access parks and participate in recreation programs. Edmonds should consider community needs for inclusive and accessible parks, recreational facilities, programs, marketing, and communications.

Employment & Education

According to the 2019 American Community Survey, 85% of residents (35,696 people) are age 16 years and older and considered part of the work force population. Of this work force aged population, 65% is in the labor force, 2% is unemployed, and 35% is not in the labor force. About one in four employed residents work in the education or health care industries, while another 16% work in the professional/management industries. The retail trade sector also employs a large percentage of local workers (approximately 13%).

Approximately 48% of Edmonds residents over age 25 have a bachelor’s degree or higher, and 80% have at least some college education. This level of education attainment is higher than that of Snohomish County and the state (in which 69% of residents have some college). Additionally, 92% of city residents have a high school degree or higher, on par with the statewide average.

Higher levels of employment and educational attainment positively correlate with both the income and health status of a community – both of which have further impacts on the use and need for park and recreation facilities, as described in the next two sections.

Income & Poverty

A community’s level of household income can impact the types of recreational services prioritized by community members, as well as their willingness and ability to pay for recreational services. Perhaps more importantly, household income is closely linked with levels of physical activity. Low-income households are three times more likely to live a sedentary lifestyle than middle and upper-income households, according to an analysis of national data by the Active Living by Design organization.

In 2019, the median household income in Edmonds was \$89,229, slightly higher than the median income for Snohomish County (\$86,691). Median household income in Edmonds is over 20% higher than the average for all Washington households (\$73,775).

Higher income households have an increased ability and willingness to pay for recreation and leisure services, and they often face fewer barriers to participation. The average household in Edmonds is relatively wealthy – about 44% of city household have incomes in the higher income brackets (\$100,000 and greater), which is significantly more than across the state (36%).

At the lower end of the household income scale, approximately 7% percent of Edmonds households earn less than \$25,000 annually, significantly fewer than households in Snohomish County (11%), the State of Washington (15%), and across the United States (23%). In 2019, about 2% of the city’s families were living below the poverty level, set at an income of \$25,750 for a family of four. This percentage is lower than the countywide (approximately 5%) and statewide (7%) levels. Poverty affects 4% of both youth under 18 and adults 65 and older.

Lower-income residents face many barriers to physical activity, including reduced access to parks and recreational facilities, a lack of transportation options, a lack of time, and poor health. Low-income residents may also be less financially able to afford recreational service fees or to pay for services, such as childcare, that can make physical activity possible.

Health Status

The overall health of a community’s residents can impact their ability to participate in recreation and other physical activity and may also reflect, in part, the locality’s level of access to appropriate and convenient green spaces, recreation opportunities, and active transportation facilities.

In 2016, Snohomish County completed a profile of the health of Edmonds, Mountlake Terrace, and West Lynnwood residents. In general, residents of these communities have higher life expectancy (82.3 years) and the average resident of the county (80.3 years) and face lower rates of premature mortality. According to the County Health Rankings, Snohomish County ranks in the highest quartile of Washington counties for health outcomes, including length and quality of life.

Snohomish County residents also rank as some of the healthiest residents in Washington (high middle quartile) when it comes to health behaviors. Approximately 17% of Snohomish County adults ages 20 and older report getting no leisure-time physical activity – on par than the statewide average and better than most counties nationwide. This may be due, in part, to the large number of places to participate in physical activity, including parks and public or private community centers, gyms, or other recreational facilities. Over 86% of residents in Snohomish County have access to adequate physical activity opportunities, equivalent to the average for all Washington residents. Approximately 30% of Snohomish County adults are overweight or obese, compared to 29% of Washington adults.

Economic Benefits of Parks & Recreation Regional Facilities

Edmonds’ regional facilities, such as the Underwater Dive Park at Brackett’s Landing North and waterfront beaches, draw visitors beyond the Edmonds city limits and can provide ongoing economic development. These unique attractions attract users who may participate in and contribute to the local economy by shopping and dining in Edmonds’ businesses and restaurants - benefitting the community.

In addition, many of the special events offered by, co-sponsored or supported by the City are attended by regional participants who also may spend tourism dollars within Edmonds contributing to the City’s economy.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Engaging the Whole Community

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Community engagement played an essential role in developing the 2022 PROS Plan. Although the planning process occurred during the COVID-19 pandemic, substantial effort was made to connect with the full Edmonds community, seek their input and provide information about the project. Intentional, direct and on-going outreach to non-English speaking communities was a major tenet of the City’s engagement

strategy. Public outreach methods were varied and extensive, including:

- Random-sample mail survey with English, Chinese, Korean and Spanish options
- Online community-wide survey in English, Chinese, Korean and Spanish
- Online public meetings with simultaneous translation in Chinese, Korean and Spanish

帮助创建公园和娱乐的未来!

一个面向公众的讨论

2021年7月22日, 星期四
下午 6:30 - 晚上 8:30
在线参与 <https://bit.ly/EdmondsPROSmtg>
预订: +1 253-215-8782
会议编号: 821 6459 5564
密码: 604018
使用英语、韩语、普通话或西班牙语来参加

您喜欢在埃德蒙兹弗朗西斯安德森中心(Edmonds Frances Anderson Center)参与与活动, 还是在埃德蒙兹(Edmonds)公园玩耍吗? 您想在您的社区看到一个新的公园吗? 您希望埃德蒙兹(Edmonds)提供哪些活动呢?

加入我们的社区会议, 分享您对埃德蒙兹(Edmonds)公园和娱乐项目未来的想法。

想要了解更多信息, 请联系:

Angie Feser
425-771-0230
PROSPlan@edmonds.wa.gov
edmonds.wa.gov/government/departments/parks_recreation_cultural_services

埃德蒙兹市 (City of Edmonds) 正在展望未来并重新规划6年的公园、娱乐和开放空间 (PROS) 计划。我们相信社区中的每位成员都在规划过程中发挥着重要作用, 因此我们想要听到您的意见。

**没法参加网络会议?
请参与我们的问卷调查:**

中文
bit.ly/EdmondsPROS-ch

Sample July Meeting Flyer

¿Cuáles son los siguientes pasos del Departamento de Parques y Recreación de Edmonds?

La ciudad de Edmonds se está preparando para el futuro con la actualización de su plan de 6 años de Parques, Recreación y Espacios Abiertos (PROS). Consideramos que todos los miembros de la comunidad desempeñan un papel importante en el proceso de planificación, por lo que pasamos el verano recopilando las opiniones de las personas que visitan los parques, los participantes de programas y los residentes de Edmonds.

Información de la reunión

Sábado, 16 de octubre de 2021
1:00 - 2:00 PM
<https://bit.ly/EdmondsPROSmeeting2>
Marque: +1 253 215 8782
ID del seminario web: 819 9836 0305
Código de acceso: 948989

¡1,958 personas respondieron a la encuesta!

Compartiremos las opiniones recibidas hasta el momento y abordaremos el tema de prioridades.

Acompáñenos en una reunión virtual comunitaria para hablar de lo que viene para el sistema de parques y los programas de recreación de Edmonds.

Participe en inglés, coreano, mandarín o español

Para más información, comuníquese con

Angie Feser
425-771-0230
PROSPlan@edmonds.wa.gov
edmonds.wa.gov/government/departments/parks_recreation_cultural_services

Sample October Meeting Flyer

Imagining the future of Edmonds Parks!

We want to hear from you!

The City of Edmonds envisions a parks and recreation system that serves the needs of our growing and changing population. The 2022 plan will reflect the changing needs of our community and create a path to grow our services. Please share your experience and thoughts by taking a quick survey:

2022 City of Edmonds PROS Plan

The City of Edmonds offers parks and community spaces for all Edmonds residents to come together, stay active, and have fun. We are updating the Edmonds Parks Recreation and Open Space (PROS) plan and need your help to keep our parks and programs thriving and meet the needs of our growing and diverse communities.

What is the Edmonds PROS Plan?

The PROS Plan is a six year guide for managing and enhancing parks, open space, trails, recreation, and cultural arts opportunities. Everyone in the community plays an important role in the planning process by sharing their vision for the parks and recreation system and identifying priorities for future programs, events, potential new parks, and for taking care of our existing parks. Having a PROS Plan means that the City is eligible for state funding. A draft of the 2022 PROS Plan will be complete and available to the public for review in November 2021.

The City of Edmonds provides and maintains over **230** acres of public park and recreation facilities distributed among:

- 11 city parks
- 6 regional parks
- 15 special use parks
- 12 other designated open spaces

These facilities offer a variety of recreational experiences including playgrounds, picnic areas, sports fields, basketball courts, skateboarding, aquatic, and walking trails and paths.

Learn more about the plan, including upcoming events

edmonds.wa.gov/government/departments/parks_recreation_cultural_services/planning_projects
edmonds.parks@edmonds.wa.gov | PROSPlan@edmonds.wa.gov | [EdmondsRecZone](https://www.facebook.com/EdmondsRecZone)

Chinese
bit.ly/EdmondsPROS-ch

English
bit.ly/EdmondsPROS-en

Korean
bit.ly/EdmondsPROS-KO

Spanish
bit.ly/EdmondsPROS-sp

Sample Survey Flyer

- Stakeholder group discussions & one-on-one interviews
- Tabling and outreach at community events, to include a presence at the Uptown Evening Market near HWY 99 and coordination with other on-going City planning efforts
- Meetings with the Planning Board and City Council
- Edmonds city website with plan information and feedback opportunities
- Multiple social media postings, city newsletter articles and email blasts through the Recreation database and Edmonds School District parent distribution portal

COMMUNITY SURVEY

A community-wide, online survey was conducted to assess the recreational needs and priorities of Edmonds residents. The City

mailed 2,500 surveys to randomly chosen households in Edmonds on May 29, 2021, of which 501 surveys were completed and returned (20% response rate). Online versions of the survey in English, Chinese, Korean and Spanish were posted to the City’s website on June 4, 2021. An additional 1,449 surveys in English were completed from the general, community-wide online surveys. In addition, two Chinese, five Korean and one Spanish surveys were completed. In all, 1,958 surveys were collected.

Information about the survey was provided on the City’s Parks and Recreation website and on the PROS Plan project subpage. It was promoted via multiple in-language social media postings and city email blasts. Printed flyers with QR code links in four languages were made available for distribution by staff

for direct outreach to non-English community groups. Also, significant effort was made to promote the survey to all language groups during community events, pop-ups and flyer distribution through cultural based community organizations throughout the summer months. The survey was closed on August 31, 2021.

The survey measured current levels of satisfaction and which facilities were primarily being used by residents. Residents were asked about future improvements and the types of recreational amenities they would like to see considered for the park system. Survey respondents were asked about:

- Performance and quality of programs and parks
- Usage of city parks and recreation facilities

- Overall satisfaction with the value of services being delivered by the city
- Opinions about the need for various park, recreation, and trail improvements
- Priorities for future park and recreation services and facilities

Significant survey findings are noted below, and a more detailed discussion of results can be found in the needs assessment chapters covering parks, open space, recreation, and trails (Chapters 6 - 8).

Major Survey Findings:

- **Livability:** Nearly all respondents (99%) feel that public parks and recreation opportunities are important or essential to the quality of life on Edmonds.
- **Usage:** Park visitation is high, with 88% of respondents visiting parks or recreation facilities at least once a month. The most popular activities are beach and waterfront (83%), walking or running (76%), followed by relaxation (61%), playgrounds (41%) and fitness (40%).
- **Park Amenity Priorities:** Respondents indicated that the highest unmet need is for pedestrian and bike trails (84%) and an aquatic facility or pool (65%). A plurality of survey respondents think that Edmonds does not have enough walking and biking trails (61%). Respondents to both the mail and online survey ranked improving existing parks, completing the Waterfront Walkway near Ebb Tide Condos, and acquiring additional land for conservation and open space as their top priorities.
- **Recreation Facilities & Programming:** Respondents expressed a greater need for community events (56%) and program and activities geared toward youth. In particular, respondents had a higher interest in outdoor programs such as environmental education (46%), youth day camps (41%) and youth sport programs (40%).

The complete survey summary is provided in Appendix B.

VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING #1

The City hosted the first community meeting for the PROS Plan update using Zoom on July 22, 2021 (Thursday). Edmonds staff promoted the meeting through City communication channels, email and social media. Meeting information was provided in simplified Chinese, English, Korean and Spanish. The City also promoted the event through community-based partners. In all, 20 community members

participated in the meeting. Real-time, interactive polling questions and question-and-answer functions of Zoom were used to solicit community feedback – all with real-time verbal translation and poll question answers in Chinese, Korean and Spanish.

Online Public Meeting #1 Findings:

- Attendees identified three city parks that should receive additional focus for improvements: Mathay Ballinger, Yost and Marina Beach Parks.
- Stronger interest was noted for acquiring additional lands that conserve saltwater beaches/waterfront and wetland areas.
- Attendees favored smaller, more intimate events, such as outdoor movies, uptown evening market and Hazel Miller Plaza summer concerts.
- It was suggested that the City add more parks, services and facilities in the Hwy 99 corridor and the south end of the city.
- It was also suggested to acquire forested areas threatened by development, add open space throughout the city and manage/control invasive species.

A summary of responses to the online public meeting is provided in Appendix C.

VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING #2

On October 16, 2021 (Saturday), the City hosted a second virtual public meeting from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Zoom. The virtual meeting was structured in a manner similar to the first virtual public meeting and included an introductory presentation, live polling and a question-and-answer period. The online public meeting was promoted in multiple languages via social media posts, email blasts, school district email and public meeting announcements. Real-time translation and polling answers in Chinese, Korean and Spanish was also a main feature of this meeting. Attendance included 40 public attendees, two elected officials and project team members.

Online Public Meeting #2 Findings:

- Attendees favored a local-scale pool (indoor or outdoor) over a larger, regional-scale pool if Yost Pool is replaced.
- A strong majority of attendees favored prioritizing additional park and open space investments in southeast Edmonds and along the Highway 99 corridor.



Sample Social Media Posts



Sample Project Webpage Content

- Attendees reiterated the preference for smaller neighborhood events like concerts in local parks.
- Pluralities of attendees indicated interest in building additional trails in existing parks, as well as acquiring and building additional trail corridors.

A summary of responses to the online public meeting is provided in Appendix D.

STAKEHOLDER DISCUSSIONS

COVID-sensitive, online focus group discussions and individual interviews with external stakeholders were conducted to more broadly assess local needs and opportunities for partnership and coordination. Stakeholders were identified by city staff based on their past coordination their involvement or interest in the future of recreation, park, athletic or trail facilities.

Many recommended the addition or renovation of recreation facilities, such as playgrounds, sports fields and trails. Participants also made several comments about park and recreation deficiencies for those living along Hwy 99 or in the south/southeast portion of Edmonds. Also, many suggested ideas about trail connectivity and safety, open space conservation and partnering with other organizations. Specific

recommendations are incorporated in the needs assessment sections (Chapters 6 – 8), and a full summary is provided in Appendix E.

COMMUNITY EVENT TABLING

There were scheduled a series of City staff led tabling events at local markets and community gathering areas. Tabling occurred between July and September to build awareness of the PROS Plan and share information about the project. Tabling was held at the following venues:

- Uptown Market
- Farmers Market (tabling cancelled due to surge in Delta variant safety precautions)

Approximately 50 people were engaged during the event. Community comments ranged from concerns about the need for city investments closer to Hwy 99, to interest in an expanded trail network, to specific park improvements and enhanced communications from the city.

MEETING-IN-A-BOX

The Meeting-in-a-Box element compiled a variety of materials that allowed for City staff to easily prepare for meetings with community-based organizations and the diversity of communities within Edmonds. The tool-kit served meeting facilitators, so anyone on the project team can easily communicate information in a way that was uniform, but adaptable. The tool-kit included an event guide for meeting facilitation and logistics, a content template for introductory email blasts, templates for a meeting agenda and sign-in sheet. Materials were compiled and prepared in four languages: English, Chinese, Korean and Spanish.

PLANNING BOARD MEETINGS

The Planning Board provided feedback on the development of the PROS Plan during three regularly scheduled public sessions. The first session occurred on May 26th, shortly after the planning project was initiated. The Board discussed the update and provided their perspectives on a vision for the system, specific challenges, opportunities and ideas about parks, trails and programs. Subsequent sessions in November and January were used to review public feedback and solicit direction from the Board on priorities and recommendations for the new PROS Plan.

OTHER OUTREACH

In addition to the direct outreach opportunities described above, the Edmonds community was informed about the planning process through a variety of media platforms. The following methods were used to share information about the project and provide opportunities to participate and offer their comments:

- Edmonds Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services website
- PROS Plan project webpage
- Email blasts to the Parks and Recreation participants and distribution list
- Email blast to parents of all Edmonds Schools in the Edmonds School District
- Social media: Facebook & Instagram
- Media releases
- Postcard mailed to all homes in Edmonds
- Announcements at Council and Planning Board public meetings
- Announcements at Stakeholder Focus Group meetings

Sample Social Media Post



BENEFITS OF PARKS, RECREATION & OPEN SPACE

A number of organizations and non-profits have documented the overall health and wellness benefits provided by parks, open space and trails. The Trust for Public Land published a report called *The Benefits of Parks: Why America Needs More City Parks and Open Space*. This report makes the following observations about the health, economic, environmental and social benefits of parks and open space:

- Physical activity makes people healthier.
- Physical activity increases with access to parks.
- Contact with the natural world improves physical and psychological health.
- Value is added to community and economic development sustainability.
- Benefits of tourism are enhanced.
- Trees are effective in improving air quality and assisting with stormwater control.
- Recreational opportunities for all ages are provided.



Physical Activity Benefits

Residents in communities with increased access to parks, recreation, natural areas and trails have more opportunities for physical activity, both through recreation and active transportation. By participating in physical activity, residents can reduce their risk of being or becoming overweight or obese, decrease their likelihood of suffering from chronic diseases, such as heart disease and type-2 diabetes, and improve their levels of stress and anxiety. Nearby access to parks has been shown to increase levels of physical activity. According to studies cited in a 2010 report by the National Park and Recreation Association, the majority of people of all ages who visit parks are physically active during their visit. Also, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that greater access to parks leads to 25% more people exercising three or more days per week.



Community Benefits

Park and recreation facilities provide opportunities to engage with family, friends, and neighbors, thereby increasing social capital and community cohesion, which can improve residents' mental health and overall well-being. People who feel that they are connected to their community and those who participate in recreational, community and other activities are more likely to have better mental and physical health and to live longer lives. Access to parks and recreational facilities has also been linked to reductions in crime, particularly juvenile delinquency



Economic Benefits

Parks and recreation facilities can bring positive economic impacts through increased property values, increased attractiveness for businesses and workers (quality of life), and through direct increases in employment opportunities.

In Washington, outdoor recreation generates \$26.2 billion in consumer spending annually, \$7.6 billion in wages and salaries and \$2.3 billion in state and local tax revenue. Preserving access to outdoor recreation protects the economy, the businesses, the communities and the people who depend on the ability to play outside. According to the Outdoor Recreation Economy Report published by the Outdoor Industry Association, outdoor recreation can grow jobs and drive the economy through management and investment in parks, waters and trails as an interconnected system designed to sustain economic dividends for citizens.

CLASSIFICATIONS & INVENTORY

The City of Edmonds manages over 265 acres of parks and open space, providing nearly a mile of public waterfront access, active recreational facilities for team sports, playgrounds at 14 parks, more than 13 miles of walking paths and trails, and about 80 acres of open space.

PARKLAND CLASSIFICATIONS

Parkland is classified to assist in planning for the community's recreational needs. The classifications also reflect standards that inform development decisions during site planning, in addition to operations and maintenance expectations for the level of developed facilities or natural lands. The Edmonds park system is composed of a hierarchy of various park types, each offering recreational opportunities and natural environmental functions. Collectively, the park system is intended to serve the full range of community needs.

Each park classification defines the site's function and expected amenities and recreational uses. The classification characteristics serve

as general guidelines addressing the size and use of each park type. The following six classifications are used in Edmonds' park system:

- Neighborhood Parks
- Community Parks
- Waterfront Parks
- Special Use Areas
- Open Space
- Beautification Areas

Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks are smaller sites between one and six acres in size that serve nearby residents, generally within walking distance (½-mile). These parks are designed primarily for non-supervised, informal recreation activities and provide basic recreational amenities such as places to play, walk or bike and can also offer fields and/or courts to practice sports. These



Places to Be Active...

The City's neighborhood and community parks offer ample options to get out and play. These types of parks include playgrounds, sport fields and other amenities for active lifestyles.

parks support neighborhood and family gatherings and provide access to natural amenities. Some of the more popular neighborhood parks may include restroom facilities.

Community Parks

Community parks are larger sites intended to serve multiple neighborhoods or the entire city, within walking, biking or short driving distance from most users. These parks are usually between 20 to 50 acres in size and offer a range of recreational features to provide for the community's different interests. Community



Places to Find Quiet...

The open spaces in Edmonds provide acres of woodland and wetlands to showcase Edmonds' natural beauty. Take a walk, watch wildlife or find respite.

parks provide places to play, walk and bike, and to participate in organized sports, large gatherings and community events. Since community parks generally include facilities that attract a large number of people from a wide geographic area, these sites include typically off-street parking and restrooms. Community parks can also serve as local neighborhood parks for their immediate areas, and they may be connected to schools or other community facilities.



Places to Enjoy...

The City of Edmonds takes pride in its efforts to beautify business districts and the waterfront.

Waterfront Parks

Waterfront parks are sites that provide access to the water and are intended to serve residents and visitors. These sites provide scenic views of freshwater and marine waterfront areas, as well as public access for shoreline walking and boating. Waterfront parks typically provide permanent or portable restrooms.

Special Use Areas

Special use areas are miscellaneous parklands, landscaped gateways or stand-alone recreation sites designed to support a specific,

specialized use. Special use areas provide a unique benefit to users not commonly found in other parks. Some of the facilities in this classification are public plazas, viewpoints, community centers, community gardens, aquatic centers, historic sites or sites occupied by buildings.

Open Space

Open space includes wetlands and shoreline habitat, water bodies, inland forests, shrublands and grass lands. These spaces are left more or less in a natural state with recreation use as a primary or secondary objective. These areas can provide opportunities for passive and active outdoor recreation, such as walking, jogging, wildlife

viewing and nature photography. Open space promotes health and wellness by providing a natural physical and mental refuge from the urbanized, built environment, but not all open spaces may provide public access. In some cases, these are environmentally-sensitive areas and can include wildlife habitats, or unique and/or sensitive species.

Beautification Areas

Beautification areas include landscaped features located along street right-of-ways, intersections and medians, plazas, the Frances Anderson Center and other City-owned facilities and buildings. Hanging flower baskets are also included in beautification areas. The importance of beautification areas,

their contribution to creating a pedestrian friendly community and the opportunities for integration of public art elements is also addressed in the Streetscape Plan and in the Community Cultural Plan.

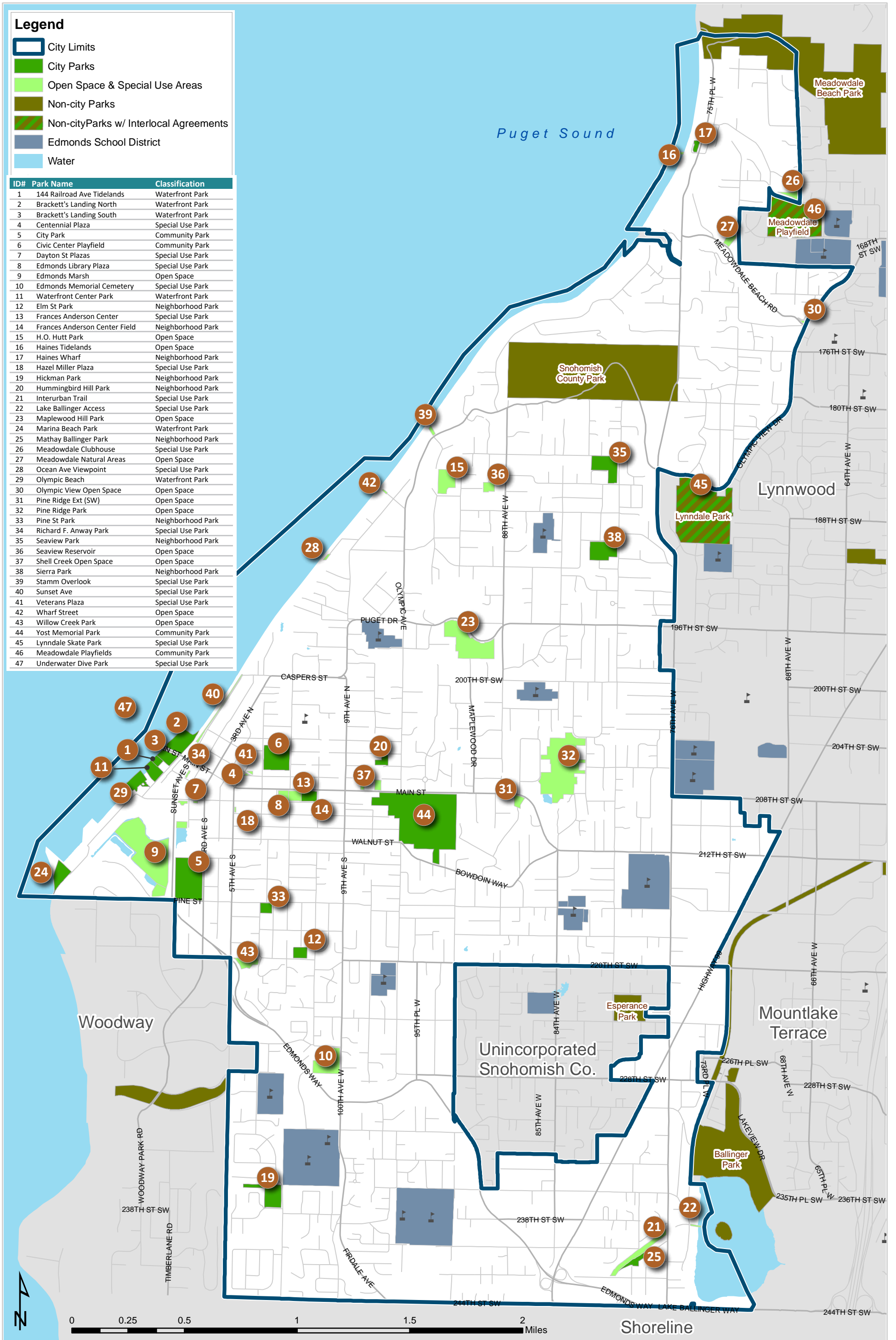
Non-City Park & Recreation Sites

There are lands owned by other private and public entities that contribute to the recreational and cultural opportunities in and around Edmonds. These lands include property owned by the Edmonds School District, Snohomish County, Edmonds Public Facilities District, City of Lynnwood, and State and Federal agencies.

Figure 5. City-owned Parks & Open Space

Park Name	Classification	Acreage
Brackett's North Tidelands	Special Use Park	21.05
Centennial Plaza	Special Use Park	0.08
Dayton Street Plaza	Special Use Park	0.10
Dayton Street Plaza - WWTC	Special Use Park	0.35
Edmonds Library & Plaza	Special Use Park	1.29
Edmonds Memorial Cemetery	Special Use Park	6.63
Frances Anderson Center	Special Use Park	1.62
Hazel Miller Plaza	Special Use Park	0.09
Interurban Trail	Special Use Park	3.97
Lake Ballinger Access	Special Use Park	0.19
Lynndale Skate Park	Special Use Park	2.39
Meadowdale Clubhouse	Special Use Park	1.11
Ocean Ave Viewpoint	Special Use Park	0.20
Richard F. Anway Park	Special Use Park	0.17
Stamm Overlook	Special Use Park	0.36
Sunset Ave	Special Use Park	1.14
Underwater Dive Park	Special Use Park	27.00
Veterans Plaza	Special Use Park	0.15
Subtotal		67.88
Elm St Park	Neighborhood Park	1.85
Frances Anderson Center Field	Neighborhood Park	1.94
Haines Wharf	Neighborhood Park	0.69
Hickman Park	Neighborhood Park	5.61
Hummingbird Hill Park	Neighborhood Park	1.22
Mathay Ballinger Park	Neighborhood Park	1.82
Pine St Park	Neighborhood Park	1.47
Seaview Park	Neighborhood Park	6.05
Sierra Park	Neighborhood Park	5.52
Subtotal		26.17

Park Name	Classification	Acreage
City Park	Community Park	13.96
Civic Center Playfield	Community Park	7.92
Meadowdale Playfields	Community Park	12.05
Yost Memorial Park	Community Park	45.27
Subtotal		79.20
144 Railroad Ave Tidelands	Waterfront Park	0.90
Brackett's Landing North	Waterfront Park	5.06
Brackett's Landing South	Waterfront Park	2.22
Waterfront Center Park	Waterfront Park	1.94
Marina Beach Park	Waterfront Park	3.37
Olympic Beach	Waterfront Park	2.85
Subtotal		16.35
Edmonds Marsh	Open Space	24.21
Haines Tidelands	Open Space	0.44
H.O. Hutt Park	Open Space	4.53
Maplewood Hill Park	Open Space	13.27
Meadowdale Natural Areas	Open Space	1.07
Olympic View Open Space	Open Space	0.49
Pine Ridge Ext (SW)	Open Space	1.14
Pine Ridge Park	Open Space	25.33
Seaview Reservoir	Open Space	1.31
Shell Creek Open Space	Open Space	1.42
Wharf Street	Open Space	0.12
Willow Creek Park	Open Space	2.25
Subtotal		75.58
TOTAL ACREAGE		265.17



Map 1: Existing Parks & Open Spaces

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CITY FACILITIES

Yost Pool

Yost Pool is located within Yost Park and was built by the City in 1972. The facility is an outdoor pool with a 25 meter x 25 yard pool and spa. The City recently decided to keep the pool open year-round to extend the outdoor aquatics season.

Frances Anderson Center

The Frances Anderson Center is the “home” of the majority of Edmonds Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services programming. The Center has classroom spaces, a drop-in weight room, a gymnasium and dedicated gymnastics space. The Frances Anderson Center also houses six tenants who provide a wide range of activities that augment and enhance the Department’s mission, including a ballet school, youth sports club, Montessori preschool, daycare, sculpting studio space and art gallery.



Frances Anderson Center

Boys & Girls Club

The Edmonds Boys and Girls Club is located at 310 6th Avenue North. The land and the building are owned by the City, and the facility is leased to the Boys and Girls Club. The Club provides youth between the ages of 5 and 18 a safe, positive and fun environment with a variety of activities. The Club offers before and after-school programs for children and youth between the ages of 5 and 18 at its main location, adjacent to the Civic Center Playfields, in addition to summer camps, sports and drop-in programs.

Meadowdale Clubhouse

This rustic banquet hall is located in North Edmonds at 6801 North Meadowdale Road. The clubhouse is available for rent, and it serves as the location for the City’s Meadowdale Preschool program. Amenities include kitchen, fireplace, parking, restrooms and an outdoor fenced playground.



Meadowdale Clubhouse

Olympic Beach Visitor Station

The Olympic Beach Visitor Station is located at the base of the Edmonds Fishing Pier, and it is staffed by Ranger-Naturalists and Volunteer Beach Docents. The Visitor Station typically is open weekends noon-5:00 pm, from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Beach Docents work side-by-side with ranger-naturalists to educate the public about the Edmonds Marine Sanctuary and help monitor the 75-gallon marine touch tank at the station.

Plaza Room

The Edmonds Plaza Room is located above the Edmonds Library at 650 Main Street, Edmonds. Amenities include an uncovered outdoor patio, free wifi, tables, chairs and kitchen. The Plaza Room is in walking distance to coffee shops, restaurants and boutiques.



Olympic Beach Visitor Station

OTHER NEARBY RECREATION FACILITIES

Waterfront Center

The new Edmonds Waterfront Center / Senior Center is a modern, LEED Gold, all-electric, 26,000 square foot regional community center and replaced the old Edmonds Senior Center building. The Waterfront Center provides program space, banquet rooms, bistro and café. Activities include over 70 programs, trips, entertainment, music and arts for seniors, among others. Event space is available for rent. The City provides programs at the Center weekday evenings for all ages.

Lynnwood Recreation Center and Pool

The Recreation Center and Pool in neighboring Lynnwood offers over 20,000 square feet of indoor aquatic play. The recreation pool includes water slides, a lazy river, water playground and family hot tub. The lap pool area includes a sauna, adult hot tub and warm water therapy pool. The center also includes a cardio/weight room, fitness studio, racquetball courts and multi-purpose classrooms.

Lynnwood Senior Center

The Lynnwood Senior Center is a community center serving all people 62 years of age and older with a variety of services, activities and special events. The 4,200-square foot center is a gathering place for active adults and offers activities for the mind and body. Older adults can participate in a number of activities, including exercise classes, yoga, Zumba, dance, computer training, and much more. In addition to a wide range of exercise and physical activity classes, the center offers outdoor recreation programs that include hikes, bicycle excursions and trips throughout the Pacific Northwest. The center also has a community garden where participants can grow flowers and vegetables.

Mountlake Terrace Recreation Pavilion

The Recreation Pavilion is a multi-purpose facility with an indoor 25-yard swimming pool that has a leisure pool with zero-depth entry, spray toys, lazy river with current, teach pool area with a submerged bench, deep

area, easy access with a wheelchair ramp, a therapy pool with a dedicated lift, dry sauna, fitness room, racquetball courts, dance studios, preschool room, and interchangeable multi-purpose rooms for programs or rentals, and an indoor playground. The lobby features vending machines, a barista stand and a retail area to purchase swim wear.

Mountlake Terrace Community Senior Center

The Mountlake Terrace Community Senior Center seeks to improve the quality of life for aging adults in the community by providing an enlivened, friendly environment promoting health and wellness. Established in 1997 as the Mountlake Terrace Senior Group, the organization agreed to a partnership with the City of Mountlake Terrace and relocated to the 7,000 square foot Mickey Corso Clubhouse in Ballinger Park. The City owns the building, and room rentals are operated by the Senior Group.

Dale Turner YMCA

The Dale Turner Family Branch of the YMCA of Greater Seattle serves north King and south Snohomish Counties, including the cities of Shoreline, Lynnwood, and Edmonds, as well as the Lake Forest Park and Woodway neighborhoods of Seattle. On-site and outreach programs include free meals, support for homeless and transitional members, child care and school readiness, youth development, family activities, chronic disease prevention, and summer meal programs, among others. Facilities include a pool, weight room and gymnasium.

OTHER FACILITIES

Along with City-sponsored facilities, other organizations, neighboring communities and public schools expand the number of park and recreation related benefits available to Edmonds residents.

ARTS & CULTURE

Edmonds Center for the Arts

Edmonds Center for the Arts (ECA) is a 700-seat performing arts venue located on the campus of the original Edmonds High School. Originally constructed

in 1939, this historic facility was renovated and reopened in 2006 as a state-of-the-art performance hall. ECA, a non-profit organization hired by the City of Edmonds Public Facilities District, manages the facility. ECA presents an array of performing artists from around the world, provides space, production management and technical expertise for community partners and rental clients, includes a gymnasium, and serves more than 75,000 patrons who enjoy the facility annually.

ArtWorks

ArtWorks is a joint project of Edmonds Arts Festival Foundation and the Edmonds Arts Festival Association and is the headquarters for each of these organizations. Housed in a City-owned building, this facility provides space for arts workshops, special exhibits and meetings. ArtWorks provides an on-going schedule of classes, workshops, exhibits, art shows, special events and arts organization meetings throughout the year.

Wade James Theater

Located on City property, the 219-seat theater was built and is operated by the nonprofit Edmonds Driftwood Players. Originally built in 1968 as The Driftwood Theatre, it was renamed during the 1970s in memory of its architect and founding member, Wade James.

Cascadia Art Museum

Cascadia Art Museum is an educational, nonprofit organization that celebrates the rich tradition of the visual arts and design in the Northwest during the period 1860-1970. The museum provides enriching experiences for the community and visitors alike through original exhibitions, public programs, publications and educational outreach.

Graphite

The Graphite building in downtown Edmonds is a new, privately-funded arts facility that will be the home of studio spaces and open session workshops for artists. The facility includes a gallery, dark room, art book collection and a flex space. Graphite is also the home of the non-profit Art Start Northwest, which is the funding organization for programs held at Graphite.

Edmonds Historical Museum

Housed in the historic Carnegie Library, the museum building has two floors. The facility features an exhibit gallery, administrative office, work rooms, a local history library and an extensive photography archive. The building is owned by the City of Edmonds and operated by the Edmonds South-Snohomish County Historical Society.

Sno-Isle Edmonds Library

The Sno-Isle Edmonds Library is part of the Plaza Room and Frances Anderson complex, which includes 17,177 square feet for library use and flexible space for meetings, study space and reading. The Library has partnered with the Department and the Arts Commission on several programs and events, including the Storytimes in the Park focused on offering children's story times in areas outside the bowl, Edmonds Wintergrass, Preview as part of the Music at the Library series and part of Art Walk. The Friends of the Edmonds Library help fundraise through book sales and advocacy to support programs, such as the Best Book Contest in partnership with the Arts Commission.

Log Cabin Visitors Center

Operated by the Edmonds Chamber of Commerce and owned by the City, the Log Cabin Visitors Center provides information on Snohomish County area attractions, sights and accommodations for guests and travelers. It also offers Edmonds maps and navigational resources, information on Edmonds tours, and other useful resources for visitors.

SCHOOLS

Edmonds School District provides a range of recreational opportunities for students and the public. The district offers sports fields, playgrounds, outdoor basketball courts and gymnasiums. Public access is limited to times when school is not in session and when there are no competing demands from school-related activities. In past years, the City has developed neighborhood or community park elements in partnership with the District at several school sites.

YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS

Sno-King Youth Club provides a variety of youth sports, activities and camps at locations in Edmonds and Lynnwood. The organization offers recreational sports including soccer, flag football, T-ball and basketball. Sno-King also provides a local competitive option for soccer players seeking advanced training and competitive opportunities through a premier league.

NEARBY MUNICIPAL PARK SYSTEMS

Mountlake Terrace

The City of Mountlake Terrace manages 193 acres of park land, including opportunities for both active and passive recreation. The City's recreation system consists of diverse amenities that include playgrounds, sport fields, tennis courts, disc golf, a boat launch, fishing and beach access and miles of soft-surfaced and paved trails for walking, biking and hiking.

Program Coordination

Historically, the Cities of Edmonds and Mountlake Terrace produce a joint recreation program guide (The Craze) that highlights recreation programs offered in both communities and the recreation facilities that are available nearby. These nearby facilities provide opportunities for aquatics, athletics/fitness, gymnastics, sports, general recreation, facility rentals and special events.

Lynnwood

The City of Lynnwood has over 350 acres of park land, 100 acres of open space, an 18-hole public golf course, 14 miles of trails, a recreation center, senior center, Heritage Park and two athletic complexes. Lynnwood's parks offer a wide range of active and passive recreation opportunities, including innovative playgrounds, spray pools, a skate park, hiking trails, forests, streams, wetlands and wildlife habitat. The City of Edmonds maintains an interlocal agreement with the City of Lynnwood for use of Meadowdale Athletic Complex and Lynndale Skate Park.

Snohomish County

Snohomish County owns and manages Esperance Park, located within a small unincorporated area within the city limits of Edmonds. Esperance Park is a 9.6-acre county park with athletic fields, accessible walking paths, off-leash dog area, playground, zipline and sport court. Athletic fields include a little league baseball diamond and two practice areas for field sports. In addition, Southwest Olympic View County Park, located in northern Edmonds, is a 120-acre park with two nature trails. The site encompasses a series of forested ravines and Perrinville Creek, which flows through the eastern portion of the park to Brown's Bay on Puget Sound. Olympic View Drive winds through the site between Lynnwood and Edmonds.



Hickman Park

A gracious cherry tree is the centerpiece at Hickman Park.

Photo credit: Chris Walton



PARKS & OPEN SPACE

The PROS planning process assesses recreational needs and priorities for parks and open space in Edmonds. The park assessment included a discussion of specific local needs with consideration given to the City's broader parks system. Public input and information on park inventory conditions were also heavily relied upon in the planning process.

By considering the location, size, and the number of park facilities by type and use, along with community interests and priorities, the PROS Plan evaluates the existing and future demand for park and recreation amenities and provides recommendations for future initiatives. The six-year Capital Improvement Program (CIP), which identifies and prioritizes crucial upgrades, improvements, and expansions, is based on the needs assessment and the recreational interests expressed by the community.

NATIONAL TRENDS

A variety of resources have been assembled and summarized to offer a comprehensive overview of current trends, market demands and agency comparisons in the provision of parks and recreation. This information provides perspectives that are helpful when balancing with local insights and feedback from the community to identify the demands and establish public needs during the planning process.

The following national and state data highlights some of the

Make improvements at Marina Beach Park such as more kayak and paddleboard launch sites, fewer restrictions for kayaking and paddle boarding, more accessible parking spaces, relocation of portable bathroom facilities, and more beach volleyball.

- Virtual Public Meeting Participant



current trends in recreation and may frame future considerations in Edmonds' park system. Examining current recreation trends can help inform potential park and recreation improvements and opportunities that may create a more vibrant parks system as it moves into the future. Additional trend data and summaries are provided in Appendix F.

- Nationwide, 82% of U.S. adults believe that parks and recreation are essential according to the American Engagement with Parks Survey from 2020. ⁽¹⁾
- Seventy-seven percent of survey respondents indicate that having a high-quality park, playground, public open space, or a recreation center nearby is an important factor in deciding where they want to live. ⁽¹⁾
- Just over half of Americans ages six and older participated in outdoor recreation at least once in 2019, the highest participation rate in five years. However, the number of outings per participant declined – resulting in fewer total recreational outings. ⁽²⁾
- Running, jogging, and trail running are the most popular outdoor activities across the nation, based on levels of participation, followed by fishing, hiking, biking, and camping. ⁽²⁾
- Walking ranked as the top activity by participation rate (94%) in Washington State. ⁽⁴⁾
- Trail running, day hiking, and recreational kayaking are rapidly increasing in popularity – participation in each increased more than 5% per year between 2014 and 2019. ⁽³⁾
- Walking, running, hiking, and cycling saw significant increases in participation in the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic (March to June 2020). ⁽²⁾
- People of all ages and income levels are interested in outdoor activities like fishing, camping, hiking, biking, and swimming. Younger people are more interested in participating in team sports, such as soccer, basketball, and volleyball. Older adults are more likely to aspire to individual activities like swimming for fitness, bird and nature viewing, and canoeing. ⁽³⁾

Sources:

(1) 2020 American Engagement with Parks Survey

(2) 2020 Outdoor Participation Report

(3) 2020 Sports, Fitness, and Leisure Activities Topline Participation Report

(4) 2018-2022 Recreation and Conservation Plan for Washington State (also known as the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, or SCORP)

Playground Trends

Reported in Landscape Architect magazine, the top five playground industry trends for 2021 were compiled from data and feedback from parks professionals, landscape architects and educators.

1. Inclusive Playgrounds, increasingly popular over the last few years, have been evolving beyond meeting basic ADA guidelines. Designers are seeking to expand accessible playground equipment, consider multi-generational play, and leverage inclusive play to help overcome societal barriers.
2. Rope-based Playgrounds, climbers and playground nets provide a technique for working around natural environments and unusual topography. Their flexibility in placement offers more options for connecting with the landscape rather than working around difficult topography.
3. Outdoor Fitness has increased importance during the COVID-19 pandemic as many gyms and indoor fitness centers closed and forced more people to seek outdoor options. Outdoor fitness spaces are being increasingly integrated into park and trail designs to encourage health and physical fitness for all ages.
4. Outdoor Learning has been implemented during the pandemic to replace or supplement indoor classrooms. Outdoor classrooms can encourage activity in children to counteract the reduction in recess time due to hybrid class schedules and remote learning. Seating, tables, shelters, hand sanitizer stations and other outdoor products are helping create outdoor classrooms.
5. Human-powered Play engages users to provide physical energy to “power-up” the activity, such as turning a handle, pressing foot pedals, rotating wheels. These products often relate to sensory experiences like lights and music, story-telling or social games.

Spurred on by the social distancing of the pandemic, these five trends in playground design and development point to more human-to-human interactions that reinforce the value of social connections, even in a physically distanced environment.

Operational & Service Challenges Due to COVID-19

A statewide survey of Washington park and recreation agencies was conducted in the second half of 2020, with a focus on service demand and operational challenges, both preceding and as a result of COVID-19. City, county and parks and recreation district leaders were asked to complete the survey, and the survey was sent to 227 agencies - 109 cities, 39 counties, 79 Special Purpose Park Districts with 73 responses. The project was a collaboration between the Washington Recreation & Park Association, the Washington State Association of Counties, the Association of Washington Cities, and Metro Parks Tacoma.

In a question that asked the agency about how stable its outlook for 2020 pre- and during COVID-19, the percentage of agencies that stated their outlook as very strong and stable decreased by 25 points, with 27.8% indicating as very stable at the beginning of the year

to 2.8% indicating as very stable by August 1, 2020. Similarly, agencies that felt moderately or significantly underfunded and unstable rose from 5.5% to 50% by August 1, 2020.

Also, significant majorities of agencies indicated service delivery impacts due to the COVID-19 pandemic in the following ways:

- Reduced ability to manage, maintain, operate and secure passive parks to safety standards and control access (87%).
- Cancellation of special events and tourism campaigns that support local employment and drives the local economy (87%).
- Inability to operate critical community programs, pools, attractions and facilities, including services for vulnerable populations (81%).
- Lack of ability to hire/maintain seasonal employees & offer programs/services allowable under Safe Start¹ (74%).
- Addressing public use and behaviors that put the community at risk, such as tearing down caution tape, using fields (85%).

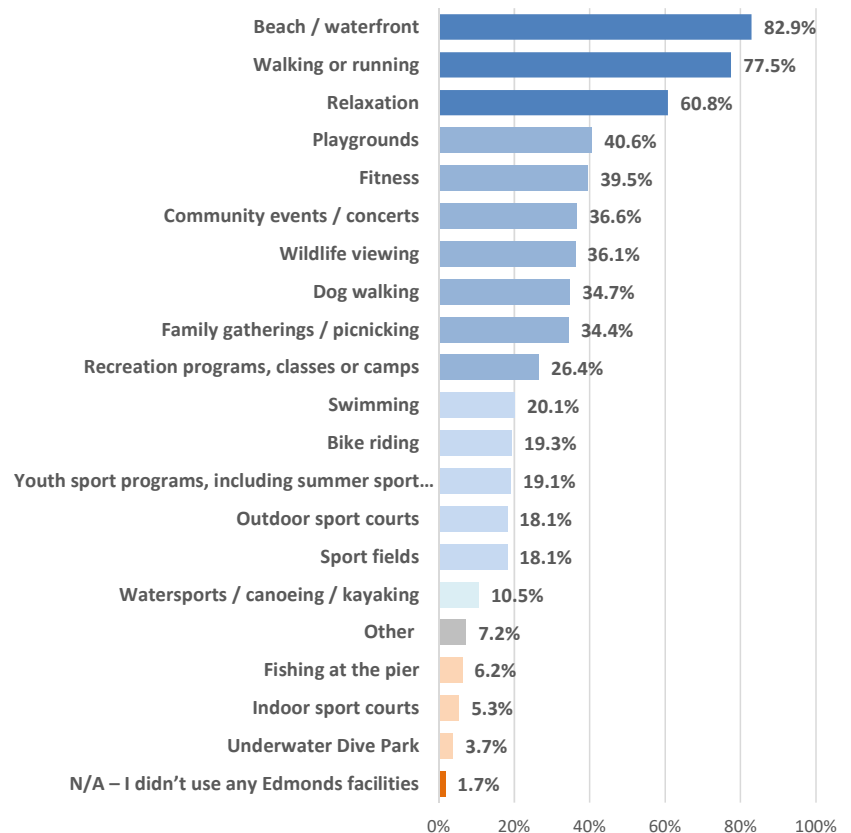
1 - Safe Start is Washington's phased approach to recovery and reopening the state.

LOCAL INTERESTS & NEEDS

EDMONDS COMMUNITY SURVEY

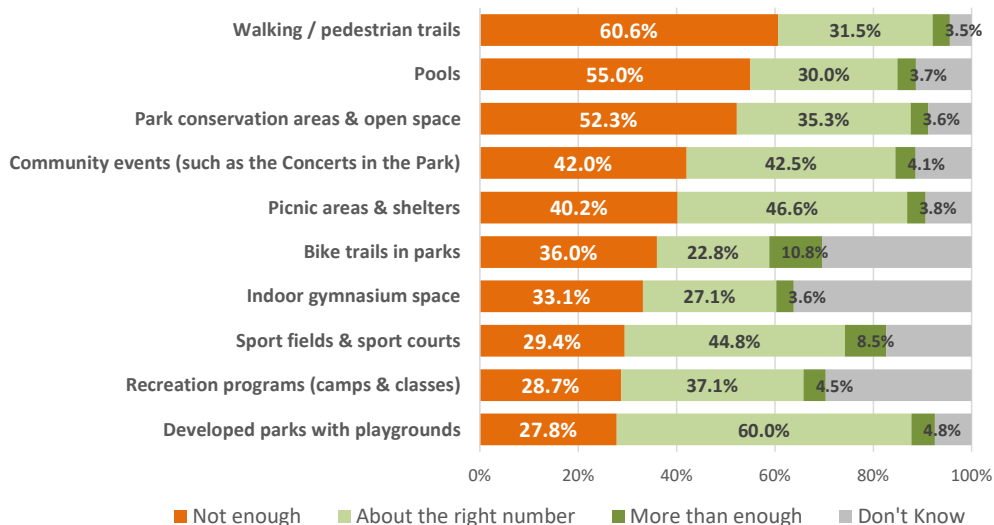
The community-wide surveys (mailed and on-line) conducted from May to August, 2021 identified why residents visit Edmonds' parks. Respondents indicated that they visit local parks and recreation facilities for a variety of reasons. The most popular activities are visiting the beach and waterfront (83%), walking or running (76%), followed by relaxation (61%), playgrounds (41%) and fitness (40%). Approximately one in three respondents visited for community events/concerts (37%), wildlife viewing (36%), dog walking (35%), or family gatherings (34%).

Figure 6. Main Reasons for Visiting Local Parks in Edmonds



Survey questions explored the needs for a number of park priorities for future consideration in Edmonds park and recreation provision. Respondents feel there are not enough trails, pools and conservation areas. Walking and pedestrian trails were clearly the most needed.

Figure 7. Needs expressed for parks, trails and recreation facilities



Respondents were asked to rate the condition of a variety of park and recreation facilities on a scale from poor to excellent. Respondents gave overwhelming high marks to the condition of the City’s waterfront parks in downtown Edmonds.

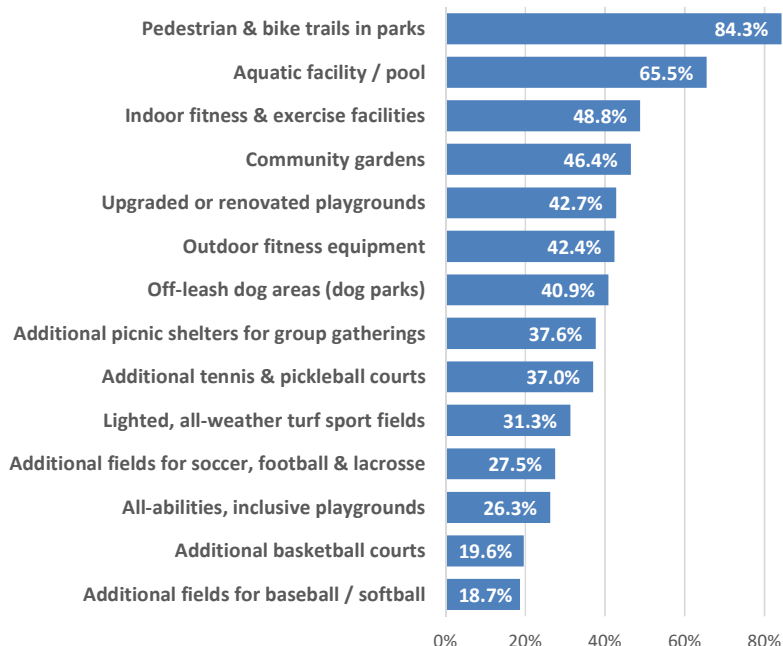
The survey inquired about specific amenities that participants felt were needed for park and recreation

facilities. Of the specific list of amenities provided, respondents indicated that the highest unmet need is for pedestrian and bike trails (84%) and an aquatic facility or pool (65%). Levels of needs for different amenities varied somewhat across the City and based on demographics groups. The complete list ranking (below) provides a summary of expressed needs.

Hickman Park

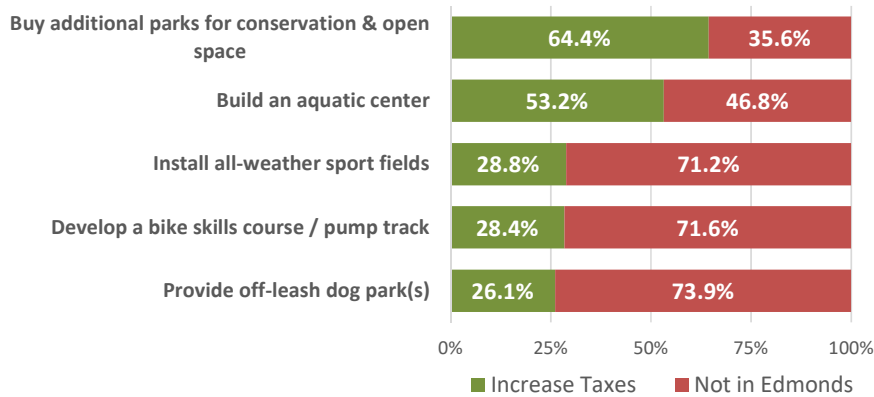


Figure 8. Park and recreation amenities that have not been met locally



When tied to the cost of investments, the most important improvement was focused on existing parkland. When examining park and recreation experiences that may be limited or not available in Edmonds, respondents top two choices were buying additional parks for conservation and open space and building an aquatic center.

Figure 9. Support for funding new amenities in Edmonds



OTHER PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Tabling Events

The City conducted “pop-up” tabling in August at the Uptown Market to solicit community feedback on some park and recreation priorities. Participants were given sticky dots to use on a display board that presented six different target areas. The dots could be placed within boxes marked as “most important”, “important”, or “less important”. Ranked in order, the resulting most important focus areas were as follows:

- Natural open space acquisition
- New parkland acquisition
- Park maintenance
- Picnic shelters & restrooms
- Trail connections
- All-weather sports fields & lighting
- Recreation programs

Virtual Public Meeting #1

The first virtual public meeting occurred on July 22, 2022, which introduced the PROS Plan, highlighted community survey results and provided opportunities for public feedback through a series of polling questions and online question and answer periods.

One of the polling questions aimed to build on the responses from the community survey and asked participants to select their top three parks for needed improvements from a list of five choices. Attendees identified Mathay Ballinger Park as the top choice and in tied results selected Yost Memorial Park and Marina Beach Park as second choice.

Participants were also asked about interest in the City acquiring more conservation lands and open space. In another polling question, a plurality of respondents (42%) indicated interest in acquiring additional saltwater beaches and waterfront, followed by additional wetlands and marshlands (28%).

Other comments for park improvements included:

- Add more parks, services, and facilities in the SR 99 corridor and the south end of the City.
- Improve Hummingbird Park.

- Provide better access to the waterfront, specifically near the Ebb Tide condominiums, and make it ADA accessible.
- Include bicycle features and access at parks.
- Build skate parks in other areas of the City outside of the “bowl.”

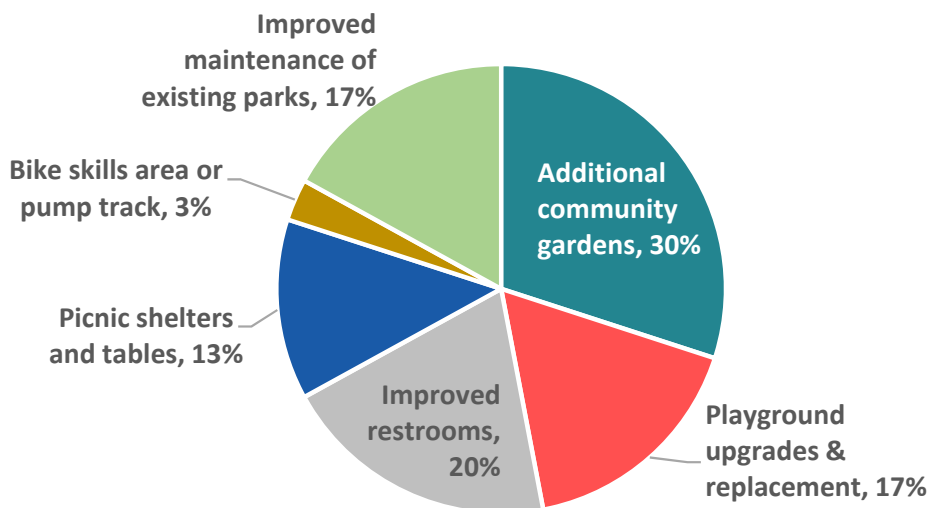
Virtual Public Meeting #2

The second virtual community meeting was conducted on October 16, 2021 to report on progress of the planning effort, results of surveys and online feedback and ask a series of questions to gauge areas of interest, priorities for additional parks, ideas on improving existing parks and potential additional community events. The virtual meeting provided polling questions to facilitate inputs by participants.

The first polling question asked where the City should prioritize additional park and open space investments. Participants were allowed to select up to three areas within the City. Southeast Edmonds (85% of respondents) and the Highway 99 Corridor (81%) were polled as the highest priority with North Edmonds (54%) polled by approximately half the respondents. Southwest Edmonds (42%) and Downtown (12%) were not polled as high priorities.

Participants were asked to choose one option among a list of potential park improvements. Improved, permanent restrooms (20%) and additional community gardens (30%) got the most responses in the poll with playground upgrades (17%) or improved maintenance (17%) chosen by one third of the respondents.

Figure 10. Top Park Improvements from Virtual Public Meeting #2



The future direction of the Yost Pool facility was explored in a polling question that asked what the focus/scale should be if the City were to replace Yost Pool with a new aquatics facility. Given the choices of local or regional and indoor or outdoor, the overwhelming majority chose local-scale (76%) with those poll responses split between indoor (39%) and outdoor (36%) pool options.

The final polling question focused on targeting the most important options for improving trails in

Edmonds. Five types of trail improvements were listed along with a sixth choice that included all options. While over 30% of respondents chose all the options, the strongest two directions focused on building connections within existing parks and open spaces and acquiring and building new connections through land purchase or easements.

STAKEHOLDERS INSIGHTS

A number of focused interviews were conducted with identified stakeholders considered as leaders in various community efforts and activities. Representatives from local business, the Edmonds School District, the Port of Edmonds, the Chamber of Commerce, Rotary, the Korean Community Services Center, Boys and Girls Club, Edmonds Floretum Garden Club, Arts Commission, and advocates for Yost Pool and South Edmonds were included in the interviews to discuss park and recreation issues, opportunities and needs for future improvements.

Representatives from agencies that already had working partnerships with City Parks and Recreation valued the relationship and recognized its importance to the community. Organizations without existing partnerships with Parks and Recreation look forward to working more collaboratively for both broader and targeted outcomes. Participants recognized how well parks were maintained but cited the need for more aggressive invasive species control.

Trail connections and new bike/pedestrian pathways were advocated for, including specific projects for creating an east/west connection, paving the spur trail to Mathay Ballinger Park, creating safe routes to parks/schools, and enhanced walkability throughout the community. Extending the off-road shared-use Interurban Trail was desired.

The concern for an equitable park system was voiced to raise the issue of needed investment in the SR 99 corridor, South Edmonds and southeast Edmonds. Mathay Ballinger Park needs further improvements to help support local recreation activities. Additional neighborhood parks are needed in the identified “gap” areas. The value of locating a small community center along SR 99 for better access to recreation programming and social services was promoted.

Better physical access to parks was promoted through acquisition of new parklands in underserved areas and creating full ADA compliance in existing parks. Better access to recreation was promoted through multi-lingual communications and programming made available to South Edmonds and SR 99 communities.

Stakeholders identified a number of improvements needed in the park system including Yost Pool upgrades, the need for additional permanent restrooms

in parks, and more amenities in Mathay Ballinger Park. The need for recreational opportunities for older children and teens beyond the existing skate park was discussed and ideas such as zip-lines, big swings, BMX tracks and other more engaging park amenities were suggested.

The support for more open space and conserved parklands with native tree canopies and native vegetation reinforced the desire for conservation of more open space. The need for restoration efforts, more access to nature and controlling invasive plant species were cited across the different stakeholders. An emphasis on native plants for pollinators and “re-wilding” in parks was recommended.

A more active and intentional program for including public art into parks was suggested. A more formalized volunteer program, especially for trail maintenance, was encouraged. Collaboration and communications across various agencies and throughout the community was supported.




City Park gazebo



CONDITIONS ASSESSMENT

The condition of park infrastructure and amenities is a measure of park adequacy and a required assurance of public safety. General park infrastructure may include walkways, parking lots, park furniture, drainage and irrigation, lighting systems and vegetation. Deferred maintenance over a long period can result in unusable amenities when perceived as unsafe or undesirable by park patrons.

The existing conditions within parks were assessed to identify issues and concerns and opportunities for future improvements. The condition assessment matrix shown on the following page summarizes the results of these assessments and can be used to help prioritize needed park improvements. The matrix uses a rating system that ranks the condition of the park element based on the following scale:

-  1 – Good Condition: In general, amenities in good condition offer full functionality and do not need repairs. Good facilities have playable sports surfaces and equipment, working fixtures, and fully intact safety features (railings, fences, etc.). Good facilities may have minor cosmetic defects. Good facilities encourage area residents to use the park.
-  2 – Fair: In general, amenities in fair condition are largely functional but need minor or moderate repairs. Fair facilities have play surfaces, equipment, fixtures, and safety features that are operational and allow play, but have deficiencies or time periods where they are unusable. Fair facilities remain important amenities for the neighborhood but may slightly discourage use of the park by residents.
-  3 – Poor: In general, amenities in poor condition are largely or completely unusable. They need major repairs to be functional. Poor facilities are park features that have deteriorated to the point where they are barely usable. Fields are too uneven for ball games, safety features are irreparably broken, buildings need structural retrofitting, etc. Poor facilities discourage residents from using the park.

Generally a feature with a rating of “3” should have higher priority for resolution through maintenance, capital repairs or as a new capital project. Park amenity conditions were also averaged across park elements to indicate which types of elements are in greater need for significant upgrades, renovations or overall improvements. Based on this assessment, the City’s park system is in need of playground upgrades, sports field improvements, and better ADA compliance.

In mid-July 2021, the consultant landscape architect conducted site assessments of the outdoor recreation facilities owned and operated by the City to discern the level of care and need for improvements by visually observing the conditions in the park system. The conditions matrix offers a quick look at the ratings across the system to help discern where the most immediate needs might be for repairs or improvements. Additional information and observations from site assessments are provided in Appendix A.



Brackett's Landing North signage



Sierra Park play equipment

Park & Facility Condition Assessment Matrix

Site Name	Acreage	Park Type	Park Site Average	Recreation Amenities										Site Amenities					Park Structures			Vegetation			ADA		
				Playgrounds	Paved Courts: Basketball	Paved Courts: Tennis	Sand Volleyball	Soccer Fields	Baseball / Softball Fields	Pathways / Trails	Off-Leash Area	Waterfront/Beach	Pool/Water Rec Element	Site Furnishings	Lighting (Y/N)	Public Art	Signage	Parking Areas	Restrooms	Picnic Shelters	Boat Dock / Ramp	Turf	Park Trees	Landscaped Beds	Natural Areas	Compliance*	
PARKS																											
144 Railroad Avenue Tidelands	0.90	Waterfront	2.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Brackett's Landing North	5.06	Waterfront	1.2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	Y	1	2	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Brackett's Landing South	2.22	Waterfront	1.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	N	1	1	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	1	
Edmonds Waterfront Center Park	1.94	Waterfront	1.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	Y	1	1	1	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	1	
Marina Beach Park	3.37	Waterfront	1.2	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	1	-	2	Y	1	1	1	2	-	1	1	1	-	-	2	
Olympic Beach Park	2.85	Waterfront	1.2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	Y	1	1	2	2	-	-	1	1	1	-	1	
City Park	13.96	Community	1.1	1	-	-	-	1	2	1	-	-	1	1	Y	-	1	1	1	1	-	2	1	1	1	1	
Civic Center Playfields	7.92	Community		<i>under construction for master plan improvements</i>											Y												
Yost Memorial Park & Pool	45.27	Community	1.4	1	1	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	1	N	-	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	
Elm Street Park	1.85	Neighborhood	1.7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	N	-	1	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	3	
Frances Anderson Center Field	1.94	Neighborhood	1.3	1	-	-	-	1	2	2	-	-	-	1	N	1	1	-	1	-	-	2	1	1	-	2	
Haines Wharf	0.69	Neighborhood	1.7	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	N	-	1	1	2	-	-	2	-	2	-	3	
Hickman Park	5.61	Neighborhood	1.1	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	N	-	1	1	2	1	-	1	1	1	1	
Hummingbird Hill Park	1.22	Neighborhood	1.7	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	N	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	1	2	2	2	
Mathay Ballinger Park	1.82	Neighborhood	1.3	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	N	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	2	
Pine Street Park	1.47	Neighborhood	1.1	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	N	-	1	1	1	-	-	1	1	1	-	2
Seaview Park	6.05	Neighborhood	1.3	1	2	1	-	1	1	2	-	-	-	1	Y	-	1	1	2	-	-	1	1	-	1	2	
Sierra Park	5.52	Neighborhood	1.5	2	2	-	-	1	2	2	-	-	-	2	N	-	1	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	2	
SPECIAL USE PARKS																											
Centennial Plaza/Public Safety Complex	0.08		1.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	Y	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	2	
Dayton Street Plaza	0.35	(at Water Treatment Plant)	1.4	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	Y	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	3	
Dayton Street Plaza	0.10	(at Driftwood Annex)	1.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	N	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	
Edmonds Library & Plaza Room	1.29		1.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	Y	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	
Edmonds Memorial Cemetery & Columbarium	6.63		1.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	1		
Frances Anderson Center	1.62		1.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	
Hazel Miller Plaza	0.09		1.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	Y	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	
Interurban Trail	3.97		1.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	N	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
Lake Ballinger Access	0.19		2.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	N	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	3	
Meadowdale Community Clubhouse	1.11		1.1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	Y	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	2	
Richard F. Anway Park	0.17		1.2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	N	1	1	-	1	-	-	1	1	1	-	2	
Ocean Avenue Viewpoint	0.20		1.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	N	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	
Stamm Overlook Park	0.36		1.2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	N	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	
Sunset Avenue Overlook	1.14		1.2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	N	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	
Veterans Plaza/Public Safety Complex	0.15		1.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	Y	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	
Willow Creek Hatchery & Interpretive Center	1.68		1.6	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	Y	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	2	
	128.78	Average:		1.33	1.50	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.50	1.29	1.00	1.14	1.00	1.18			1.04	1.18	1.58	1.00	1.00	1.28	1.00	1.10	1.33	1.79	

Rating Scale: 1 = Good 2 = Fair 3 = Poor

* Note: Does not constitute a comprehensive ADA assessment of every park element

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In addition to the matrix, the following narrative summarizes the overall considerations resulting from the visual observations. The individual park facility conditions assessments and this summary were also reviewed by parks staff.

General Appearance & Perception of Care

Overall, the Edmonds park system hosts extensive use by residents and visitors alike. Some parks contained much older infrastructure and recreational amenities that were in need of upgrades, replacements or repairs. Many parks had recently added some new features or replaced playgrounds and there was clear evidence of good stewardship by the parks maintenance staff. Efforts should continue to renovate, update and enhance existing park infrastructure and recreational offerings throughout the park system.

Playgrounds & Playground Access Barriers

The park system has a variety of play equipment from newly installed to 20+ years in age. Some older equipment is showing evidence for the need to be replaced from worn surface coating, rust, missing

pieces or just the lack of play attraction. A record of each playground's installation date is kept by park staff as a helpful tool in predicting the future replacement schedule for each park's playground amenities. That information helps inform and reinforce the need for play equipment upgrades and replacements.

Sierra Park, Yost Park and Maplewood Hill Park all have older playground equipment (more than 20+ years) that is due for replacement.

Many playground areas have constructed edges to retain the wood fiber fall safety surfacing. Edging needs to have an opening that does not create an ADA barrier to easy access. Paved ramps or pathways into play areas may be warranted once barriers are removed. At least one park (Sierra Park) still used coarse sand as a safety fall surfacing. While not prohibitive, coarse sand should be replaced by engineered wood fibers or some other more updated convention play surfacing. At Sierra Park, the entire playground should be replaced with more offerings rather than just improving the safety surfacing.

Figure 12. Playground Equipment Ages and Predicted Replacement Schedule

Neighborhood Parks	Installation Date	Age in 2021 (yrs)	Usage	Target Replacement Timeframe*			
				1-3 yrs	3-5 yrs	6-10 yrs	10+ yrs
Elm Street Park	N/A	N/A	N/A	-	-	-	-
Frances Anderson Center Field	2018	3	Heavy				●
Haines Wharf	2010	11	Medium			●	
Hickman Park	2009	12	Heavy			●	
Hummingbird Hill Park	2007	14	Medium		●		
Mathay Ballinger Park	2013	8	Medium			●	
Pine Street Park	2006	15	Med-heavy		●		
Seaview Park	2019	2	Med-heavy				●
Sierra Park	1996	25	Light	●			
Community Parks							
City Park	2014	7	Heavy			●	
Yost Memorial Park & Pool	1995	26	Medium	●			
Civic Center Playfields	2022	0	Med-heavy				●
Waterfront Parks							
Marina Beach Park	2016	5	Heavy				●
Open Space							
Maplewood Hill Park	1985	36	Very light	●			
Special Use Parks							
Meadowdale Community Clubhouse	2017	4	Medium				●

* NOTE: Replacement schedule based on combination of age, amount of usage and predicted wear and tear.

Paths & Pavement Management

Edmonds trail system includes the Interurban Trail, a shared use paved pathway in the southeastern section of the City, a natural-tread trail network in Yost Memorial Park, and a number of paved pathways connecting a series of waterfront parks. While not an extensive trail system extending across the entire City, each trail offers outdoor recreation opportunities and physical activity for residents and visitors. Paved pathways, especially asphalt surfaced, did have locations where cracks have formed at edges and where tree root upheavals have generated pavement cracks. Invasive Himalayan blackberries should be removed and replaced with more suitable native plantings to reduce the repetitive need to hack back the thorns from intruding on the trail.

The Interurban Trail was in good condition with its paved surfacing and at its road crossing on 76th. Trash collection was regular and amenities were clean. The City also maintains the SR 104 trail and 8th Avenue trail from the Anderson Center to the Cemetery.

In Yost Memorial Park, the trail network showed signs of regular vegetation control to keep the trails open. Trail surfaces were generally navigable. A few rustic “trail” signs were evident. The boardwalks and bridges appear to be aging and will predictably need replacement in the coming years. Where boardwalks had steps the wear was more evident and some steps were uneven. As repairs are made, it may be advisable to extend the boardwalk section into ramps to remove the need for any steps and increase the access for those with mobility limitations.



Interurban Trail

The paved pathways in Marina Beach Park, through the Port promenade and across the waterfront/beach parks were generally in good condition. The paved pathway along the Edmonds Marsh did show some spots with asphalt pavement cracking or gaps between pavement and wood decking of observation viewpoints.

Root upheavals and pavement cracks persist on paved pathways that have large trees nearby. Some parking areas showed evidence of cracking or buckling. Olympic Beach parking area has pavement cracking and significant uplifting in need of repair. Resurfacing or complete renovation should be explored. Cracks and gaps where different surfaces meet raised concerns about ADA-compliance, particularly where asphalt pavements met observation platforms (Edmonds Marsh).

Restroom Upgrades

Older restroom facilities (built before 2010) may not provide adequate universal access to people with disabilities. All public park restroom facilities (including portable toilets) should provide compliant ADA access for park users. Many older restrooms also did not contain ADA-compliant signage for designating gender identities for entries. The restroom at the entrance to the fishing pier (Olympic Beach Park) could benefit from better lighting. A record of restroom construction dates could help prioritize building replacements to help upgrade the park system and add new permanent restrooms where needed.



Trail at Yost Memorial Park



Bleachers at Pine Street Park



Parks Maintenance staff

Sports Field Amenities

Many of the existing ballfields could benefit from field renovation to encourage better grass coverage and field playability. Whether the need is for better irrigation, field drainage, soil chemistry or over-seeding for improved grass species, some upgrades could be considered for ballfields.

According to the International Building Code any bleachers with more than one tier must have side and back safety railing. Several parks with ballfields have 3- and 5-tiered bleachers with no safety railing. Modify existing bleachers by adding railings or replace with newer bleachers fully railed.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Compliance

Architectural barriers, designated parking areas, entry access designs, playground entries and surfacing, play equipment, benches, picnic tables and pathways in older park facilities provides challenges to complying with the guidelines for ADA standards for places of public accommodation. Parks that did not provide some paved pathway to access all the park amenities were not likely to provide accessible benches, picnic tables or grills. Several playgrounds presented obstacles to universal access into the play area. The City does not have an ADA Transition Plan for park facilities, and one should be completed.

Maintenance & Operations

Despite a challenging mix of older infrastructure and newer facilities, there was clear evidence of active and engaged maintenance practices with little or no signs of neglect or disrepair. However, facilities that are managed by volunteers like the Willow Creek Fish Hatchery may need re-evaluation to avoid having facilities appear to be neglected or disrepair and reflect poorly on the City parks system. Older parks may have residual structures like the swing support pole in Hummingbird Hill Park or the ATM kiosk in Richard Anway Park. Remnant pieces that are no longer serving any function should be removed to help convey the perspective of active care in the park system.

Trash collection is greatly accelerated during the busy summer months. Some parks could use more regular pick times or additional trash receptacles as weekend use can overwhelm existing capacity of trash receptacles in popular parks. Consider adding more receptacles in heavily used areas to help cover litter control over busy weekends.

Invasive Plant Species Control

Blackberries and English ivy appear to be two of the most common invasive plant species established in several natural areas. Along active pathways, blackberries are a hazard when not kept fully in check. Natural areas in Edmonds face continual challenges

from persistent undesirable invasive plant species, degrading the environment and disrupting effective ecosystem services.

For over 30 years, the City of Edmonds Parks Department has been committed to reducing pesticide use in its parks, achieving a 60% reduction since 2008 by using Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach to park maintenance. Invasive plant problems are monitored on a weekly basis. When pesticides are used, they are applied using strict protocols and best practices to protect people, pets, and the environment.

When necessary, pesticides are applied by Park staff that have been trained, licensed, and certified through the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA). Training includes requirements for safe practices, knowledge of and adherence to labeling instructions, compliance with state laws, and record keeping.

Volunteers in some parks help with mechanical control of blackberries and other vegetation that overgrows into trail areas. Volunteers also replace invasive plants with native plants to prevent regrowth and restore native habitat.

Grass Lawn Areas

As a planning process, these park site conditions assessments do not explore in-depth evaluations of natural turfgrass conditions. Maintaining durable grass cover for general park use is the target to support enjoyable outdoor recreation activities for park users. Sports fields require a higher degree of care to ensure safe athletic play without significant gaps, disruptive weed cover, uneven density, etc. that could trigger injuries. Whether for sports or general use, mown grass lawns require a continual schedule of care during the growing season. Soil tests should be conducted periodically to determine if soil pH or nutrient levels are adequate for supporting optimum grass growth. Based on each park's soil test results, fertilization schedules can be developed to ensure the right rates, types and frequencies of turfgrass fertilizers are applied for to provide sufficient growth to support specific park uses.

Irrigation is recommended for those grass areas where mid- to late summer active use is expected. If not already in place, the park system could have an intentional designation for non-irrigated grass lawns and irrigated areas. The sports field irrigation system needed attention in Frances Anderson Center Fields.

Many mown lawn areas were inundated with white clover, potentially indicating low nitrogen levels in the soil. Too much clover in an open grass play area may raise concerns for the higher prevalence of bee activity. Soil testing and resultant fertilization can help encourage denser grass cover with less clover dominance.

Signage & Wayfinding

Edmonds parks have multiple styles, colors, fonts and materials used in the signs that identify the different parks, usually at a primary entrance. Some signs use bright colors and lists some of the main features within the park. The new signs combine brown and black backgrounds with white lettering. Signature waterfront parks have a variety of engraved rocks, carved wood and aluminum signs that identify the public park. It would be helpful to implement the signage style guide developed in 2010 and uniformly identify the park and amenities using consistent styles, colors, lettering and materials. Consistent graphics can help with “branding” the value of the parks, trails and open space and reminding users who the provider is. Use of the park style guide for signage would be helpful to achieve continuity.

For the Edmonds trail system, a unified wayfinding program could be beneficial. Signs were lacking at the starting points for the Edmonds Marsh, to identify the paved pathway. While a printed Yost Park Trail Map is available (at the Frances Anderson Center), Yost Memorial Park's trail network has limited directional and identification signs to let trail users know their location and how to get to their destination. Trail distances are vague and can only be approximated by the map's rough scale. It would be helpful to have a complete navigational/wayfinding sign system that incorporates directional information and trail identification to inform users and enhance the trail experience.

PARKS DISTRIBUTION & GAP ANALYSIS

Understanding the known gaps in the park system and evaluating the City's existing levels of service for parks will provide a foundation for strategic planning as a basis for a balanced distribution of parks, trails and recreation amenities in the future.

To better understand where acquisition efforts should be considered, a gap analysis of the park system was conducted to examine and assess the current distribution of parks throughout the City. The analysis reviewed the locations and types of existing facilities, land use classifications, transportation/access barriers and other factors as a means to identify preliminary acquisition target areas. In reviewing parkland distribution and assessing opportunities to fill identified gaps, residentially zoned lands were isolated, since neighborhood and community parks primarily serve these areas. Additionally, travelsheds were defined for neighborhood parks using a ¼-mile primary and ½-mile secondary service area with travel distances calculated along the road network starting from known and accessible access points at each park. Travelsheds for community parks were derived using ¼-mile, ½-mile, 1-mile and 2-mile travel distances to acknowledge that these park types (including athletic fields) serve a wider array of users and vehicular transport to such sites is typical.

Maps 2 through 6 illustrate the application of the distribution criteria from existing parks. Areas in white do not have access to a public park within reasonable walking distance of their home. The illustrated 'travelshed' for each existing Edmonds park highlights that certain areas within the City do not have the desired proximity to a local park. The highest concentration of park opportunities currently is in the waterfront and downtown areas.

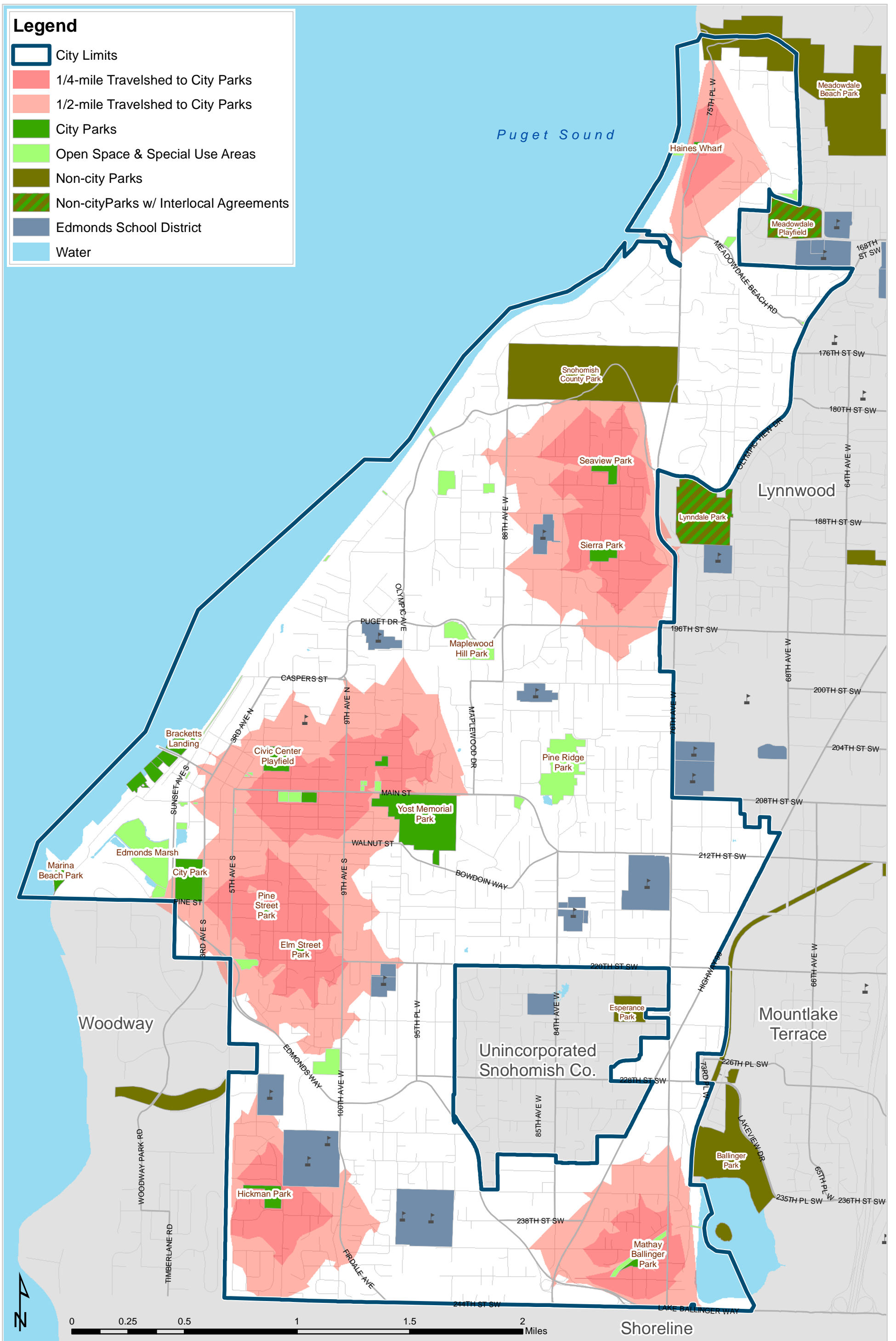
The mapping of park distribution and 'travelsheds' helps to illustrate the underserved neighborhoods in Edmonds. Areas of South Edmonds, eastern region of 212th Street SW, and an area in the northern section of the City have no nearby access to public parks or open space as indicated by white areas on Map 6. These parts of the City should be targeted for future acquisitions to help create more equitable access for all residents.

Striving to provide a neighborhood park within a reasonable walking distance (e.g., ½-mile) will require acquiring new park properties in currently underserved locations, improving multi-modal transportation connections to allow local residents to safely and conveniently reach their local park, and evaluating the potential use of school sites as proxies for local neighborhood parks. As Edmonds redevelops and acquisition opportunities are limited, the City should consider taking advantage of acquisition opportunities in strategic locations and as funding allows to fill gaps and ensure an equitable distribution of park facilities.

In concert with the search for developable park land, the City should continue to coordinate with any proposed residential land development projects to consider when and how a public park (or trail connection) could be incorporated into the planning of newly developed or redeveloped residential areas. The development density associated with SR 99 and its importance as a commercial zoning district present a challenge for finding affordable land for creating a public park. Combining a park/recreation facility with a much-needed community center and multi-family (affordable) housing development could be a potential approach, as would other public-private ventures.

In an effort to examine more closely the distribution of City parks through an equity lens, a second series of maps were compiled that build off the conditions assessment noted earlier in the chapter. Maps 7 through 12 apply condition assessment ratings with the variety of recreational amenities offered to add an additional layer of data to the travelsheds. For example, Map 7 applies scaled ratings from the conditions assessment to the City's neighborhood parks, and Map 8 applies a scaled rating of amenities provided for neighborhood parks. Map 9 creates a composite of these two maps. One limitation to using only travelshed mapping is that the park catchment areas do not reflect information about the level of site development or quality and condition of the existing amenities. This second series of maps aims to illustrate which parks may be underdeveloped or require additional upkeep or enhancements, which could guide future capital planning to bring parity to existing developed parks. The acquisition and development of additional sites to fill known gaps will further improve distribution and equity to parklands across the City.

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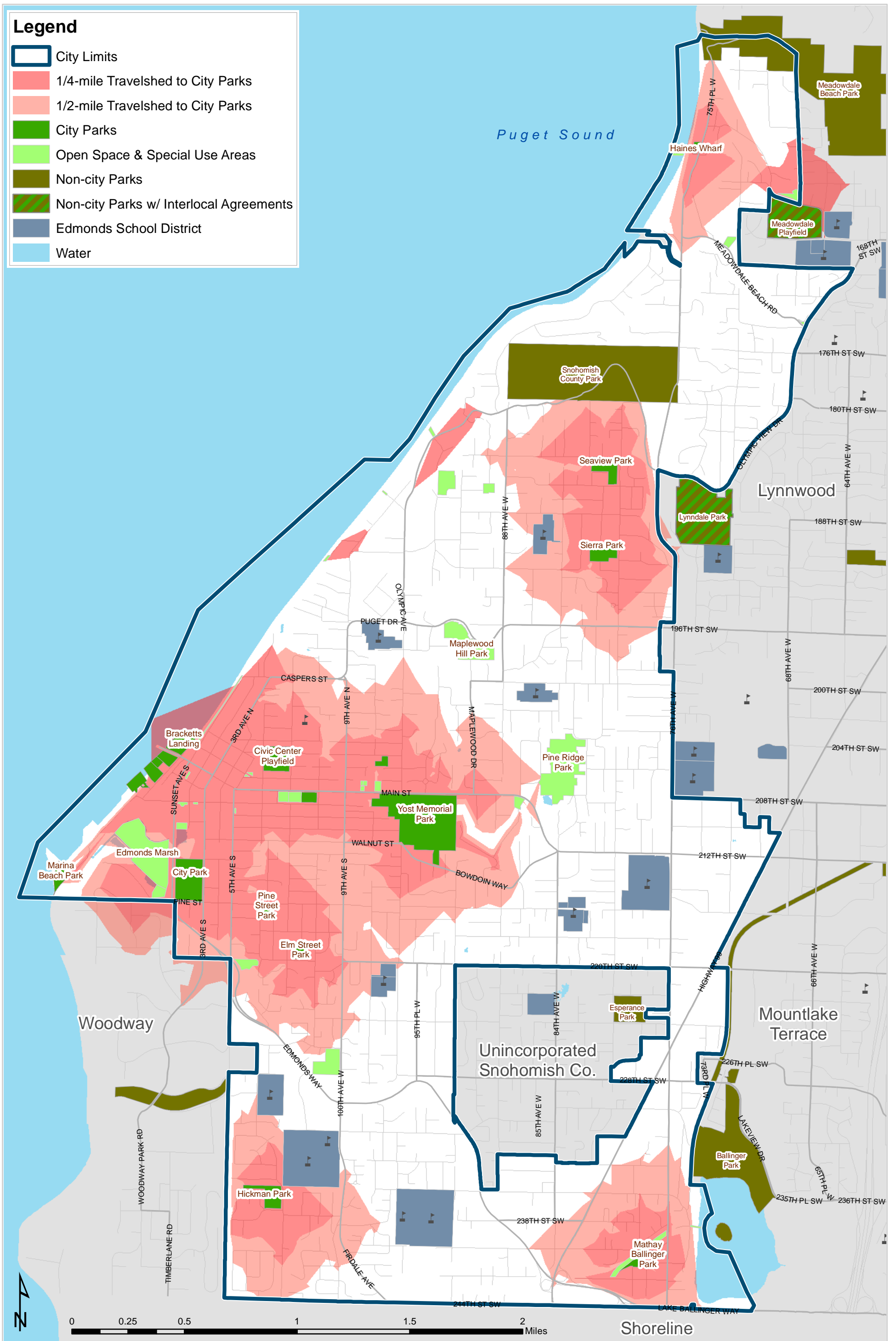


Map 2: Travelsheds for Small Parks (Neighborhood Parks to 1/2-mile)

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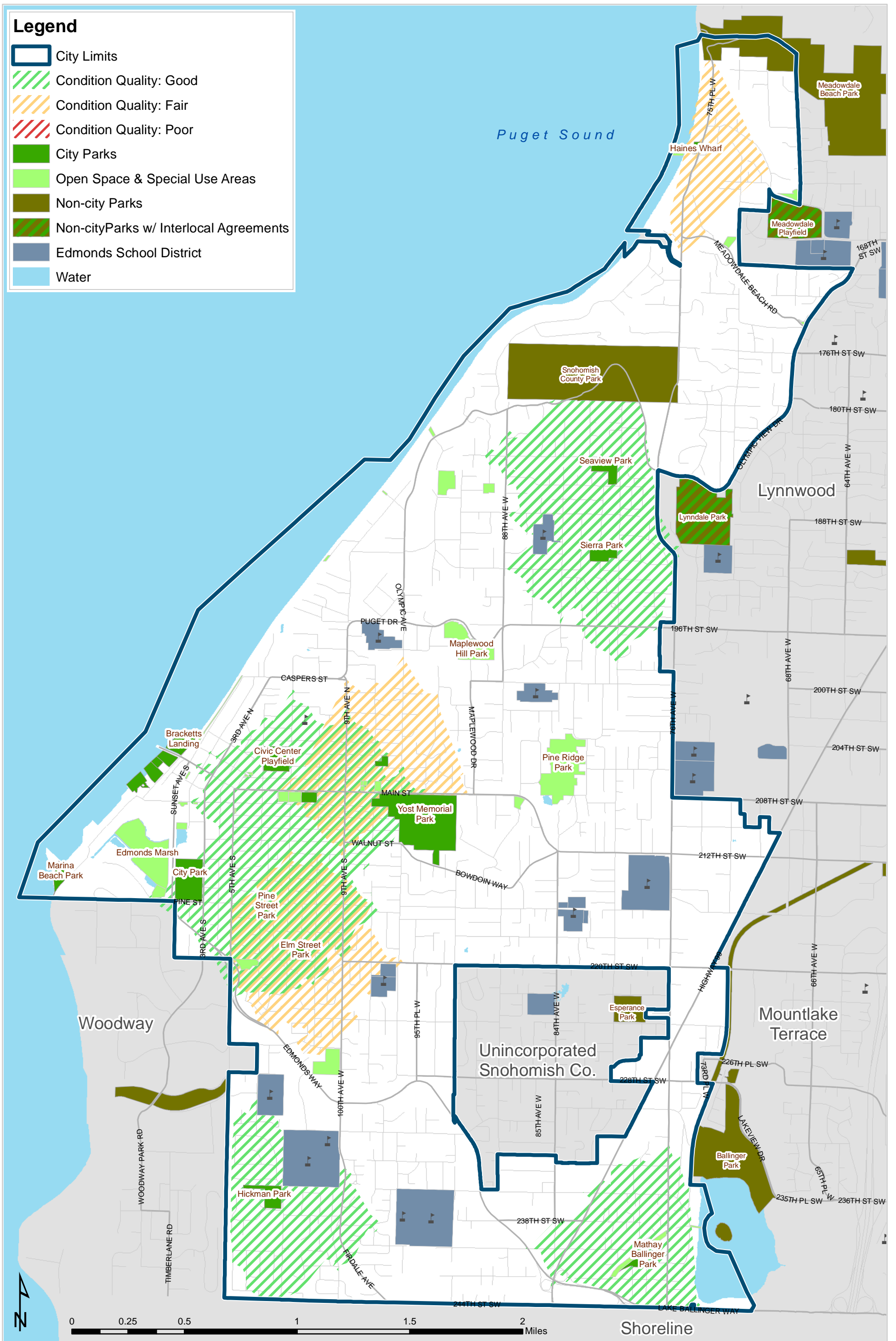
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Map 5: Travelsheds - All City Parks (1/2-mile)

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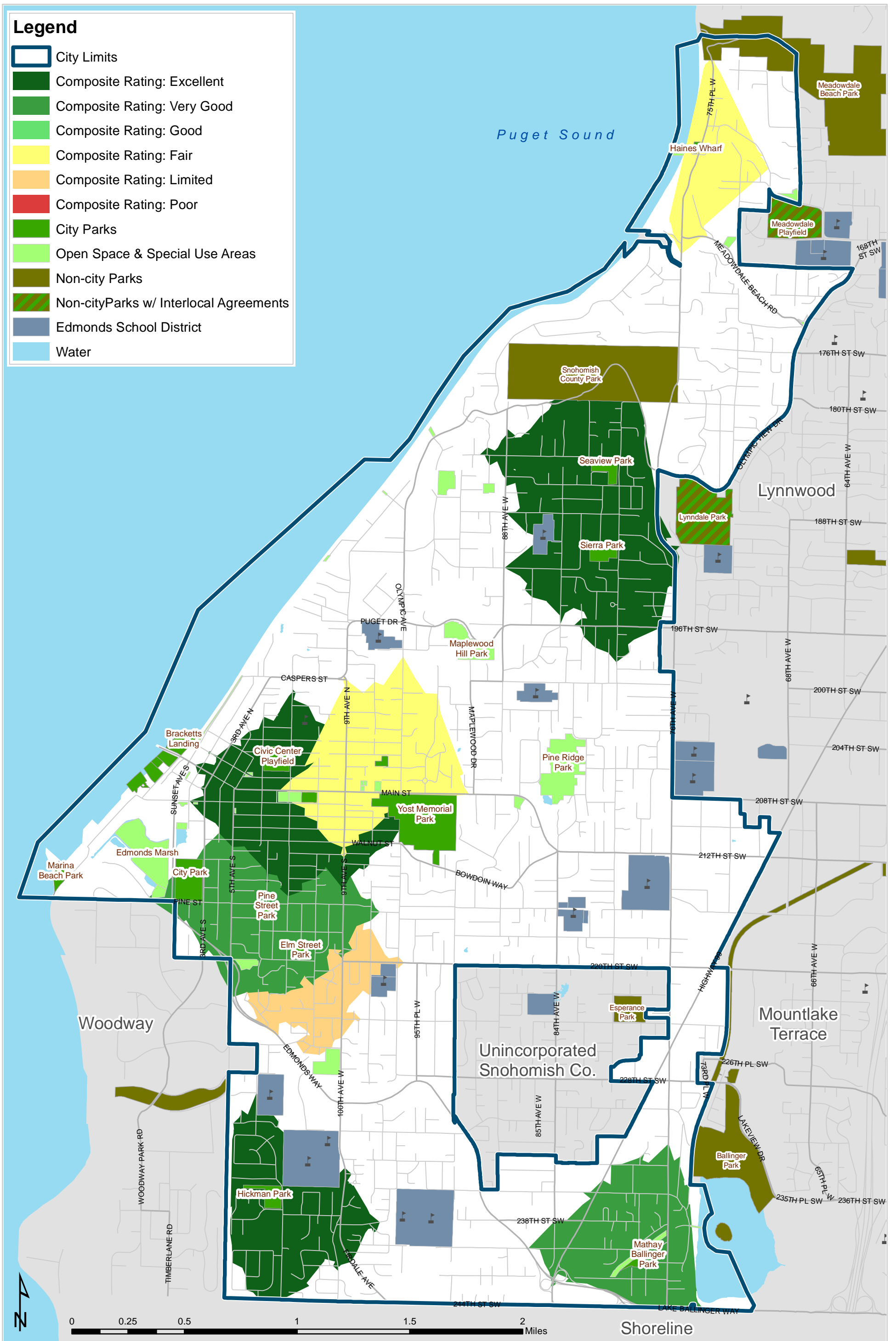
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Map 7: Conditions Assessment for Neighborhood Parks (Quality; 1/2-mile)

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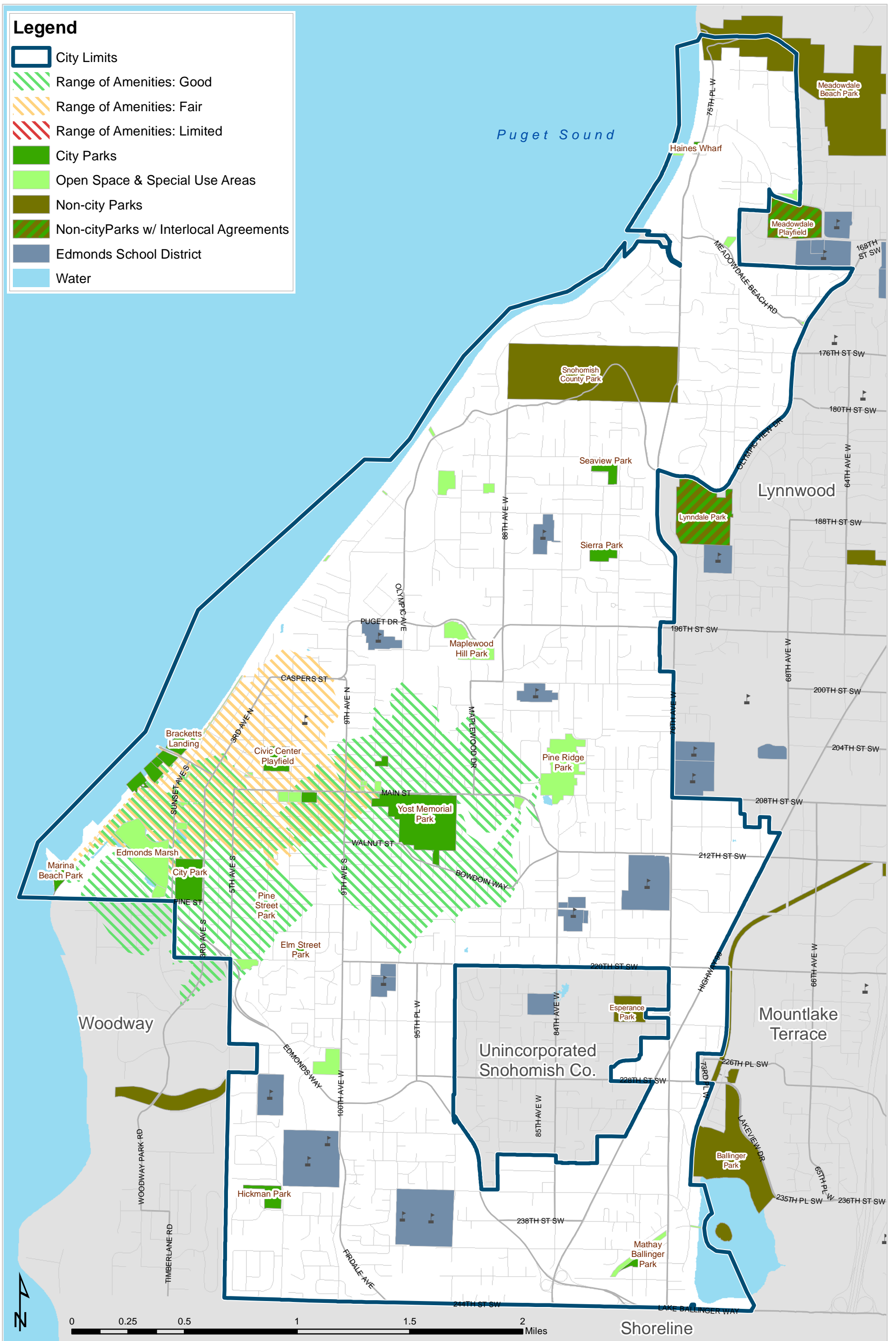
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Map 9: Conditions Assessment for Neighborhood Parks (Composite; 1/2-mile)

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Map 11: Conditions Assessment for Community & Waterfront Parks (Amenities; 1/2-mile)

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LEVEL OF SERVICE ASSESSMENT

Service standards are the adopted guidelines or benchmarks the City is trying to attain with their park system; the level of service is a snapshot in time of how well the City is meeting the adopted standards. A level of service (LOS) review was conducted in addition to and in support of the gap analysis as a means to understand the distribution of parkland acreage by classification and for a broader measure of how well the City is serving its residents with access to parks, trails and open space.

In the past, the City of Edmonds has used acreage per capita and park distribution to define its standards and measure its level of service for parks and recreation. While adopted acreage standards have been a long-standing traditional measure of park provision, current trends in park system assessment utilize a broader

and more customized analysis of how well parks are benefitting their service area and where improvements should be focused. In their 2008 PROS plan, Edmonds adopted acreage per thousand population for the target quantity of its park facilities. The same Plan also proposed “aspirational” standards. The 2016 PROS plan referenced both acreage standards and measured the calculated needs for additional parkland based on those acreage standards. The adopted 2008 standard required that the City have 490 acres of parklands. With the “aspirational” (2025) standard, the park system would require 440 acres of parklands. These two standards indicated a calculated deficit of over 230 acres. With slightly more than 200 acres in the current City park system, these earlier standards are more than aspirational. The 2016 PROS plan acknowledged that doubling the size of the existing park system was not realistic or attainable.

Figure 13. Acreage LOS comparisons from 2016 PROS Plan

Park Classification	Current Acreage	Existing LOS (acres/1,000)	2008 LOS Standard*	2008 Acreage Demand	2025 LOS Standard**	2025 Acreage Demand	2025 Acreage Deficit
Regional	16.3	0.4	1.0	42.4	1.0	41.1	(24.8)
Community***	79.2	1.8	2.4	104.1	2.0	87.0	(7.8)
Neighborhood	26.2	0.6	0.6	24.9	0.7	30.4	(4.3)
Special Use***	19.8	0.5	0.6	23.6	0.7	30.4	(10.6)
Open Space	75.6	1.8	6.9	295.3	5.9	251.1	(175.5)
All parklands	217.1	5.1	11.4	490.2	10.3	440.1	(223.0)

*adopted in the 2008 PROS Plan

** "aspirational" standard from 2008 PROS Plan

*** Includes acreage from Lynndale Skate Park and Meadowdale Playfields, prorated at 50%

The previous plan combined the acreage of other “park” facility providers to ease the pressure of meeting the parkland acreage standard through the City’s park system alone. Sites included County and Edmonds School District properties and raised the existing LOS from 4.83 acres per 1,000 population to 14.08 acres per 1,000 population – an increase of 200% in an effort to align aggregate land holdings with the standards.

A review of metrics from national data provides additional color to the assessment. Comparisons are provided below based on National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) data that reflects the current levels of service of park agencies across the country based on a variety of factors: population size, population density,

number of full-time equivalent employees, number of park facilities, acres of parkland and more. The NRPA Park Metrics data are used to compare different park and recreation providers in communities across the country; however, the Park Metrics database relies on self-reporting by municipalities. Some agencies only include developed, active parks, while others include natural lands with limited or no improvements, amenities or access. The comparative standards in the table on the following page should be viewed with this variability in mind.

A few highlights from the NRPA agency comparison provide perspectives on Edmonds’ park system. When compared with other park agencies, Edmonds’ (city-

owned) parkland acreage (5.1 acres/1,000) falls below the lower quartile of park providers. While parkland acreage alone should not be the sole measure of performance, the acquisition of additional parklands are warranted.

Looking at the provision of recreation amenities within the park system provides another perspective on the adequacy of park service delivery. From the NRPA Park Metrics data, six amenities were compared with

the median values from an aggregate of all agencies across the country, as well as from jurisdictions with populations in a similar range to that of Edmonds. The comparisons indicate that Edmonds is not significantly deficient in the recreational amenities listed. However, several areas of Edmonds do not provide easy access to these recreational amenities, and residents would have to drive for access for various activities.

Figure 14. Acres of Parkland from NRPA Metrics

	All Agencies	Pop. 20,000-49,999	Edmonds
Acres of Parkland / 1,000			
Median Acres/1,000	9.9	9.8	5.1
Amenity			
Number of Residents / Amenity			
Playgrounds	3,607	2,961	2,857
Baseball-youth	6,763	5,099	7,142
Softball-youth	11,287	9,891	4,761
Dog Parks	46,000	27,528	42,853
Outdoor Pools	37,569	25,402	42,853
Skate Parks	49,750	31,248	42,853

To redirect the most important efforts to creating an equitable park system for Edmonds, an adjusted set of parkland acreage standards is recommended. The proposed adjustment to acreage standards eliminate the acreage targets for regional and special use park facilities. The regional classification is currently used for waterfront sites of highly varied sizes. The classification of regional parks from across the country typically designates large tracts of land from fifty to hundreds of acres in size. Since Edmonds' current use of the regional park classification actually targets waterfront sites, its specialized focus does not require an acreage standard, and this Plan relabels the classification to waterfront parks. The same rationale applies to special use park facilities. These sites are designated for their specialized use which typically predetermines the necessary acreage size for the facility. Thus, no acreage standard is necessary or useful.

For neighborhood and community parks, an acreage-based standard is more important and still

applicable, in addition to the application of geographic distribution, level of park development and equity considerations. Increasing the adopted acreage standard for neighborhood parks from the adopted 2008 (0.58 ac/1,000) and the aspirational 2035 (0.71 ac/1,000) standards to a more readily measurable 1 acre per 1,000 population would address the known demand for more neighborhood parks in underserved areas. The need for neighborhood park acreage would increase from the prior standard to 16.7 acres. If the average neighborhood park size is approximately four acres, an additional three to five new park sites should be targeted for acquisition. This quantity coincides with the mapping analysis for existing parkland distribution.

For community parks, the acreage-based standard is proposed as 2.25 acres per 1,000 population, resulting in a current need for 17 acres or the equivalent of one new community park.

Figure 15. New Proposed Standards for Parkland Acreage

Type of Park	Existing Inventory (ac.)	Existing LOS (ac./1,000)	2022 Proposed Standard	Current Need (ac.)
Community*	79.2 acres	1.85 acres/1,000	2.25 acres/1,000	17.2 acres
Neighborhood	26.2 acres	0.61 acres/1,000	1 acres/1,000	16.7 acres
Open Space	75.6 acres	1.76 acres/1,000	3.5 acres/1,000	74.4 acres
Totals	181.0 acres	4.22 acres/1,000	6.75 acres/1,000	107.0 acres

* Includes acreage from Lynndale Skate Park and Meadowdale Playfields, prorated at 50%

Considering the future population growth predicted for Edmonds in 2035 (population forecast as 45,550), the demand for community park acreage would result in a need for 23 acres or an equivalent slightly larger new community park. These proposed adjustments to the acreage standards are intended to help focus future acquisitions and development resources on the most important park and recreation facility provision.

Figure 16. Future Park Acreage Needs using Proposed Standards

Type of Park	Existing Inventory (ac.)	2022 Proposed Standard	2035 Future Need** (ac.)
Community*	79.2 acres	2.25 acres/1,000	23.3 acres
Neighborhood	26.2 acres	1 acres/1,000	19.4 acres
Open Space	75.6 acres	3.5 acres/1,000	83.8 acres
Totals	181.0 acres	6.75 acres/1,000	125.3 acres

* Includes acreage from Lynndale Skate Park and Meadowdale Playfields, prorated at 50%

** 2035 population estimated as 45,550

This Plan also proposed an adjustment to the acreage-based standard for City-owned open space from the 2008 standard (6.89 ac/1,000) to 3.5 acres per 1,000 population. This proposed adjustment reduces the current and future acreage need to 74 acres and 84 acres, respectively. Additionally, the Southwest County Park (118 acres) is not included in these calculations, but this large block of wooded open space remains available for the Edmonds community as a natural area contributing to local quality of life for residents and supporting the local ecology.

The proposed acreage standards for neighborhood and community parks and open space lands would recalibrate the combined acreage standards from the 2008 11.44 acres per 1,000 population to a more targeted 6.75 acres per 1,000 population. As a more attainable and strategic acreage goal, the City could

more realistically become comparable to the nationwide averages measured by NRPA's data on park and recreation agencies.

The use of numeric standards is a blunt and limited tool to assess how well the City is delivering park and recreation services, since the numeric values alone neglect any recognition for the quality of the facilities or their distribution (i.e., the ease to which residents have reasonable, proximate access to park sites). While public ownership of a broad range of recreation lands is crucial to the well-being of the city, the simple use of an overall acreage standard does not match with the citizen input received during this planning process. Residents were particularly interested in the availability of trails, equitable distribution of parks within a reasonable distance from their homes, and conservation of open space.

The City’s park system also was assessed using the Washington Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) level of service metrics provided in their planning manual. In reviewing the park system as a whole, Figure 17 illustrates the current levels of service across different performance measurements. From the community survey results, public satisfaction of the facilities and amenities that Edmonds provides ranked as the strongest indicator for the park system.

Figure 17. Levels of Service with RCO Metrics (System-wide)

Quality Criteria		
Public Satisfaction		
Condition of Local City Parks (rated as Excellent or Good)	76.1%	B
LOS Grade		
Condition of Trails in Parks (rated as Excellent or Good)	55.0%	D
LOS Grade		
Agency-based Assessment		
Condition Assessment Rating of Existing Parks (3-point scale)	1.27	B
LOS Grade		
Distribution Criteria*		
Parkland Access (within 1/2-mile travelshed)		
Percent Service Area with Access to Active-Use City Parks	48.1%	D
LOS Grade		
Parkland Access (within 1/2-mile travelshed)		
Percent Service Area with Access to All Parks & Open Space	69.8%	C
LOS Grade		
Trail System Access (within 1/2-mile travelshed)		
Percent Service Area with Access to Recreational Trails	38.8%	F
LOS Grade		
Usage / Visitation Criteria		
Frequency of Park or Trail Usage		
Percent Visiting Parks at Least Multiple Times per Month	88.0%	A
LOS Grade		

SCALE: Excellent Good Fair Limited Poor

* Note: The percentage of land area covered by service area walksheds is a proxy for the population within the residential portion of the City.

In addition to readjusting the City’s adopted standards to more focused and realistic targets, this PROS plan also evaluated the geographic distribution of parks. The assessment of park distribution (as in the previous park plans) recognized that the most prevalent gaps in individual park service areas was in the south and east of the City. This translates to the highest need for walkable parks to be located in South Edmonds and

along the residential proximity to the SR 99 corridor. The gap analysis conducted for this updated PROS park plan reinforces the findings from the 2016 plan to direct the need for additional park acreage as well as new park location targets.

PARKS ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

Assessing physical conditions within each park facility, mapping distribution of existing parks, measurements of park acreage and comparing park amenity provision represent four methods for assessing the park system. To refine the access and equity of a park system even further, a look at the types and quantities of outdoor recreation offerings generates additional considerations. Comparing size and amenities in each park helps weigh the need for enhancing existing park sites, in addition to adding new parks. Each existing park has a variety of recreational amenities and do not offer equal values in outdoor recreation. For example, Hickman Park at 5.6 acres (compared to Mathay Ballinger Park with 1.82 acres) provides significantly more amenities for play, gathering, walking and sports. While both parks are classified as neighborhood parks, their contribution to meeting local, neighborhood park needs is not the same. Parks with less land and fewer amenities should be considered as targets for expansion through adjacent land acquisition or, at least, enhancement with additional amenities.

The City also should consider other factors for serving the current and future population of Edmonds, including:

- Park pressure, or the potential user demand on a park: Residents are most likely to use the park closest to their home. This measure uses GIS analysis to assign all households to their nearest respective park and calculates level of service (in acres of parkland per 1,000 residents) based on the acreage of the park and the number of residents in the 'travelshed'. Areas with lower levels of service are more likely to be underserved by parkland and to see higher degrees of use and wear and tear on park amenities.
- Availability of park amenities: Park systems should include an equitable distribution and quantity of the most common amenities like playgrounds, picnic shelters, sports courts, sports fields and trails to meet local needs and help distribute the potential usage of individual parks. Working to provide well-distributed basic park amenities, while also offering unique outdoor experiences, will result in a varied park system with a range of different recreational opportunities for residents.



Hazel Miller Plaza
Photo credit: Chris Walton

OPEN SPACE

The Edmonds community is fortunate to have retained several significant natural areas across the City.

Approximately 75 acres of open space are owned and managed by the City, in coordination with the acreage of developed parks. These open space properties include forested lands, waterfronts and wetlands across 13 different sites.

The open space classification distinguishes natural lands from parks developed for active recreation and other highly managed landscapes. Open space may refer to public properties that are exclusively natural areas or portions of larger parks that are managed as natural areas. These open space lands are managed to preserve, restore, and conserve ecosystem functions, native vegetation and wildlife habitat. Open space properties are undeveloped, primarily left in its natural form, and are managed to retain or enhance natural or scenic resources. However, open space may include trails or interpretive signs, along with modest support amenities such as parking or restrooms.

Figure 18. City-owned Open Space

Open Space	Acreage
Edmonds Marsh	24.21
Haines Tidelands	0.44
H.O. Hutt Park	4.53
Maplewood Hill Park	13.27
Meadowdale Natural Areas	1.07
Olympic View Open Space	0.49
Pine Ridge Ext (SW)	1.14
Pine Ridge Park	25.33
Seaview Reservoir	1.31
Shell Creek Open Space	1.42
Wharf Street	0.12
Willow Creek Park	2.25
Total Open Space Acreage	75.58

Large Open Space Properties

The City manages several sizeable open space properties. At more than 10 acres, significant habitat for wildlife and a quiet experience for park visitors is buffered by nature from the surrounding urban environment. These open spaces include Maplewood Hill Park, Edmonds Marsh and Pine Ridge Park, as well as portions of Yost Memorial Park. These large open space areas contain a variety of distinct habitats, such as wetlands and creeks, adding to the diversity of plant species they host. Some of these open spaces also include developed trail systems, serving as recreation opportunities and valuable pedestrian connections for local streets and neighborhoods.

Smaller Open Space Properties

Smaller open space areas, ranging from less than one acre to five acres, are distributed across the City. Though small, these pockets of natural area serve as refuges for wildlife traveling between larger forested areas, and in some cases, provide modest trail segments. Several of these areas have no developed site improvements or trails and are managed exclusively as natural area set-asides and to preserve or enhance their ecosystem functions. Some of the small open spaces include H.O. Hutt, Shell Creek Open Space and Haines Tidelands. Development of these sites for public recreational use, including the construction of trails, may be limited, or restricted by natural characteristics of the land, including steep slopes, wetlands and other features.



Edmonds Marsh

LAND CONSERVATION

Many of the public lands that the City owns and manages host unique, high-value landscapes. These areas are prioritized for acquisition, conservation and restoration activities to ensure that they continue to thrive and provide their distinct ecosystem functions and benefits. High-quality waterfronts, woodlands and wetlands are all vital to preserving Edmonds' diversity of habitats. Providing safe public access to and within these areas needs to be carefully balanced with the crucial goal of environmental stewardship and natural habitat protection.

Forest Lands

The City is fortunate to have acquired and protected several forested open spaces, such as Maplewood Hill Park and Pine Ridge Park. Protecting existing forested lands and restoring the native forest within public ownership will continue to provide habitat value, stormwater reduction services and urban heat reduction. Ongoing monitoring and management of these forest lands will be necessary to control invasive vegetation, maintain native plant communities and accommodate appropriate recreational access and usage.

The City adopted its Urban Forestry Management Plan in 2019 to take an active role in preserving and enhancing the value of canopy trees on public lands. Park operations and volunteer activities can work to implement aspects of the forestry plan through native tree planting, environmental education programs, public planting and stewardship events and interpretive signage.

Edmonds residents also benefit from an additional 140 acres of public open space within city limits provided at Meadowdale Beach Park and the Snohomish County Park. While these two sites are not under the City's ownership, the ecosystem benefits and habitat values offered by these two sites contribute to the greater network of open space lands in Edmonds.

Waterfronts

Edmonds extensive shoreline offers unique experiences where public waterfront provides access. This special connection to open water expands on the concept of open space, and Edmonds waterfront parks contribute

to the open space experience, while also providing other park-like amenities. Acquiring additional public access to the waterfront (marine and freshwater) continues to be a priority for the City to capture and protect the value of its shorelines and aquatic habitat, while allowing more access to beachfront recreation.

Wetlands

The City code also protects and regulates wetlands in Edmonds. The City's open spaces include several wetland areas, such as the Edmonds Marsh and Willow Creek Park. These areas continue to be a high priority for protection and restoration efforts, and low lying properties with prevalent wetlands can provide valuable stormwater management and flood control functions. Generally, they represent fragile ecosystems that host unique plant communities and serve as a valuable habitat for many animals, including bird and amphibian populations. These areas should be included in future open space management and acquisition planning.

To expand the Edmonds Marsh, acquisition of additional acres known as the Unocal property, should be considered when it is available. If ownership of Unocal property is secured by the City, a plan to restore estuarian functions of the Marsh should be developed to encompass property that connects Willow and Shellbarger Creeks to the Puget Sound.

Riparian Conservation & Trail Corridors

Beyond the larger tracts of natural lands to be acquired for open space, the City can look to linear corridors along drainage ways and stream corridors as targets for acquisition. Such riparian habitats benefit from conservation and restoration to ensure adequate forest canopy and can be compatible with connecting trail alignments. Open space and trail corridors are important components to creating the connectivity and walkable networks being sought by residents.

SERVICE STANDARDS

One primary goal of having an open space acreage standard is to inform the need for investments in local natural areas; however, a City-only accounting of open space lands underrepresents the total amount of open space land protected within Edmonds. As noted

above, 140 acres of public open space are provided at Meadowdale Beach Park and the Snohomish County Park, which are within city limits. If these sites were included in the level of service calculation, the City would have 217 acres of open space and 5.07 acres per 1,000 population – a significant increase from the City-only level of service of 1.76 acres per 1,000 population.

The proposed acreage standard for open space focuses on only City-owned properties and is adjusted to 3.5 acres per 1,000 population (from the 6.89 acres per 1,000 from the 2016 PROS Plan). The proposed adjustment is intended to re-align the planned target acreage to a more attainable acreage, in terms of potential land areas to pursue and the financial resources to secure them. At this proposed standard, the current need is calculated as an additional 74.4 acres of open space, which would increase to 83.8 acres by 2035.

While numerical planning standards are common for helping to determine a desirable number of parks per population, they do not translate easily to natural areas because of the uniqueness of the land base itself. The acquisition, acceptance and inclusion of future, protected natural areas will strengthen and expand the broader network of public open spaces, and the priority should be focused toward those lands that expand ownership of adjacent City-owned properties or to ensure sufficient property is available to accommodate public access, water access and future trail connections. As stated in the goals and objectives, Edmonds should plan to cooperate with County, neighboring jurisdictions, and organizations to identify and protect natural lands. Engaging the Snohomish County Conservation Futures funding program can help support acquisition efforts.

STEWARDSHIP

With existing open space lands as well as natural areas within developed parks, the need to plan for the management and stewardship of these natural environments will be ongoing. Volunteers already contribute to some limited trail maintenance and vegetation management in some parks and programming. More emphasis on (or formalized) volunteer programming could capture a stronger level of participation in park stewardship and contribute to needed vegetation management, trail maintenance,

park and natural area restoration planting and environmental education programming.

The management of landscapes in City parklands, whether formal plantings in developed parks or diverse forest ecosystems in open spaces, requires continual attention and an investment of significant resources to properly steward and maintain the living landscape. Regardless of the use of these landscapes, the desired outcomes are the same – to sustain healthy, thriving plant communities.

Past practices and traditional horticultural methods to achieve this goal have become less reliable in recent years. Changes to the Pacific Northwest climate have increased summer heat and drought, causing more stress for mature and establishing plants. This change has been accompanied by a shift toward more sustainable landscape maintenance practices, reducing potential impacts on the surrounding environment and its inhabitants.

Community Stewardship

The City of Edmonds provides programs, such as Adopt-a-Park and Adopt-a-Plot, which create working relationships between local groups and the City to provide stewardship and long-term restoration efforts in many city parks. In addition, the City partners with steward groups such as Sound Salmon Solutions' Edmonds Stewards, the Pilchuck Audubon Society, Scouts, corporate work groups, and other organizations. These groups work to restore native ecosystems and improve wildlife habitat in the City's parks and open spaces through invasive plant removal and planting and maintaining native plant communities. Current locations for stewardship work include H.O. Hutt Park, Yost Park, Edmonds Marsh, the Edmonds Wildlife Habitat & Native Plant Demonstration Garden, Pine Ridge Park, Brackett's Landing, and City Park. The City also hosts volunteer events including beach cleanups and special events, such as Earth Day and Arbor Day, to accommodate one-time drop-in volunteers and foster a culture of environmental stewardship.

Water Conservation

Despite the rainy winters, water is not an unlimited resource in the central Puget Sound region, and summers are expected to get hotter and drier as climate change intensifies. It is increasingly likely that not

just voluntary, but mandatory, water conservation measures will become necessary on occasion to preserve supplies for the most critical uses, such as domestic consumption.

In landscaped areas where shrubs and trees rely on some summer water, maintenance staff have adjusted the irrigation systems to water before sunrise to reduce water waste and maximize plant uptake. Depending on the landscape, watering also may need to be shifted to a deeper and less frequent watering schedule to reduce evaporation and encourage plants to root more deeply. In addition to reducing irrigation volumes and frequency, the City should consider shifting to planting more drought-tolerant species and schedule the majority of new plant installations in the early part of the rainy season to maximize root growth and establishment before the onset of the dry season.

Plant Selection

Selecting appropriate plants species for park landscapes is the source of a great deal of discussion, both on the local and regional scale. While drought-tolerant plants will be better able to establish in the short term, consideration is also given to how well newly established plants will survive in the long term. In recent years, cities across the Pacific Northwest have seen many mature native trees decline and die in recent years, unable to adapt quickly to the increased summer temperatures and lack of summer moisture. Plant selection for tree replacements or renovations that consider the anticipated climate in 10-50 years will be more likely to create resilient, mature landscapes that can better transition to warmer, drier conditions.

In natural areas generally replanted with trees and shrubs native to the immediate area, staff should begin selecting new plants from seed zones that reflect the greater Seattle area's projected climate. This focus on plant provenance (the original geographic source of seed, pollen, or propagule) will allow staff to plant the same native species better adapted to future conditions.

In addition to considering the climate in the selection of plants for developed parks, other factors must also be considered, including the mature size of the tree or shrub, any known pests or diseases that may affect the species, and how a fully developed root system will interact with nearby paved surfaces.

Invasive Species Management

The control of invasive species is a critical element of the restoration process and essential in maintaining a healthy natural landscape. Many invasive and non-native species exhibit strong adaptability to Pacific Northwest environments and displace native species, especially within the disturbed landscapes proximate to urban development. Going forward, the City will need to expand resources to manage invasive species and enhance partnerships to help with these efforts. Also, while removal efforts may be ongoing, those sites cleared of invasives will require continuous monitoring and intervention to reduce or limit the re-establishment of the invasive plants. Through proper management of public open spaces and natural areas, the City and its partners can maintain and enhance its open space areas and the critical ecosystem and community benefits they provide.

Stormwater Management

The Pacific Northwest region is experiencing more severe rainstorms due to climate change, and more of that rain is falling on impervious surfaces: roads, parking lots and rooftops. This untreated surface water runoff is a source of contamination along the Puget Sound, Lake Ballinger and in other riparian and wetland areas, impacting both people and wildlife, especially salmon populations.

State requirements for surface water management are becoming more stringent and costly for both developers and the City. Runoff volumes, peak stream flows and local flooding can be reduced by incorporating trees into stormwater management planning, lessening the need for expensive detention facilities (e.g., catch basins) and the cost of treatment to remove sediment and other pollutants such as lawn chemicals. Green infrastructure is far more cost-effective than grey infrastructure.

Using open space and forested landscapes to capture stormwater runoff encourages infiltration into the soil, prevents excessive streambed erosion and reduces sedimentation in major waterways. In addition, a healthy tree canopy increases carbon sequestration potential, encourages local biodiversity and enhances overall environmental resilience by reducing heat island effects and offering cooler, shaded air.



OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE

The City of Edmonds Department of Parks, Recreation, Cultural Arts and Human Services provide a wide range of valued community services to its residents. From managing the park facilities and natural areas to programming recreational activities and facilities and enhancing the arts in Edmonds, the Department works to give special character to Edmonds for its residents and visitors.

Parks operations manage and maintain 34 developed parks within the total 47 open space, cemetery, and park facilities in the 230+ acres of city-owned inventory. The park maintenance division also maintains all the seasonal hanging baskets (60+) and the 91 individual corner flower beds in the downtown area. Seasonal workers are trained annually to care for these city beautification assets. Capital repairs and amenity replacements are mostly handled in-house. The number of facilities maintained by the Parks Maintenance Division is well above the average for park and recreation providers across the country (see NRPA comparisons on following page).

On a daily basis, Parks Maintenance maintains six waterfront beach parks, a fishing pier, and 40 community, neighborhood, special use and open space

parks. General maintenance includes trash and litter, City restroom cleaning and sanitation, irrigation, and vegetation maintenance including mowing, hazard tree maintenance and removal, trimming and landscape bed upkeep for all City owned landscapes. Parks also maintains the Veterans Plaza located at Public Safety complex, Dayton Street Plaza, Frances Anderson Center Bandshell, and Hazel Miller Plaza. Parks maintains Yost Pool and Hazel Miller Spray Park at City Park from May thru September which is a key asset for this community. The Park Maintenance division is responsible for preserving, maintaining and upgrading all playground structures and equipment as needed. The Parks Maintenance crew maintains the Street Trees and all City-owned baseball and soccer fields in order to keep up with the high demand of organized youth sports. Parks also assists with numerous City events such as the Edmonds Arts Festival, 4th of July, Taste Edmonds, Wenatchee Youth Circus, Concerts in the Park, Hazel Miller Plaza concerts, Oktoberfest, Anderson Center Egg Hunt, Downtown Christmas Tree Lighting and many more small events. The parks maintenance group has characteristically been well-versed in park facility stewardship and care.

OPERATIONS COMPARABLES

To assess how Edmonds' park and recreation provision compares with other agencies and jurisdictions in terms of capacity and readiness for future growth, a series of benchmarks were evaluated with national and regional performance metrics.

National Park & Recreation Agency Comparisons

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) 2020 Agency Performance Review provides some park metrics that offer perspectives on the Edmonds park system and its operations division. Selected findings from their benchmarking tool can help reveal any disparities with park acreage, population size and park operations staffing levels.

An overview of NRPA agency performance metrics can reveal how Edmonds compares as a park system to other park and recreation providers across the nation. Edmonds' level of service (6.1 ac/1,000) falls below the median (9.6 ac/1,000) but above the lower quartile (5.4 ac/1,000) for total parkland acreage as the typical agency in jurisdictions with populations ranging from 20,000-49,999 residents.

Figure 19. NRPA 2020 Agency Performance Metrics Using Edmond's City-owned Park Facilities

Metric	All Agencies	Population (20,000-49,999)	Edmonds
Number of Parks	20	-	34
Park Acres	437.1	-	129
Parks & OS Facilities (# sites)	27	-	47
Parks, Open Space & Non-parks Acres	530	-	262
Residents per Park	2,281	1,963	1,260
Acres Parkland/1,000 Residents	9.9	9.6	6.1
Miles of Trails	11	8.5	7.4

The typical agency has one park for every 2,281 residents. The number of people per park rises as the population of the town, city, county or region served by an agency increases. Within the similar population category of 20,000-49,999, Edmonds' 1,260 residents per park falls below the median 1,963 residents/park but just above the lower quartile of 1,233 residents per park across the country.

Figure 20. 2020 NRPA Agency Performance Metrics Comparison

Metric	All Agencies	Population (20,000-49,999)	Edmonds
Park & Rec FTEs*	41.9	27.3	27.5
P&R FTEs/10,000 Residents	8.1	8.9	6.4
Annual Operating Expenditures	\$4,342,495	\$2,885,847	\$4,682,914
Operating Expenditures/Capita	\$81.19	\$95.34	\$109.28
Operating Expenditures/Parkland Acre	\$7,160	\$8,522	\$17,874

Looking across the spectrum of park and recreation providers, Edmonds' 27.5 FTEs are close to the 27.3 FTE-median for jurisdictions with 20,000–49,999 residents. Note that this FTE comparison is using both park operations and recreation facilities employees. The 2020 NRPA Agency Performance Review reported that the typical park and recreation agency dedicates 44% of its annual operating budget to the management and maintenance of parks and open space and 43% on recreation programming and facilities.

ASSET MANAGEMENT & LIFE CYCLE PLANNING

As part of park operations, the management of physical assets requires ongoing, proactive planning to capture cost efficiencies. Tracking repairs, maintenance tasks, routine operations and seasonal work can help predict the needs for future labor resources as the system grows. This PROS Plan recommends developing a detailed list of the assets at each park facility site and evaluating asset conditions annually. This task creates a framework for long-term management of the Edmonds park system. Detailed inventories with conditions tracking will help predict replacement needs, monitor safe use, and assist in assigning maintenance frequency. While Edmonds has relied on skilled professional staff to monitor and repair many of its park assets, having a long term predictive model can facilitate budgetary planning for future needs.

Most built park amenities have limited lifespans. Buildings, play equipment, pavement, etc. can be tracked from installation dates. As repairs are needed, those assets can have predictable replacement dates that are added to the capital facilities program. Life-cycle planning can help avoid extra time spent repairing outdated amenities and foster more cost effective labor resource use.

Beyond managing park assets to ensure a safe and enjoyable park infrastructure, the asset management system can be utilized to track more accurately the labor hours required to perform the many tasks involved in caring for park facilities. Active tracking can much better predict the ability to reach targeted levels of service for keeping parks clean and in good condition.

Invasive Species Management

The control of invasive species is a critical element in the stewardship of open space lands to ensure their continued conservation values and ecosystem services. An active invasive species control program is also necessary to ensure that the City is meeting the requirements of RCW 7.10 Noxious Weed regulations. This may involve direct control measures for known and identified noxious weed problems, pre-construction prevention of noxious weed spreading, and evaluating new parkland or conservation land noxious weed coverage. Open space properties such as Edmonds Marsh have some invasive plant species concerns. Park properties with large natural areas such as Yost Memorial Park contains invasive weed populations. Some park perimeters abut natural areas with significant Himalayan blackberry populations.

Capital Repairs Program

Following on a program of asset management tracking and life-cycle planning, a regular capital repair program should proactively address minor repairs and help extend the life of some amenities. When existing staffing is stretched to its limit, park agencies must rely more heavily on outside contractors for implementing even the small capital repair projects. Without adequate staffing, a backlog of needed maintenance and repairs usually exists. With a sufficient skilled labor force, the City can capitalize on using existing staff resources to complete the smaller capital repair projects during off-season capacity. The Edmonds parks maintenance division has been capable of performing a number of in-house capital repairs for park facilities and should continue to weigh what tasks should be out-sourced and what is within staffing capacity.

In-House vs. Outside Contractors

Park and recreation agencies throughout the country should continually weigh the costs of service provision through internal staffing versus external contracts. Full-time staffing weighed against seasonal resources should explore the off-season workload, training time for new part-time seasonal employees, the availability of seasonal labor and the specialized skill sets for some types of operations. One-time projects and specialized repairs and renovations may require outside contractors while some park agencies have enough trained in-house staff to accomplish smaller capital projects.

STAFFING NEEDS

The assessments and comparisons of Park Maintenance staffing indicates that Edmonds may be capable of handling the maintenance of its park system. However, the recommendations for Edmonds propose additional parkland and open space acquisitions for the near future. Additional developed park facilities are needed in the southern areas of the City and along the SR 99 corridor. More open space would provide beneficial ecosystem services and protect Edmonds' natural resources. With more parkland, an increase in park maintenance staffing will be necessary.

While an asset management tracking system could provide the most accurate predictions that would be specific for labor needs for the Edmonds park system, some measurements from composite park staffing references may shed light on approximate future staffing needs. Compiled from a series of other park providers, the table below offers some estimated labor needs for several types of planned park facilities.

Figure 21. Park Performance from Park & Rec Providers

Park Classification	5-yr Average (Hours/Acre)	Capacity per FTE
Open Space Lands	15	120 acres/year
Neighborhood Parks (average 4 acres)	150	3-4 parks/year
Community Parks (average 20 acres)	110	0.75 parks/year
Special Use Parks (highly varied)	150	size dependent

When a typical neighborhood park is fully developed and averages about 4 acres of developed amenities, one full-time employee could be expected to provide adequate maintenance services for four neighborhood parks. Tasks include litter control, mowing, landscape maintenance, playground inspections and would assume time for travelling to and from each park. With predicted greater acreage and higher expected levels of public use, a newly added community park may require more than one FTE to provide the expected level of service. Special use areas like the waterfront spaces and new active sports fields generally accommodate large and repeated numbers of users, generating more wear

and tear and triggering higher litter control needs. These highly visible and important public spaces will continue to need special attention from parks crews.

The six-year capital facilities plan should be coordinated with the planning and budgeting of future staffing resources to coordinate the growth of Edmonds' park system.



CHAPTER 6

RECREATION PROGRAMS

The recreation facilities and services available within the City of Edmonds are a major community asset and support the physical, mental and social health of community members.

More opportunities for neighborhood nature walks (small, quiet gatherings of an educational nature) “forest bathing” or “forest therapy” for example, bird and plant identification and understanding.

- Virtual Public Meeting Participant

RECREATION TRENDS

Various resources have been assembled and summarized to offer a comprehensive overview of current recreation trends, market demands, and agency comparisons. The following national and state data highlights some of the current trends in recreation and arts and may frame future considerations in program and activity development. Additional trend data is provided in Appendix F.

- Seventy-seven percent of respondents to the American Engagement with Parks Survey indicate that having a high-quality park, playground, public open space, or recreation center nearby is an essential factor in deciding where they want to live. ⁽¹⁾
- Nearly all (93%) of park and recreation agencies provide recreation programs and services. The top five most commonly offered programs include holiday or other special events (65%), educational programs (59%), group exercise (59%), fitness programs (58%), and day or summer camps (57%). ⁽²⁾
- Just over half of Americans ages 6 and older participated in outdoor recreation at least once in 2019, the highest participation rate in five years. (Note: This trend may be higher in 2020 and 2021 given the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.) The number of outings per participant declined, however, in 2019 continuing a decade-long trend and resulting in fewer total recreational outings. ⁽³⁾
- Youth aged 6 to 17 were active outside far less in 2019 than in previous years; the average number of outings per child dropped 15% between 2012 and 2019. ⁽³⁾
- Nearly all park and recreation providers in the U.S. experienced declines in revenue in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As early as May 2020, most providers had to close facilities temporarily in accordance with health and safety directives. Nearly half of the providers also furloughed or laid off staff due to the funding and facility impacts of the pandemic. ⁽⁴⁾
- When it comes to costs and revenues, the percentage of costs recovered depends on the type of organization. On average, respondents to the 2020 Managed Recreation Industry survey said they recovered nearly 50% of their operating costs. Only a few facilities reported that they covered more than 75% of their operating costs via revenue. For public organizations, 45% of costs are recovered, up slightly from 42% in 2019. ⁽⁴⁾
- Research from the US Bureau of Economic Analysis shows that arts and culture drive 4.2% of the US gross domestic product (GDP), generating \$736.6 Billion in 2015. In Washington State, this sector beats the national GDP, providing 7.8% of the State's GDP. Both in Washington and nationally, arts and culture surpass construction and education services in contribution to GDP. ⁽⁵⁾
- 28% of the nation's approximately 4,500 Local Arts Agencies (LAAs) are government agencies, departments, programs, facilities, or other associations. Of those LAAs, 80% are affiliated with municipalities. LAAs promote, support, and develop the arts at the local level, ensuring a vital presence for arts and culture throughout America's communities. ⁽⁶⁾

Pools, fountains, other water features will become increasingly essential as hotter weather during the summer becomes more prevalent with climate change.

- Virtual Public Meeting Participant

- 84% of LAAs present their own cultural programming to their community. These programs include after-school arts education programs, public art, free concerts in the park, exhibitions, heritage and preservation efforts, festivals, and special events. ⁽⁶⁾
- People who say their neighborhood has easy access to quality arts and cultural activities tend to be more satisfied, identify more with local lifestyle and culture, and invest more time and resources in their communities. ⁽⁷⁾

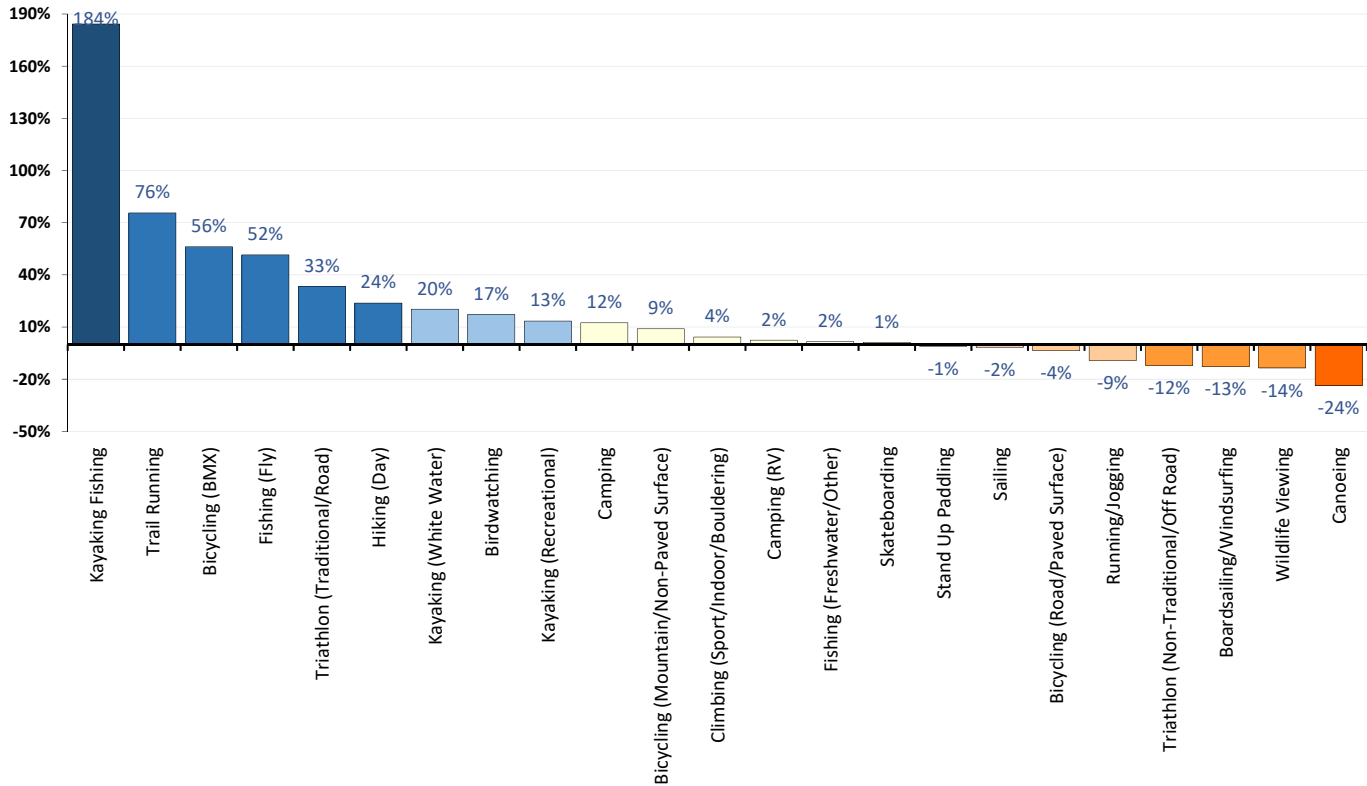
Sources:

- (1) American Engagement with Parks Survey (Need date)
- (2) 2020 NRPA Agency Performance Review
- (3) 2020 Outdoor Participation Report
- (4) 2020 State of the Industry Report
- (5) US Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2015
- (6) AFTA 2020 LAA Profile http://surveys.americansforthearts.org/r/391676_60549cd4741a42.54488835
- (7) Knight Foundation Community Ties survey Community-Ties-Final-pg.pdf (knightfoundation.org). Builds off Soul of Community Longitudinal Study (2008-2010) conducted by the Knight Foundation found key drivers of community attachment to be social offerings, openness, and aesthetics. <https://knightfoundation.org/sotc/overall-findings/>

According to 2020 Outdoor Participation Report published by the Outdoor Foundation, just over half of Americans ages 6 and older participated in outdoor recreation at least once in 2019, translating to a total

of 10.9 billion outdoor outings – a 12% drop from the 2012 high-water mark of 12.4 billion outings. Participation in outdoor recreation, team sports and indoor fitness activities vary by an individual’s age.

Figure 22. 5-Year Change in Outdoor Recreation Participation by Major Activity (2020 Outdoor Participation Report)



Recreation Management magazine’s 2020 Report on the State of the Managed Recreation Industry summarizes information provided by a wide range of professionals (with an average 22.3 years of experience) working in the recreation, sports, and fitness industry. Given the emerging COVID-19 pandemic, Recreation Management also conducted a supplemental survey in May 2020 to learn about both the impacts to the industry and what mitigation steps organizations were taking in response.

Regarding program options, respondents from community centers, park departments and health clubs reported that they plan to add programs over the next few years. The ten most commonly planned program additions include:

1. Fitness programs (24% of those who have plans to add programs)
2. Group exercise programs (22.4%)

3. Teen programs (22%)
4. Environmental education (21.8%)
5. Day camps and summer camps (20.9%)
6. Mind-body balance programs (20.5%)
7. Programs for active older adults (18.1%)
8. Special needs programs (17.9%)
9. Holidays and other special events (17.4%)
10. Arts and crafts (17%)

Addressing the COVID-19 pandemic required many respondents to either put programs or services on hold (82%) or cut programs or services entirely (34%). Additionally, many respondents have had to rethink their programming portfolios. Two-thirds of respondents (67%) had added online fitness and wellness programming as of May 2020, 39% were involved in programs to address food insecurity, and one in four was involved in programs to provide educational support to out-of-school children.

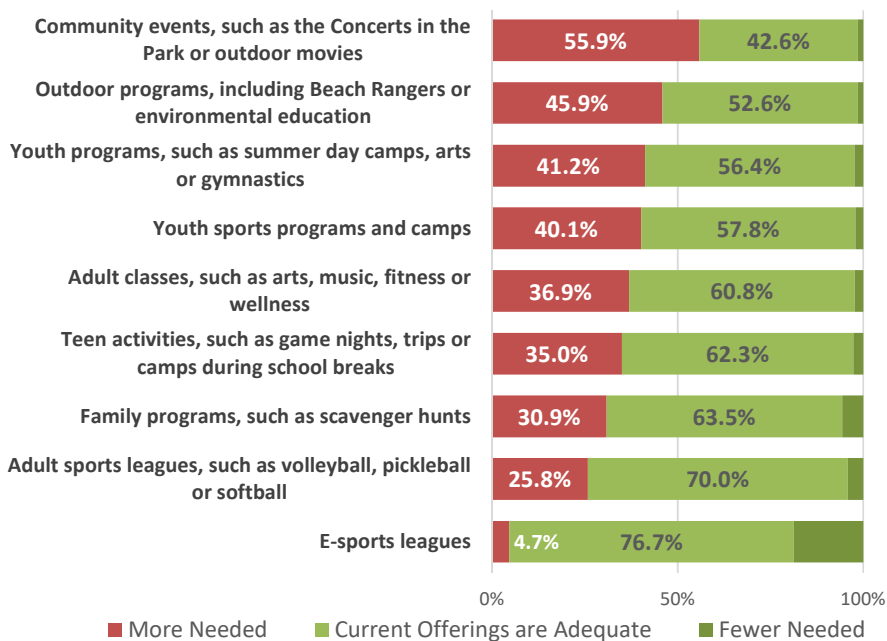
LOCAL PERSPECTIVES

Local recreation demands and needs were explored through a variety of public engagement to gather feedback on strengths and limitations of existing recreation programs and resources available to Edmonds residents. Public outreach included a community survey and two virtual public meetings to explore priorities and opportunities to enhance recreation programming.

Community Survey

The community-wide surveys (mailed and on-line) conducted from May to August, 2021 included several questions related to recreation programs and activities. Respondents expressed a greater need for community events (56%) and program and activities geared toward youth. In particular, respondents had a higher interest in outdoor programs such as environmental education (46%), youth day camps (41%) and youth sport programs (40%). Respondents between 20 and 44 and those with children in the household were more likely to state a strong interest for outdoor programs, youth sports, teen and youth programs. Consistently high need was noted across all age groups for community events.

Figure 23. Sentiment Toward the Availability of Recreation Program Options



Respondents were asked to rank a list of potential recreation, park and open space investments that included hypothetical relative costs as indicated by the use of dollar symbols (\$) for each system investment. When force-ranked against other potential park and recreation system improvements, support for building a new aquatic center ranked fourth out of six choices, with 43% of respondents identifying it as a top or high priority. Respondents to the online-only survey ranked building a new aquatic center more favorably than the mail survey respondents.

Given a choice between raising taxes to develop an amenity in Edmonds versus not having such a facility in the city, slight majorities supported more taxes for two of five amenities tested: buying additional parks for conservation and open space (64%) and building an aquatic center (53%). However, and aside from buying additional park for conservation, building an aquatic center was the only other option for which more than half of respondents with children supported raising taxes.

Virtual Public Meetings

As part of the first virtual public meeting in July, attendees were asked a series of polling questions as a way to capture current sentiment and interests. Regarding community events, a strong majority of attendees (82%) indicated interest in smaller, more intimate events, such as outdoor movies, Uptown Evening Market, and Hazel Miller Plaza summer concerts.

During the second virtual public meeting in October, another polling question explored community events, a topic that was revealed as a top interest in the community survey and the first public meeting.

Consistent with the first public meeting, the strongest response (41%) for types of events to be pursued was adding more small, neighborhood-focused events such as concerts in local/neighborhood parks.

Also, the future direction of Yost Pool was explored in a polling question that asked what the focus/scale should be if the City were to replace the pool with a new aquatics facility. Given the choices of local or regional and indoor or outdoor, the overwhelming majority chose local-scale (76%) with those poll responses split between indoor (39%) and outdoor (36%) pool options.



RECREATION FACILITIES

The City of Edmonds hosts recreation and arts and culture programs in its parks and in several municipal buildings, most notably the Frances Anderson Center. The day-to-day management, ongoing maintenance, and long-term reinvestment in City facilities are crucial to the success of Edmonds' recreation programs. Additionally, efficient scheduling and use of the facilities ensures that cost recovery, diversity, equity and inclusion, program vitality and other goals are met.

Frances Anderson Center

The Frances Anderson Center is the “home” of the majority of Edmonds Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services programming. The Center has classroom spaces, a drop-in weight room, a gymnasium and dedicated gymnastics space. The Frances Anderson Center also houses six tenants who provide a wide range of activities that augment and enhance the Department's mission, including a ballet school, youth sports club, Montessori preschool and sculpting studio space.

Meadowdale Clubhouse

The Meadowdale Clubhouse serves as the location for the City's Meadowdale Preschool program. The clubhouse is also available for rent, and amenities include a kitchen, fireplace, restrooms and an outdoor fenced playground.

Yost Pool

Yost Pool is located within Yost Memorial Park and is an outdoor, 25 meter by 25 yard pool and spa. The City recently decided to keep the pool open year-round to extend the outdoor aquatics season.

Waterfront Center

The new Edmonds Waterfront Center is a 26,000 square foot regional community center that replaced the old Edmonds Senior Center building. The Waterfront Center is not operated by the City, and through a land use lease, the Recreation & Cultural Services division programs space at this facility for recreation programs and classes.

The City also uses Edmonds College facilities for volleyball leagues and City of Lynnwood facilities for softball leagues. Going forward, the City should continue to coordinate with the other facility and program providers in the greater Edmonds area, such as the Edmonds School District, Edmonds Boys and Girls Club, Dale Turner YMCA, Sno-King Youth Club, and the cities of Lynnwood and Mountlake Terrace, among others, on program offerings and scheduling.

RECREATION PROGRAMS

Programming Classifications

The categories below represent the major areas of focus for current Edmonds recreation programs. Program lists are based on a review of program offerings for 2018-2021, that were provided by the Department.

Figure 24. Existing City Programs by Classification

Area	Focus	Programs
Sports	Youth	Kidz Love Soccer, Skyhawks Soccer, UK Elite Soccer, Preschool Gymnastics, School-Age Gymnastics, Skyhawks Summer Sports Camps, Steel Soccer Summer Camps, Gymnastics Outdoor Camp
	Adult	Pickleball Clinics, Pickleball Leagues, Sr.Softball, Co-Ed Softball, Women's 4-on-4 Volleyball Leagues, Co-Rec Volleyball Leagues, Basketball 3-on-3
Fitness	Youth	Taekwando, Kendo, Girls on the Run
	Adult	Sustainable Weight Loss & Wellness, Feldenkrais, Taekwon-Do, Kendo, Circuit Training, Strength & Endurance Interval Training, Intro to Fitness, Yoga, Tai Chi, Qigong, Essentrics, Personal Fitness Training, Pilates Yoga Fusion, Zumba
Cultural Arts	Youth	Drama Kids, Adventures in Art/Drawing/Anime, Custom Art Holiday Cards, Art Camp, Fine Art Day Camps for Teens, Incredifix Animation, Digital Photography Kids Camp, Steel Band, Kindermusik, Fun Factory, Beginning Watercolor
	Adult	Steel Band, Ukulele Class & Open Jam Sessions, Studio Photography Workshop, Ballroom Dancing, West & East Coast Swing Dancing, Nightclub Two Step Dancing, Clogging, Plein Air Drawing, Beginning Watercolor, Oil Painting, Ukrainian Egg Decorating
Aquatics	Youth	Swim Lessons, Swim Team, Family Swim
	Adult	Family Swim, Lap Swim, Water Walking
Education	Youth	Meadowdale Preschool, Little Fishes Preschool Prep, Babysitting Basics, Play-Well STEM camps, Online Writing, Virtual Homework Tutoring, Reading Funny Stories, Creative Writing, Mad Science Camp, Cursive for Kids
	Adult	Creative Writing, Writing Labs, ESL Tutoring,
Specialty / General Interest	Youth	Cake Decorating, Etiquette Young Ladies & Gentlemen
	Adult	Spanish Language classes, Canine Obedience, American Mahjong, Genealogy, Zentangle, Personal Finance, Healthy Living
Special Needs		
Special Events		Taste Edmonds, 4th of July parade and fireworks, Edmonds Arts Festival, Edmonds Classic Car Show, Sweetheart Dance, Health & Fitness Expo, Best Book Poster Contest, Watershed Fun Fair, Concerts in the Park, Outdoor Movies, Moonlight Beach Adventure, Bird Fest, Write on the Sound, Walkable Main Street, Hazel Miller Plaza summer concerts, Uptown Evening Market, Farmers Market, Celebration of Lights, Easter Egg Hunt, Spring Fest, Egg Hunt, Tree Lighting
Outdoor Education	Youth	Junior Beach Rangers, Discovery Days Spring Camp, Discovery Outdoor Beach Camp, Discovery Outdoor Nature Camp, Junior Naturalists Outdoor Nature Camp, Sunset Bay Beach Camps
	Adult	Beach Ranger Program, Bird Fest Guided Walks, Intro to Bird Photography, Backyard Bird, Low Tide Beach Walks, Forest Walks, Starlight Beach Walks
Seniors		Senior-specific programs provided by the Senior Center
Self-Directed	Youth	Scavenger Hunts
	Adult	Open Gym Drop-in, Weight Room

Programs Available by Age Groups

Below is listed the basic program categories that are available for different age groups.

Figure 25. Segmentation of City Programs by Age Group

Program Category	Preschool	Youth	Teen	Adults	Senior
Sports	●	●	●	●	●
Fitness	●	●	●	●	●
Cultural Arts	●	●	●	●	●
Aquatics	●	●	●	●	●
Education	●	●	●	●	●
Specialty / General Interest		●	●	●	●
Special Needs					
Special Events	●	●	●	●	●
Outdoor Education		●	●	●	●
Self-Directed	●	●	●	●	●
Human Services	●	●	●	●	●

Program Area Definitions (generalized):

- Sports – Team and individual sports including camps, clinics, and tournaments. Also includes adventure/non-traditional sports.
- Fitness – Group fitness classes, personal training, education, and nutrition.
- Cultural Arts – Performing arts classes, visual arts classes, literary arts, music/video production and arts events.
- Aquatics – Learn to swim classes, aqua exercise classes, competitive swimming/diving, SCUBA, and other programs (synchro, water polo, etc.).
- Education – Language programs, tutoring, science (STEM) classes, computer, and financial planning. Also included is CPR/AED/First Aid.
- Specialty/General Interest – Personal development classes and dog training classes.
- Special Needs – Programs for the physically and mentally impaired. Also, inclusion programs.
- Special Events – City wide special events that are conducted throughout the year.
- Outdoor Education – Environmental education, hiking, camping, kayaking, and other activities.
- Seniors – Programs and services that are dedicated to serving the needs of seniors. This can include all of the activity areas noted above plus social service functions.
- Self-Directed – This includes the opportunities for individuals to recreate on their own. This can include activities such as open gym, use of weight/cardio space and lap/recreational swimming. Although not an organized program, time and space must be allocated for this purpose.
- Human Services – This can include nutrition and feeding programs, job training, life skills training, childcare, and other activities such as health screenings.

Program Classifications

The following are the projected programming classifications for the City. It is important to realize that while certain program areas may be a focus for growth in programs and services, the Department’s role in providing the actual service may be different as indicated below.

Classification Definitions

- Core Programs – are those programs that are a primary responsibility of the Parks, Recreation, Cultural Arts and Human Services Department to provide as city-based activities.
- Secondary Programs – are those programs that are a lower priority to be provided directly by the Department but may be offered by other organizations through contract with the city.
- Support Programs – are programs that are not a priority for the Department to be providing directly to the community but where the city may provide support through facilities, program coordination, and promotion of activities for other organizations.

The following chart identifies and summarizes recommended future core programs, secondary programs and support program areas for the Parks, Recreation, Cultural Arts and Human Services Department.

Figure 26. Recommended Future Program Types by Focus Area

Core Programs	Secondary Programs	Support Programs
Adult Sports	Aquatics	Seniors
Cultural Arts	Education	Human Services
Fitness/Wellness	General Interest	Special Needs
Outdoor Education	Youth Sports	
Self-Directed		
Special Events		

Program Considerations

Edmonds’ recreation programs serve all of the major age groups. As shown in the community survey, the Edmonds community considers outdoor programs, youth recreation and youth sports to be high priorities for City recreation services.

The following program categories are not extensive due to the nature of the City’s offerings and facilities to support programs:

- Special Needs – This is not a significant program area for the Department currently, but there may be a need to have these types of services available for the community. It is anticipated that the vast majority of programming will be provided by other agencies that specialize in these services, but this will need to be coordinated by the Department.
- Social Services – This can include nutrition and feeding programs, job training, life skills training, childcare and other activities, such as health screenings. As the Human Services division settles into the Department, consideration should be given to how social services overlap and integrate with broader recreational offerings.

Regarding aquatics, the City is not a direct provider of swim lessons or aquatics and has made arrangements for the operation and programming of Yost Pool to other organizations. The strength and continuity of aquatics programming should also be weighed against the physical needs of the pool and its infrastructure. Yost Pool is an aging facility that is nearing the end of its useful life. In the near term, the City should explore the feasibility of replacing Yost Pool, and this concept was generally supported throughout this planning process. With a new facility, the City should re-examine its direct staffing and operations of a new pool, as well as consider additional program options that include lifeguarding classes, CPR/AED/First Aid, water aerobics, and paddleboard/kayak classes, among others.

The City should continue to stay abreast of its program offerings and recreation trends, as well as re-evaluate programs based on participation rates and cost recovery targets. Other recreational offerings could include intergenerational programs or ethnic-based programs that are appropriate for the cultural orientation of the area. The Department also should consider bringing more programming out to the parks and activating the City’s parks with programs and outdoor classes. This will help to cross-pollinate recreation customers with the offerings of park facilities and improve overall community awareness of recreational opportunities within Edmonds.



SPECIAL EVENTS

The Recreation & Cultural Services division is responsible for the overall coordination of community and special events. These public events provide gathering opportunities, celebrations and activation of the downtown and City parks. While not every event is hosted or run by the City, these special events draw the community together, attract visitors from outside the community and are popular with residents. Some examples of recurring or multi-day events include Taste Edmonds, Edmonds Arts Festival, 4th of July parade and fireworks, Farmers Market, Oktoberfest Farmers Market, and Edmonds Classic Car Show. The City also has hosted or supported numerous one-time or single-day events. Recent community events include the following:

- Sweetheart Dance
- Health & Fitness Expo
- Best Book Poster Contest
- Watershed Fun Fair
- Concerts in the Park
- Outdoor Movies
- Moonlight Beach Adventure
- Puget Sound Bird Fest
- Write on the Sound
- Celebration of Lights
- Walkable Main Street
- Hazel Miller Plaza summer concerts
- Uptown Evening Market
- Easter Egg Hunt
- Spring Fest

Opportunities to connect are clearly crucial to Edmonds' residents, particularly as the community emerges from the COVID-19 pandemic. Survey and public meeting responses showed strong interest for additional community events, especially smaller, more intimate events such as outdoor movies, the Uptown Evening Market and the Hazel Miller Plaza summer concerts. Participants to this PROS Plan process offered other ideas for events and activities, including the following:

- Cultural celebrations near international district
- More opportunities for neighborhood nature walks (i.e., small gatherings of an educational nature)

- Educational events for wildlife; more environmental awareness events or demonstrations.
- Tasting tours of different restaurants
- Consider aerial drone shows for the 4th of July partnered with live music

Additionally, the City could explore ideas for events that draw from the diversity of the community, such as festivals or activities celebrating Latin American, Asian or Native American traditions. City parks and facilities also could be promoted for quinceañeras and other family celebrations.

Community gathering and special events should continue to be an area of emphasis; however, the overall number and breadth of City-sponsored special events should be carefully managed to align with the availability of resources and impacts to general park and facility use. This will ensure the City can adequately invest in its overall recreational offerings and maintain high-quality special events. Other community groups should be encouraged to be the primary funders and organizers of as many community-wide events as possible. If the City decides to offer more events, it should obtain sponsorships to offset costs and develop a series of seasonal activities.



TRAILS & CONNECTIONS

Enhancing and expanding existing trails was identified as one of the highest capital project priorities during the community engagement process, and walking was the top activity for Edmonds residents.

Continuing to manage and invest in the trails system, while also improving in right-of-way sidewalk and bike route options are essential to maintaining a healthy and livable community and promoting alternatives to motor vehicle use.

TRAIL USE TRENDS

Walking and hiking continue to be the most popular recreational activities nationally and regionally. Furthermore, national recreation studies have consistently ranked walking and hiking as the most popular form of outdoor recreation over the last ten years. These studies include:

- Sports Participation Survey by the National Sporting Goods Association
- State of the Industry Report by the Recreation Management Magazine
- Outdoor Recreation in America by the Recreation Roundtable

According to the 2020 Outdoor Participation Report published by the Outdoor Foundation, running (including jogging and trail running) was the most popular activity among Americans when measured by the number of participants and total annual outings. Running was also the most popular outdoor activity for all ethnic groups.

The 2018-2022 Recreation and Conservation Plan for Washington State confirmed that outdoor recreation is an integral part of life for most Washington residents, with strong participation in the most popular category of activities, which includes walking (94%) and hiking (61%). Considerable increases in participation rates in outdoor recreation activities since 2006 indicate the importance of State and local communities continuing to invest in parks, trails, and open space infrastructure.



More public paths between neighborhoods. Trails that are for walking rather than biking.

- Virtual Public Meeting Participant

It would be nice to see the emphasis on trail improvements to accommodate kids safely having fun on their bikes. Also for older kids making trails for mountain type bikers. Away from cars, not on the streets. Maplewood would be great for this.

- Virtual Public Meeting Participant

The COVID-19 pandemic significantly impacted outdoor recreation activities, including trail use. Indoor facilities and in-person programming were shut down and then only partially restarted in 2020 and 2021. Local and regional park and recreation agencies that managed trail systems were pressed to adapt to heavy use and crowded trailhead parking, as many people shifted their daily exercise routines to outdoor activities, such as walking and bicycling.

The 2020 Sports & Fitness Industry Topline Report identified sports that increased in popularity in the last six years, including trail running, BMX biking, and day hiking. For most age segments, activities that households aspired to (e.g., fishing, camping, biking, and hiking) related to the need for supporting trail infrastructure.

An August 2020 report from the Outdoor Industries Association revealed that Americans took up new activities in significant

numbers with the biggest gains in running, cycling and hiking. Walking, running and hiking were widely considered the safest activities during pandemic shutdowns. Reviewing only three months of data (April, May, and June 2020) revealed that participation rates for day hiking rose more than any other activity, up 8.4%.



Trails for Walkable Communities

Parks are known to contribute to a healthier community by providing accessible outdoor recreation particularly through the walking trail within each park. Getting to the park by foot or bike can also offer a healthier choice integrated with the park destination and its amenities. In the NRPA publication *Safe Routes to Parks*, the elements of walkable, healthy community design are outlined as convenience, comfort, access and design, safety and the park itself. Sidewalks, bikeways and trails should provide an integrated alternative transportation system for residents to access parks and other destinations within their community. As further emphasis for the importance of a walkable community to promote public health, the Surgeon General has issued a *Call to Action* to “step it up” and promote more walking and build a more walkable world. A more connected network of trails, sidewalks, and bike lanes with links to public transit also provides economic values.



Trails for Aging Populations

Today’s active seniors are looking at retirement age differently, as many are retooling for a new career, finding ways to engage with their community and focusing on their health and fitness. It will be critical for Edmonds’ park and recreation system to take a comprehensive approach to the City’s aging population needs. Accessibility and barrier-free parking and paths, walkability and connectivity will be paramount to future planning. Providing programming for today’s older adults includes not only active and passive recreation, but also the type of equipment needed to engage in certain activities. Trails provide the infrastructure for the most popular and frequent outdoor recreation activity of older adults: walking.



Trails for Economic Health

In the 2009 report, *Walking the Walk: How Walkability Raises Housing Values in US Cities* by Joe Cortright for CEOs for Cities, research cited the connection between home value and walkability. Higher WalkScore measurements where more typical consumer destination were within walking distance were directly associated with higher home values. Homes located in more walkable neighborhoods command a price premium over otherwise similar homes in less walkable areas. The National Association of Realtors reports in their *On Common Ground* publication with numerous articles citing the preference of walkable, mixed-use neighborhoods and the role of walkability in creating healthier communities. These preferences translate into higher housing values. Even the National Association of Homebuilders (March 2014 publication: “Walkability, why we care and you should too”) have recognized that walkability is desired by consumers, creates lower development costs and allows flexibility in design. As part of the system of walkability and bike-ability, recreational trails are real estate assets that enhance community connections and contribute to economic health.

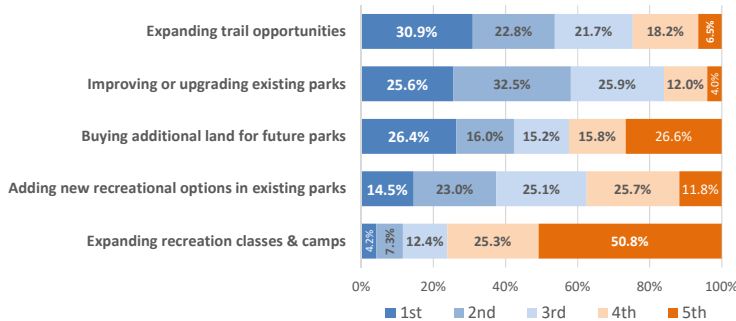
LOCAL INSIGHTS

As noted in previous chapters, feedback from the community survey and two virtual public meetings (see Appendices B, C & D) provided a wealth of local insights on current usage and interests in various park and recreation amenities.

Respondents to the community survey indicated that one of the top reason for visiting Edmonds parks and open space is walking or running (78%). Respondents indicated that the highest unmet park and recreation facility need is for walking and pedestrian trails. In the survey, respondents also noted a strong need for additional pedestrian and bike trails in parks (84%).

Respondents were asked to rank a list of potential recreation, park and open space investments. Respondents to both the mail and online survey ranked the same items as their top three priorities: expanding trail opportunities, improving or upgrading existing parks, and buying additional land for future parks. Respondents to the mail survey identified expanding trail opportunities as the top priority.

Figure 27. Community Need for Additional Park and Recreation Amenities



During the second virtual public meeting, a number of comments were offered about the importance of trails, creating stronger linkages to the Interurban Trail, accommodating pedestrian routes between neighborhoods and improving certain parks, such as Maplewood Hill Park, for walking and biking trails.

TRAIL CLASSIFICATIONS

Defining and reinforcing a recreational trail classification establishes a framework for trail design and prioritizes proposed trail enhancements and development. The recreational trail classification system is based on a tiered network and includes four trail categories:

- Shared-Use Paved Trails
- Neighborhood Links
- Park Trails
- Water Trails

While some sections of trail will accommodate higher volumes of traffic and provide longer connections, other sections may rely on the local street network and be designed to link local or neighborhood destinations. Planning for differing trail types is essential as it encourages appropriate usage and discourages informal trail creation that could destroy vegetation and cause erosion.

Shared-Use Paved Trails

Shared-use paved trails serve as a vital circulation connection that links adjacent developments, neighborhoods, parks, schools, and other destinations. This trail type is paved with either asphalt or concrete and should be a minimum of 10' wide with one-foot shoulders on each side of the trail. Typical trail users include pedestrians, bicyclists and people with other wheeled devices (e.g., scooters). Bicyclists also use these routes for commuting purposes. The Interurban Trail is an example of a shared-use paved trail.

Neighborhood Links

Neighborhood linkage trails are multi-use pedestrian walking, hiking and biking connections that link neighborhoods with each other and with open spaces, parks, schools and other destinations. They provide the functional network of the trail system and consist of right-of-way and facilities designed for use by a variety of non-motorized users. They consist of both soft-surface and hard-surface materials, vary in width and may include bike lanes and sidewalks.

Park Trails

Several City parks contain pathways, sidewalks and hiking trails that provide access and circulation within and through the park. Yost Memorial Park is a well-known site with internal park trails.

Water Trails

Water trails are recreational water routes for non-motorized boats and watercraft. The trailhead locations are parks or street ends with dock or beach facilities to enable non-motorized crafts to launch and land.

The Cascadia Marine water trail on Puget Sound is a National Recreation Trail and designated one of only 16 National Millennium Trails by the White House. Suitable for day or multi-day trips, the Cascadia Marine Trail (CMT) is supported by 66 campsites and 160 day-use sites. Meadowdale Beach Park, a Snohomish County park, is one of the few Cascadia Marine Trail sites on the east shore of central Puget Sound and is the nearest to Edmonds. Camping on the beach at this park may be permitted for campers entering and exiting the park under wind or human powered watercraft. See: <https://www.wvta.org/water-trails/cascadia-marine-trail/>



TRAIL SYSTEM INVENTORY

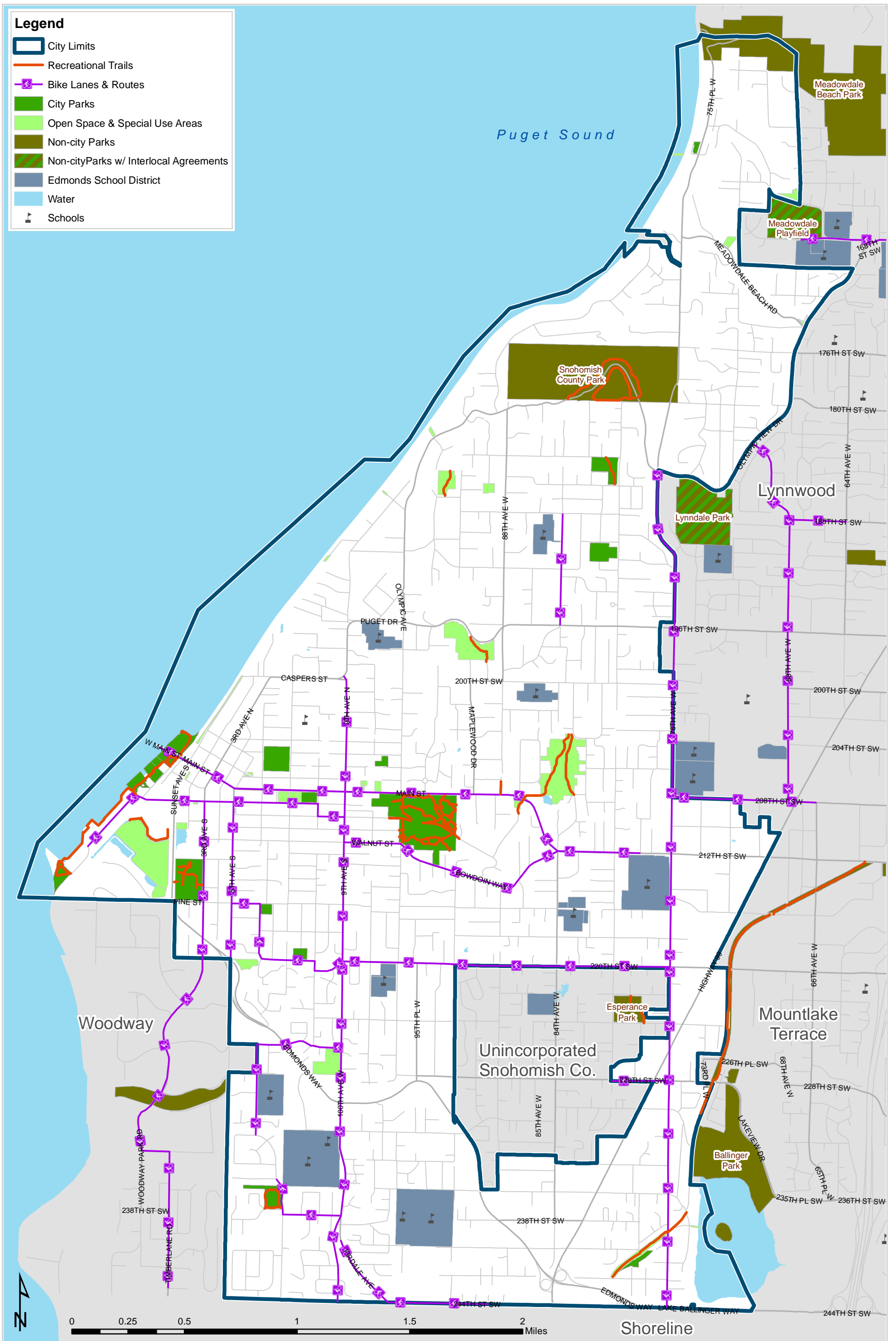
Within the City of Edmonds, a growing collection of shared-use, neighborhood and park trails provides 8.6 miles of trail facilities that offer many opportunities for connecting with nature, enjoying vistas and accommodating health and wellness, see Map 13 on the following page. However, gaps in the trail network limit the access and enjoyment of trail use in Edmonds, and additional connections should be planned to connect destinations and grow the system.

Figure 28. Existing Recreational Trails within Edmonds

Trail Location	Length (ft)	Length (mi.)
88th Street Connection	288.3	0.1
City Park	1,903.0	0.4
Esperance Park (County)	869.6	0.2
H.O. Hutt Park	635.0	0.1
Hickman Park	1,472.5	0.3
Interurban Trail	10,087.8	1.9
Maplewood Hill Park	797.2	0.2
Waterfront Walkway	7,100.0	1.3
Pine Ridge Park	3,992.8	0.8
Seaview Park	680.5	0.1
Southwest County Park (County)	5,611.2	1.1
Yost Memorial Park	11,920.3	2.3
Total Length	45,358.3	8.6

TRAIL NETWORK WALKSHEDS

As a supplement to the Comprehensive Transportation Plan (updated in 2015), a gap analysis was conducted during the PROS Plan development to examine and assess the distribution of existing recreational paths and trails. As with the parkland analysis, travel distances were calculated along the road network starting from each existing trail segment's known access points. Trails within parks were also examined. Service areas were calculated with ¼-mile and ½-mile walksheds for major trails or parks (e.g., Interurban Trail, Yost Memorial Park) and ¼-mile walksheds for the remainder. Map 14 illustrates the citywide distribution of recreational trails and the relative access to these corridors within reasonable travel walksheds. Approximately 18% of the City has close-in access to recreational trails, including park trails and the Interurban Trail.



Map 13: Existing Recreational Trails & Bike Routes

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Similar to transportation planning, recreational trail planning should be geared toward connectivity, rather than mileage. Only considering a mileage standard for paths within the Edmonds park system will result in an isolated and inadequate assessment of community needs with little consideration for better trail connectivity. This Plan recommends a connectivity goal that re-states and reinforces the desire to improve overall connections across the City and enhance off-street linkages between parks and major destinations, as feasible. Expanding trail connections was identified as a top priority through the community engagement process and should also include connections to public transit when possible.

TRAIL SYSTEM DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

Trail Development Limitations

Opportunities to develop additional trails and connections may be limited due to the built-out nature of Edmonds. One underlying tenet of the recreational trail system is to enable the placement of trails within or close to natural features to provide access to the City's unique landscapes and accommodate outdoor recreational access to creeks, hillsides, and waterfront. The future planning and design of trail routes through natural areas should be based on sensitive and low-impact design solutions that offer controlled access to protect the resource while providing for a positive experience for all modes of trail user. The determination of future trail alignments should prioritize natural resource and natural hazards planning and protections, in part to meet local land use policies and Washington State requirements.

Alignment

The future growth of the trail network will need to prioritize trail alignments and locations that are optimal from multiple perspectives: trail user, trail experience and trail connectivity. Cost, regulatory and site suitability factors should also be incorporated. New trail alignments should attempt to accommodate different trail use types (i.e., commuter vs. recreational/destination oriented) and utilize interim solutions such as widening sidewalks, utilizing utility corridors and expanding safe bike lanes and routes as opportunities

for trail improvements. Accommodating trail alignments for local, neighborhood link trails as connections to regional, shared-used trails or major park trails is essential for providing access and reducing the sole reliance on trailheads for providing access to the trail network.

Access & Trailheads

Safe, convenient entryways to the trail network expand access for users and are a necessary component of a robust and successful system. A trailhead typically includes parking, kiosks and signage and may consist of site furnishings such as trash receptacles, benches, restrooms, drinking fountains and bike racks. Trailheads may be within public parks and open space or provided via interagency agreements with partner organizations (e.g., county, school district, public transit, etc.) to increase use and reduce unnecessary duplication of support facilities. Specific trailhead design and layout should be created as part of planning and design development for individual projects and consider the intended user groups and unique site conditions.

In some areas, parking on the shoulders is a problem that hinders the utility of the shoulders for pedestrian and bicycle use, while also creating environmental and neighborhood impacts. In areas where parking on the road shoulder is persistent for trail access, the City should explore options for formalizing trailhead parking improvements to accommodate typical demand and localize and manage site impacts resulting from trail use parking. The City should also continue to explore first/last-mile connections so that potential park visitors can arrive using transit, reducing the need for on-site parking.

Trail Signs & Wayfinding

Coordinated signage plays an important role in facilitating a successful trail system. A comprehensive and consistent signage system is a crucial component of the trail system. It is necessary to inform, orient and educate users about the trail system itself, as well as appropriate trail etiquette. Such a system of signs should include trail identification information, orientation markers, safety and regulatory messages and a unifying design identity for branding. The following signage types should be considered throughout the system:

- Directional and regulatory signage
- Trail user etiquette and hierarchy signage
- Route identification and wayfinding signage
- Mileage markers or periodic information regarding distance to areas of interest
- Warning signs to caution users of upcoming trail transitions or potential conflicts with motor vehicles
- Interpretive information regarding ecological, historical and cultural features found along and in proximity to the trail
- QR codes to provide links to additional information

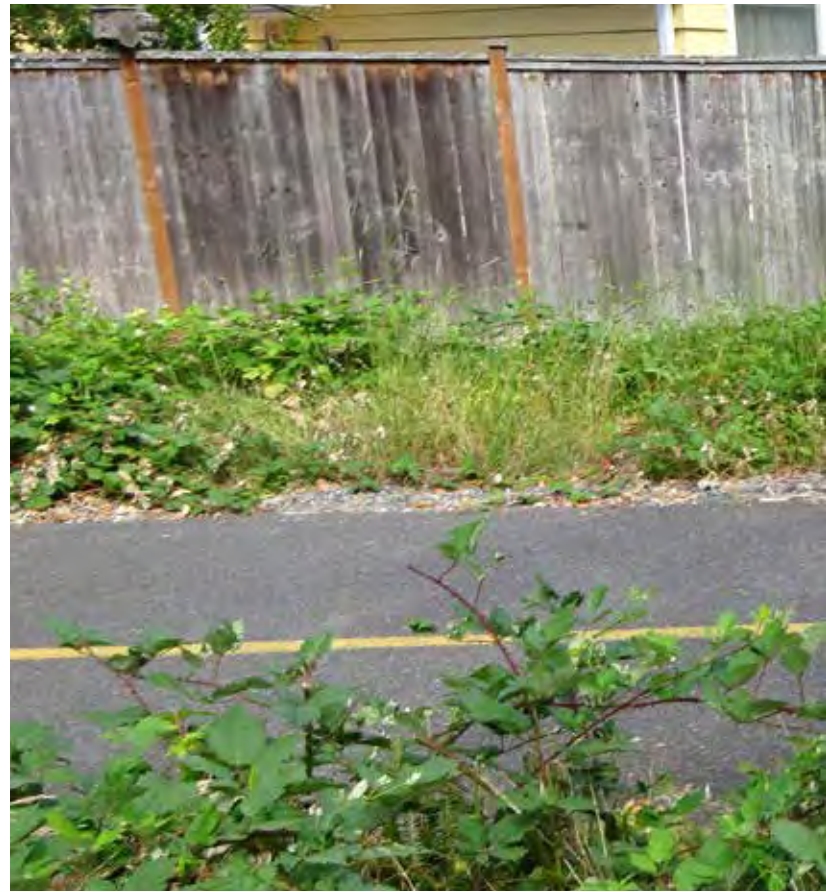
The installation of kiosks at trailheads is a best practice that should continue. Kiosks provide important trail information, while reinforcing the visual brand of the City of Edmonds.

Ongoing Maintenance

Following trail construction, ongoing trail monitoring and maintenance will keep the trails functioning as designed, while protecting capital investments in the network. Future trail renovation projects should be included in the Capital Improvement Plans as a means to identify and secure appropriate resources for needed enhancement.

TRAIL AND PATHWAY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Continue to implement the pedestrian and bikeway plan components of the Comprehensive Transportation Plan
- Continue to improve trail and trailhead signage and wayfinding and explore ways to indicate connections to bus and rail transit.
- Support or provide bicycle skills development and education classes for youth in partnership with the school district and local community-based organizations.
- Improve trailhead areas and parking at Maplewood Hill Park, and explore options to install additional loops at that site.
- Conduct repairs and trail maintenance, as necessary.







CHAPTER 8

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

structures, that have historical or archaeological significance.” RCW 36.70A.020(13)

- “Carry-out the goals of the Shoreline Management Act with regards to shorelines and critical areas.” RCW 36.70A.020(14)

Also, the Edmonds Comprehensive Plan, the previous PROS Plan and other city planning policies provide a framework for this PROS Plan.

A goal is a general statement that describes the overarching direction for the parks and recreation system. Objectives are more specific and describe an outcome or a means to achieve the stated goals. Key project recommendations are specific actions intended to implement and achieve the goals and objectives and are contained in the needs assessment and capital planning chapters of the PROS Plan.

The goals and objectives described in this chapter define the recreation and park services that Edmonds aims to provide. These goals and objectives were derived from input received throughout the planning process, from city staff, the Planning Board and community members.

The Growth Management Act (GMA) adopted by the Washington State Legislature in 1990 provided a foundation for land use planning in selected cities and counties throughout the state, including Snohomish County and the City of Edmonds. It identifies 14 planning goals to guide the development

of comprehensive plans and development regulations. Four of these goals directly affect the development and implementation of this plan.

- “Encourage the retention of open space and development of recreational opportunities, conserve fish and wildlife habitat, increase access to natural resource lands and water, and develop parks.” RCW 36.70A.020(9)
- “Protect the environment and enhance the state’s high quality of life, including air and water quality, and the availability of water.” RCW 36.70A.020(10)
- “Identify and encourage the preservation of lands, sites, and



ENGAGEMENT

Goal 1: Encourage and facilitate meaningful public involvement in park and recreation planning.

Objectives:

- 1.1 Involve residents and stakeholders in park and recreation facility planning, design and recreation program development to solicit community input, facilitate project understanding and build public support.
- 1.2 Advance diversity, equity, inclusion in, and access to the City's system of parks, natural areas and programs through continued outreach and communications.
- 1.3 Pursue the formation of a City Council appointed Parks and Recreation Board as a forum for public discussion of ongoing park and recreation issues and policies.
- 1.4 Encourage local business, non-profits and community partners involvement in providing and supporting cultural, recreational and athletic opportunities for all ages and abilities.



DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION

Goal 2: Decrease barriers and provide increased opportunities for participation and representative cultural, heritage and art programs, events representing the diversity of Edmonds demographics.

Objectives:

- 2.1 Address accessibility barriers (socio-economic, language, physical, geographic, transportation) to parks and programs and allocate resources to address known gaps.
- 2.2 Explore and pursue opportunities for alternative outreach and education to diverse groups, such as group walks and day hikes with minority communities, promotional materials through schools and faith groups, and youth mentorship or ambassador programs.
- 2.3 Identify appropriate locations within parks and public spaces for the installation of public art, interpretive signs or cultural displays, and collaborate with diverse groups to ensure incorporation of any art, history, and culture in parks and public spaces is done with a diversity, equity and inclusion lens.
- 2.4 Support DEI training opportunities for staff.
- 2.5 Develop diversity, equity and inclusion metrics for park and facility capital planning and development, recreation and cultural programs, and department operations.
- 2.6 Increase city-wide geographic distribution of recreation and cultural programs by the addition of new or relocation of existing programs into available locations of the City with few or no city programs.



PARKS, TRAILS & OPEN SPACE

Goal 3: Provide an interconnected park system that offers a wide variety of year-round recreation opportunities and experiences which support and enhance Edmonds' cultural identity and the natural environment.

Objectives:

- 3.1 Acquire or secure parkland identified within this Plan to provide geographically accessible and equitable distribution of community and neighborhood parks and open space.
- 3.2 Provide a distributed park and open space system, such that all residents live within a ½-mile access of a park, trail or open space.
- 3.3 Prioritize facility development based on demonstrated demand, population served, regional appeal, fiscal opportunity and revenue-generating potential.
- 3.4 Pursue options to expand trails and coordinate with Public Works and Development Services to increase connectivity for pedestrians and bicyclists throughout Edmonds, especially to parks, schools, and shopping or business areas.
- 3.5 Expand the system of off-street recreational trails by utilizing parks, linear open spaces, utility corridors and sensitive areas, as appropriate.
- 3.6 Provide trailhead accommodations, as appropriate, to include parking, wayfinding signage, benches, restrooms and other amenities.
- 3.7 Develop City-owned or maintained park and open space sites based on master plans, management plans or other adopted strategies to ensure parks reflect local needs, community input, recreational, conservation and environmental goals and available financial resources.
- 3.8 Design, upgrade and maintain parks and facilities to offer universal accessibility for residents of all physical capabilities, skill levels and age, as appropriate, in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Standards for Accessible Design.
- 3.9 Develop a wider variety of opportunities for exercise and enjoyment to expand the use of the park system throughout the year, including all-weather activities and spaces to support emerging recreation interests.
- 3.10 Plan for sport fields, courts and specialized recreational facilities (e.g., pump track, off-leash dog areas, etc.) with consideration of local needs, partner support/capacity, recreational trends and availability of similar facilities within the City and region.
- 3.11 Coordinate for and implement additional facility partnerships and/or joint-use operating agreements with the Edmonds School District, Snohomish County and neighboring jurisdictions.



WATERFRONT USE & ACCESS

Goal 4: Preserve and pursue opportunities to expand public access and enjoyment of Edmonds' waterfront.

Objectives:

- 4.1 Develop and maintain the Edmonds shoreline as a unique regional recreational, educational and environmental resource that is key to community identity.
- 4.2 Increase connections and public access, including visual access, to freshwater and marine waterfront areas, including but not limited to the shorelines, tidelands, beaches, lakes, creeks and overlooks.
- 4.3 Whenever possible and as funding allows, acquire additional waterfront property to enhance the existing public access.
- 4.4 Improve existing publicly-owned water access sites to address safety and accessibility issues.
- 4.5 Improve and upgrade developed and undeveloped street ends or rights-of-way, where appropriate, to provide physical or visual access to waterfronts.
- 4.6 Pursue and maintain community partnerships that support waterfront access, protection and usage.



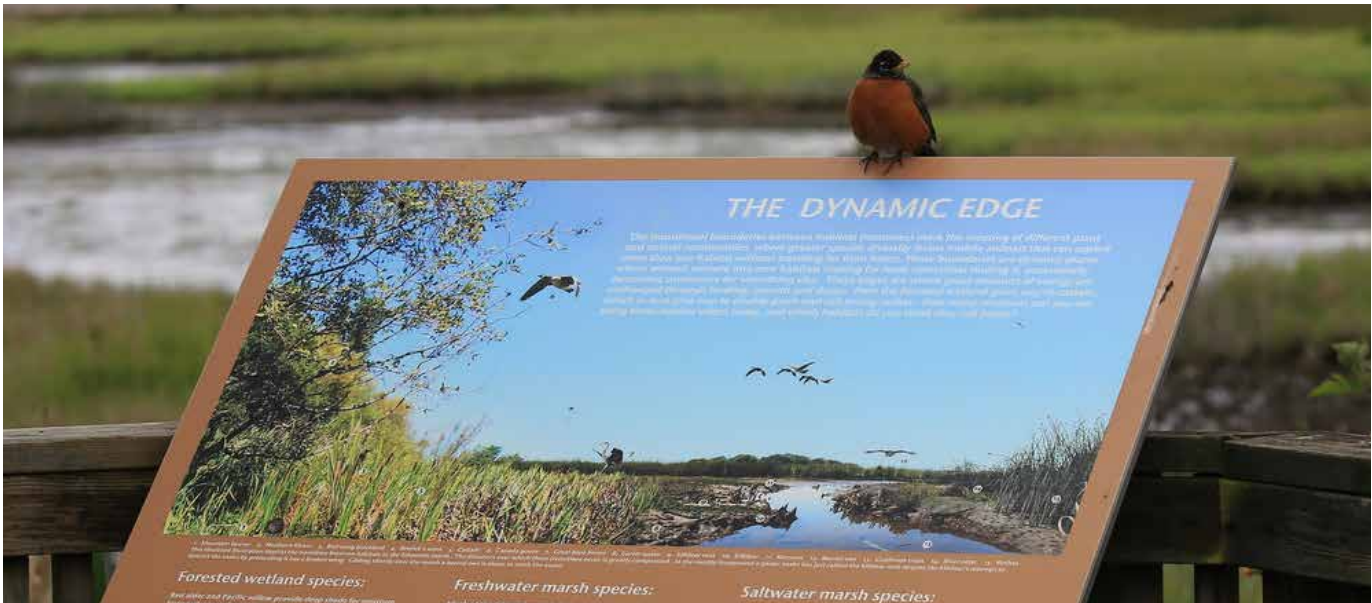
NATURAL RESOURCE & HABITAT CONSERVATION

Photo credit:
Chris Walton

Goal 5: Conserve and provide access to natural resource lands for habitat conservation, recreation, and environmental education.

Objectives:

- 5.1 Preserve and protect areas with critical habitat or unique natural features, including but not limited to wetlands, stream corridors, tidelands, estuaries, beaches, forests and the Underwater Park.
- 5.2 Work cooperatively with property owners and developers to preserve habitat and native vegetation, especially when these provide visual or physical linkages to publicly-owned natural resource lands.
- 5.3 Pursue opportunities to provide appropriate public access (e.g. trails, viewpoints and wildlife viewing areas) within open spaces to support passive recreation and environmental education.
- 5.4 Provide environmental educational opportunities in natural areas with interpretive signage, nature trails and related experiences.
- 5.5 Cooperate with the County, neighboring jurisdictions and other organizations to identify and conserve open space of mutual benefit, and pursue funding through grants and the Snohomish County Conservation Futures program.



CLIMATE CHANGE, ADAPTATION & RESILIENCY

Goal 6: Adapt to climate change and increase local park system resiliency by improving environmental conditions, stewardship and sustainability in parks, trails, open spaces and recreation facilities within planning, development, maintenance, and operations.

Objectives:

- 6.1 Support the implementation of other applicable City plans that can be achieved through park and open space management and operations, such as the Urban Forest Management Plan, Climate Action Plan, Stormwater Plan and Salmon Safe Certification.
- 6.2 Support the development of sustainability metrics related to climate change in coordination with the Climate Action Plan, which may include measurable data, such as carbon sequestration value, water conserved, and canopy coverage.
- 6.3 Incorporate sustainability and low impact development into design, development and maintenance of the park system and be a leader in sustainable building practices. Maintain equipment in good working order, purchase green equipment when feasible (e.g., battery-powered or low-emissions), replace existing lighting with high-efficiency fixtures, and keep systems (irrigation, lighting, HVAC, etc.) updated and fully functional for maximum performance.
- 6.4 Utilize, as appropriate, native and lower resource requiring vegetation for landscaping in parks and city owned properties to minimize maintenance requirements, conserve water, reduce the need for fertilizer, provide native habitat for wildlife, and control invasive vegetation through manual removal and other environmentally responsible means. Seek opportunities for community education on invasive species and their safe removal to help reduce their spread in Edmonds.
- 6.5 Identify, prioritize and, when feasible, repair and/or restore environmental degradation within parks and open spaces including site-specific restorations plans.
- 6.6 Develop tree planting guidelines and protocols to determine planting locations and species selection to foster resilient plant communities that can recover from disturbances and adapt to climate change and its impacts, such as forest fire and drought.
- 6.7 Consider and adapt for future sea level rise within planning, development and operation in waterfront parks and facilities.
- 6.8 Continue to implement and maintain an Integrated Pest Management Program that maximizes ecological benefits while minimizing environmental, social, and economic impacts.



RECREATION PROGRAMS & FACILITIES

Goal 7: Provide a varied and inclusive suite of recreation opportunities and experiences to promote health and wellness, year-round activity and social engagement.

Objectives:

- 7.1 Enhance the diversity of recreation programs offered, considering programs that are in high demand, serve a wide range of users and utilize the City's unique indoor and outdoor assets.
- 7.2 Form and maintain partnerships with other public, non-profit and private recreation providers to deliver recreation and cultural services and secure access to existing facilities for community recreation.
- 7.3 Strategically expand recreation programs that complement services of other providers as facilities, staffing levels and partner opportunities allow.
- 7.4 Examine options to replace Yost Pool, along with the financing and funding requirements for capital and operations.
- 7.5 Maintain and enhance program scholarships and other mechanisms to support recreation access for low-income residents.
- 7.6 Periodically review and update the fee policy for programs, indoor facility uses and rental rates that supports operational requirements.
- 7.7 Establish cost recovery goals for recreation programs and facilities.
- 7.8 Conduct periodic evaluations of program offerings in terms of persons served, equitable geographic distribution and access to programs and facilities, customer satisfaction, cost/subsidy, cost recovery, local and regional recreation trends, and availability of similar programs via other providers.



CULTURAL SERVICES

Goal 8: Provide arts and cultural opportunities and experiences to promote an engaged and vibrant community.

Objectives:

- 8.1 Utilize the Edmonds Arts Commission as the forum for public discussion of arts and culture issues and implementation of Community Cultural Plan goals.
- 8.2 Update the Community Cultural Plan approximately every 6-7 years to ensure that the City and community are working together to strengthen local arts and culture.
- 8.3 Work with the community and local organizations to foster a greater variety of cultural, heritage and arts events that represent the diversity of culture in Edmonds.
- 8.4 Continue to offer, facilitate and promote community events, such as movies, concerts, festivals and markets, to provide opportunities for social engagement and bring families and neighbors together.
- 8.5 Foster partnerships and collaborations to incubate new cultural programs, activities and offerings.
- 8.6 Support and advocate for Edmonds' public art, artistic resources, its unique cultural events, and its attraction as a cultural destination—a key element of economic development.



PARK OPERATIONS & ADMINISTRATION

Goal 9: Maintain and operate a modern, efficient park system that provides a high level of user comfort, safety and aesthetic quality, and protects capital investments.

Objectives:

- 9.1 Maintain parks, recreation and open space facilities according to best practice in a manner that keeps them in safe and attractive condition and promotes community pride.
- 9.2 Develop, maintain and update asset management plans for major assets to support improved stewardship, reduce costs, and increase maintenance and replacement efficiency.
- 9.3 Allocate adequate funding for maintenance, staffing and asset preservation.
- 9.4 Pursue alternative funding options and dedicated revenues, such as private donations, sponsorships, partnerships, and grants, along with support through partnerships with service organizations, volunteer groups, businesses and other agencies.
- 9.5 Clarify and formalize relationships with community partners, such as Underwater Dive Park Stewards. Promote and support volunteerism from a variety of individuals, service clubs, local watershed councils, steward groups, faith organizations, and businesses to enhance community ownership and stewardship of parks, trails and open space.
- 9.6 Promote professional development opportunities that strengthen the core skills and commitment from staff, Board members and key volunteers, to include trainings, materials and/or affiliation with relevant national and regional associations.
- 9.7 Update City codes related to park regulations and usage to keep parks, trails, waterfronts and open space safe, protect flora and fauna, and communicate user expectations.
- 9.8 Periodically review and update the Park Impact Fee rates and methodology and utilize impact fees to accommodate growth through the expansion of the recreation system.
- 9.9 Periodically update the capital facilities plan to address facility improvement needs.
- 9.10 Update the Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan periodically and approximately every six years to ensure facilities and services meet current and future community needs and maintain eligibility for State grants.

CAPITAL PLANNING & IMPLEMENTATION

The preceding chapters provided an overview of the Edmonds park and recreation system and established goals and objectives to guide future planning, development and operations. Expanding upon the goals and objectives, this chapter summarizes project actions, includes the proposed six-year capital project plan, and provides recommendations on other strategies to successfully implement the plan.

PROJECT RECOMMENDATIONS / ACTION INITIATIVES

Recommendation #1: Acquisitions to Fill Park System Gaps

The acquisition of additional neighborhood parks is necessary to address existing gaps in park services and address inequities in parkland distribution.

1. Acquire property for neighborhood parks in underserved areas, such as the south Edmonds area and the SR 99 corridor.
2. Expand partnerships and agreements with the Edmonds School District, Snohomish County, and other nearby jurisdictions (cities of Lynnwood, Mountlake Terrace, Woodway, and Shoreline) to improve public access and opportunities for outdoor recreation.
3. Explore options for acquiring property to create a satellite community center in the Lake Ballinger or South Edmonds area.

I think the top priority is for acquisition especially in SE Edmonds and the marsh.

- Virtual Public Meeting Participant

Complete the "missing link" in front of the Ebttide!

- Virtual Public Meeting Participant

Invest in areas outside of the "bowl".

- Virtual Public Meeting Participant

More park benches in a covered area for the occasional rain shower.

- Virtual Public Meeting Participant



Parkland Acquisitions

Pursue acquisitions to fill known parkland gaps to improve local access and distribution.



Park Development & Upgrades

Playground upgrades and other park enhancements will improve year-round recreation opportunities.



Yost Pool Replacement

Plan for and implement the replacement of the pool at Yost Memorial Park.



ADA Enhancements

Reduce barriers to access for recreation amenities and improve accommodations for users of all abilities.



Trail Connections

Pursue a coordinate approach with the Public Works Department to align recreational trail planning with pedestrian and bikeway improvements.



Signage & Wayfinding

Improve the consistency of signage and wayfinding.

Recommendation #2: Open Space & Conservation Acquisitions

The City should continue to seek options to expand its open space holdings and pursue acquisitions that adjoin city properties or conserve unique natural areas, such as wetlands, forested areas and vistas.

1. Pursue opportunities to acquire property to conserve natural areas in the Perrinville Creek, Shell Creek, Shellabarger Creek and Lake Ballinger watersheds.
2. Expand the Edmonds Marsh/Estuary to include the Unocal property. Develop funding strategy for purchase of the Unocal property or negotiate with the State of Washington to have the property become part of the Edmonds Marsh/Estuary.
3. Explore the feasibility and potential costs of acquiring Southwest County Park from Snohomish County.

Recommendation #3: Park Development & Enhancements

A number of parks have aging infrastructure that warrants significant repairs such as sports court resurfacing or complete replacements.

1. Maintain, renovate, or replace aging or damaged infrastructure in existing City properties to ensure public accessibility, use and safety.
2. Complete redevelopment of Civic Center Playfield, as scheduled, by late 2022 with all the features in master plan such as youth athletic field and lighting, permanent restrooms, improved skate park, petanque court grove, pollinator meadow, multi-sports court, tennis court, perimeter walking path, fully inclusive playground, picnic areas and public art.
3. Prioritize improvements at Mathay Ballinger Park and upgrade, enhance or replace park amenities, specifically the play amenities.
4. Replace the playgrounds at Maplewood Hill Park, Sierra Park and Yost Memorial Park.
5. Add amenities to existing parks, such as picnic shelters to Mathay Ballinger Park, Elm Street Park and Pine Street Park and paved pathways connections in Mathay Ballinger Park and Pine Street Park.
6. Explore options for access to Lake Ballinger with the City of Mountlake Terrace to include possible joint development and consideration of a fishing pier.

7. Revise and update maintenance plans to include enhancement and propagation of native plants when appropriate and feasible and removal of invasive plant species. Include specific provisions to protect and enhance critical areas and wildlife.
8. Develop and implement a tree and vegetation planting strategy for City parks and open spaces consistent with the Urban Forest Management Plan to increase and improve the tree canopy.
9. Develop and maintain a list of potential appropriate projects for volunteers and community groups.
10. Develop and implement stream management plans to restore degraded stream habitat in developed parks such as Shell Creek at Yost Park.
11. Develop a Master Plan encompassing the city-owned Edmonds Marsh and Marina Beach Park, and the Unocal property once acquired.

Recommendation #4: Yost Pool Replacement

While continuing to manage the existing infrastructure to keep Yost Pool open to the community, the City should refine their options for replacement of the facility.

1. Re-assess the guidance of the 2009 Aquatic Feasibility Study and the public feedback gathered during the 2022 PROS Plan to outline potential replacement or renovation options.
2. Conduct public meetings in Yost Park to explore cost-effective options for replacing or renovating Yost Pool.

Recommendation #5: Trail Connections

Trail connections, including sidewalk and bike lanes improvements, are needed to help link destinations across the community.

1. Pursue opportunities to acquire additional lands, easements and/or rights-of-way to continue the Interurban Trail, including more off-road segments.
2. Repair and improve or extend trails and boardwalks to allow improved public access to natural areas for nature/wildlife viewing, hiking, and outdoor experience.
3. Coordinate with the Comprehensive Transportation Plan (and subsequent updates), as well as coordination with local subdivision and site development projects.

Recommendation #6: ADA, Accessibility & Other User Convenience Enhancements

The City should make improvements to existing parks as needed to ensure proper maintenance, usability and quality of park features and grounds to remove barriers and improve universal access.

1. Complete an ADA Transition Plan for park and recreation facilities to identify and strategize ADA compliance improvements.
2. Implement upgrades and improvements to park facilities to conform with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) and ensure universal accessibility to include required parking, providing ramped entrances and site furnishings.
3. Replace or renovate restrooms at Olympic Beach, Seaview Park and Brackett's Landing North.
4. Install permanent restrooms at Marina Beach Park and Mathay Ballinger Park.
5. Develop and provide consistent graphics and citywide signage to improve communication on access, usability and "branding" of the city's park and open space system.

NON-CAPITAL PROJECT RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation #7: Municipal Code Update

The Edmonds municipal code includes definitions of certain park classifications, and these definitions were last updated in 2001.

1. Amend the municipal code to reflect the current parkland classifications, as appropriate, to relate to land use and development code regulations and requirements. Update the code sections related to park usage.

Recommendation #8: Engagement & Outreach

1. Continue support for community and special events and explore ideas for events that draw from the diversity of the community.
2. Develop intergenerational programs or ethnic-based programs that are appropriate for the cultural orientation of the area.
3. Develop and continue partnerships with and support of environmental and community groups.



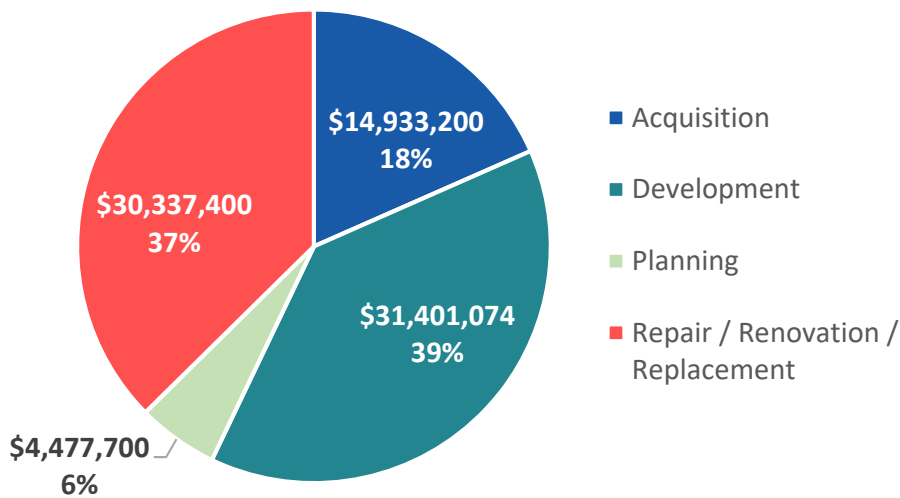
Waterfront redevelopment completed

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PLAN

The Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) puts into chronological order the project intent and strategic actions to guide the implementation of this Plan. It assigns proposed time frames and estimated costs for specific projects. The CIP provides brief project descriptions for those projects to assist staff in preparing future capital budget requests.

The following Capital Improvements Plan identifies the park, trail and facility projects considered for the next six years or more. The majority of these projects entail the maintenance, acquisition and development of parks, recreational amenities and trails. The following table summarizes the aggregate capital estimates by park types for the next six years.

Figure 29. Capital Improvements Plan Expenditures Summary



Edmonds PROS 2022 6-Year Capital Facilities Program

Project #	Site	Project Description	2022 Estimate	Costs inflated at 3% per year						Total Costs
				2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	
D 3	City Park	Pedestrian safety walkway	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000						\$ 30,000
D 8	Cemetery	Columbarium Expansion - Phase II	\$ 150,000			\$ 159,100				\$ 159,100
D 4	Civic Center Playfields	Renovation project continuation (2021 start)	\$ 9,871,574	\$ 9,871,574						\$ 9,871,574
A 1	Edmonds Marsh/Estuary Project	Acquisition	\$ 8,000,000				\$ 8,741,800			\$ 8,741,800
P 4		Master Plan	\$ 250,000				\$ 273,200			\$ 273,200
D 9		Master Plan Implementation	\$ 5,000,000				\$ 5,627,500			\$ 5,627,500
D 1		Restoration	TBD							\$ -
D 16	Elm Street Park	Nature Playground	\$ 75,000					\$ 84,400		\$ 84,400
D 17		Small Shelter w/ picnic tables	\$ 75,000					\$ 84,400		\$ 84,400
R 14		Habitat restoration	\$ 50,000					\$ 56,300		\$ 56,300
R 1	Greenhouses	Replacement	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000						\$ 100,000
A 5	Interurban Trail	Extension/acquisition	\$ 750,000						\$ 869,500	\$ 869,500
R 2	Johnson Property	Demolition and securing site	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000						\$ 200,000
P 5		Master Plan	\$ 75,000				\$ 82,000			\$ 82,000
R 3	Meadowdale Playfields	Renovations (City of Lynnwood ILA)	\$ 1,200,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 42,500	\$ 65,000	\$ 1,000,000			\$ 1,307,500
R 12	Maplewood Hill Park	Playground replacement	\$ 125,000				\$ 144,900			\$ 144,900
D 5	Mathay Ballinger Park	Paved loop pathway	\$ 50,000		\$ 53,000					\$ 53,000
D 6		Restrooms	\$ 350,000		\$ 371,300					\$ 371,300
D 7		Small Shelter w/ picnic tables	\$ 75,000		\$ 79,600					\$ 79,600
A 2	Neighborhood park - SE1	South Edmonds target area acquisition-1	\$ 1,500,000		\$ 1,545,000					\$ 1,545,000
P 2		South Edmonds NH park master plan-1	\$ 75,000			\$ 79,600				\$ 79,600
D 13		South Edmonds NH park development-1	\$ 750,000				\$ 819,500			\$ 819,500
A 3	Neighborhood park - SR99	SR 99 target area acquisition	\$ 1,500,000			\$ 1,591,400				\$ 1,591,400
P 6		SR 99 target area NH park master plan	\$ 75,000				\$ 82,000			\$ 82,000
D 15		SR 99 target area NH park development	\$ 750,000					\$ 844,100		\$ 844,100
A 4	Neighborhood park - SE2	South Edmonds target area acquisition-2	\$ 2,000,000				\$ 2,185,500			\$ 2,185,500
P 7		South Edmonds NH park master plan-2	\$ 75,000					\$ 84,400		\$ 84,400
D 18		South Edmonds NH park development-2	\$ 750,000						\$ 869,500	\$ 869,500
R 7	Olympic Beach Park	Restroom upgrade	\$ 50,000			\$ 53,000				\$ 53,000
D 10	Pine Street Park	Small Shelter w/ picnic tables	\$ 75,000			\$ 79,600				\$ 79,600
D 11		Paved connecting pathway	\$ 55,000			\$ 58,300				\$ 58,300
D 12		Canopy shade trees	\$ 25,000			\$ 26,500				\$ 26,500
R 16	Seaview Park	Restroom replacement	\$ 350,000						\$ 417,900	\$ 417,900
R 8	Sierra Park	Playground replacement	\$ 175,000			\$ 185,700				\$ 185,700
P 3	Waterfront Walkway	Design completion	\$ 500,000			\$ 500,000				\$ 500,000
D 14		Construction	\$ 750,000				\$ 750,000			\$ 750,000
R 9	Yost Park	Resurface tennis courts	\$ 70,000			\$ 74,300				\$ 74,300
R 4		Trail bridge & boardwalk repairs/replacements	\$ 80,000	\$ 80,000						\$ 80,000
R 6		Playground replacement	\$ 250,000		\$ 257,500					\$ 257,500
R 5		Pool repair	\$ 175,000	\$ 175,000						\$ 175,000
R 11		Pool upgrades/renovation	\$ 500,000				\$ 546,400			\$ 546,400
R 15		Pool replacement	\$ 20,000,000						\$ 23,881,000	\$ 23,881,000
P 8	4th Avenue Cultural Corridor	Design completion	\$ 2,000,000					\$ 2,251,000		\$ 2,251,000
D 19		Construction	\$ 6,000,000						\$ 6,955,600	\$ 6,955,600
R 13	System-wide	Playground replacement / upgrade to inclusive level	\$ 175,000					\$ 197,000	\$ 202,900	\$ 399,900
R 10		Signage & wayfinding	\$ 50,000			\$ 53,000				\$ 53,000
R 17		Capital repairs		\$ 155,000	\$ 450,000	\$ 450,000	\$ 450,000	\$ 450,000	\$ 450,000	\$ 2,405,000
P 1	Parks & Facilities M & O Building	Design	\$ 1,000,000					\$ 1,125,500		\$ 1,125,500
D 2		Construction	\$ 4,000,000						\$ 4,637,100	\$ 4,637,100
Totals			\$ 70,181,574	\$ 10,811,574	\$ 2,798,900	\$ 3,375,500	\$ 20,702,800	\$ 5,177,100	\$ 38,283,500	\$ 81,149,374

Project Type

- A Acquisition
- P Master planning
- D Development - new
- R Replacement/Upgrade

NOTES:

This list identifies planning-level cost estimates and does not assume the value of volunteer or other non-City contributions. Detailed costing may be necessary for projects noted. This list is not an official budget and intended as a guiding document for City staff in the preparation of departmental budgets

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IMPLEMENTATION

A number of strategies exist to enhance and expand park and recreation service delivery for the City of Edmonds; however, clear decisions must be made in an environment of competing interests and limited resources. A strong community will is necessary to bring many of the projects listed in this Plan to life, and the Edmonds City Council has demonstrated its willingness in the past to support parks and recreation and a high quality of life.

The recommendations for park and recreation services noted in this Plan may trigger the need for funding beyond current allocations and for additional staffing, operations and maintenance responsibilities. Given that the operating and capital budget of the Parks, Recreation, Cultural Arts and Human Services Department is finite, additional resources may be needed to leverage, supplement and support the implementation of proposed objectives, programs and projects. While grants and other efficiencies may help, these alone will not be enough to realize many ideas and projects noted in this Plan. The following recommendations and strategies are presented to offer near-term direction to realize these projects and as a means to continue dialogue between City leadership, local residents and partners.

Additionally, a review of potential implementation tools is included as Appendix G, which addresses local financing, federal and state grant and conservation programs, acquisition methods and others.

Enhanced Local Funding

According to the city budget, Edmonds maintains reserve debt capacity for local bonds and voter approved debt. The city's non-voted general obligation debt is below its debt capacity limit of \$85 million for non-voted debt. Community conversations regarding the potential to redevelop the pool at Yost Memorial Park and/or bundle several projects from the Capital Improvements Plan warrant a review of debt implications for the City, along with the need to conduct polling of voter support for such projects.

Park Impact Fees & Real Estate Excise Tax

Park Impact Fees (PIF) are imposed on new development to meet the increased demand for parks resulting from the new growth. PIF can only be used for parkland acquisition, planning and/or development. They cannot be used for operations and maintenance of parks and facilities. The City of Edmonds currently assesses impact fees, but the City should review its PIF ordinance and update the methodology and rate structure, as appropriate, to be best positioned to obtain future acquisition and development financing from the planned growth of the community. The City should prioritize the usage of PIF to secure new park properties and finance park or trail development consistent with the priorities within this Plan.

The City currently imposes both of the quarter percent excise taxes on real estate, known as REET 1 and REET 2. The REET must be spent on capital projects listed in the City's capital facilities plan element of their comprehensive plan. Eligible project types include planning, construction, reconstruction, repair, rehabilitation or improvement of parks, recreational facilities and trails. Acquisition of land for parks is not a permitted use of REET 2 funds. REET is used for other City projects, such as facility construction and public works projects, may be used to make loan and debt service payments on permissible projects. Through annual budgeting and with discussions with City Council, the Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services Department should continue to seek access to REET funds and use the capital facilities plan to compile compelling projects to enhance service delivery of the amenities for which the community has indicated strong support.

Conservation Futures Program

Snohomish County assesses the maximum allowable excise of \$0.0625 per \$1,000 assessed value to fund the Conservation Futures program and provides cities a venue to access these funds through a local grant process. The City should continue to submit grant applications for support in financing the acquisition of additional natural areas, such as wetlands and forest lands, to facilitate the protection of additional open space and potentially enable improved linkages to expand the trail network

Parkland Donations & Dedications

Parkland donations from private individuals or conservation organizations could occur to complement the acquisition of parklands and open space across the City. Gift deeds or bequests from philanthropic-minded landowners could allow for lands to come into City ownership upon the death of the owner or as a tax-deductible charitable donation. Also, parkland dedication by a developer could occur in exchange for Park Impact Fees or as part of a planned development where public open space is a key design for the layout and marketing of a new residential project. Any potential dedication should be vetted by the Department to ensure that such land is located in an area of need or can expand an existing City property and can be developed with site amenities appropriate for the projected use of the property.

Grants & Appropriations

Several state and federal grant programs are available on a competitive basis, including WWRP, ALEA, and LWCF. Pursuing grants is not a panacea for park system funding, since grants are both competitive and often require a significant percentage of local funds to match the request to the granting agency, which depending on the grant program can be as much as 50% of the total project budget. Edmonds should continue to leverage its local resources to the greatest extent by pursuing grants independently and in cooperation with other local partners.

Appropriations from state or federal sources, though rare, can supplement projects with partial funding. State and federal funding allocations are particularly relevant on regional transportation projects, and the likelihood for appropriations could be increased if multiple partners are collaborating on projects.

Internal Project Coordination & Collaboration

Internal coordination with the Public Works and Development Services Departments can increase the potential of discrete actions toward the implementation of the proposed trail and path network, which relies heavily on street right-of-way enhancements, and in the review of development applications with consideration toward potential parkland acquisition areas, planned path corridors and the need for easement or set-aside requests. However, to more fully

expand the extent of the park system and recreation programs, additional partnerships and collaborations should be sought.

Public-Private Partnerships

Public-private partnerships are increasingly necessary for local agencies to leverage their limited resources in providing park and recreation services to the community. Corporate sponsorships, health organization grants, conservation stewardship programs and non-profit organizations are just a few examples of partnerships where collaboration provides value to both partners. The City has a variety of existing agency and community-based organization partners and should continue to explore additional and expanded partnerships to help implement these Plan recommendations.

Volunteer & Community-based Action

Volunteers and community groups already contribute to the improvement of park and recreation services in Edmonds. Volunteer projects include park clean-up days, invasive plant removal, tree planting and community event support, among others. Edmonds should maintain and update a revolving list of potential small works or volunteer-appropriate projects for the website, while also reaching out to civic groups and the high school to encourage student projects. While supporting organized groups and community-minded individuals continues to add value to the Edmonds park and recreation system, volunteer coordination requires a substantial amount of staff time, and additional resources may be necessary to more fully take advantage of the community's willingness to support park and recreation efforts.

Other Implementation Tools

Appendix G identifies other implementation tools, such as voter-approved funding, grants and acquisition tactics that the City could utilize to further the implementation of the projects noted in the Capital Improvements Plan.

APPENDIX A

PARK SITE ASSESSMENTS





144 RAILROAD AVENUE TIDELANDS

0.9 ACRES

WATERFRONT

Amenities:

- Paved path & seawall (City owned and maintained)
- Public art (sculptures)
- Benches

Capital Improvement & Planning Opportunities:

- None noted.

Maintenance Considerations:

- Continue monitoring beach conditions.
- Keep pathway clear of private vegetation.
- Replace aging benches.



BRACKETT'S LANDING - NORTH

5.06 ACRES

WATERFRONT

Capital Improvement & Planning Opportunities:

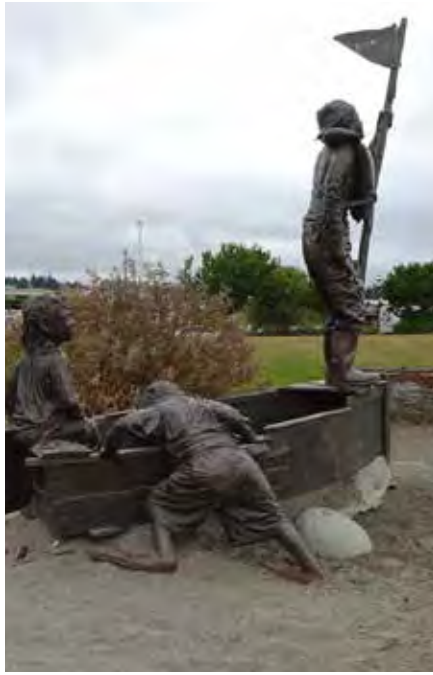
- Parking is at a premium when divers and beach 'goers' are visiting the park. Walk-in visitors also frequent the beach with the close proximity to waterfront food services. Consider a sign to direct drivers to go to other public parking lots when lot is full.
- Refurbish parking entrance gate. Upgrade restrooms.
- Replace entryway sign, anchor, and public art.

Maintenance Considerations:

- Mount leash rule sign on permanent post (currently attached to sawhorse on walkway).
- Interpretive signs fading. Plan for replacement.
- Upgrade informational Dive Park signage.

Amenities:

- Beachfront
- Benches
- Bike rack
- Drinking fountain
- Edmonds Underwater Park access
- Interpretive signs
- Public art (sculptures)
- Outdoor showers
- Parking
- Picnic tables
- Restrooms
- Trash receptacles



BRACKETT'S LANDING - SOUTH

2.22 ACRES

WATERFRONT

Capital Improvement & Planning Opportunities:

- None noted

Maintenance Considerations:

- Update benches as needed.

Amenities:

- Beachfront
- Benches
- Bike rack
- Bus stop
- Interpretive sign
- Open grass area
- Picnic tables
- Planting beds
- Public art (sculptures)
- Trash receptacles
- Viewpoint
- Walking trail



CITY PARK

13.96 ACRES

COMMUNITY

Capital Improvement & Planning Opportunities:

- Addition of pedestrian pathway access to park along northern exit drive aisle.

Maintenance Considerations:

- 3-tiered bleachers should have safety rails added (to meet International Building Code).
- Restroom signs are not ADA-compliant & should be replaced.
- Handicapped parking signs mounted too low to be ADA-compliant.
- Some pavement barriers (gaps/cracks) at restroom E.

Amenities:

- Baseball/softball field
- BBQ grills & Fire pits
- Benches
- Bike rack
- Climbing rock
- Covered picnic area with grill
- Drinking fountain
- EV charging stations
- Gazebo
- Group picnic tables
- Horseshoe pits
- Natural area w/ trail
- Open grass lawn
- Outdoor amphitheater/stage
- Picnic shelters
- Picnic tables
- Playground
- Recycling receptacles
- Restrooms (2)
- Soccer field
- Hazel Miller Spray Park at City Park
- Swings
- Trash receptacles
- Water spigot



CIVIC CENTER PLAYFIELDS

7.92 ACRES

COMMUNITY

Capital Improvement & Planning Opportunities:

- Continue master plan improvements. Site construction began August 9, 2021.

Maintenance Considerations:

- None noted.

Amenities:

- Multi-sport court (1)
- Boys & Girls Club facility
- Rubber surface track (1/3 mile)
- Drinking fountains
- Field lighting
- Petanque courts
- Picnic tables
- Shade pavilion
- Playground (inclusive)
- Restrooms
- Skate park
- Soccer fields (1 competition, 1 practice)
- Tennis courts (1)
- Trash receptacles
- Walking trail
- Public art
- Pollinator field
- Lighting



WATERFRONT CENTER PARK

1.94 ACRES

WATERFRONT

Capital Improvement & Planning Opportunities:

- None noted - newly developed.

Maintenance Considerations:

- None noted.

Amenities:

- Beachfront
- Benches
- Bike rack
- Drinking fountain
- Foot wash station
- Hand-carried boat launch
- Lighting
- Naturalized stormwater management areas
- Parking
- Public art
- Trash receptacles
- Viewpoint
- Walking trail
- Natural play area



ELM STREET PARK

1.85 ACRES

NEIGHBORHOOD

Amenities:

- Dog waste bag dispenser
- Natural area
- Open grass lawn
- Picnic table
- Trash receptacle

Capital Improvement & Planning Opportunities:

- Nature trail with natural play area could be added.
- Access & entry improvements.
- Small shelter and small playground area could be added.

Maintenance Considerations:

- Native plant restoration and invasive plant species control could be implemented.



FRANCES ANDERSON CENTER FIELD

1.94 ACRES

NEIGHBORHOOD

Capital Improvement & Planning Opportunities:

- No ADA/universal access to spectator area for amphitheater. Plan for ADA access with next site renovation project.

Maintenance Considerations:

- Sports field irrigation not effecting good coverage for consistent grass growth. Evaluate irrigation system and its coverage to determine best renovation approach. Plan for irrigation system improvements.
- Manage grass sports fields for reduced clover & plantain to better support sports activities.
- Some pavement cracking/upheavals near playground need to be addressed to remove tripping hazard.

Amenities:

- Baseball/softball field
- Drinking fountain
- Outdoor amphitheater / covered stage
- Picnic tables
- Playground
- Portable toilets
- Soccer field
- Trash & recycling receptacles



HAINES WHARF PARK

0.69 ACRES

NEIGHBORHOOD

Capital Improvement & Planning Opportunities:

- No ADA accommodation in the newer (developed 2012) neighborhood park.
- Limited shade in this park. Consider shade structure or additional shade trees.

Maintenance Considerations:

- Another feature in lower park area is missing - footings remain. (wind damage?).
- Irrigation not used due to landslide risk.

Amenities:

- Benches
- Drinking fountain
- Interpretive signs
- Lighting
- Overlook
- Parking
- Picnic tables
- Playground
- Portable toilet
- Shade trees
- Swing set (2 strap, 1 tot, 1 inclusive)
- Trash receptacles



HICKMAN PARK

5.61 ACRES

NEIGHBORHOOD

Capital Improvement & Planning Opportunities:

- Add permanent restrooms to this popular neighborhood park.

Maintenance Considerations:

- Some weed growth in landscape planting beds at entrance.
- Blackberry bushes intruding on trail through natural area – need pruning.
- Dog waste bag dispenser missing from post at pedestrian bridge.
- A few pavement cracks need to be addressed.
- Plan to resurface basketball court.

Amenities:

- Baseball/softball field
- Basketball ½ courts (2)
- Benches
- Bike racks
- Boulder play area (former school site)
- Dog waste bag dispenser
- Drinking fountain
- Fitness stations
- Kiosk
- Lighting
- Naturalized SWM basin
- Open grass lawn
- Parking
- Paved walking loop
- Picnic shelter
- Playground
- Portable restrooms
- Trail
- Trash & recycling receptacles



HUMMINGBIRD HILL PARK

1.22 ACRES

NEIGHBORHOOD

Capital Improvement & Planning Opportunities:

- Consider additional play activity options.

Maintenance Considerations:

- Invasive blackberry cover the steep slopes. Public likes to pick the berries. Native plant restoration could be planned when/if public opinion shifts in favor of blackberry control.
- Remove barrier to playground entry to provide for universal access.

Amenities:

- Basketball court
- Open grass lawn
- Picnic tables
- Playground
- Shade trees
- Swing set
- Trash and recycling receptacles



MARINA BEACH PARK

3.37 ACRES

WATERFRONT

Capital Improvement & Planning Opportunities:

- No ADA-compliant picnic tables. Add at least one accessible picnic table along the walking trail.
- Add permanent restroom facility
- Continue to implement master plan improvements.

Maintenance Considerations:

- Based on post markings on new playground equipment, play area needs thicker layer of fall safety surfacing.
- Add more sand to volleyball court.
- Add gravel to walkway path where worn down.

Amenities:

- BBQ Grills
- Benches
- Drinking fountain
- Kiosk @ Dog Park
- Off-leash dog area
- Open grass lawn area
- Picnic tables
- Playground
- Portable restrooms
- Sand volleyball court
- Shade trees
- Shoreline access / gravel beach
- Spigots/foot wash
- Trash receptacles
- View point
- Walking trail
- Interpretive signs



MATHAY BALLINGER PARK

1.82 ACRES

NEIGHBORHOOD

Capital Improvement & Planning Opportunities:

- Paved loop path could be added along with a small picnic shelter.
- Upgrade the ADA parking space. Connect to park features with paved path.
- Consider converting one basketball court into an alternative sport/play amenity

Maintenance Considerations:

- Control invasive blackberries.
- Play equipment climbing net needs cable replacement.
- Remove access barrier into play area.
- Replace faded signs

Amenities:

- Playground
- Bike rack
- Basketball courts (2)
- Open grass lawn area
- Shade trees
- Trash receptacles
- Dog waste bag dispenser
- Picnic tables
- Portable restroom
- Access to Interurban Trail
- Parking



OLYMPIC BEACH PARK

2.85 ACRES

WATERFRONT

Capital Improvement & Planning Opportunities:

- The park space between buildings could support a paved pathway to connect the parking area to the seawall. This connection could enhance public waterfront access and provide more universal access to the public promenade.
- Repair buckled asphalt in parking lot and replace landscape trees to avoid future pavement upheavals.

Maintenance Considerations:

- Remove, powder coat & replace benches
- Restroom maintenance: heavy graffiti area, consider adding lighting

Amenities:

- Public fishing pier (WFWD facility, maintained and operated by City)
- Benches
- Bike rack
- Drinking fountains
- Interpretive signs
- Parking
- Picnic area
- Public art (sculptures)
- Restrooms
- Shoreline access/sand beach
- Trash & recycling receptacles
- View point
- Visitor center
- Walking trail
- Hand-carry boat launch



PINE STREET PARK

1.47 ACRES

NEIGHBORHOOD

Capital Improvement & Planning Opportunities:

- No designated handicapped parking for park access. Need to add accommodation.
- Add shade trees to playground area. Consider adding a small shelter at playground.
- Perimeter paved park path could enhance use.
- Outfield fence could use safety cap.

Maintenance Considerations:

- Bleachers need safety rails added (to comply with International Building Code).

Amenities:

- Trash receptacles
- Bike rack
- Picnic tables
- Bench
- Parking
- Playground
- Baseball/softball field
- Dugouts
- Portable restroom
- Climbing rock
- Swing set (2 strap & 2 toddler)
- Open grass lawn
- Bleachers
- Drinking fountain



SEAVIEW PARK

6.05 ACRES

NEIGHBORHOOD

Capital Improvement & Planning Opportunities:

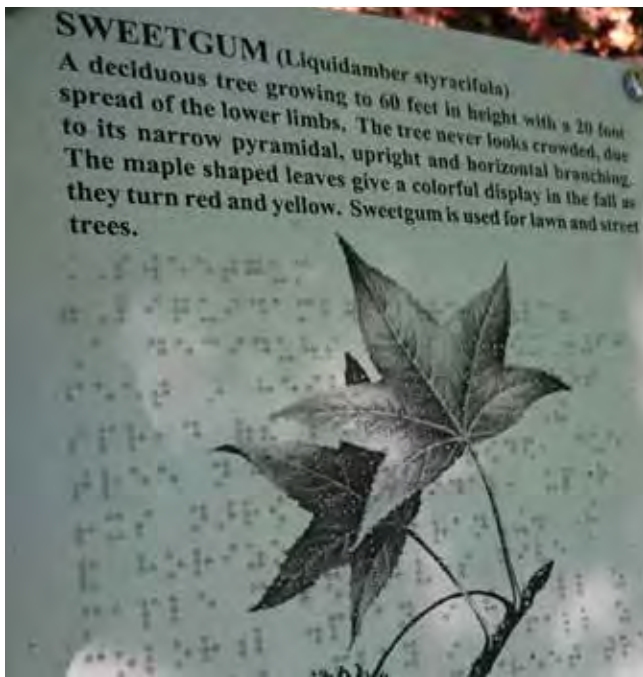
- No ADA accommodation are provided in this park. Plan for upgrades to add ADA parking and paved path access to amenities.
- Drinking fountain at restrooms is not ADA-compliant. Ensure ADA provision with separate drinking fountain fixture. Check restroom for need to upgrade. Restroom signs not ADA-compliant.
- Basketball hoop in parking area is a user conflict & basketball ½ court could be relocated in other area of park.

Maintenance Considerations:

- Cracks in asphalt pavement need to be addressed.

Amenities:

- Baseball/softball field
- Basketball hoop in parking lot
- Benches
- Bike racks
- Dog waste bag dispenser
- Drinking fountain
- Lighting (by restroom)
- Open grass lawn area
- Parking
- Picnic tables
- Playground - ADA/inclusive
- Swing set (4 strap seats)
- Swing set (1 'tire'/2 tot seats)
- Restroom
- Shade trees
- Soccer field
- Tennis/Pickleball courts (2 or 4)
- Trail lighting
- Trash receptacles
- Walking Trail



SIERRA PARK

5.52 ACRES

NEIGHBORHOOD

Capital Improvement & Planning Opportunities:

- Improve ballfield infrastructure with roofed dugouts, team benches and bleachers with safety railings.
- Add drinking fountain (ADA-compliant).
- Old play equipment (1996 installation) should be planned for replacement. Add to and enhance play opportunities.

Maintenance Considerations:

- Playground safety surfacing should be replaced with engineered wood fibers or other approved safety surfacing.
- Replace former drinking fountain.
- Bleachers do not have safety railing. Add to existing or replace entire bleacher.
- Asphalt path has pavement cracks from root upheavals that need to be addressed.
- Handicapped parking sign mounted too low.

Amenities:

- Baseball/softball field
- Basketball hoop in parking lot
- Benches
- Braille interpretive trail
- Drinking fountain (not working)
- Flagpole
- Parking
- Picnic area
- Picnic table
- Playground
- Portable restroom
- Soccer field (youth)
- Trash receptacles
- Walking trails



YOST MEMORIAL PARK

45.27 ACRES

COMMUNITY

Capital Improvement & Planning Opportunities:

- Outdoor preschool camp program may need some specific amenities.
- The park would benefit from a master plan to provide for future improvements that could include a renovated/replaced aquatic facility, upgraded vehicular circulation & parking, upgraded recreation amenities, improved park pathways and revised natural trail system. The master planning process could identify the more sensitive environments and define special forest areas to be protected while allocating the park's development envelope and helping align a more sustainable trail network.
- Prior to an overall master plan for the park, the aquatic facility should undergo an updated feasibility study to determine the best approach to providing seasonal or year-round aquatic programming for the community.

Maintenance Considerations:

- Trail system's boardwalks and bridges need minor repairs and should be planned for complete replacement within 4-5 years.
- Some trail alignments follow the fall line (i.e. straight up or down hill), making them less navigable and more prone to erosion. As the boardwalks and bridges are scheduled for replacement, the trail alignment should be evaluated to ensure the improved built trail is in the most preferred alignment. Steep sections of the trail should be re-aligned to reduce the gradient and avoid erosive conditions.
- Invasive plant species control measures needed (currently done by volunteers – could benefit from higher intensity).
- Playground replacement due (1995 installation).

Amenities:

- Basketball ½ court
- Bench
- Bike racks
- Drinking fountain
- Forested natural area with stream corridor
- Outdoor pool
- Parking
- Picnic tables
- Playground
- Portable restrooms
- Restrooms (Pool building)
- Tennis/Pickleball courts (2 or 8)
- Trash receptacles
- Walking trails

CENTENNIAL PLAZA

0.08 ACRES

SPECIAL USE

Capital Improvement & Planning Opportunities:

- None noted

Maintenance Considerations:

- None noted



Amenities:

- Japanese garden
- Japanese stone lantern
- Lighting
- Holiday tree
- Ornamental plantings
- Paved brick plaza
- Brick seating wall
- Sister City dedication plaques

DAYTON STREET PLAZA

0.10 ACRES

SPECIAL USE

Capital Improvement & Planning Opportunities:

- Use better identification signage to clarify public use/value.

Maintenance Considerations:

- None noted.



Amenities:

- Inlaid paver art
- Ornamental plantings
- Public art
- Retaining wall

DAYTON STREET PLAZA - WWTC

0.35 ACRES

SPECIAL USE

Capital Improvement & Planning Opportunities:

- Use better identification signage to clarify public use/value.

Maintenance Considerations:

- Some minor graffiti on upper plaza level



Amenities:

- Benches
- Fountain
- Not ADA-compliant (many stairs)
- Paved plaza
- Shelter

EDMONDS LIBRARY PLAZA

1.29 ACRES

SPECIAL USE

Capital Improvement & Planning Opportunities:

- Removal of book drop
- Installation of public art

Maintenance Considerations:

- None noted



Amenities:

- Benches
- Bus stop
- Lighting
- Ornamental plantings
- Public art
- Public rental event space
- Restrooms - interior
- Rooftop plaza
- View point



EDMONDS MARSH

24.21 ACRES

OPEN SPACE

Capital Improvement & Planning Opportunities:

- Identification signs at beginning and end of walkway would be helpful.
- Develop a parks master plan to include restoration of estuary function of connecting and daylighting Willow Creek and Shellabarger Creek to Puget Sound through the Edmonds Marsh.

Maintenance Considerations:

- Check railings at viewpoints for splitting, separation and general wear.
- Some ADA barriers to viewpoint/overlooks occur where different pavements meet and have gaps or uneven bumps. Repair.
- Invasive plant species management and control should continue, especially along road ROW.
- Edmonds Marsh East (across Edmonds Way from the main Marsh) contains 0.85 acres and no developed public access. Continue to monitor and control invasive plant growth.

Amenities:

- Interpretive signs
- Overlook/viewpoints
- Boardwalk
- Paved walking path
- Trash receptacles
- Wetlands
- Natural area
- Salt & fresh water marsh habitat

EDMONDS MEMORIAL CEMETERY

6.63 ACRES

SPECIAL USE

Capital Improvement & Planning Opportunities:

- Consider installing benches
- Additional columbarium space

Maintenance Considerations:

- None noted



Amenities:

- Columbarium
- Grave sites
- Restroom
- Shade trees

FRANCES ANDERSON CENTER

1.62 ACRES

SPECIAL USE

Capital Improvement & Planning Opportunities:

- Update entry sign using new style guide.

Maintenance Considerations:

- Keep plantings trim in front of facility sign.



Amenities:

- 64,000 sf community center
- Community meeting rooms
- Day care facility
- Gymnasium
- Parks Dept administration offices
- Restrooms

HAZEL MILLER PLAZA

0.09 ACRES

SPECIAL USE

Capital Improvement & Planning Opportunities:

- None noted

Maintenance Considerations:

- None noted



Amenities:

- Outdoor paved plaza
- Interpretive signs
- Public art - mosaic, fountain, railings
- Benches, tables, chairs, umbrellas

H.O. HUTT PARK

4.53 ACRES

OPEN SPACE

Capital Improvement & Planning Opportunities:

- If adjacent land is acquired that offers some park development potential, this open space could be enhanced by the proximity of a developed park with its support amenities (parking, restroom, play area, etc.)

Maintenance Considerations:

- None noted.



Amenities:

- Walking trails
- “Old growth” trees
- Dog waste bag dispenser
- No public parking
- Walk-to open space for neighborhood



INTERURBAN TRAIL

3.97 ACRES

SPECIAL USE

Capital Improvement & Planning Opportunities:

- Extend the shared-use paved pathway to 242nd Street along the existing utility corridor and provides off-street pedestrian and bicycle access to Mathay Ballinger.

Maintenance Considerations:

- Heavy weekend use requires more frequent trash collection schedule or additional receptacles.
- The section of informal trail (not officially signed as Interurban Trail) could be improved with pavement and intentional landscaping. Native plant species should be selected to continue the existing value as a wildlife corridor (mostly for birds) with minimal mown edges to keep vegetation off the path.

Amenities:

- Bench
- Bike rack
- Bus shelter
- Dog waste bag dispenser
- Drinking fountain
- Interpretive signs
- Kiosk
- Paved shared use regional trail
- Trash receptacles

LAKE BALLINGER ACCESS

0.19 ACRES

WATERFRONT

Capital Improvement & Planning Opportunities:

- Consider adding a firm base (pavement) under the bench to reduce mud.
- Improve waterfront for easier hand-carried watercraft shore launch.
- Consider addition of a fishing pier.

Maintenance Considerations:

- Continue ongoing maintenance.



Amenities:

- Bench
- Fishing pole holders (2)
- Hand-carried watercraft shore launch
- Lakefront access
- Trash receptacle

LYNNDALE SKATE PARK

2.39 ACRES

SPECIAL USE

Description:

- The 5,000 sf skate park in Lynndale Park was a joint project between Lynnwood and Edmonds. The skate park includes public art “Fluid Motion” of sculptural steel railings.
- The skate park is supported by parking, restrooms and other features within Lynndale Park.
- Half of site acreage counted toward Edmonds park system

Amenities:

- Skate park
- Public art

MAPLEWOOD HILL PARK

13.27 ACRES

OPEN SPACE

Capital Improvement & Planning Opportunities:

- No parking – pedestrian access only. Adjacent property acquisition could add developable land for additional public access and park amenities.
- Add one ADA parking space.
- Old play equipment (1995 installation) should be planned for replacement.

Maintenance Considerations:

- Trail maintenance and natural habitat enhancement.

Amenities:

- Walking trails
- Swing set
- Picnic area
- Wooded open space

MEADOWDALE COMMUNITY CLUBHOUSE

1.11 ACRES

SPECIAL USE

Capital Improvement & Planning Opportunities:

- No designated ADA parking stall.

Maintenance Considerations:

- Designate ADA parking stall and add handicapped sign closest to building entrance.



Amenities:

- Bench
- Community center
- Community meeting rooms
- Parking
- Preschool
- Picnic table
- Playground
- Restrooms
- Trash receptacle

MEADOWDALE NATURAL AREA

1.07 ACRES

OPEN SPACE

Capital Improvement & Planning Opportunities:

- Site analyses could determine degree of potential park development. Gap mapping of park facilities could help determine need for this site as a future park (beyond its value as preserved open space).

Maintenance Considerations:

- None noted.

Amenities:

- No public access
- Natural area - undeveloped

MEADOWDALE PLAYFIELDS

12.05 ACRES

COMMUNITY

Description:

- Joint development project between Edmonds, Lynnwood and the Edmonds School District
- Half of site acreage counted toward Edmonds park system

Amenities:

- Lighted youth/adult competition softball fields (3)
- Multipurpose sand fields (2)
- Concession building
- Playground
- Walking trail
- Picnic facilities
- Forested area
- Pond
- Restrooms
- Parking
- Public art

OCEAN AVENUE VIEWPOINT

0.2 ACRES

SPECIAL USE

Capital Improvement & Planning Opportunities:

- User-made path down to railroad tracks where visitors cross and access beach

Maintenance Considerations:

- Remove the user-made path to railroad tracks and install signs to indicate no railroad crossing.



Amenities:

- Parking
- Trash receptacles
- View point

OLYMPIC VIEW OPEN SPACE

0.49 ACRES

OPEN SPACE

Capital Improvement & Planning Opportunities:

- Site analyses could determine degree of potential park development. Gap mapping of park facilities could help determine need for this site as a future park (beyond its value as preserved open space).

Maintenance Considerations:

- None noted.



Amenities:

- No public access
- Natural area - undeveloped

PINE RIDGE PARK

26.47 ACRES

OPEN SPACE

Capital Improvement & Planning Opportunities:

- Nature play area could be added.

Maintenance Considerations:

- Increase servicing interval for portable toilet, especially after busy summer weekends.
- Laminated root rot may be present. Conduct forest management study to inform near-term management actions and guide restoration or reforestation activities.
- Consider paving the parking lot and adding more defined parking areas with ADA parking space.



Amenities:

- Benches
- Dog waste bag dispensers
- Old growth forest
- Parking area (gravel)
- Portable toilet
- Trash receptacles
- Tool box (for outdoor preschool)
- Walking trails
- Wetlands

RICHARD F. ANWAY PARK

0.17 ACRES

SPECIAL USE

Capital Improvement & Planning Opportunities:

- Remove ATM - no longer in service.

Maintenance Considerations:

- Heavy use during ferry wait times. Continue to monitor trash collection and restroom cleaning needs.



Amenities:

- Dog waste bag dispenser
- Landscape plantings
- Newspaper boxes
- Pet area
- Picnic table
- Public art
- Restrooms
- Trash & recycling receptacles
- Vending machines

SEAVIEW RESERVOIR

1.31 ACRES

OPEN SPACE

Capital Improvement & Planning Opportunities:

- If park facility distribution indicates a need for a more developed park site at this public works location, coordinate with physical limitations to consider how much could safely be added to this open space site.

Maintenance Considerations:

- None noted.



Amenities:

- Open grass field with perimeter shade trees
- Contains underground water tank.

SHELL CREEK

1.42 ACRES

OPEN SPACE

Capital Improvement & Planning Opportunities:

- Open space properties owned by the City should be evaluated for any opportunities for public access, depending on extent of wetlands and other sensitive environmental areas. Where feasible, natural trails could be developed or wildlife viewing locations to offer some appreciation for the preservation of Edmonds' natural environments.

Maintenance Considerations:

- Invasive plant species control.

Amenities:

- No developed public access.
- Forested natural area.

STAMM OVERLOOK PARK

0.36 ACRES

SPECIAL USE

Capital Improvement & Planning Opportunities:

- No ADA-designated parking space. Consider need to upgrade accommodation.

Maintenance Considerations:

- None noted



Amenities:

- Benches
- Drinking fountain
- Little library
- Parking (5 spaces)
- Trash receptacle
- View point

SUNSET AVENUE OVERLOOK

1.14 ACRES

SPECIAL USE

Capital Improvement & Planning Opportunities:

- None noted

Maintenance Considerations:

- Keep roses well-trimmed where they intrude on pedestrian paths.



Amenities:

- Walking path
- View corridor
- Benches
- Trash receptacles
- Dog waste bag dispensers
- Interpretive signs

UNDERWATER DIVE PARK

27 ACRES

SPECIAL USE

Description:

- Scuba diving park located north of the ferry landing and accessed from Brackett's Landing – North, designated as a marine preserve and sanctuary.
- Area not owned or maintained by City; Leased from WA Department of Natural Resources.
- Surface facilities including parking, restrooms, showers, changing area, foot wash, charts and maps are available at Brackett's Landing North Park.



Amenities:

- Sunken De Lion Dry Dock
- Sunken vessels
- Man-made reef structures
- Bruce Higgins Underwater Trails

Photo credit: Annie Crawley

VETERANS PLAZA

0.15 ACRES

SPECIAL USE

Capital Improvement & Planning Opportunities:

- None noted

Maintenance Considerations:

- Some pavers are uneven where meeting other pavement edges. Reset uneven areas to avoid tripping hazards and ADA barriers.

Amenities:

- Benches
- Drinking fountain
- Flagpole
- K9 sculpture
- Lighting
- Memorials
- Ornamental plantings
- Paved plaza
- Trash receptacles
- Water feature

WHARF STREET

0.12 ACRES

OPEN SPACE

Capital Improvement & Planning Opportunities:

- None noted.

Maintenance Considerations:

- Confirm ownership of stairs



Amenities:

- Viewpoint
- Wooden stairs signed as “private beach”
- No safe access across railroad tracks

WILLOW CREEK HATCHERY

1.68 ACRES

SPECIAL USE

Capital Improvement & Planning Opportunities:

- None noted

Maintenance Considerations:

- Kiosk roof repairs needed.



Amenities:

- Boardwalk stream crossing
- Hatchery pond (seasonal)
- Indoor classroom
- Interpretive signs
- Kiosk
- Native plant demonstration garden
- Natural area/wildlife habitat
- Parking (gravel)
- Picnic tables
- Portable restroom
- Trash & recycling receptacles
- Walking trails

WILLOW CREEK PARK

2.25 ACRES

OPEN SPACE

Amenities:

- Forested wetland
- Stream corridor
- No developed public access

Capital Improvement & Planning Opportunities:

- Adjacent property (if acquired) could allow for developed public access and more recreational opportunities.

Maintenance Considerations:

- Invasive plant species control/management
- Natural resource/habitat enhancement

APPENDIX B

SURVEY SUMMARY



To: Angie Feser, Parks, Recreation & Community Services Director
From: Steve Duh, Conservation Technix, Inc.
Date: September 7, 2021
Re: **Edmonds Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan Survey**
 Community Survey Summary Results

Conservation Technix is pleased to present the results of a survey of the general population of the City of Edmonds that assesses residents’ recreational needs and priorities.

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

In close collaboration with City of Edmonds staff, Conservation Technix developed the 15-question survey that was estimated to take less than ten minutes to complete.

The City mailed 2,500 surveys to randomly chosen households in Edmonds on May 29, 2021, of which 501 surveys were completed and returned (20% response rate). Online versions of the survey in English, Chinese, Korean and Spanish were posted to the City’s website on June 4, 2021. An additional 1,449 surveys in English were completed from the general, community-wide online surveys. In addition, two Chinese, five Korean and one Spanish surveys were completed. In all, 1,958 surveys were collected.

Information about the survey was provided on the City’s website and on the PROS Plan project subpage. It was promoted via multiple in-language social media postings and city email blasts. Printed flyers with QR code links in four languages were made available for distribution by staff for direct outreach to non-English community groups. Also, significant effort was made to promote the survey to all language groups during community events, pop-ups and flyer distribution through cultural based community organizations throughout the summer months. The survey was closed on August 31, 2021, and data were compiled and reviewed.

Although households were randomly chosen to receive the mail survey, respondents were not necessarily representative of all City residents. However, age group segmentation shows general alignment with current Census data. The table below shows the age demographics for the mail and online surveys, as well as comparative percentages for Edmonds’ population.

Age group	Survey Respondents			Edmonds Population	
	Mail	Online-only	Combined	Full	Over 20
Under 20	<1%	<1%	<1%	20%	--
20-34	7.7%	6.5%	6.9%	18%	22%
35-44	11.7%	27.7%	23.3%	12%	15%
45-54	14.9%	20.7%	19.1%	15%	19%
55-64	22.6%	14.8%	17.0%	14%	17%
65 to 74	25.0%	22.0%	22.7%	12%	15%
75 and older	17.9%	0.8%	10.3%	10%	12%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

This report includes findings of community opinions based principally on mailed survey responses. Each section also notes key differences between different demographic groups and among responses to the online-only survey, where applicable.

Percentages in the report may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

FULL RESULTS

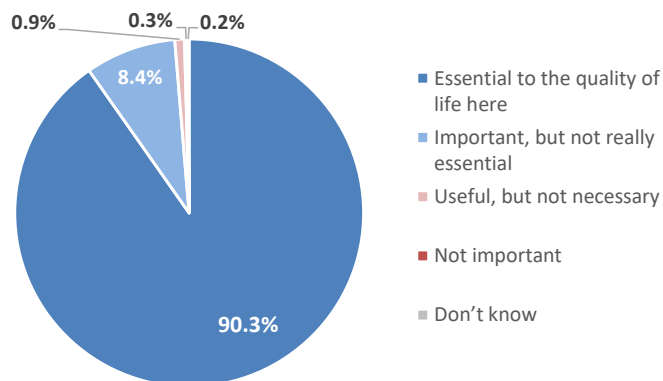
How much do residents value parks and recreation?

Virtually all respondents (99%) feel that local parks, recreation options and open space opportunities are important or essential to the quality of life in Edmonds. More than eight in ten respondents feel that they are essential; while an additional 13% believe that they are important to quality of life, but not essential. Less than 2% of respondents believe parks are “Useful, but not important”.

No significant differences exist between the survey subgroups (age, children in household, geography); however, online survey respondents indicated stronger responses (~8-10 percentage points higher) that parks and recreation opportunities are essential to quality of life in Edmonds.

1. When you think about what contributes to the quality of life in Edmonds, would you say that public parks and recreation opportunities are...

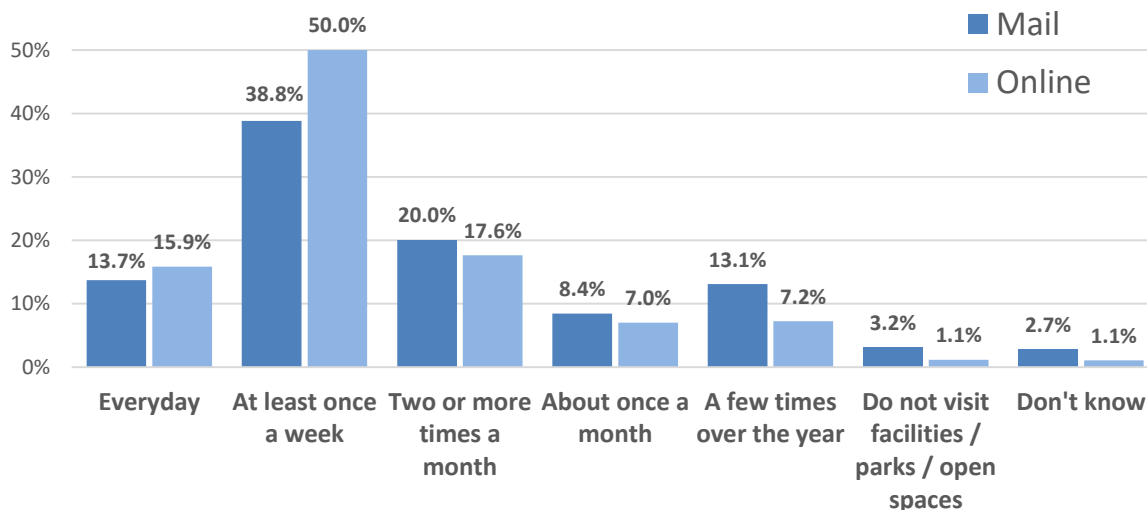
Response options	Mail		Online-only	
Essential to the quality of life here	84%	97%	92%	99%
Important, but not really necessary	13%		7%	
Useful, but not important	2%		<1%	
Not important or don't know	<1%		<1%	



How often do residents use Edmonds' recreation facilities, parks, and open spaces?

Respondents were asked how often they, or members of their household, visited an Edmonds park, recreation facility, or open space. Respondents tend to visit frequently, with more than half (53%) of respondents to the mail survey visiting at least once a week and another 20% visiting two or more times per month. Only 13% of respondents visit just a few times per year. Very few (3%) did not visit a park last year.

4. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, how often did you visit or use Edmonds parks, recreation facilities (such as the Frances Anderson Center) or open space?



City of Edmonds

Page 4

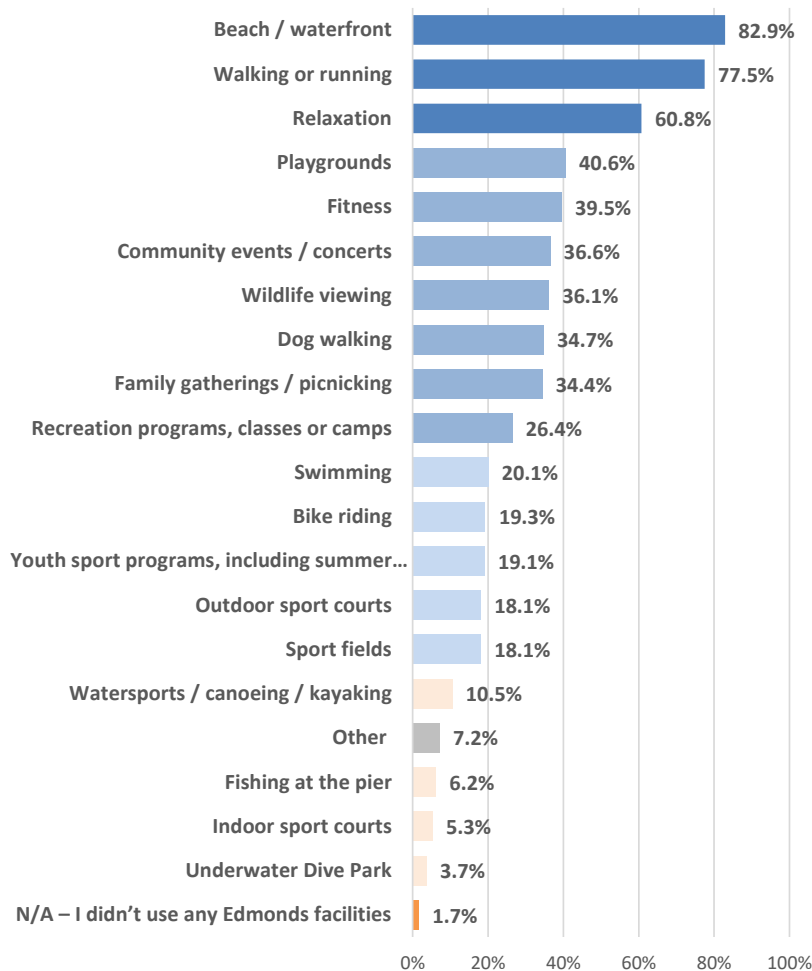
Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan Survey (2021)

Online-only survey respondents tended to visit slightly more frequently than mail respondents, with 66% visiting at least once a week and 84% visiting at least once per month. Respondents of households with children visit slightly more frequently than those without children, with participation increasing in correspondence with the number of children in the home. Respondents who live in the southern portion of the city (areas east and west of Esperance) were slightly less likely than respondents elsewhere to use parks and recreation facilities frequently.

Why do residents visit parks?

Respondents visit local parks and recreation facilities for a variety of reasons. The most popular activities are visiting the beach and waterfront (83%), walking or running (76%), followed by relaxation (61%), playgrounds (41%) and fitness (40%). Approximately one in three respondents visited for community events/concerts (37%), wildlife viewing (36%), dog walking (35%), or family gatherings (34%). Fewer than 7% of respondents visit to use indoor sport courts, fishing, or the Underwater Dive Park. Write-in responses included activities such as pickleball, photography and birdwatching.

5. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, what would you say are the main reasons your household visited Edmonds parks, recreation facilities or open spaces in the past year? CHECK ALL THAT APPLY.



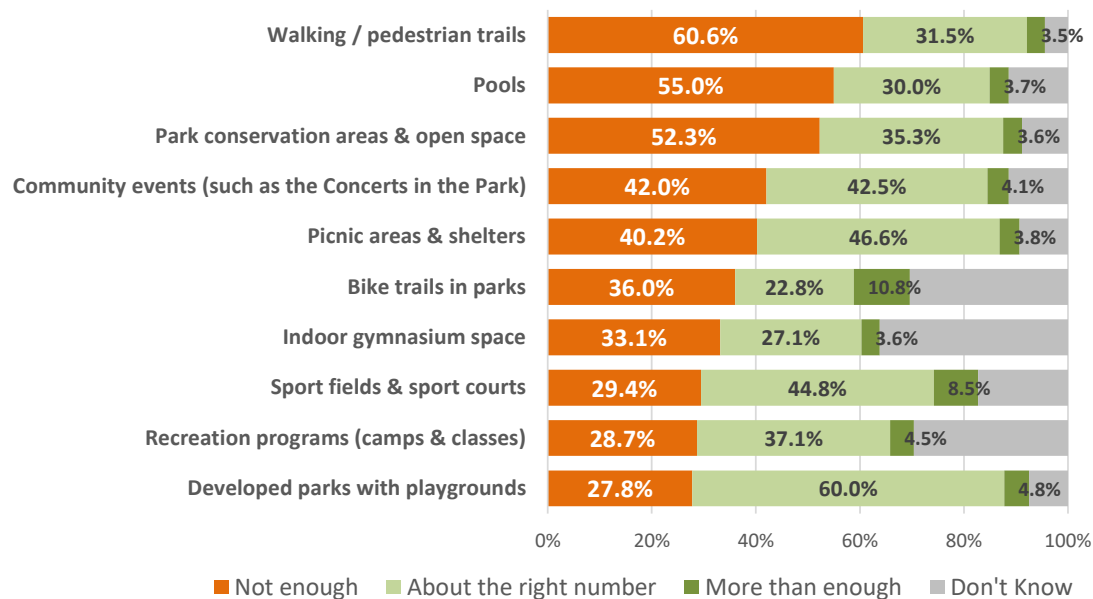
With a few exceptions, respondents who responded to the online-only survey visited recreation facilities and parks for similar reasons as respondents to the mail survey in similar percentages. However, slightly more online respondents visited for playgrounds (45%), recreation programs (30%), or youth sport programs and camps (22%).

Respondents between 35 and 54 were more likely than other groups to visit for playgrounds, sports fields, outdoor sport courts, swimming and recreation programs. Several activities, including family gatherings, walking or running, beach/waterfront, wildlife viewing, and relaxation were similarly popular with all age groups. Respondents with children in their home were more likely to visit for playgrounds, sport fields, outdoor sport courts, recreation programs, and youth camps than respondents without children. No significant differences were noted in responses between respondents living in different areas of the city.

Are residents satisfied with the number and variety of park and recreation options?

Majorities of respondents feel that there are enough or more than enough of only a few types of park and recreation options offered by Edmonds, including developed parks with playgrounds, sport fields and picnic areas. In all, respondents feel there are not enough trails, pools and conservation areas – suggesting an existing, latent demand for facilities of these types. Walking and pedestrian trails had the strongest responses that ‘not enough’ being provided. Respondents have fairly balanced views on the provision of recreation programs, indoor gymnasium space and community events.

2. When it comes to meeting the needs for parks, trails and recreation facilities, would you say there are...



In general, middle-aged year respondents (those between 35 and 54 years of age) were more likely than respondents over 55 to feel there are not enough recreation programs, walking trails, pools, and developed parks with playgrounds. Respondents with children under 18 in their home were more likely than adult-only householders to feel the City does not have enough bike trails in parks, sport fields and courts, recreation programs and indoor gymnasium space. Respondents living in the southeast area (south of 220th St SW and east of Esperance) noted a higher need for developed parks with playgrounds, recreation programs, indoor gymnasium space and conservation areas.

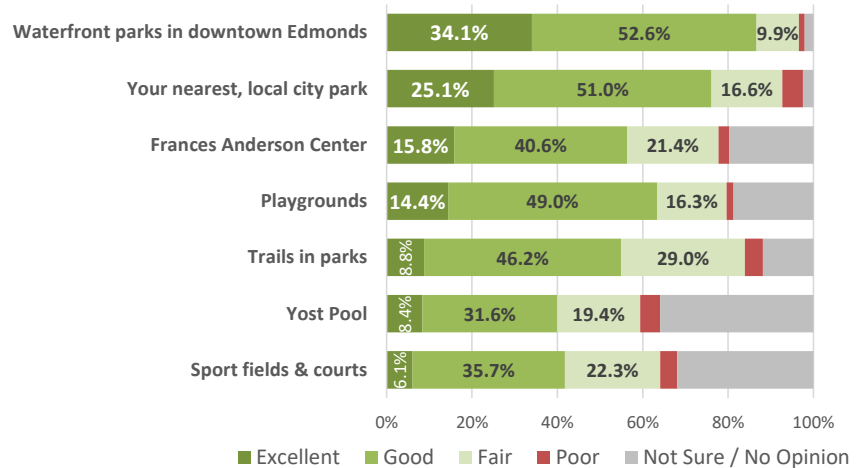
How would residents rate the condition of Edmonds’ parks and recreation facilities?

Respondents were asked to rate the condition of a variety of park and recreation facilities on a scale from poor to excellent. Respondents gave overwhelming high marks to the condition of the City’s waterfront parks in downtown Edmonds.

Majorities of respondents identified their local city park (76%), city playgrounds (63%), trails in parks (55%) and the Frances Anderson Center (56%) as in either excellent or good condition. Of the facilities listed, Yost Pool and sport fields and courts had lower condition ratings, and both of these facilities also had the highest percentage of ‘Not Sure/No Opinion’ compared to the other facilities.

There were no significant variations in how respondents rated the condition of parks and facilities based on age. Respondents from the southeast area (south of 220th St SW and east of Esperance) noted a higher frequency of ‘fair’ or ‘poor’ ratings for ‘your nearest local park’, playgrounds and trails. Respondents with two or more children in the household were more likely to give higher ‘poor’ ratings for sport fields and courts.

3. How would you rate the condition of each of the following parks or recreation facilities?



What park and recreation options do residents have a need for? Do they feel their needs are met?

The survey asked a question regarding needs for certain park and recreation facilities. A pair of questions asked which park and recreation facilities and amenities the respondent’s household has a need for, and then, whether that need is well met, somewhat met, or unmet locally.

Of the specific list of amenities provided, 30% of respondents indicated that the highest unmet need is for pedestrian and bike trails (84%) and an aquatic facility or pool (65%). Pluralities of respondents indicated a need for a variety of amenities including:

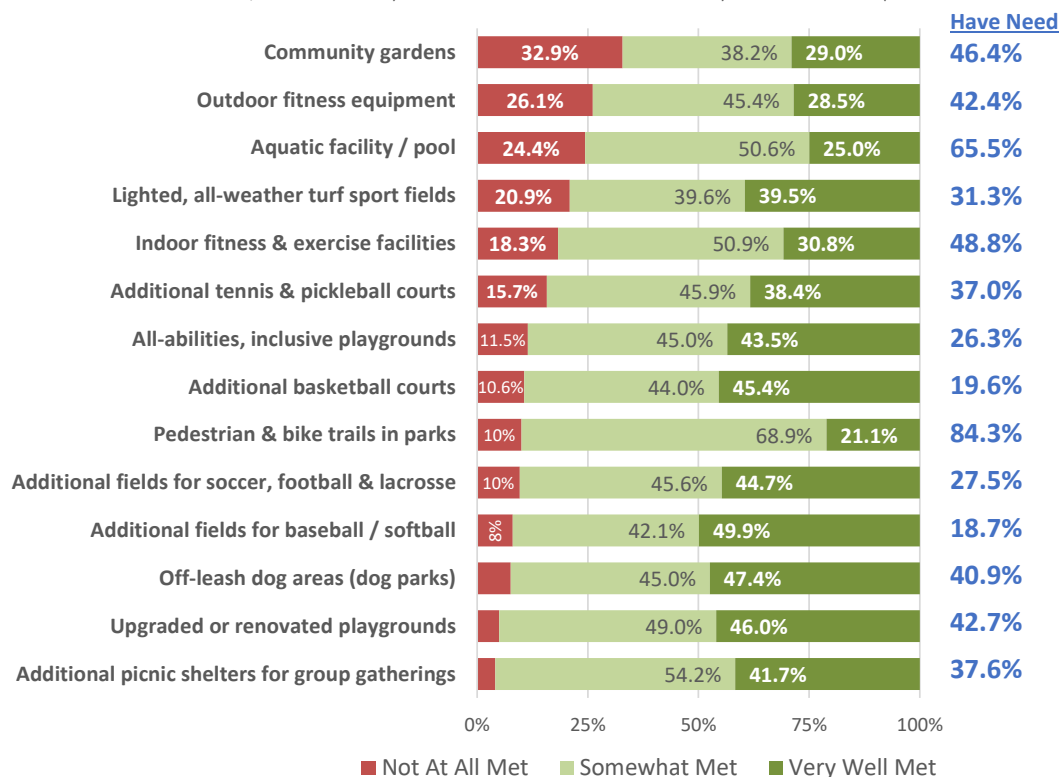
- Indoor fitness & exercise facilities
- Community gardens
- Upgraded or renovated playgrounds
- Outdoor fitness equipment
- Off-leash dog areas (dog parks)
- Additional picnic shelters for group gatherings
- Additional tennis & pickleball courts

Respondents indicated only a limited need for basketball courts and sport fields (rectangular, diamond and lighted), and many respondents noted these amenities as being ‘very well met’ by existing facilities.

Overall, strong majorities of respondents feel that their need are either ‘very well met’ or ‘somewhat met’ for every recreation amenity listed in the survey. Four facility types were noted as being ‘not at all met’ by between 20%-30% of respondents; these include community gardens, outdoor fitness equipment, pool, and lighted sport fields. For community gardens and outdoor fitness equipment, there was no significant difference between age groups or households with/without children, indicating an underlying strength in the general sentiment for need.

Respondents between 35 and 44 expressed a greater need for an aquatic or pool facility. Respondents without children under 18 indicated a slightly higher need for a disc golf course. Respondents living in the southeastern portion of the city indicated a higher need for sport fields, indoor fitness facilities, and upgraded playgrounds. Respondents to the random sample mail survey expressed higher levels of need for all listed park amenities and facilities, especially for picnic areas and off-leash dog parks, as compared to the online-only survey.

6/7. Does your household have a need for each of the park and recreation amenities or facilities listed below? Using the same list of items from above, how well are your household’s needs met locally for each of the park or recreation facilities?



What recreation options do residents have a need for?

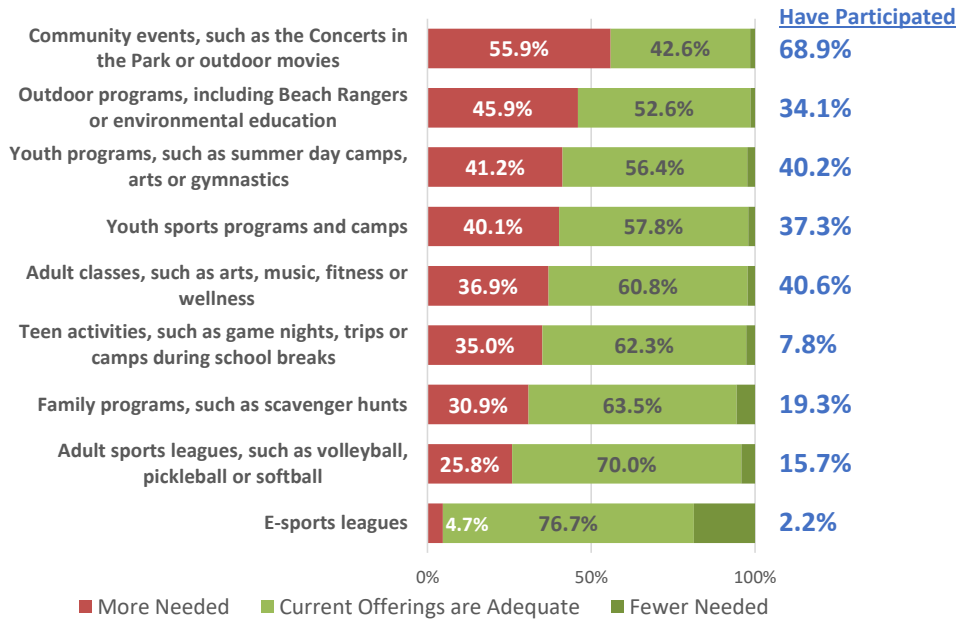
When it comes to recreational programs and activities, respondents expressed a greater need for community events (56%) and program and activities geared toward youth. In particular, respondents had a higher interest in outdoor programs such as environmental education (46%), youth day camps (41%) and youth sport programs (40%). Modest need was indicated for most of the other program options listed, with the exception of e-sport leagues.

Respondents between 20 and 44 and those with children in the household were more likely to state a strong interest for outdoor programs, youth sports, teen and youth programs. Consistently high need was noted across all age groups for community events.

City of Edmonds

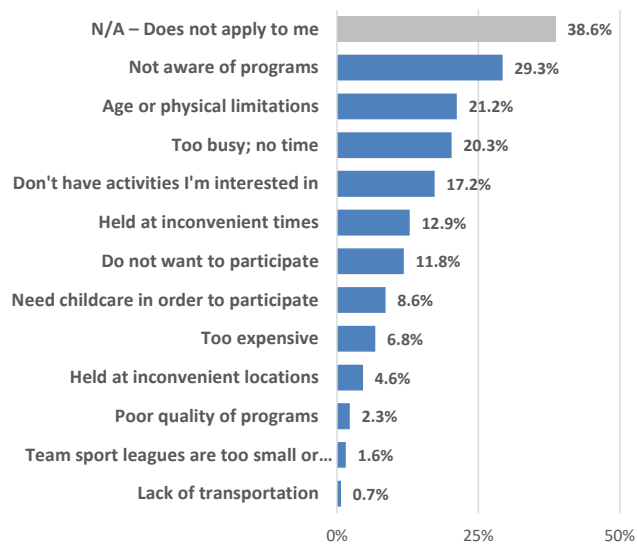
Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan Survey (2021)

9/10. Please indicate if your household has participated or used each of the listed recreation program types in the past two years. Using the same list, indicate if there should be more or less of each available.



Respondents were also asked why they do not participate in recreation or sports programs offered by Edmonds. One in three responded that they were not aware of program offerings, suggesting a significant opportunity for the City to improve information and outreach. Between 15% and 20% of respondents cited a lack of desired activities (17%), being too busy (20%) or having age or physical limitations (21%) as the reasons they do not participate. There were no significant differences in responses based on geographic subgroups.

11. If you do not participate in recreation or sports programs offered by Edmonds, what are your reasons? (Check all that apply)



Reason	Mail	Online
N/A – Does not apply to me	31%	42%
Not aware of programs	34%	27%
Age or physical limitations	32%	17%
Too busy; no time	21%	20%
Don't have activities I'm interested in	16%	18%
Held at inconvenient times	10%	14%
Do not want to participate	13%	11%
Need childcare in order to participate	5%	10%
Too expensive	6%	7%
Held at inconvenient locations	5%	4%
Poor quality of programs	2%	2%
Team sport leagues are too small or are often cancelled	1%	2%
Lack of transportation	<1%	1%

What recreation and park investments would residents prioritize?

Respondents were asked to rank a list of potential recreation, park and open space investments. Respondents to both the mail and online survey ranked the same items as their top three priorities:

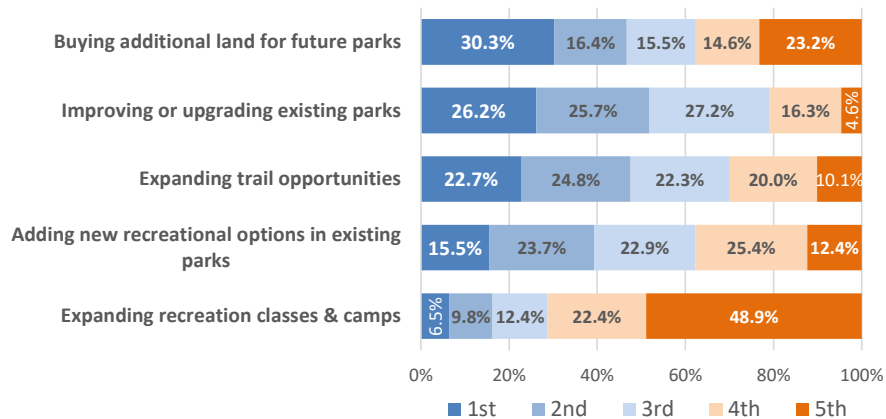
expanding trail opportunities, improving or upgrading existing parks, and buying additional land for future parks. Mail survey respondents were more strongly supportive of

expanding trail opportunities, by approximately ten percentage points. Respondents in both the mail and online surveys ranked providing recreational programs as their lowest priority.

There were few differences in priorities between subgroups. Respondents with children in their home tended to rate improving existing parks as a higher priority than those without children in the home. Respondents did not vary significantly in their priorities depending on which part of the city they live in.

8. For the following list, indicate how you would rank the priority for each (1st priority is highest and 5th priority is lowest). Reorder the list by dragging each line into your preferred order of preference.

Mail	Online
1. Expanding trail opportunities	1. Buying additional land for future parks
2. Improving or upgrading existing parks	2. Improving or upgrading existing parks
3. Buying additional land for future parks	3. Expanding trail opportunities
4. Adding new recreational options in existing parks	4. Adding new recreational options in existing parks
5. Expanding recreation classes & camps	5. Expanding recreation classes & camps



Investment and revenue priorities

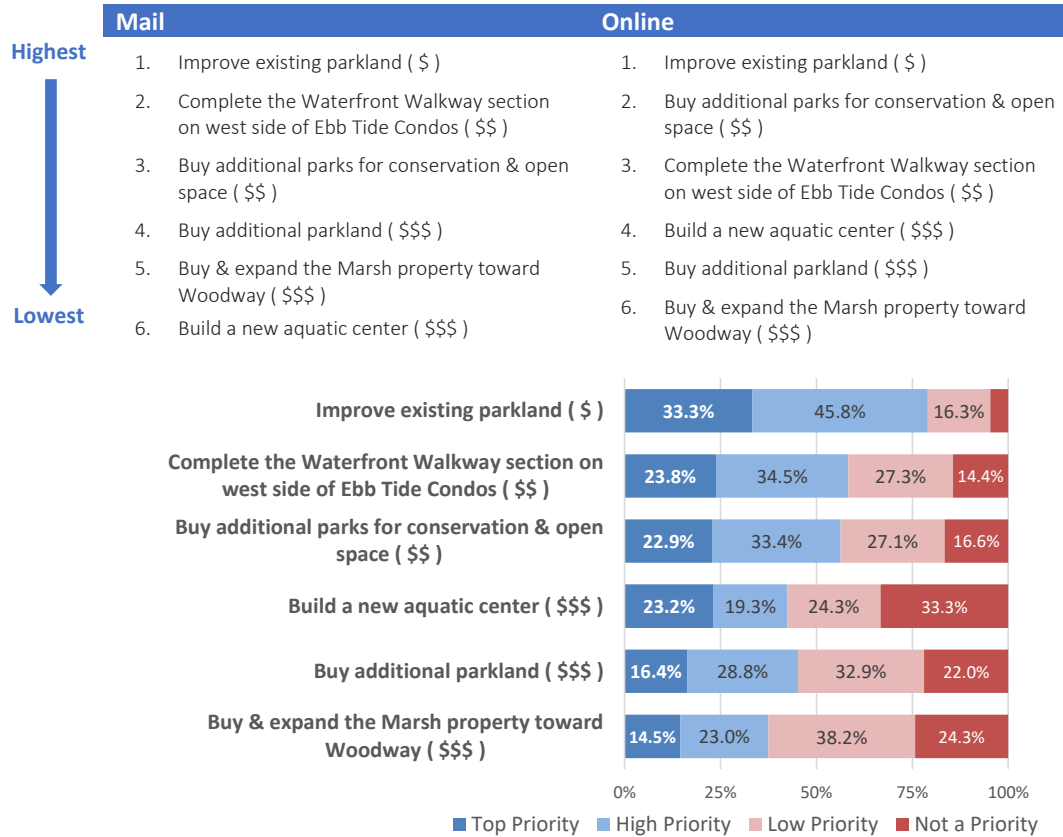
Respondents were asked to rank a list of potential recreation, park and open space investments that included hypothetical relative costs as indicated by the use of dollar symbols (\$) for each system investment. Generally, respondents to both the mail and online survey ranked improving existing parks, completing the Waterfront Walkway near Ebb Tide Condos, and acquiring additional land for conservation and open space as their top priorities. Respondents to the online-only survey ranked building a new aquatic center more favorably than the mail survey respondents.

Respondents of different ages prioritized the investment options similarly, with the exception of building a new aquatic center, which was a higher priority for respondents between 35 and 44. Respondents with children in their home tended to rate building a new aquatic center higher than those without children in the home, who were more likely to rate completing the Waterfront Walkway and buying additional conservation lands as higher priorities. Respondents did not vary significantly in their priorities depending on which part of the city they live in, with a couple exceptions. Those living in the southeastern area rated improving existing parkland as a higher priority. Those living in the southwestern area and downtown waterfront were more supportive of buying and expanding the Marsh property.

City of Edmonds

Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan Survey (2021)

13. Next is a list of improvements and facilities that may be considered for the future. Each one would be funded by your tax dollars. For each item, indicate whether you think that type of facilities should be a Top Priority, a High Priority, a Low Priority or Not a Priority at all. Costs are estimated as: \$ (somewhat expensive); \$\$ (moderate); \$\$\$ (very expensive)

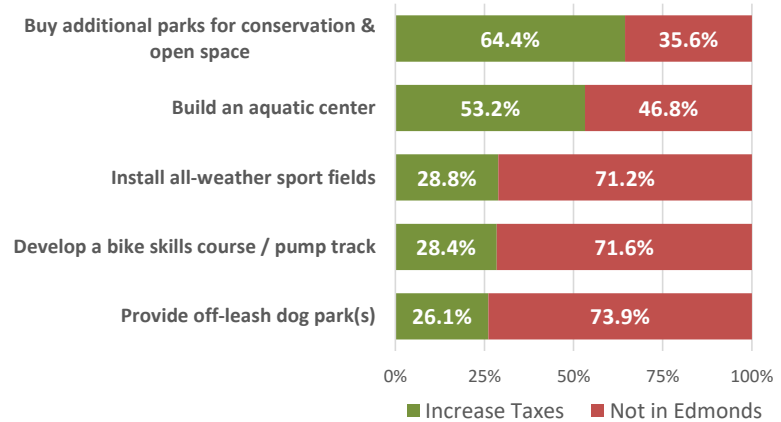


Are residents willing to support increased taxes to fund new amenities and experiences?

Given a choice between raising taxes to develop an amenity in Edmonds versus not having such a facility in the city, slight majorities supported more taxes for two of five amenities tested: buying additional parks for conservation and open space (64%) and building an aquatic center (53%). Strong majorities were not in favor of increasing taxes to support installing all-weather turf sport fields, developing a bike skills course or providing an off-leash dog park.

Respondents with children at home were significantly more likely that those without to support increasing taxes for all improvements other than buy additional parks for conservation (which received similarly high support levels). However, and aside from buying additional park for conservation, building an aquatic center was the only other option for which more than half of respondents with children supported raising taxes. Respondents 35 to 44 years of age were somewhat more likely than other age groups to support raising taxes to fund an aquatic center or to install all-weather sport fields. There were no significant differences based on respondents' location of residence.

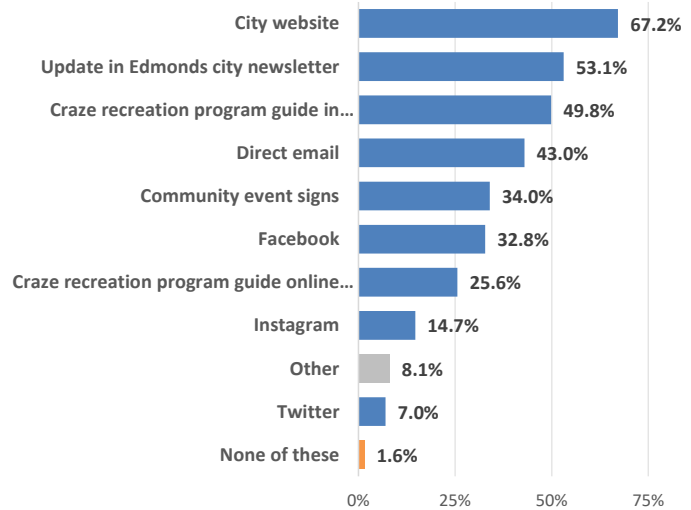
12. There may be some park and recreation experiences that are limited or not available in Edmonds but are available in neighboring communities. If it came down to a choice between increasing taxes to develop that facility in Edmonds versus not having that in Edmonds, which would you choose?



How do residents want to hear about Edmonds' parks, facilities, programs and events?

The majority of respondents prefer to hear about Edmonds' parks, facilities, and programs through the City website (67%) and the City's newsletter (53%). The Craze recreation program guide (in print and mailed to homes) and direct are also popular sources of information, preferred by a plurality of respondents. These sources were popular with respondents to both the mail and online-only surveys.

14. Please check ALL the ways you would prefer to learn about Edmonds' parks, programs and events.



Fewer than two in five respondents would like to hear about park and recreation opportunities through community event signs (34) social media (e.g., Facebook (33%), Instagram (15%), and Twitter (7%)). However, social media, including Facebook and Instagram, is a significantly more popular source of information for respondents between 35 and 54 and for families with children. The city newsletter, city website and community event signs are preferred at higher rates by older respondents. There were no significant differences in communication preferences among those living in different areas of the city.

Write-in responses included the Edmonds News and Edmonds Beacon.

Other Comments

The survey provided respondents with an opportunity to share their ideas and suggestions via open-ended responses. Over 270 respondents provided written comments related to park visitation and preferred media channels. Common themes from these comments include:

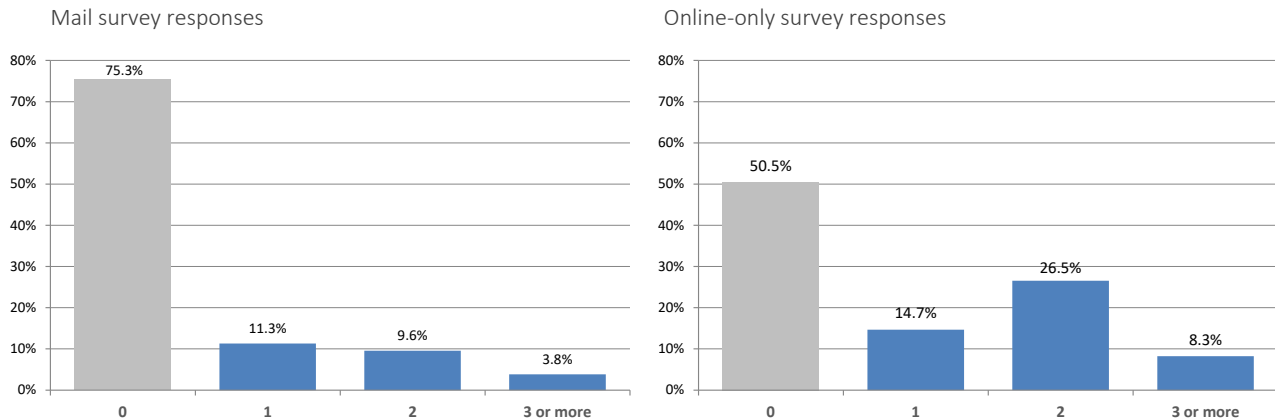
- Respondents noted a range of other activities that bring them to Edmonds' parks and facilities. These include photography, being in nature, petanque/bocce, wildlife viewing and pickleball.
- Additional media channels noted included My Edmonds News and the Beacon.

The full list of write-in comments is available with the Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Department.

Demographics

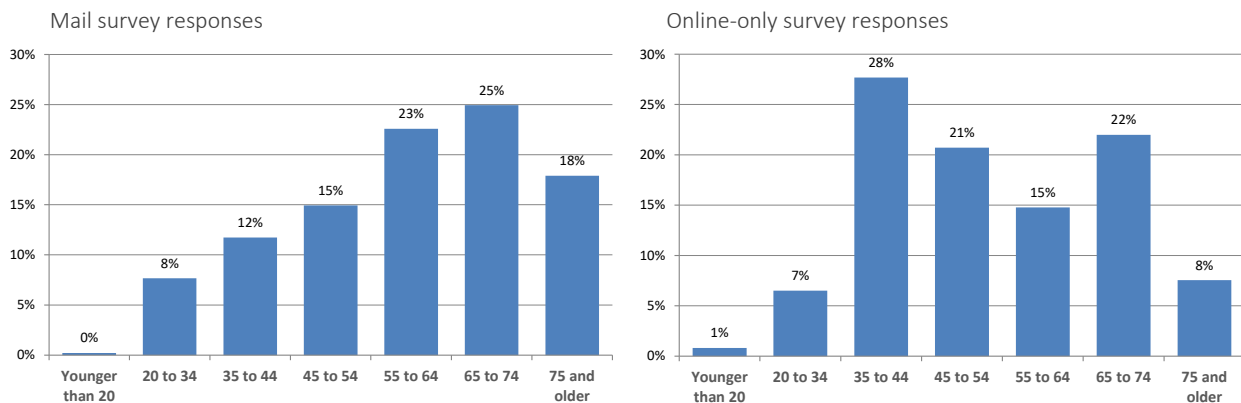
Number of children in household

A majority (75%) of respondents to the mail survey live in households with no children under 18, while about one in five live in a household with either one (11%) or two (10%) children. Less than four percent of respondents live in a household with more than three children. Online-only survey respondents were more likely to live in households with children than respondents to the mail survey.



Age

Nearly two-thirds of respondents to the mail survey (65%) were over 55 years of age. Another 15% were 45 to 54 years. Respondents to the online-only survey also were predominately over 55 years old (44%); however, there were more responses from younger respondents with 34% of responses from those 20-44 years, versus 19% in the mail survey.



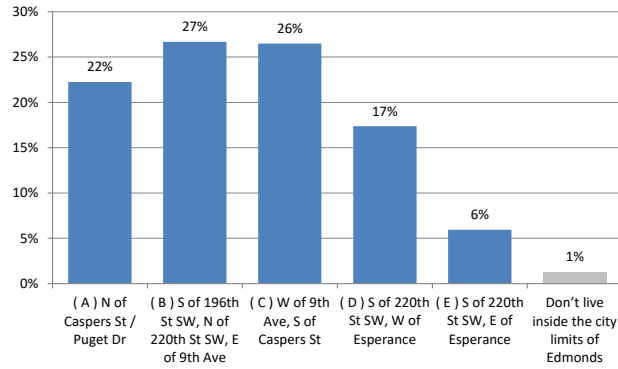
Location of residence

Nearly equal percentages of respondents were collected in each of the five geographic areas between the mail and online surveys. The mail survey had six responses from people who indicated that they live outside of city limits. However, a slightly higher portion of online-only respondents (9.5%) do not live in the city.

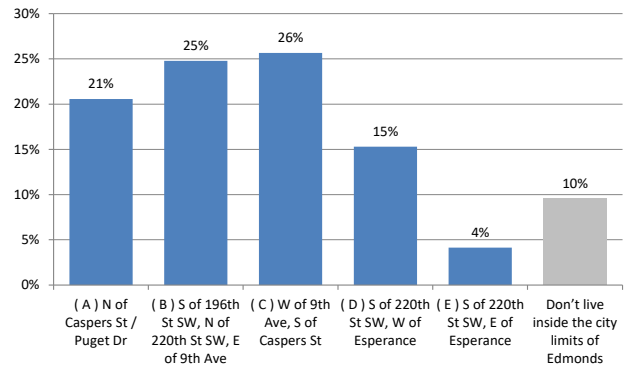
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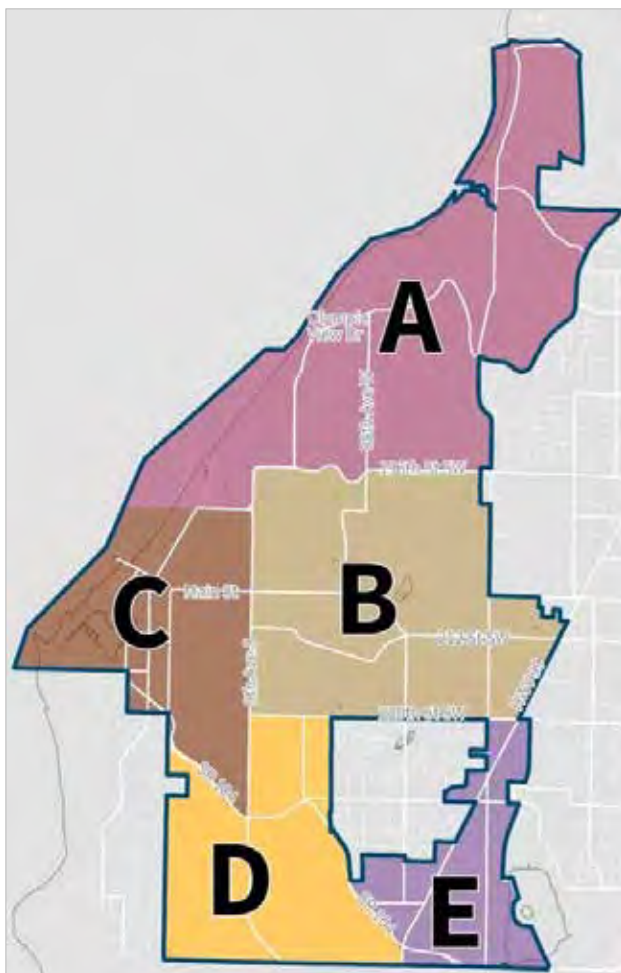
Mail survey responses



Online-only survey responses



Location Map



ATTACHMENT 1. SURVEY INSTRUMENT



Community Survey on Parks and Recreation

Dear Edmonds Resident:

The City of Edmonds is beginning a community-led process to update its citywide Recreation, Parks and Open Space Plan (PROS Plan, for short). We need your help to determine how to prioritize projects and what we should focus on to keep our parks and programs thriving for the next 6-10 years. As an initial step, the City is conducting this short survey to assess the community’s recreation needs. We understand that COVID-19 has impacted your ability to participate in programs and visit parks this year. We ask that you consider needs for the future as you evaluate recreation amenities. Your opinions are important to the City.

The survey has 15 questions and will only take a few minutes to complete. Use the QR code to take this survey online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/EdmondsPROS>



1. When you think about what contributes to the quality of life in Edmonds, would you say that public parks and recreation opportunities are... (CHECK ONE OPTION)

- Essential to the quality of life here
- Important, but not really essential
- Useful, but not necessary
- Not Important
- Don't know


2. When it comes to meeting the needs for parks, trails and recreation facilities, would you say there are... (CHECK ONLY ONE BOX IN EACH ROW)

	More than Enough	About the Right Amount	Not Enough	Don't Know
Developed parks with playgrounds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Walking / pedestrian trails	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bike trails in parks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sport fields & sport courts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Picnic areas & shelters	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Recreation programs (camps & classes)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community events (such as the Concerts in the Park)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pools	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Indoor gymnasium space	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Park conservation areas & open space	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

3. How would you rate the condition of each of the following parks or recreation facilities?

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Not Sure / No Opinion
Your nearest, local city park	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Waterfront parks in downtown Edmonds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Frances Anderson Center	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Your Pool	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sport fields & courts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trails in parks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Playgrounds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Save a stamp! Use the QR code and take this survey online:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/EdmondsPROS>
 Or send it back in the enclosed Return-Reply envelope provided. Thank you in advance for participating!



4. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, how often did you visit or use Edmonds parks, recreation facilities (such as the Frances Anderson Center) or open space?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Everyday | <input type="checkbox"/> A few times over the year |
| <input type="checkbox"/> At least once a week | <input type="checkbox"/> Do not visit facilities / parks / open spaces |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Two or more times a month | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know |
| <input type="checkbox"/> About once a month | |

5. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, what would you say are the main reasons your household visited Edmonds parks, recreation facilities or open spaces in the past year? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fitness | <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor sport courts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Playgrounds | <input type="checkbox"/> Indoor sport courts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Walking or running | <input type="checkbox"/> Beach / waterfront |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bike riding | <input type="checkbox"/> Underwater Dive Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dog walking | <input type="checkbox"/> Watersports / canoeing / kayaking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family gatherings / picnicking | <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife viewing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community events / concerts | <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing at the pier |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation programs, classes or camps | <input type="checkbox"/> Swimming |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Youth sport programs, including summer sport camps | <input type="checkbox"/> Relaxation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sport fields | <input type="checkbox"/> N/A - I didn't use any Edmonds facilities |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

6. Please indicate if your household has a need for each of the park and recreation options listed below AND indicate how well your needs are met locally today.

	HAVE NEED	NO NEED	Very Well Met	Somewhat Met	Not At All Met
Additional picnic shelters for group gatherings	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Upgraded or renovated playgrounds	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
All-abilities, inclusive playgrounds	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Aquatic facility / pool	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pedestrian & bike trails in parks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Indoor fitness & exercise facilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Outdoor fitness equipment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Off-leash dog areas (dog parks)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community gardens	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Additional basketball courts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Additional tennis & pickleball courts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Additional fields for soccer, football & lacrosse	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Additional fields for baseball / softball	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lighted, all-weather turf sport fields	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Community Survey on Park & Recreation Preferences

7. For the following list, indicate how you would rank the priority for each (1st priority is highest and 5th priority is lowest). Mark each ranking number only once.

	Select each priority ONLY ONCE.					Don't know / No opinion
	Highest priority → Lowest priority					
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	
Adding new recreational options in existing parks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buying additional land for future parks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Expanding trail opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improving or upgrading existing parks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Expanding community classes & courses	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

8. Please indicate if your household has participated or used each of the listed recreation program types in the past two years AND indicate if there should be more or less of each available.

	Have you participated / used in the past 2 years?		Should there be more or less of this type of activity or program available?		
	Yes	No	More Needed	Current Offerings are Adequate	Fewer Needed
Adult classes, such as arts, music, fitness or wellness	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Adult sports leagues, such as volleyball, pickleball or softball	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
E sports leagues	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Youth programs, such as summer day camps, arts or gymnastics	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Youth sports programs and camps	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teen activities, such as game nights, trips or camps during school breaks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Outdoor programs, including Beach Rangers or environmental education	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community events, such as the Concerts in the Park or outdoor movies	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Family programs, such as scavenger hunts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

9. If you do not participate in recreation or sports programs offered by Edmonds, what are your reasons? (Please check all that apply.)

- N/A - Does not apply to me
- Age or physical limitations
- Not aware of programs
- Don't have activities I'm interested in
- Poor quality of programs
- Held at inconvenient times
- Held at inconvenient locations
- Team sport leagues are too small or are often cancelled
- Need childcare in order to participate
- Do not want to participate
- Too busy; no time
- Lack of transportation
- Too expensive

10. There may be some park and recreation experiences that are limited or not available in Edmonds but are available in neighboring communities. If it came down to a choice between increasing taxes to develop that facility in Edmonds versus not having that in Edmonds, which would you choose?

	Increase Taxes	Not in Edmonds
Install all weather sport fields	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buy additional parks for conservation & open space	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Provide off-leash dog park(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Build an aquatic center	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Develop a bike skills course / pump track	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

11. Next is a list of improvements and facilities that may be considered for the future. Each one would be funded by your tax dollars. For each item, indicate whether you think that type of facilities should be a Top Priority, a High Priority, a Low Priority or Not a Priority at all. Costs are estimated as: \$ (somewhat expensive); \$\$ (moderate); \$\$\$ (very expensive).

	Top Priority	High Priority	Low Priority	Not a Priority
Buy additional parkland (\$\$\$)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improve existing parkland (\$)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buy additional parks for conservation & open space (\$\$)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Complete the Waterfront Walkway section on west side of Ebb Tide Condos (\$\$)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buy & expand the Marsh property toward Woodway (\$\$\$)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Build a new aquatic center (\$\$\$)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

12. Please check ALL the ways you would prefer to learn about Edmonds' parks, programs and events.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> City website | <input type="checkbox"/> Twitter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Update in Edmonds city newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> Instagram |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CRAZE recreation program guide mailed to home | <input type="checkbox"/> Direct email |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CRAZE recreation program guide online only | <input type="checkbox"/> Community event signs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Facebook | <input type="checkbox"/> None of these |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

The following questions help us understand whether we have a cross-section of the community responding to this survey. It's important that you provide a response to each question.

13. How many children under age 18 live in your household?

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 0 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 or more |

14. What is your age?

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Younger than 20 | <input type="checkbox"/> 55 to 64 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 20 to 34 | <input type="checkbox"/> 65 and 74 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 35 to 44 | <input type="checkbox"/> 75 and older |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 45 to 54 | |

15. In which section of Edmonds do you live?

- (A) N of Caspers St / Puget Dr
- (B) S of 196th St SW, N of 220th St SW, E of 9th Ave
- (C) W of 9th Ave, S of Caspers St
- (D) S of 220th St SW, W of Esperance
- (E) S of 220th St SW, E of Esperance
- Don't live inside the city limits of Edmonds



Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey!

Your input will help guide the development of the Edmonds Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan.

Take this survey online with the QR code or at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/EdmondsPROS>

Learn more about Edmonds parks, trail and programs and stay informed about the Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan process at: <https://edmondswa.gov>



The City of Edmonds is using the services of a consultant team who specializes in park and recreation planning.

Please return your completed survey in the enclosed Return-Reply Envelope addressed to:

Conservation Technix Inc.
PO Box 885
Orinda, CA 94563

APPENDIX C

ONLINE MEETING SUMMARY #1

City of Edmonds PROS Plan

Community meeting summary

Date: 7/22/2021

Time: 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Location: Virtual Meeting

The City of Edmonds Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services (PRCS) team hosted the first community meeting for the PROS Plan update using Zoom on July 22, 2021.

The Edmonds PRCS team promoted the meeting through City communication channels, email, and social media. Meeting information was provided in simplified Chinese, English, Korean and Spanish. The Edmonds PRCS team also promoted the event to community-based partners.

20 community members participated in the meeting. A list of attendees and participants is included in [Appendix A](#).

The purpose of this meeting was to engage the public in the process of creating the Edmonds Parks, Recreation & Open Space (PROS) Plan. The project team provided live interpretation for members of the Chinese-, Korean-, and Spanish-speaking communities. Tammy Leigh DeMent, facilitator, started the meeting by introducing the project, welcoming attendees, and providing instructions for asking questions and participating in Chinese, English, Korean, and Spanish. The project team gave a brief plan overview, highlighted previous city and community plans, summarized upcoming community engagement opportunities, and outlined the planning timeline. They then engaged the group in multiple polling and discussion sessions.

Project Overview

Angie Feser, Edmonds Director of Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services (PRCS) provided the PROS Plan overview. She introduced Edmonds PROS Plan as a 6-year guide for helping the City manage and improve its parks, recreation programs, and other outdoor experiences. The PROS Plan looks to the future and will establish goals, identify specific projects and ideas on how to implement projects.

Angie shared the PROS Plan will explore the City's strengths, areas for parks improvement, and how the City aspires to meet the community's needs for park and recreation today and into the future. She added that the plan will build upon Edmonds' tradition of community-based planning, including the Community Cultural Plan, Climate Action Plan, Transportation Plan, and the Highway 99 Plan.

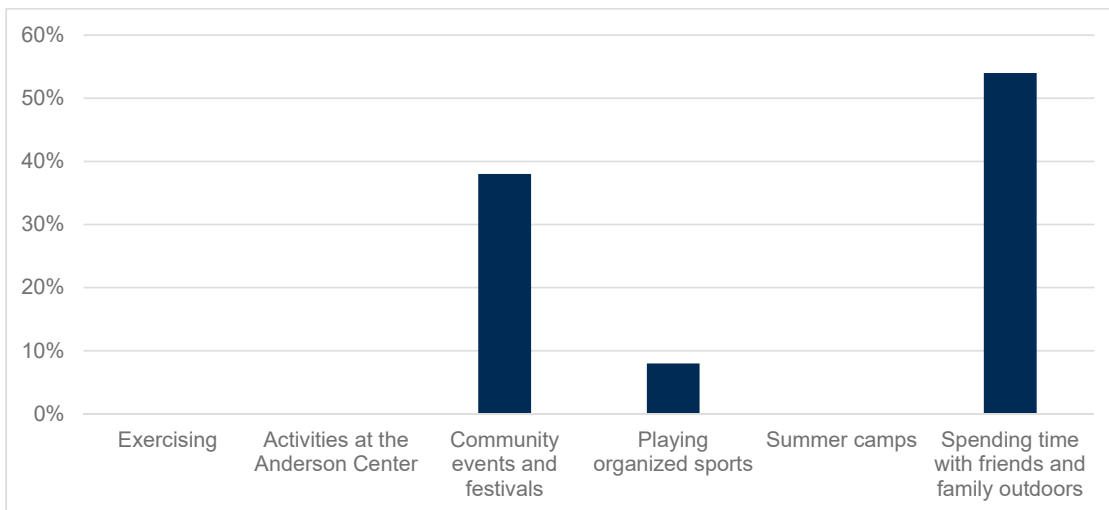
The planning timeline spans about 9 months, with a draft of the updated PROS Plan before the end of 2021 and City Council review in early 2022. The PRCS team is engaging the Edmonds community through a survey in four languages, tonight's virtual meeting (also in four languages), attendance at local events (like the Uptown Farmers Market) to share information, and through group discussions with recreation program users and City partners.

Angie shared parks facts as context setting for the constraints and aspirations of the PROS Plan. Highlights include:

- Edmonds provides 47 parks across the city, with over 230 acres of parks and open space
- It operates numerous sport fields and sport courts, and
- The City manages over 4 miles of trails, including a one-mile trail along the waterfront
- The City has 6 waterfront beaches and a fishing pier
- Before the pandemic, the City accommodated over 8,000 users in its recreation programs; and
- The City has multiple facilities for use or rent, including the Anderson Center, Waterfront Center and park picnic shelters
- The City offers amazing recreational activities and places that Enhance the Quality of Life & Livability in Edmonds. This ranges from community events, to playgrounds, to open spaces and trails. It also includes Yost Pool, recreation programs, picnic and sport areas, and the Underwater (SCUBA) Park.

Angie acknowledged that the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted how people use parks and participate in programs and activities. She emphasized that the PRCS team is using this time to plan improvements for the future and that the planning process is just beginning. This meeting is not about decision-making, but rather for community input. The feedback gathered during the meeting will add to the information gleaned from the community survey.

Poll No. 1: COVID-19 has had an impact on how we recreate. Park usage increased over the past year. What are you excited about doing more of?



Community Survey

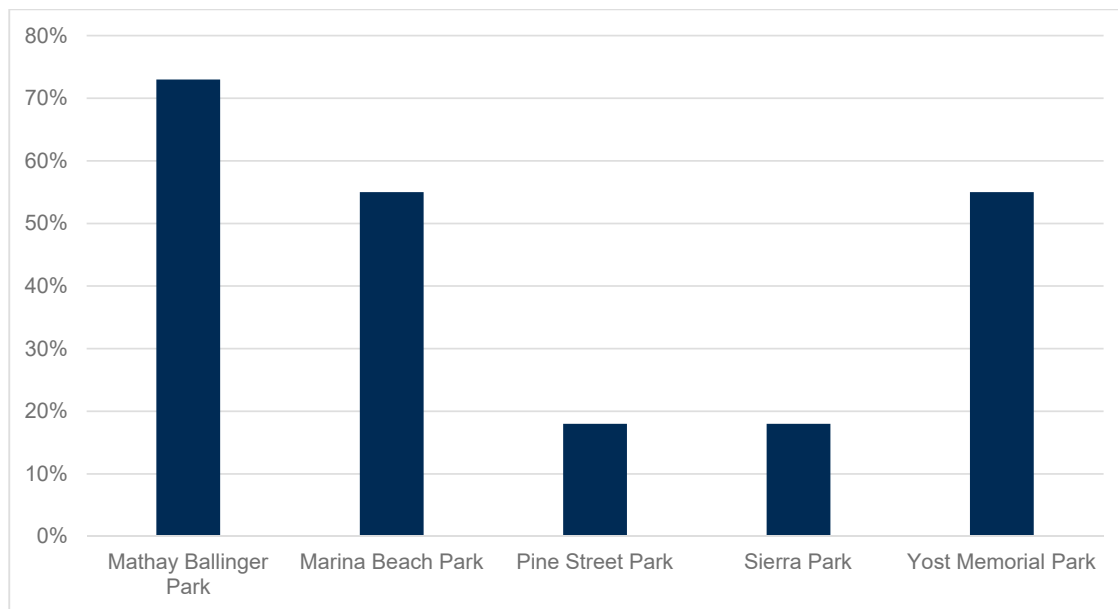
Angie shared that the City launched a community survey in June and so far, more than 1,500 people have responded. She encouraged participants to take the survey on the website. *(Note: the survey will close August 27)* edmondswa.gov/government/departments/parks_recreation_cultural_services

Survey highlights:

- 99 percent of respondents said parks and recreation are either essential or important to the quality of life in Edmonds.
- Going to the beach or waterfront and walking or running are the top reasons for visiting city parks.

- Survey respondents visit Edmonds parks and open space frequently, with 81 percent visiting parks and facilities monthly and about two-thirds visiting weekly.
- Priorities include improving existing parks, completing the waterfront walkway and other trail connections, and buying additional open space lands.
- High-demand amenities include community events, trails, community gardens, and a pool.

Poll No. 2: Survey results to date show a strong interest in making improvements to existing parks. Select your top three parks where you think the City should focus additional improvements.



Question and Answer Session One

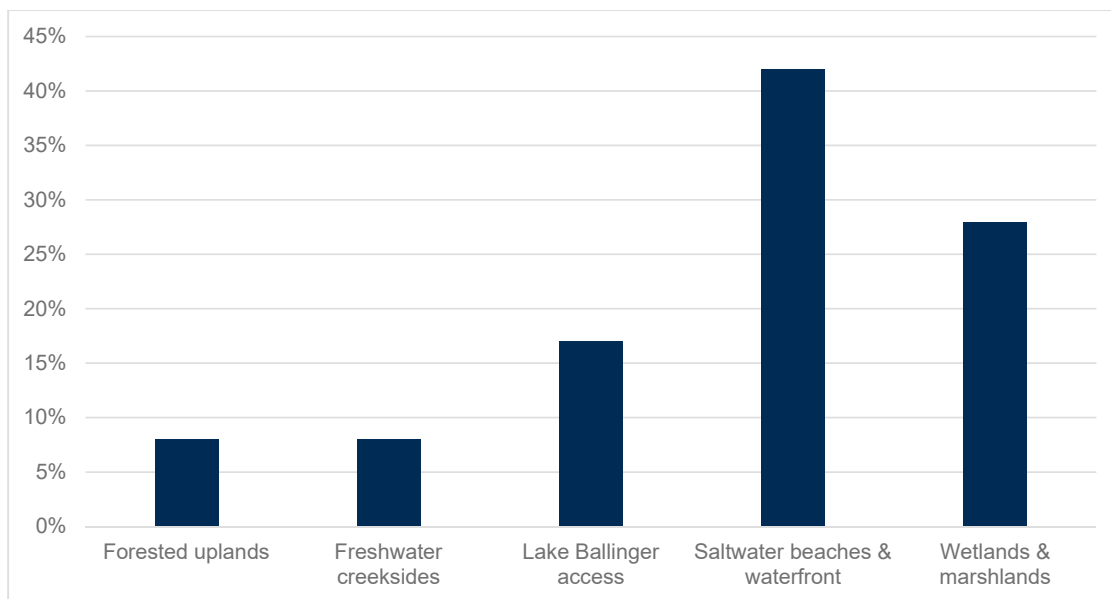
Tammy Leigh invited participants to share their feedback on parks they currently use and opportunities for improvements. Below is a summary of comments. A full list of comments and questions is in [Appendix B](#).

Comment highlights:

- Provide context for the cost of programming vs. location improvements so that people taking the survey can better understand the funding decision-making process.
- Explain why only five parks are included in the polling question for priority projects. (Angie explained that including all of Edmonds parks in a poll was not possible so the focus remained on five parks currently identified for improvements.)
- Add parks and open space to the SR 99 corridor.
- Invest in areas outside of the “bowl”.
- Add bike related activities in parks such as a pump track and a skills course.
- Provide activities for age groups other than young children, specifically for teens and older adults
- Consider bathroom facilities at parks.
- Acquire forested areas threatened by development and add open space throughout the city.

- Manage invasive plants.
- Evaluate use levels of facilities for organized sports such as Pine St Park which has a little-used baseball field.
- Make improvements at Marina Beach Park such as more kayak and paddleboard launch sites, fewer restrictions for kayaking and paddle boarding, more accessible parking spaces, relocation of portable bathroom facilities, and more beach volleyball.
- Make improvements at Mathay Ballinger Park including more picnic areas, seating, ADA access, and parking improvements.

Poll No. 3: We also heard interest in the City acquiring more conservation lands and open space. What types of conservation lands should the City prioritize acquiring?



Poll No. 4: The City offers many community events. Survey results showed strong interest in events. What types of events should the city focus on?

- 82% - Smaller, more intimate events, such as outdoor movies, uptown evening market, Hazel Miller Plaza summer concerts
- 18% - Big events such as 4th of July parade and fireworks, Edmonds Classic Car Show, farmers markets

Poll No. 5: With COVID restrictions being lifted and ‘normal’ is coming back, does your household have a need for summertime day camps, childcare and camps during school holidays?

- 46% - No
- 36% - Yes
- 15% - Not sure

Question and Answer Session Two

Tammy Leigh encouraged participants to share thoughts and ideas for the future of Edmonds parks.

Comment highlights:

- Add more parks, services, and facilities in the SR 99 corridor and the south end of the city.
- Pass ordinances that prohibit use of parks for non-park purposes.
- Funding recommendations include:
 - Provide more funding to parks and recreation programs that serve larger populations.
 - Continue funding Yost Pool
 - Use Washington State Health disparities data and mapping along with resources from the Municipal Research and Services Centre of Washington to identify locations where capital investment will provide health benefits to the most people.
 - Reference the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Plan for equity-based goals.
- Expand the Edmonds Stewards program.
- Park site recommendations include:
 - Improve Hummingbird Park.
 - Provide better access to the waterfront, specifically near the Ebb Tide condominiums, and make it ADA accessible.
 - Include bicycle features and access at parks.
 - Build skate parks in other areas of the city outside of the “bowl.”
 - Divert stormwater from the sound.
- Community engagement should include representation from each area of the City with a focus on reaching underserved communities.

Questions:

- Does the City have funding for future park improvements?
- When will the City update the PROS webpage?
- How long will Marina Park be closed for renovation?

What’s Next?

Angie concluded the meeting with a summary of how attendees can stay involved or contact the Edmonds PRCS team through email at PROSPlan@edmondswa.gov. She reminded attendees to fill out the online survey and share it with friends, family, and networks.

Finally, Angie announced the City will hold another community meeting in the fall to share the draft plan. She encouraged participants to check the website and keep an eye on social media for the meeting date.

APPENDIX A: Meeting attendees and participants

20 community members participated in the meeting.

Community Members	Project Team
Alison Alfonzo Pence	Shannon Burley, Deputy Director of the Edmonds Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services
Linda Coburn	Angie Feser, Director of the Edmonds Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services
Bill Derry	Mindy Woods, Human Services Manager for the Edmonds Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services
Rebecca Elmore-Yalch	Scott Burns, PRR, Inc.
Greg Ferguson	Tammy Leigh DeMent, PRR, Inc.
Kelsey Foster (City of Edmonds)	Eunji Hamnett, Korean Language Interpreter, PRR, Inc.
Lora Hein	Yiran Huang, Chinese Language Interpreter, PRR, Inc.
Bruce Higgins	Daniel Ruiz, Spanish Language Interpreter, PRR, Inc.
Nikki Okimoto Glaros	Laura Van Wert, PRR, Inc.
Zack Ott	
Laurie Rose (City of Edmonds)	
Joe Scordino	
Natalie Seitz	
Mauri Shuler	
Jessica Smith	
Roger Pence	
Chris Ziobro	
Barry	
Rick	
Sean	

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APPENDIX D

ONLINE MEETING SUMMARY #2



City of Edmonds PROS Plan

Community meeting summary

Date: 10/16/21

Time: 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Location: Virtual meeting

The second community meeting was held using Zoom on October 16, 2021. Attendance included 40 public attendees, 2 elected officials and 11 City and consultant representatives of the Edmonds Park, Recreation and Cultural Services team, Conservation Technix, PRR, and interpreters

Community Members	Client & Consultant Team
Nancy Johnson (Sno-Isle Sierra Club)	Angie Feser, Director of the Edmonds Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services
David Orr	Shannon Burley, Deputy Director of the Edmonds Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services
Rose LeSmith	Steve Duh, Project Manager, Conservation Technix
Rachel Maxwell	Laura LaBissoniere Miller, Facilitator, PRR
Bryan Roehr	Scott Burns, Technical Support, PRR
Barbara Steller	Ms. J. Song, Korean Language Interpreter, PRR
Marjie Fields	Yingwen Robertson, Chinese Language Interpreter, PRR
Sonja Miranda (LMN)	Daniel Ruiz, Spanish Language Interpreter, PRR
Barbara Rood	Lizzy Buechel, Notetaker, PRR
Scott Urquhart	
Judi Gladstone	
Vivian Olson	
Janet Phillips	
Alina Rossano	
Teresa Wippel	
Jeanett Quintanilla	
Robert White	
Bill Shirey	
Michael Cuzzetto	
Laura Wag	
Barry Ehrlich	
Chrissy Roberts	
Mardee Austin	
Sharene Bainbridge	
Bill Derry	
Richard Kuehn	
Jack McHenry	

Susan Paine	
Susie Schaefer	
Nora Carlson	
Roger Pence	
Gayla Shoemake	
Patricia O'Neill	
Laurie Sorensen	
Lora Hein	
Nathan Sugg	
Catherine	
JGY	
Lynne	
Kan	

The City of Edmonds hosted this meeting to report back to community members who have offered input and to discuss priorities for the City's Parks, Recreation & Open Space (PROS) Plan. This included live interpretation for members of the Chinese-, Korean-, and Spanish-speaking communities. The project team gave a brief project overview, highlighting survey results, a summary of community engagement, public outreach, and timeline for completing the plan. The project team then engaged the group in multiple polling and discussion sessions to gather input on priorities for the plan.

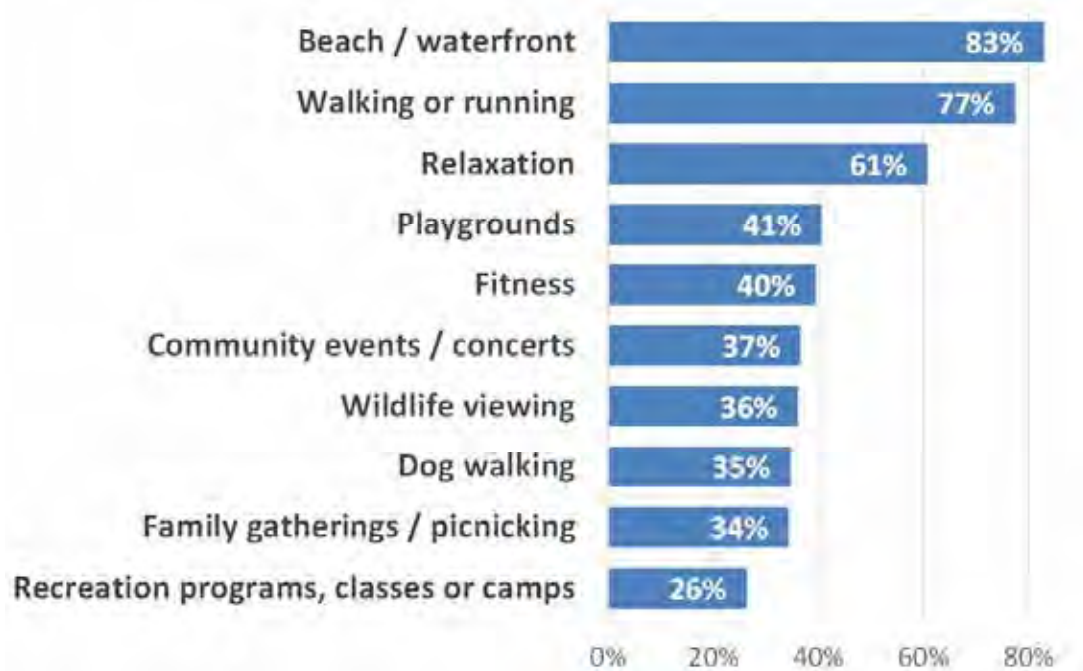
Laura LaBissoniere Miller, Facilitator, started the meeting by introducing the project, welcoming attendees, sharing the meeting agenda, and providing instructions about how to participate, including live language interpretation options. Laura shared that the City was recording the meeting and introduced Angie.

Project Overview

Angie Feser, Director of Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services for the City of Edmonds, introduced Project Consultant Steve Duh of Conservation Technix, who provided the Edmonds PROS plan overview.

- What is the PROS Plan?
 - The Edmonds Parks Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Plan is a 6-year guide for helping the City manage and improve its parks, recreation programs and other outdoor experiences. The Plan looks to the future and will establish goals, identify specific projects and ideas on how to implement projects for the next 6 to 10 years.
- At the core, the PROS Plan is guided by a few basic questions:
 - What are the City's strengths and what areas can see improvement?
 - How will the City meet today's park and recreation needs and the futures?
- What will the City focus on?
 - An assessment of Edmonds' parks and open space will help the PROS plan weigh project priorities. The PROS plan is the foundations for pursuing state grants and will help the City stay eligible for other grants that could help pay for some improvements in the plan.
 - Community involvement, including outreach from people in Edmonds who speak languages other than English, will also guide investments and shape the PROS plan.
- Community feedback gathered through:
 - A Community-wide survey with 1,958 responses.
 - A virtual community meeting in July with 20 participants.

- Ongoing updates through the City’s website and social media outlets.
- What have we heard so far?
 - 99% of respondents shared that parks and recreation spaces are essential or important to their personal wellbeing.
 - 81% of respondents shared that they visit parks/recreation and open spaces at least a couple times per month.
- Why do people visit Edmonds parks? In order of what was heard most:

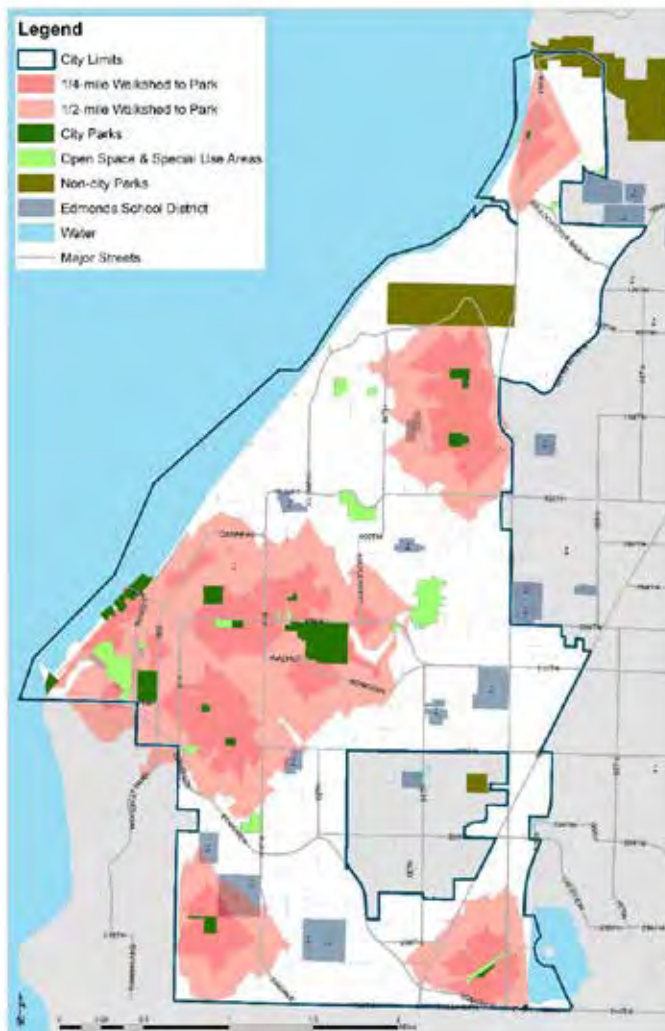


- What are the amenities at parks and recreational spaces that interest people the most? Listed in order of top preferences:
 - Pedestrian and bike trails in parks
 - Indoor fitness and exercise facilities
 - Community gardens
 - Upgraded or renovated playgrounds and play structures
 - Outdoor fitness equipment
- What improvements should the City focus on? Listed in order of priorities from the community:
 - Connecting gaps in trail system, expand trail connections
 - Improve or upgrade existing parklands
 - Buy more conservation and open space lands
 - Build an aquatic center
 - Improve restroom facilities
- What recreational activities and existing programs are of the highest interest to people? Listed in order of preference:
 - Community events, such as outdoor movies, Hazel Miller Plaza summer concerts
 - Outdoor programs, including Beach Rangers or environmental education
 - Youth programs, such as summer day camps, arts or gymnastics
 - Youth sports programs and camps

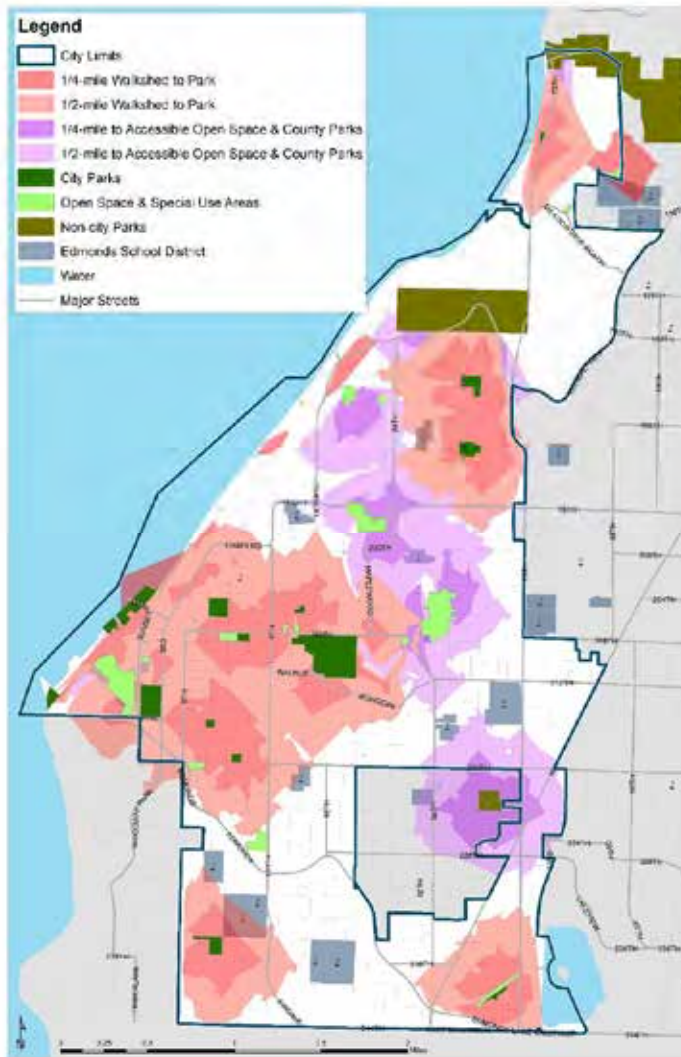
Presentation Part One

Focus areas

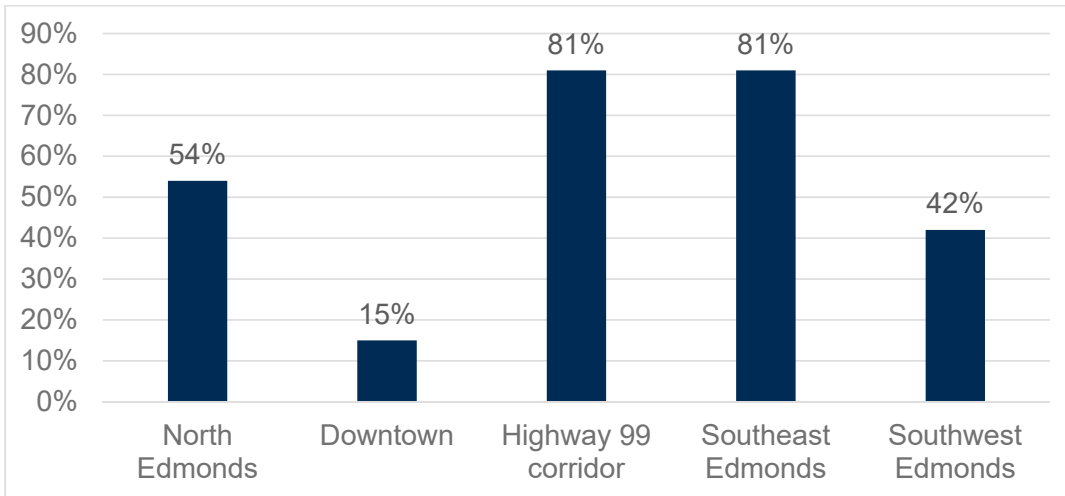
- The City of Edmonds heard community interest to focus investments in south and southeast Edmonds.
- The City of Edmonds followed up on this priority and analyzed how far different residential areas in Edmonds are to parks, recreational spaces, or open spaces. This analysis map shows areas in proximity to developed city parks; the areas in red are within a ten-minute walking distance, while areas in white depict a further walk to get to an outdoor recreational space.



- The City created a second analysis map to identify the proximity between residential neighborhoods and trails, as well as parks. This map analysis offered evidence that the south, southeast and south parts of Edmonds lack adequate recreational spaces and trails.

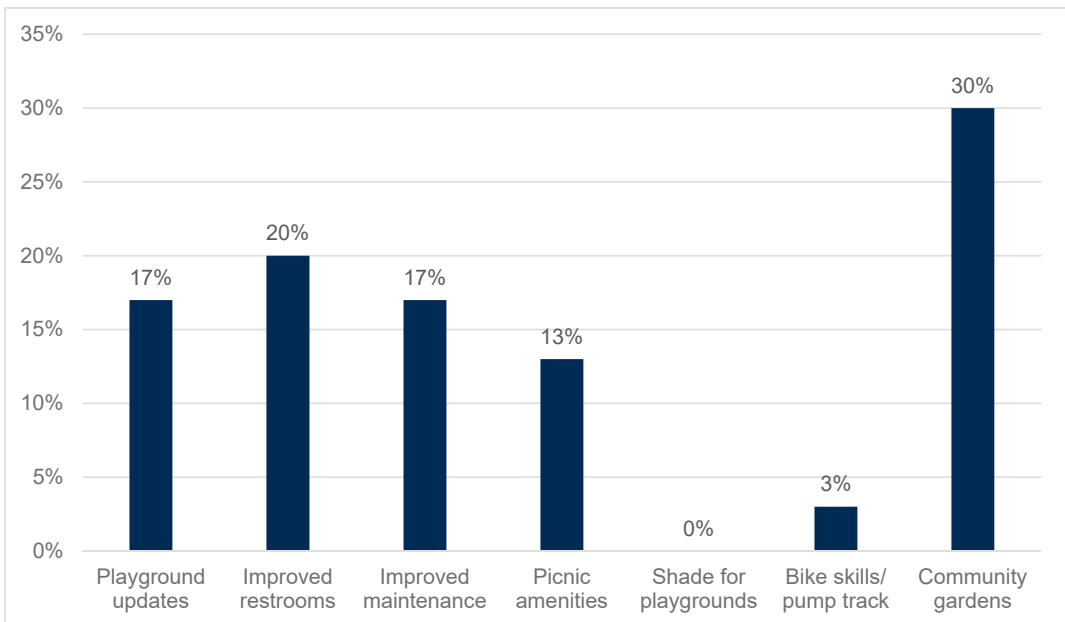


Poll No. 1: Over the next 6 – 10 years, in what parts of Edmonds should the City prioritize additional park and open space investments? Select up to three.



* This poll is to share quick thoughts, further discussion is welcome during Q/A.

Poll No. 2: If you had to pick only one improvement to Edmonds’ park system, which of the following would you choose? Choose one.



We would also like to hear from you. Tell us what parks you visit and how you would like to see them improved. What do you like about the parks? What is missing? Are parks easy to access? What do they need? What could be better?

Q&A:

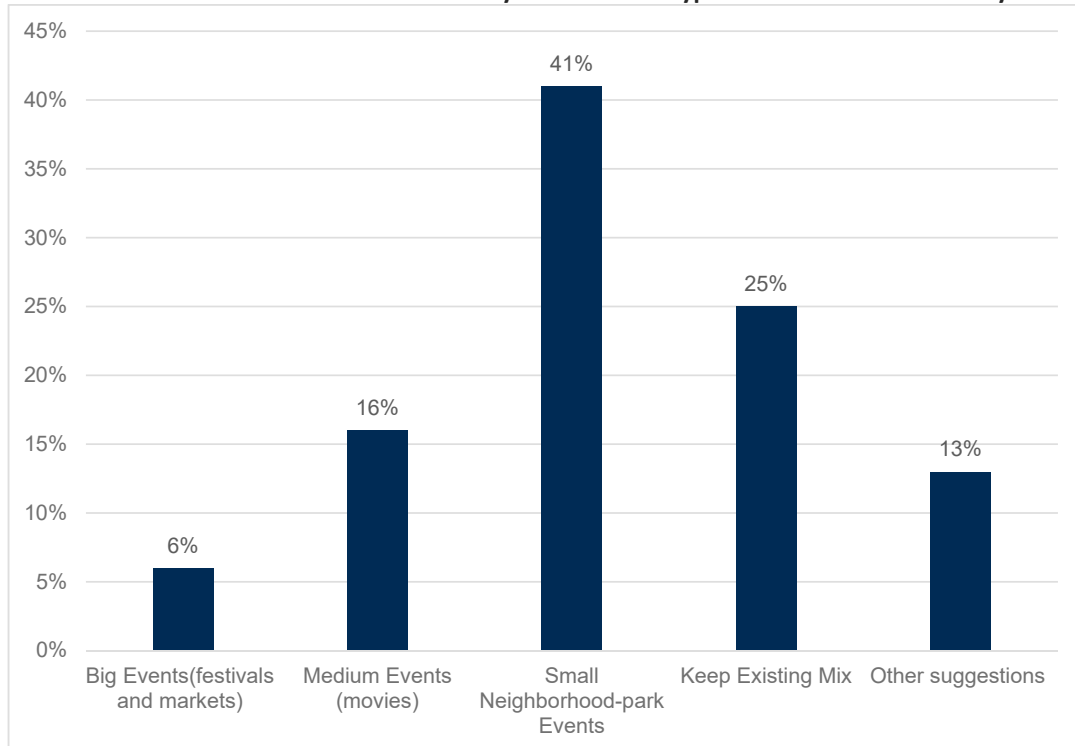
- We are in great need for new skateparks in the area, the ones in Edmonds and Lynndale are out of date.
 - The City is installing a new skatepark as part of the Civic Park Project
- There are no poll answer options for increasing the NATURAL habitat- for example the tree canopy. Instead, the options are all structural. Children are in greater need of NATURE to interact with than they are paved and constructed, human made facilities.
 - The objective for this question is to ask about physical improvements, but there will be other questions/polls to address the need for additional open space.
- Expand Yost Pool operations.
- More trees especially with benches. Note climate change will mean hotter temperatures
- Current Edmonds and Lynndale skateparks are not worth fixing, they need replacement.
 - Lynndale Skate Park is part of the Lynnwood Park system. Civic Park is being re-developed (the old park has been removed and a new one being built).
- Underwater dive park curation
- Will the City try to buy the UNOCAL property when it becomes available and turn it into a park and not use it for development?
- What is the status of the UNOCAL property purchase? Land is at a premium. City needs to purchase.
 - I believe you are referring to the Chevron property by the marsh. The City secured the first right of refusal for acquisition of this property – the City is considering acquiring that property. There are other options for other state agencies to buy that land and lease it to the city. Options are being explored around that property.
- Increased accessibility to current parks.
- I have had young people mention they would like mountain biking area.
- Better trail maintenance at Yost.
- Please remember that SW County Park also serves Edmonds' residents.
- Return to natural habitat, increased accessibility, stewardship of current trails to help reduce off-trail traffic.
- Would like to see better irrigation monitoring overall. Most parks with grassy areas seem to always have very squishy, overwatered lawn areas. Seems to me that watering could be reduced (or use better technology to water smarter) in many areas (saving money and making grassy areas useful/less muddy).
- More park benches in a covered area for the occasional rain shower.
- I am concerned about the conservation needs of parks. There are erosion problems, especially in Yost and Maplewood parks. These are the "headwaters" of Shell and Northstram creeks. Consequently, both these creeks have serious erosion problems and sediment flows in the creeks. I'd like to see more emphasis on use of Open Space in the PROS plan.
- Improvements are needed in upgrading the natural environments children especially and all other ages as well have opportunity to engage with and interact within close proximity of where they live in a predominantly built environment.
- Functional toilets: Porta-toilets are better than nothing at all.
- Make and maintain the dive park.
- It would be great to have mountain bike locations and educating the public about where mountain biking is safe/permitted. Example, there is a lot of mountain biking activity on small trails in Yost Park and people are unclear as to whether this is a permissible activity.
- Possible ILA with County for Esperance Park (to make better picnic benches and art corridor and electric outlets). Possible ILA with Ballinger Park to install amenities that Edmonds residents have better access to on Edmonds side of the Mountain Lake Terrace Park around the lake.
- Would very much like to see the Unocal property purchased as a park.
- Lynndale skatepark needs improvement – at least filling cracks. They have grown over the years making it difficult and dangerous.

- I live next to the main City Park on 3rd Ave S. Both the entry drive and the exit drive are badly in need of repaving. They are also too narrow to be safe for both pedestrians and automobiles and the many vehicles from the city maintenance yard that use these roads daily. Is there a plan to address this need?
- Community engagement in maintaining parks.
- Amenities near Lake Ballinger launch
- Could the city purchase the UNOCAL Property as a City park?
- Love the improvements to the Esperance Park in southeast area that is NOT Edmonds.
- I would like to see a redesign of the South Brackett’s Landing area to be more useable and feature more drought tolerant, native plants.
- When will Maplewood Park get some much-needed attention? It encourages some pretty shady behavior since it is mostly hidden and open after dark, the gate is never closed. Bike trails for kids, better signage to increase usage, attention to those way to tall and not healthy trees.

Presentation Part Two

The City heard a strong interest for additional community events. The City currently offers a range of community events, including large and medium sized events, and smaller neighborhood events like concerts in local parks. Additional events will require additional staff, maintenance, and partners. We would like to learn more about the events you’d like to see. We want to hear your thoughts: what type of events should the city focus on? Please feel free to use QA to offer other ideas.

Poll No. 3: We heard interest in additional community events. What types of events should the City focus on?



* Other suggestions: Change the events focus to ____ (use Q&A to offer ideas)

Q&A:

- Isn't Taste run by the Chamber not the City?
 - Chamber manages the Taste with the City as a partner. We are asking if the Edmonds community would like more of these events. If so, those events could be provided by the City or other organizations.
- Cultural celebrations near international districts
- I could hear Taste Edmonds from my house. It was awful.
- Events in venues outside of the Bowl, please.
- I think it is appropriate for other organizations to host and manage large events.
- More opportunities for neighborhood nature walks (small, quiet gatherings of an educational nature) "forest bathing" or "forest therapy" for example, bird and plant identification and understanding.
- Having partners like the Chamber and ECA or private companies if there are more events
- More environmental awareness - events or demonstration areas.
- Inclusion of indigenous populations.
- Tasting tours of different restaurants (maybe with one ticket for all).
- For local events, use the opportunity to share information and education on environmental issues since the Climate Crisis is upon us--- to have compost options available.
- Events not in bowl, in local neighborhoods. Large events in the Bowl are not really for locals anymore. No events in the streets or right of ways.
- Educational events for wildlife.
- Encourage the permitting to change from fireworks shows to drone shows for 4th of July possibly partnered with live music.

Now we will move on to aquatics and the need for a pool replacement. Yost pool is around 50 years old and nearing the end of its life. A 2009 feasibility study of Yost pool suggested the need for its replacement. There is strong support to replace Yost pool, which offers questions to consider. For example, should the pool be:

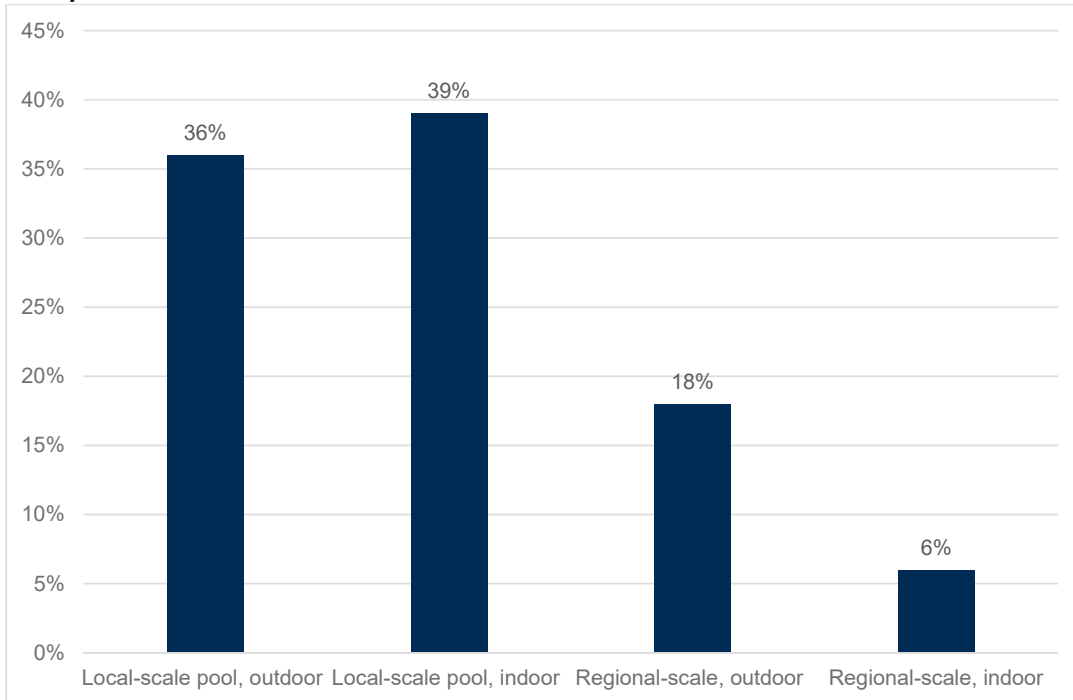
- A large, regional pool?
- A small, neighborhood pool?
- Should the pool be indoor or outdoor?

Each option listed above has different requirements for staffing, maintenance, and associated development costs. For example, a local scale, outdoor pool is seasonal, and offers limited use in summer months. Even as a limited option, there are high costs. For example, constructing something like this would cost around \$4 – 6 million.

A year-round, local scale, indoor pool, in comparison, might cost around \$15 – 20 million, and might not be able to accommodate all activities and community desires.

A large, outdoor pool that serves regionally would be seasonal, and might cost around \$10 – 12 million. An indoor, regional aquatic center - kind of like the one in Lynwood – might cost around \$30 – 40 million. Accordingly, we are interested to learn more about community preferences for the Yost pool replacement.

Poll No. 4: If the City were to replace Yost Pool with a new aquatics facility, what should be the focus for a new facility?

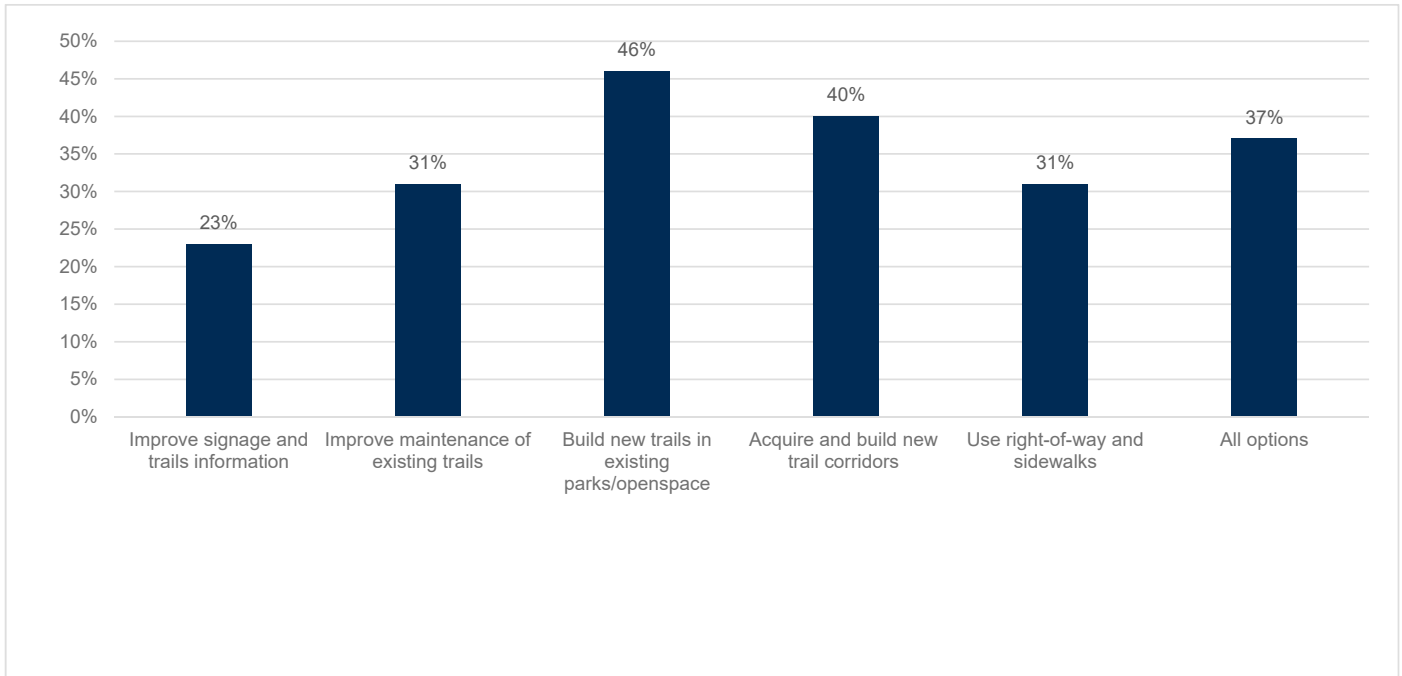


Q&A:

- Yost pool should be for locals, and funding should come mainly from verdant. It should be free for all.
- Lynnwood Pool is already so close. Yost should differ from that.
- Pools, fountains, other water features will become increasingly essential as hotter weather during the summer becomes more prevalent with climate change.
- Aquatics is a perfect opportunity to partner with other cities and agencies in SW county. Edmonds needn't go it alone.
- We need a "no pool" option to reflect that as a low priority. We have much more serious needs.
- The Yost site pool is best suited for outdoors. Stay within that footprint.
- With wonderful indoor pool facilities close by in MLT and Lynnwood, I like an offering similar to our Yost Park offering (outdoor summer pool in the trees).
- If regional scale/outdoor - it could have traditional use in the summer, but then have winter use in the summer as well if used as Nordic-style hot/cold therapeutic baths. Extremely popular, but very few facilities in this area. <https://www.scandinave.com/whistler/en/baths/>.
- replacement of pool in other location of Yost would allow for more trails and natural areas.
- The local-scale outdoor pool at Yost Park is the gem of Edmonds.
- What about both: local indoor and outdoor pools?

Another important priority to Edmonds community members are trails and trail connections. Opportunities for outdoor running, and other outdoor recreation activities are also of interest. There is a community-wide desire to expand the trail system in Edmonds. Currently, the City is planning for bike lane improvements, including how to providing safe routes with signs and maps.

Poll No. 5: What do you see as the most important options for improving trails in Edmonds? (Select all that apply):



What other ideas do you have to improve trail connections across Edmonds?

Q&A:

- The interurban trail is not connected with Edmonds through the intersection with 104 – this should be a high priority to complete so it’s connected. Improved safety is important. While proximity to parks and open space is important, the quality of resource should be a consideration in your level of service analysis. For example, I don’t think it’s right to consider a 10-acre athletic field comparable to parks located within the “Bowl”; I hope that is also a consideration in your level of service analysis, which was not quite drawn out during your presentation.

In regard to the pool: money is not infinite, and I think that available funding should be allocated to address the quality of services offered. The City should prioritize communities that are fundamentally underserved.

In terms of events: all events happen within the “Bowl”. I would like to see an expansion of the Uptown Market to feature more food vendors, specifically, fruit and vegetable vendors. I found this missing from the public market.

- Use un-opened street rights of way
- Access to the trails and knowing where they are is important. I am sure there are more in the city than I am aware of.
- More public paths between neighborhoods. Trails that are for walking rather than biking
- Complete the “missing link” in front of the Ebbtide!

- Try to offer many trails to be inclusive and accessible.
- Agree with the comment about eliminating fireworks shows in the city, especially in proximity to the shoreline and parks. They pollute, degrade air quality, frighten animals and those with PTSD and leave garbage that then gets washed into waterways. They also create major traffic snarls and idling cars are another environmental degradation, not to mention being a fire hazard.
- Needed a 'lighting needs on the walking paths' question- Ballinger neighborhood and the walking area around the Playfields near OVD between (NE Edmonds)? Many people do or would walk there late in the evening. In the winter it is dark and not as safe
- The Edmonds section of the Interurban Trail does not reflect Edmonds' beauty. Also building safe connections for bikes to access light rail is huge.
- It would be nice to see the emphasis on trail improvements to accommodate kids safely having fun on their bikes. Also for older kids making trails for mountain type bikers. Away from cars, not on the streets. Maplewood would be great for this.
- I agree about connecting Edmonds to the interurban trail
- I am concerned about taking away road space in existing streets. Congestion such as might be experienced if trails are put on the existing Highway 4. Purchasing land for bike trails is necessary rather than taking existing land to share bike and car trails
- Permitted usage for existing trails needs to be clarified. Lots of our wooded trails are used being utilized by mountain and motorized bikes and in many cases it is hazardous to hikers/walkers due to trail size. I don't believe they are supposed to be used this purpose but there is not signage informing users/ enforcement of rules.
 - Currently, the city code does not disallow the use of bikes in the parks; so we are unable to post signs or rules about prohibited usage that doesn't exist. In order for us to change that, the city code would need to be changed; then we could move forward with different signage. Overall, the code does not state that bikes are not allowed in parks.
- "HERE, HERE" for the Interurban trail improvements - bummed that it is closed during light rail development in Lynnwood area, but all for public transportation,
- Work with County and neighboring cities to repair and build new interconnections. This will increase access and improve safety.
- I would like to see the Balinger side improved to coincide with the great work that the city of MLT is doing for upgrade at the main park area.
- I would like to see the Balinger side improved to coincide with the great work that the city of MLT is doing for upgrade at the main park area.
- Important to provide connections to existing trails. Trails should be accessible to walkers and bikers, without having to drive to a parking facility to get on the trail.
- Safety for walking is a concern. Any lighting in the city, especially in proximity to parks, needs to be Dark Skies compliant, especially to reduce intrusion into wildlife habitat and interference with bird migration and provide someplace with darkest skies for viewing the night sky.
- Better access to Meadowdale Park. The signage can be confusing and direct people down Norma Beach Rd if they miss it.
- My comment is about safety in Yost Park. Last week, I went for a walk in Yost Park, no cars around, felt a little scary b/c it was just me in park. I walked fast because no one was there; it was a little scary. Are you guys thinking about maybe a phone or cameras in the park for people? I want to clarify that I went to the Yost Park in the day 1:00 pm. and I were the only person there. It will be great to see police around - safety is my priority.
 - Yost Park is not lit with streetlights or other lights, although park hours are from 8 am – dusk, so it technically closes at dusk and in the evenings when it does get darker. If there are specific improvements that would make you feel more comfortable the PRCS would like to have that

conversation. We would be willing to include additional improvements to make the park feel safer. Maybe we can get in touch following this conversation. There are lots of other concerns around safety in Yost Park, so this will be important for city to address.

- We need to preserve trees, especially in watersheds.
- I think the top priority is for acquisition especially in SE Edmonds and the marsh.
- Please remember the wisdom of Joni Mitchell - DO NOT pave paradise and put up a parking lot.
- Also agree with all the first caller had to say. I loved the Uptown Market; however, I was disappointed that there were few to no produce vendors/ aka FARMERS. Would love to see community gardens with options for sharing produce in neighborhood markets such as this.
- I would like to see more work on connecting/way finding to Lake Ballinger. Edmonds should continue to rely on Ballinger as a resource for the southeastern part of the city.
- HOORAY for MORE TREES! Does the park collaborate with the Edmonds Tree Board?
- With the south part of Edmonds needing more parks (we are in a parks desert), the city should look for partnering opportunities. One is coming up with the affordable housing project with the Lutheran church. I'd like to see the city work with the church to develop a park on some of their property so that housing project can be integrated with the rest of the neighborhood through a playground that is used by the entire neighborhood
- More youth-oriented activities in parks like skateboarding and parkour. More park staff at the parks to maintain and help community.
- Provide grants and build more partnerships with grassroots and community organizations to host events, improve access to parks and recreation, help with safety, etc. Grassroots and community organizations can help local governments better understand community needs and how to engage them.
- Need to reduce light pollution. I have a headlamp for some of the times I am out after dark.
- When looking at pools for 4-40 million!!! Skateparks are low maintenance. If designed correctly by proper skatepark builder they will be a timeless addition to the city that has draw from out other local communities. MLT and Lynwood do not have parks). Brier is terrible as well. We have a huge hole in this dept. Please see Calivera (Lake Stevens) skate park and Torgeson Nnorth Bend) as great examples of timeless design and construction. See MLTskatepark.org my personal website for skatepark advocacy. thank you
- The local parks are not patrolled, and they are not closed at night. I live next to Maplewood and it is very busy after hours and not in a good way.
- Is there a reason not to make Maplewood Park walk-in only/ driveway designed to obstruct vehicles to avoid the problems happening there after hours?
 - We are aware of neighbors' concerns of Maplewood Park around safety, security and after-hours activities in the park. We are aware and in communication with police department to request for additional sweeps and drive-throughs in the park. There is always a consideration of including a gate in the park, however this would require maintenance staff to lock and unlock gate, and we don't currently have the staff to do this.
- I heard "free camping." Did I hear that wrong?
 - We do not have camping or campsites in any of our parks; we do not provide camping in our parks – that is not an option.
 - The section of the presentation refers to youth summer camps and to programming, rather than camping outside.
- Are there any plans around community gardens?
 - Edmonds PRCS received a wonderful donation from Shirley Johnson Property, There has been some discussions in the past about this site being used for a community garden. The Park will need to go through master planning process for engaged community.

- In addition, we are seeing in PROS plans responses for community gardens – that will require additional research into finding potential locations
- Is the Park Department considering climate impacts in its planning?
 - Yes, in several ways. One as simple as plant material and design – shifting to plant material that don't require additives, etc. being aware of species that we are using, considering species that require less water, etc.
 - In addition, parks provide benefits to help with climate change as well. I.e. tree canopies provide shade, ecological benefits for water and air
- Will the permitting be different for events that will be allowed at Civic Park when it is completed?
 - Civic Park was designed in conjunction with several large festival producers; things like fireworks show and Taste of Edmonds. The park has been designed to accommodate larger festivals, and the expectation is that they will return to Civic Park.
- The Parks Dept needs to include ways to incorporate climate mitigation and adaptation into the planning. Examples: preserve and increase tree canopy and restore the Edmonds Marsh, which will reduce flooding on Hwy 104.
- Regarding the question on climate change, do you have a plan to increase the tree canopy both in the parks and open spaces?
 - We don't necessarily have a plan specific to X amount of trees per park or increasing tree canopies. But we do utilize our parks for tree and vegetation planting. There is a considerable amount of tree planting every year within parks department. We complete tree planting during the restoration of park sites.
- More outreach and volunteerism solicited for park and marsh maintenance. The supervision may mean it isn't even a cost savings but makes the community more vested in our natural spaces. I want to ditto an earlier commenter who said that outreach and education on being good stewards of the earth would be a great focus for our park in our park spaces- passive methods not so expensive. Also, where can we put water collection tanks to minimize amounts of stormwater going into our creeks?
 - This is something that we have started to do and are looking for more opportunities for partnership.
- Lynndale as I understand it was a collaboration between Lynnwood and Edmonds? Great to hear about already planned replacement of Civic Park. Who is the designer? This is a huge problem when cities do not consult skateboarders and people who use them when designing. You may be just making another park that will have little use due to poor design. This is the most unfortunate part of skateboard park development. I have links to preferred designers on my site. www.Mltskatepark.org. – Grindline, Dreamworks, Evergreen.
- Water usage needs to be considered in all new plantings and landscaping.
- Since Civic Park will include many features to enhance the space for all to enjoy, how can you continue to have fireworks there when they cause noise and mess that impacts all who live nearby? I highly recommend partnering with the chamber to offer drone or laser shows. Since we are the first designated Creative District, I would like to see us do something new, creative and special in our community for the 4th of July celebrations.
- The current Edmonds Marsh will need lots of help (\$) readjusting to salt water and clean up of invasive species. Can the plan include potential connectivity to the UNOCAL property?
- The concern about safety in Yost is regarding unleashed dogs - not just for people but for leashed dogs too.
- Needs to include safety for the other beings (wildlife) with whom we share this area, the ones who came before us who are being increasingly driven from their original homes. We need contiguous wildlife habitat that provides safe habitat for native species of all kinds, including places protected from human and other invasive intrusion.

Other comments for engagement:

- Zoom is really not an effective way to reach all of our folks. It requires a fast internet connection, as well as a device. Phoning in leaves the presentation sight unseen. So, these meetings are only truly accessible to those with means and not the general community.
 - Due to COVID, we can have limited in person engagement around this plan (attending night market); we will continue to look for opportunities around this plan as it is safe to do so.
- Is it possible for individuals, other than those attending today, to give feedback about specific parks? I'm thinking specific input on specific parks might be valuable to the department
 - We encourage questions and comments to continue after the meeting ends. We encourage you to ask your neighbors to share feedback as well.
- Time to do some in-person events again also, with appropriate precautions, of course. Doing Zoom-only is not adequate.
 - Edmonds' current policy does not allow in person meetings; we would obviously prefer to do this in person but are unable to do so. Do have a timeline associated with project – adoption by February to be eligible for state funding for the next 3 years. Additional comments are welcome. The team is always available to email directly to the PROS plan email address and parks dept. is always available for conversations via phone call, or email.
- I hope there will be virtual opportunities to attend. Some people wouldn't attend an in- person event.

What's Next?

- Visit city website; continued conversations with city council and planning board; draft PROS Plan by year end; please visit website to share additional comments.
- The survey links have been posted in the Chat for this meeting. You can access the survey directly from those links or use your phone to scan the QR code shown on the screen.
- If you have anything else you would like to share, please email the Edmonds team at PROSPlan@edmondswa.gov and someone will respond directly to you.



APPENDIX E

STAKEHOLDER SUMMARIES



STAKEHOLDER DISCUSSION NOTES

Project Name: Edmonds PROS Plan Update **Project No.:** Proj-# 21-138PLN
Location: Zoom Video Conference **Interview Date:** August 17, 2021 **Time:** 12:30 pm
Notes by: Steve Duh, Conservation Technix
Participant: Greg Ferguson, Edmonds Stewards program Angie Feser, Director, Edmonds Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services
Jenna Nand, business owner, Chamber board member Shannon Burley, Assistant Director, Edmonds Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services
Bill Derry, resident, retired planner, People for Puget Sound board chair Steve Duh, Conservation Technix
Subject: **Stakeholder Group Discussion (#1)**

PURPOSE

To discuss current interests and future needs related to Edmonds' parks and recreation opportunities. The meeting took place on August 17, 2021, via a Zoom video conference from 12:30 pm – 2:00 pm.

DISCUSSION

The discussion began with brief introductions and an overview of the City's PROS Plan update process. A set of questions were used to initiate the discussion and explore ideas about local parks and recreation needs.

What Participants Value about Edmonds' Parks and Recreation

- Growing up and playing at Mathay Ballinger Park
- Waterfront and beach public space – great democratic space, everyone can enjoy the view and the water (e.g., walk the marina, picnic by the sea)
- Waterfront, especially daytime low tide
- There are more visitors coming to Edmonds, which is good for merchants. Edmonds has the best people and public space, which equals charm
- There is frequent music and at different scales (small, solo performer events and large concerts in City Park and on Main Street).
- It is critical for kids to play outside and have natural space
- Access to two county parks – chapter 2 of the 2016 PROS Plan notes per capita acreage and level of service. Edmonds is low in open space parks, and service levels might show as better if the city counts the county park in Esperance

Interview Notes (continued)

Comments on Maintenance

- Parks operation staff is doing great, work hard and interact with the public graciously
- Parks are well-maintained and clean. Cleanliness is not an issue in the Bowl and north Edmonds. There is a different demographic around Mathay Ballinger Park and Hwy 99, with more of a 'street population' there. Park maintenance and cleanliness is more of an issue in southwest and southeast Edmonds.
- Consider starting a business investment district along Hwy 99 to help finance improvements.
- Yost Park has been very busy during COVID; parking lot has been full
- There are different uses in open spaces versus parks (i.e., encampments). The city should tackle it, so all feel safe to use these spaces. Support and assistance for the unhoused are better than a sweep. (Note: The City is trying to get a social worker to aid in this area.)
- Maintenance overall is really good and should continue to be high/highest priority.
- Invasive species is an ongoing issue. Sound Salmon Solutions and Edmonds Stewards can help with invasive species control (see 2016 Plan, chapter 4, goal 4)

Open Space Needs

- Edmonds Marsh is an underused gem; expanding that site is a big habitat opportunity and chance to daylight creek into the Sound. Add a boardwalk and viewing platform
- Look at the Unocal property; it might be a surplus opportunity from the company. Consider adding it to Edmonds' park system
- There is not a lot of open space left in the city. One opportunity is to open street rights-of-way, Consider opportunities for temporary or permanent improvements, such as basketball, tennis, trails. There is a fair amount of unopened ROW in southeast Edmonds
- The forest parcel across from Yost Park might be subdivided and would be a good candidate to buy it and maintain as tree canopy (Shell Creek).

Recreation Opportunities & Needs

- At Mathay Ballinger, add exercise equipment – play equipment for adults. More open to all ages and abilities, especially seniors
- Sport leagues are well-organized for active sports, politically strong and can take care of themselves
- There is a need for extended trails and natural trails – connect waterfront, Meadowdale, Marsh, Yost
- The 2016 Plan has a reference to climate change. Make parks easier to access on foot, attempt to lessen the impact of vehicular access. Also, watch for water rise at waterfront sites; add more tree cover
- Would like to see more flowering trees along streets and more trees along Hwy 99. More trees and shade will help with the impact of high temperatures on the street and sidewalk. Add more shade, benches and hydration stations

Recreation Programs

- Yoga on beach or in parks. Hainsworth Park has outdoor yoga
- Focus on youth, elderly and disabled communities, with focus on public health

Interview Notes (continued)

Project ideas

- Acquire more park and open space lands (south and east Edmonds are most deficient).
- Focus more on Hwy 99, which is not recognizable as Edmonds (i.e., art, trees, look, feel). There should be more equity in park investments. Hwy 99 generates more tax revenue than the Bowl; harder to fund projects in area like Hwy 99.
- The Marsh property offers opportunities for trees and habitat value; might be easier to find outside resources fund a project like the Marsh than Hwy 99 area projects.
- Develop more space for pollinators and re-wilding. Consider a wildlife crossing on 76th. Plant more trees and plants.
- Concern about dog park near Puget Sound and with urine and waste going into the Sound. It is a bacterial 'hotspot'
- Look for opportunities for an east/west trail from Hwy 99 to the ferry, something safe and separated

-- End of Notes --



STAKEHOLDER DISCUSSION NOTES

Project Name:	Edmonds PROS Plan Update	Project No.:	Proj-# 21-138PLN
Location:	Zoom Video Conference	Interview Date:	August 19, 2021
Notes by:	Steve Duh, Conservation Technix	Time:	10:00 am
Participant:	Ken Cooper, Edmonds Boys & Girls Club, Executive Director	Ashley Song, Arts Commission	
	Heather Damron, Edmonds moms group	Matt Finch, ESD Facility Manager	
	Alison Pence, Rotary, Diversity Commission	Angie Feser, Director, Edmonds Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services	
	Tia Scace, Edmonds Garden Club	Shannon Burley, Assistant Director, Edmonds Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services	
		Steve Duh, Conservation Technix	
Subject:	Stakeholder Group Discussion (#2)		

PURPOSE

To discuss current interests and future needs related to Edmonds' parks and recreation opportunities. The meeting took place on August 19, 2021, via a Zoom video conference from 10:00 am – 11:30 am.

DISCUSSION

The discussion began with brief introductions and an overview of the City's PROS Plan update process. A set of questions were used to initiate the discussion and explore ideas about local parks and recreation needs.

What Participants Value about Edmonds' Parks and Recreation

- Walking the waterfront, several parks have different things to offer (i.e., variety, active, passive, sunset, water)
- For the Boys & Girls Club, we take our biking club to Yost Park and use City Park for the splash pad. Appreciate rule change for dogs in parks
- Value the greenspace. As a parent, I appreciate the playgrounds, but gravitate toward the trails. At Sierra Park, would prefer to see nature area, rather than playground equipment
- Always try to hike forested park on walks
- There are a lot of trees that offer environmental benefits
- Would like to see more open space and more public art in parks

Interview Notes (continued)

Comments on Maintenance

- Maintenance is great. There is not a lot of litter and no damage to trails
- City Park is packed daily; Pine Street Park is used heavily
- City Park is clean, busy. With all the events, the clean-up is great
- The pier walkway has a lot of seaweed and is slippery at times
- Focus on areas that aren't just in higher economic areas
- There are never enough staff to manage plants. Volunteers are great, but more is needed to remove invasives

Recreation Needs

- Make sure all parks are accessible.
- At Marina Park, the ADA parking is closest to the water, but the porta potties are near the off-leash area and far from these parking stalls. Move the logs for room for porta potties closer in
- At Mathay Ballinger, there is one ADA stall, and visitors can't really get to the features in the park from there (e.g., picnic table, porta potty, play area)
- More effort on conservation (i.e., climate change) – would like to see less grass/lawn (incl the related watering, fertilizing & resources) and more regionally appropriate plants
- Need more open space and parks
- There is really nothing in the southeast portion of the city, especially in multi-family areas with no open space to walk to
- There is a demand for athletic fields – need both, open space and fields for active use
- ESD worked more with the city in the past building turf fields at Woodway and with Lynnwood for Meadowdale fields
- If there were to be an aquatic center, maybe find a site along Hwy 99, rather than in the Bowl
- Walking and biking paths across the city and to/from school.
- Collaborate with ESD regarding improvements that might help accommodate field trips or walking to school. (ESD noted that there are likely no major construction in Edmonds in the next ten years.)
- Connect a trail east/west to the Interurban Trail
- Add a food garden or more community gardens; Garden Club gets requests for more pea patches

Future needs

- More open fields and more athletic fields
- Maintain what we have
- The Boys & Girls Club is always searching for space for recreation programs
- Keep a strong focus on tree canopy
- Moon shot idea – walkable recreation within five minutes for all residents. This might be a challenge in the south and southeast. Difficult to walk to Mathay Ballinger Park – no direct route, dangerous traffic, no safe pedestrian route
- More green for everyone and closer to Hwy 99
- Conserve open space and expand on it with more restoration; improve access to nature and wildlife. During COVID, really appreciate having things to see and do (i.e., trees, birds, wildlife, etc.)

Interview Notes (continued)

Communication

- Consider translating more city materials and information, but it may need in-person translation in the various dialects. The focus tends to be on the main dialect (i.e., Mandarin). Personal, direct outreach should be expanded, but the city may need to have people of color conducting the outreach
- Hwy 99 area needs more access to social and health services

-- End of Notes --



STAKEHOLDER DISCUSSION NOTES

Project Name: Edmonds Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan **Project No.:** Proj-# 21-138PLN

Location: Phone Calls & Zoom Conferences **Interview Dates:** Sept. 3, 9, 10, & 28, 2021 **Times:** varied

Notes by: Jean Akers, Conservation Technix

Participant: Angela Harris, Port of Edmonds Commissioner Matt Finch, Director of Facility Operations, Edmonds School District
Natalie Seitz, Resident, Equity advocate Jean Akers, Conservation Technix
Kirsten Paust, Resident, Pool advocate

Subject: **Stakeholder One-on-one Interviews**

PURPOSE

To discuss current issues, opportunities and needs for park and recreation amenities. The interviews took place individually from September 3rd to 28th via phone call or Zoom engagement.

DISCUSSION

Each interview began with a brief introduction and overview of the City's Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Plan update process. The interviewee was asked to briefly describe their role and relationship to Edmonds' parks and recreation provision. A set of questions were then used to guide the discussion and elicit ideas about the park system and local recreation needs.

Agency or Individual Roles

- The Port of Edmonds values its partnership with City Parks & Recreation; the relationship and communications are good.
- The Port owns land adjacent to several city-owned park and open space lands and coordinates with access and amenities, where feasible.
- Edmonds School District (ESD) goes beyond the City of Edmonds with its boundaries including Woodway, Lynnwood, Mountlake Terrace and Esperance.
- The City Parks & Recreation and ESD have collaborated on sports fields implementation projects in the past and are interested in continuing to partner on capital projects that can benefit the community.
- ESD actively supports community events by offering rental of its facilities and parking areas to support festivals and programming.
- Advocating for equity and inclusion of the South Edmonds and SR 99 communities to provide more park and recreation facilities in underserved areas.
- Advocating for better management and future upgrades and improvements at Yost Pool.

Interview Notes (continued)

Value/Rating of Parks

- Port Commissioners noted that parks were generally in average to good condition and had numerous volunteer activities engaged in work projects.
- More promotion could be coordinated to spread the word about community events.
- Waterfront Center is amazing.
- ESD wants to reconnect parks leadership with their Capital Partnership Program that works informally to coordinate community-related improvements through needs assessments.
- Park facilities are good.
- South Edmonds and the SR 99 community are lacking in sufficient park facilities and should take a more upfront priority in creating a more equitable park system.

Concerns or Issues

- Restrooms at the fishing pier need an upgrade. They're too dark and have bad night lighting.
- Restrooms near the ferry dock & underwater park needs major upgrade/renovation.
- City park sports fields have drainage issue in right field in the spring.
- Increased walkability and safe routes to school & parks.
- Capital investments have been mostly focused on downtown and waterfront leaving the South Edmonds and SR 99 community underserved in park and trail facilities.
- Current gap in Interurban Trail makes for a dangerous connection. Connect gaps to create more regional trail value.
- Create a durable process using an equity-based matrix and review/evaluate maintenance allocations to ensure equity in park care.
- Reinforce the public health role of parks in the community.
- SR 99 & South Edmonds communities have higher temperatures due to more urban development (and away from waterfront) and could benefit from more green spaces and tree canopy.
- Spur trail between Mathay Ballinger Park and Interurban Trail needs to be repaved.
- Avoid consuming Mathay Ballinger Park with a future SWM basin, reducing its footprint for possible future recreational amenities.
- In gap analysis, add service areas for all park & rec amenities, not just neighborhood and community parks.
- Address access to programming.
- What's the future plan for Yost Pool? Aquatic programs are big value to community & need to be preserved into the future.
- Yost Pool had a great summer swimming program run by the YMCA but the switch to Cascade Swim Club has limited the public access to the pool.
- Review and evaluate concessionaire terms and agreements to ensure community-based programming value.
- Yost Park had unlimited access for YMCA programming that affected park capacity and public use of Yost Park. Was there any review of park carrying capacity? Traffic study for effect of programming?
- Sunset corridor may be impacted by railroad expansion of third rail line. How can trail access be protected?
- Older kids are not well-served except at the skate park. More recreational opportunities are needed like zip-lines, BMX tracks, BIG swings, etc.

Interview Notes (continued)

Project ideas

- Parks map would be good to make information more accessible.
- Promotion of Edmonds parks could include other providers (county, school & other lands) as useful resources in their park information.
- Future daylighting of Willow Creek could be an opportunity for more partnering and coordination between Port and City Parks.
- A community recreation center (better than Yost).
- Improved access & boardwalk along the east side of Edmonds Marsh.
- Enhanced interpretive programs around the hatchery
- More sports fields for games and practices are needed
- More arts, cultural and environmental activities
- More soccer and mountain biking
- A Park Steward program could represent park efforts and solidify volunteer activities
- Enhance walkability to the waterfront from residential areas.
- Potential expansion of former Woodway HS campus could involve additional sports fields, lighting or a future school site.
- City could benefit from a sports complex that provides tournament capacity to draw more economic activity.
- An “opportunity fund” for SR 99 could help with resources and acquisitions to address current inequities.
- Parks could provide meeting spaces that could be rented/reserved by small businesses and individuals since library only allows public uses. Snohomish (Willis Tucker) provides private reservable meeting space as a good service to the community. This space could be combined with the City’s future satellite office along SR 99.
- Add a bike tool station on the Interurban Trail.
- Rework 77 to Trail so it’s safer.
- Add restrooms and a drinking fountain to Mathay Ballinger Park.
- Enhance landscaping along utility corridor for better aesthetics.
- Upgrade infrastructure at Yost Pool.
- Marina Beach Park OLA could be improved by the removal of some of the older agility equipment.

Key Priorities

- Collaborate on Port’s waterfront project to help create a seamless boardwalk experience.
- Consideration of an inter-local agreement between parks and ESD to help facilitate partnerships and capital project resources and implementation. ESD has an ILA with Lynnwood where Lynnwood contributes to elementary school construction to enlarge the gym to be able to accommodate more community-based programming.
- Safe routes to parks and schools through enhanced walkability in the community.
- Lighting for Woodway Campus synthetic fields to extend available play time throughout the year.
- Add a “pocket park” classification to address an inequity in park definitions. Address the disparity between park plan classifications and city code definitions.
- Provide more park amenities in SR 99 & South Edmonds communities.
- The ‘International District’ along SR 99 deserves more city investment and attention: tree plantings, connected green spaces, pedestrian-friendly amenities. (See Shoreline as an example.)
- Yost Pool upgrades.

Interview Notes (continued)

- Completion of Civic Park.
- Balance resources to invest across the City.

Other Comments

- The Port will be moving its administration building (current structure to be removed) with a major rework of the waterfront boardwalk. The project will create some small open space(s) along the promenade.
- ESD is facing capacity issues at Sherwood & West Gate Elementary Schools while Edmonds Elementary School has declining enrollment. A 5-10 year plan for elementary school replacement in Edmonds could be an opportunity to partner with Parks & Recreation.
- Partnering with ESD for a future aquatic center is feasible.
- Could there be a partnership with Mountlake Terrace to allow some development of the west side of Ballinger Park to provide for Edmonds' residential park needs? Could Edmonds lease part of that parkland for developing more active park facilities, like sports fields?
- "Edmonds Moms", a Facebook group, has over 7,000 members and could be a resource for parks & rec communications.
- "Edmonds Dogs" is another local interest group to be considered in communications about projects and programming.
- Informal volunteer group in Yost Park has been trimming blackberries and clearing overgrown vegetation along trails. Could this be a human resource that gets expanded into a "Friends of Parks" 501.3.c entity?

-- End of Notes --



STAKEHOLDER DISCUSSION NOTES

Project Name: Edmonds Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan **Project No.:** Proj-# 21-138PLN
Location: Zoom Video Conference **Interview Date:** Oct. 14, 2021 **Times:** 11:00am
Notes by: Jean Akers, Conservation Technix
Participant: Joomi Kim, Executive Director Jean Akers, Conservation Technix
Korean Community Services Center

Subject: **Stakeholder Interview**

PURPOSE

To discuss current issues, opportunities and needs for park and recreation amenities. The interview took place on October 14th via Zoom video conference.

DISCUSSION

The discussion began with a brief introduction and overview of the City's Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Plan update process. Joomi Kim was asked to briefly describe her role and organization and its relationship to Edmonds' parks and recreation provision. A set of questions were then used to guide the discussion and elicit ideas about the park system and local recreation needs.

Agency Perspectives

- The Korean Community Services Center (KCSC) provides a variety of social, financial, legal, counseling and linguistic services for the Korean-speaking population in the Puget Sound Region. Up until now it has had little if any relationship with the City of Edmonds and its provision of parks and recreation.
- Many of the people KCSC serves are not connected to recreation programming or the use of park facilities due to language barriers.
- KCSC is advocating for equity and inclusion of the South Edmonds and SR 99 communities to provide more park and recreation facilities in underserved areas.

Value/Rating of Parks

- The City's parks are beautiful but not as essential as needed social services.
- Walking trails and safe walking environments are important. Walking in green spaces is better than heavily urban.
- Waterfront Center is very nice but KCSC clientele are not likely to use it due to discomfort with language barrier.

Interview Notes (continued)

Concerns or Issues

- Heavy investment in waterfront & downtown has left underserved areas of Edmonds without adequate facilities and services.
- Distance from waterfront and its amenities can be an additional barrier for KCSC community. SR 99 corridor needs more focus & attention.
- The City (and Parks & Rec) is not engaged with its Korean community.
- Affordable housing is in short supply. High-rise residential housing could provide needed affordable living and a small community center could be part of the project.
- City does not currently place many park and recreation resources in non-white, diverse resident populations.

Project ideas

- A small (or large) community center located along SR 99 corridor could help provide much-needed services and access to recreation programming.
- KCSC is ready to provide Korean translators for a variety of recreation programs. They run lots of programs but need more space and are willing to help City with translation.
- KCSC runs a number of “wisdom” classes where life skills are taught such as photography, flower arranging, knitting, computer use, Yoga, and how to use a smartphone. They have limited space and could expand their programming to collaborate with Edmonds’ recreation programming and provide the teachers (Korean-speaking).
- Help create better walking environment in SR 99 & South Edmonds communities.

Key Priorities

- Somewhere near SR 99 corridor, a multi-cultural community center is needed. The center should provide reservable meeting space, conference/auditorium space, commercial kitchen, game room, gym, after school programs and maybe an indoor pool.

Other Comments

- Look at the land surrounding the Burlington Coat Factory. Is there an opportunity to acquire some space for a community center?
- As an example of type of needed facility: the Snohomish Senior Association meets one to three times a week and likes to prepare their own meals (needs a kitchen) have an indoor gathering space, play some simple games (ping pong, Mah jong, etc).

-- End of Notes --

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APPENDIX F

RECREATION TRENDS



The following summaries from recognized park and recreation resources provide background on national, state and local park and recreation trends. Examining current recreation trends may inform potential park and recreation improvements and opportunities to enhance programs and services.

2020 NRPA Agency Performance Review

The 2020 National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) Agency Performance Review summarizes the key findings from their Park Metrics benchmarking tool and is intended to assist park and recreation professionals in effectively managing and planning their operating resources and capital facilities. The report offers a comprehensive collection of park- and recreation-related benchmarks and insights to inform professionals, key stakeholders, and the public about the state of the park and recreation industry. The 2020 NRPA Agency Performance Review contains data from 1,053 unique park and recreation agencies across the United States as reported between 2017 and 2019.

Key Findings and Characteristics

Park facilities and operations vary greatly across the nation. The typical agency participating in the NRPA park metric survey serves a jurisdiction of

approximately 42,500 people, but population size varies widely across all responding jurisdictions. The typical park and recreation agency has jurisdiction over 20 parks comprising over 430 acres. Park facilities also have a range of service levels in terms of acres of parkland per population and residents per park. These metrics are categorized by the agency's population size.

Park Facilities

Nearly all (96%) of park and recreation agencies operate parks and related facilities. The typical park and recreation agency has:

- One park for every 2,281 residents
- 9.9 acres of park land for every 1,000 residents in its jurisdiction
- 11 miles of trails for walking, hiking, running and/or biking

Figure F1. Median Residents per Park Based On Population Size

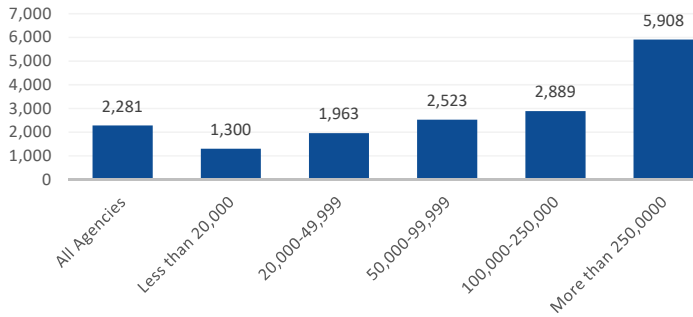
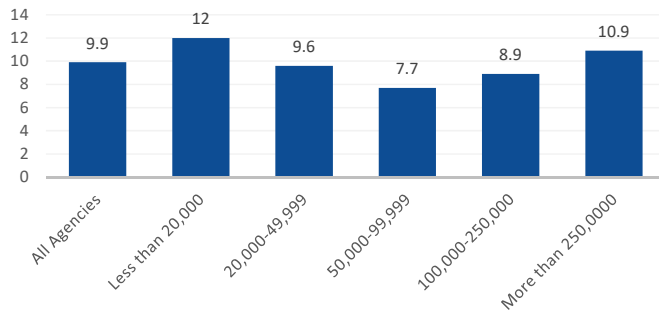


Figure F2. Acres of Parkland per 1,000 Residents based on Population Size



A large majority of park and recreation agencies provide playgrounds (93.9%) and basketball courts (86.5%) in their portfolio of outdoor assets. Most agencies offer community and/or recreation centers (60%) while two in five offer senior centers.

The typical park and recreation agency that manages or maintains trails for walking, hiking, running and/or biking has 11.0 miles of trails. Agencies serving more than 250,000 residents have a median of 84.5 miles of trails under their care.

Park and recreation agencies often take on responsibilities beyond their core functions of operating parks and providing recreational programs. Other responsibilities may include tourist attractions, golf courses, outdoor amphitheaters, indoor swim facilities, farmer’s markets, indoor sports complexes, campgrounds, performing arts centers, stadiums/ arenas/racetracks, fairgrounds and/or marinas.

Programming

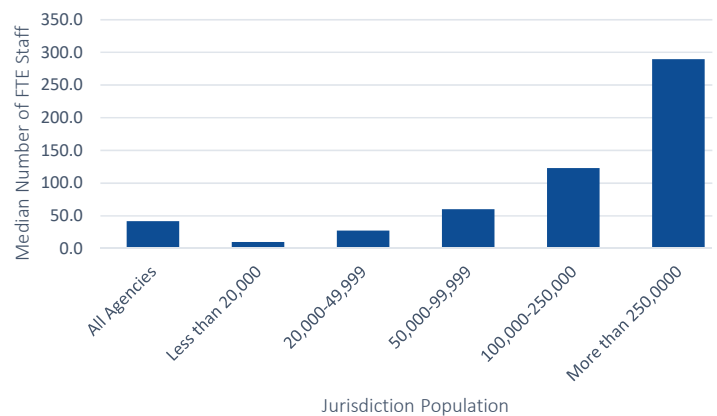
Nearly all (93%) of park and recreation agencies provide recreation programs and services. More than eight in ten agencies provide themed special events (88% of agencies), team sports (87%), social recreation events (87%), youth summer camps (83%), fitness enhancement classes (82%), and health and wellness education (81%).

Staffing

Park and recreation employees are responsible for operations and maintenance, programming and administration. The typical park and recreation agency has:

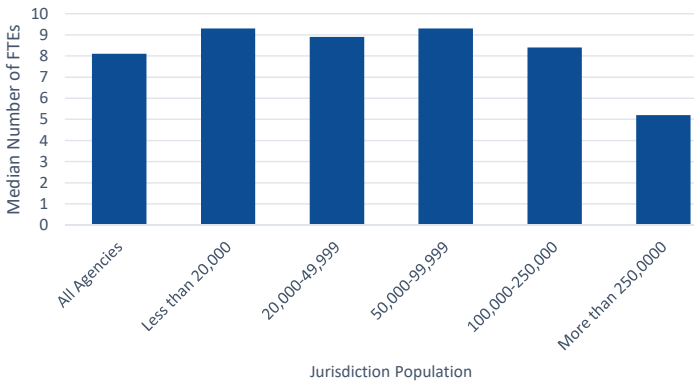
- 41.9 full-time equivalent staff (FTEs) on payroll
- 8.1 FTEs on staff for every 10,000 residents in its jurisdiction
- Median FTE counts also positively correlate with the number of acres maintained, the number of parks maintained, operating expenditures, and the population served. For example, agencies that serve populations between 20,000 and 49,999 residents employ an average of 27.3 FTE, while agencies that serve 50,000 to 99,000 people employ an average of 60 FTE.

Figure F3. Park and Recreation Agency Staffing: Full-Time Equivalents (By Jurisdiction Population)



Another way of comparing agency staffing across different park and recreation agencies examines number of staff per 10,000 residents. These comparative numbers hold fairly steady across population sizes with the median for all agencies at 8.1 FTEs.

Figure F4. Park and Recreation Agency FTEs Per 10,000 Residents



Capital and Operating Expenses

For capital expenses, the typical park agency:

- Dedicates about 55% to renovation projects and 32% to new development projects.
- Plans to spend about \$5,000,000 million on capital expenditures over the next five years.
- For operations, the typical park agency spends:
 - \$4.3 million per year on total operating expenses
 - \$7,000 on annual operating expenses per acre of park and non-park sites managed by the agency
 - \$81.00 on annual operating expenses per capita
 - \$97,000 in annual operating expenditures per employee
 - 54% of the annual operating budget on personnel costs, 38% on operating expenses, and 5% on capital expenses not included in the agency's capital improvement plan (CIP)
- 44% of its operating budget on park management and maintenance, 43% on recreation, and 13% on other activities

Agency Funding

The typical park and recreation agency:

- Derives 60% of their operating expenditures from general fund tax support, 26% from generated revenues, 11% from dedicated taxes or levies, and 5% from grants, sponsorships and other sources
- Generates \$21.00 in revenue annually for each resident in the jurisdiction

2020 State of the Industry Report

Recreation Management magazine's 2020 Report on the State of the Managed Recreation Industry summarizes the opinions and information provided by a wide range of professionals (with an average 22.3 years of experience) working in the recreation, sports, and fitness industry. Given the emerging COVID-19 pandemic, Recreation Management also conducted a supplemental survey in May 2020 to learn about both the impacts to the industry and what mitigation steps organizations were taking in response.

Partnerships

The 2020 report indicated that most (89%) recreation, sports, and fitness facility owners form partnerships with other organizations as a means of expanding their reach, offering additional programming opportunities or as a way to share resources and increase funding. Local schools are shown as the most common partner (64%) for all facility types. Youth-serving organizations (Ys, JCC, Boys & Girls Clubs) and park and recreation organizations were the most likely to report that they had partnered with outside organizations, at 100% and 95% respectively.

Revenue Outlook

In January 2020, half of respondents expected revenues to increase in both 2020 and 2021. Survey respondents from urban communities are more optimistic about revenue increases as compared to rural respondents.

In last year's report, parks respondents had reported increases in their average operating expenditures with operating costs that grew by 14% between fiscal year 2018 and 2019. Respondents generally expected their operating expenses to continue to increase between 2019 and 2021, with camps expecting a 10% increase, recreation centers at 8%, and parks at 6%.

Relative to costs and revenues, few facilities covered by the survey reported that they cover more than 75 percent of their operating costs via revenue. The percentage recovered varied with type of organization with the average percentage of costs recovered for all respondents hovering near 50% and private for-profit organizations achieving the highest cost recovery rates. For parks, the cost recovery rate remained steady at 44%.

Over the past decades, public parks and recreation departments and districts have faced a growing expectation that facilities can be run like businesses. Many local facilities are expected to recover much of their operating costs via revenues. While this is the business model of for-profit facilities like health clubs, it is a relatively recent development for publicly owned facilities, which have typically been subsidized via tax dollars and other funding sources. Most recreation providers (81%) have been taking actions to reduce expenditures. Cost recovery actions typically involve reduction in expenses with improving energy efficiency as the most common action (51% of respondents). Increased fees and staffing cost reductions and putting off construction or renovation plans were reported as other common methods for reducing operating costs.

As of May 2020, nearly 90% of respondents anticipated that total revenues would decline in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Most anticipated a revenue drop of 30-50%, though one in seven expected a decline of more than 50%. In general, respondents are split on when they expect that revenues will begin to recover – 44% believe revenues will begin to rebound in 2021 while 40% expect further revenue declines.

Facility Use

The majority of respondents reported an increase in use of their recreational facilities as of January 2020. Looking forward, more than half of respondents (53%), including 60-65% of parks and recreation centers, were expecting to see further increases in the number of people using their facilities over the next two years.

In 2020, 22% of respondents said they were planning to add more staff at their facilities, 75% were planning to maintain existing staffing levels, and 3% were planning to reduce staffing. The May 2020 survey found, however, that nearly half of responding organizations had laid off or furloughed staff due to the impacts of COVID-19 and nearly two-thirds had suspended hiring plans.

Facilities and Improvements

Respondents from parks were more likely than other respondents to include: park shelters (83.3% of park respondents had shelters); playgrounds (82.7%); park restroom structures (79%); open spaces (73.9%); outdoor sports courts (71.9%); bike trails (48.3%); outdoor aquatic facilities (42.1%); dog parks (40.4%); skateparks (39.9%); fitness trails and outdoor fitness equipment (34.5%); disc golf courses (33.7%); splash play areas (33.3%); community gardens (32.3%); golf courses (29.2%); bike and BMX parks (14.2%); and ice rinks (13.9%).

Over the past seven years, the percentage of respondents who indicate that they have plans for construction, whether new facilities or additions or renovations to their existing facilities, has grown steadily, from 62.7 percent in 2013 to 72.9 percent in 2020. Construction budgets have also risen. The average amount respondents were planning to spend on their construction plans was up 10.8% in 2020, after an 18.4% increase in 2019. On average, respondents to the 2020 survey were planning to spend \$5.6 million on construction.

A majority of park respondents (54%) reported plans to add features at their facilities and were also the most likely to be planning to construct new facilities in the next three years (39%).

The top 10 planned features for all facility types include:

1. Splash play areas (25.4% of those with plans to add features were planning to add splash play)
2. Playgrounds (20.3%)
3. Park shelters (17.3%)
4. Dog parks (17.1%)
5. Park restrooms (16.1%)
6. Synthetic turf sports fields (14.8%)
7. Walking and hiking trails (14.8%)
8. Fitness trails and outdoor fitness equipment (14.8%)
9. Disc golf courses (12.9%)
10. Outdoor sports courts (11.3%)

The COVID-19 pandemic is having a significant impact on construction plans. As of May 2020, over one-third (34%) of respondents had put construction on hold due to the impacts of the pandemic, rising costs, and supply shortages.

Programming

Nearly all respondents (97%) offer programming of some kind. The top 10 most commonly offered programs include: holiday events and other special events (provided by 65.3% of respondents); educational programs (59%); group exercise programs (58.8%); fitness programs (57.6%); day camps and summer camps (57.3%); youth sports teams (55.2%); mind-body balance programs such as yoga and tai chi (51.2%); adult sports teams (46%); arts and crafts programs (45.8%); and programs for active older adults (45.4%).

Respondents from community centers, parks and health clubs were the most likely to report that they had plans to add programs at their facilities over the next few years. The ten most commonly planned program additions were:

1. Fitness programs (24% of those who have plans to add programs)
2. Group exercise programs (22.4%)
3. Teen programs (22%)
4. Environmental education (21.8%)
5. Day camps and summer camps (20.9%)
6. Mind-body balance programs (20.5%)
7. Programs for active older adults (18.1%)
8. Special needs programs (17.9%)
9. Holidays and other special events (17.4%)
10. Arts and crafts (17%)

Addressing the COVID-19 pandemic required many respondents to either put programs or services on hold (82%) or cut programs or services entirely (34%). Additionally, many respondents have had to rethink their programming portfolios. Two-thirds of respondents (67%) had added online fitness and wellness programming as of May 2020, 39% were involved in programs to address food insecurity, and one in four was involved in programs to provide educational support to out-of-school children.

General Challenges

In January 2020, facility managers were asked about the challenges they anticipated impacting their facilities in the future. Generally, overall budgets are the top concern for most respondents including their ability to support equipment and facility maintenance needs (58%) and staffing (54%). Marketing, safety/

risk management, and creating new and innovative programming also remain continuing challenges for facility managers. Facility managers also report that environmental and conservation issues (13%) and social equity and access (10%) are posing increasing challenges. However, as of May 2020, many respondents concerns had shifted to addressing the COVID-19 pandemic impacts described in the sections above.

2020 Outdoor Participation Report

Overall Participation

According to the 2020 Outdoor Participation Report, published by the Outdoor Foundation, just over half of Americans ages 6 and older participated in outdoor recreation at least once in 2019, the highest participation rate in five years. This increase was not universal, however, and there was significant variation in participation between age, gender, and racial groups.

Despite the overall increase in the percentage of Americans engaging in outdoor recreation, the total number of recreational outings declined in 2019. Outdoor participants went on a total of 10.9 billion outdoor outings in 2019 – a 12% drop from the 2012 high-water mark of 12.4 billion outings. In addition, the number of outings per participant declined 17% in the past five years, from 85 outings per participant in 2014 to 71 in 2019.

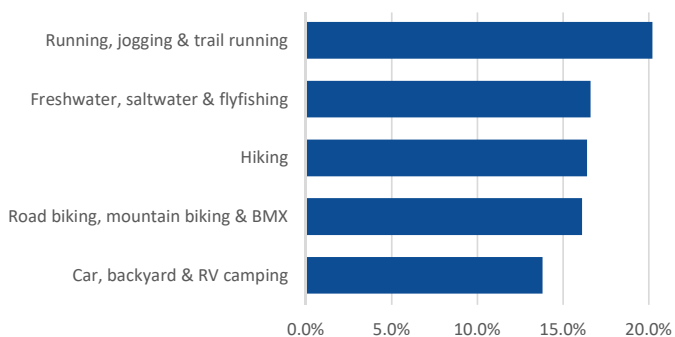
This drop mirrors a decline in the total number of outings per participant. Each year for over a decade, participants have engaged less often in outdoor activities. As a result, the percentage of ‘casual’ participants in outdoor recreation (i.e. those who participate one to 11 times per year) has grown by about 4% over the past 15 years, which the percentage of ‘core’ participants (i.e. weekly participants) has declined.

Figure F5. Frequency of Outdoor Outings: Trending Over Many Years

Frequency of Outdoor Outings	2007	2010	2013	2016	2019
Casual (1 to 11 times)	28.2%	27.9%	28.4%	31.7%	32.6%
Moderate (12 to 51 times)	32.5%	31.8%	33.1%	32.5%	32.6%
Core (52+ times)	39.3%	40.4%	38.5%	35.8%	34.9%

Running, jogging and trail running in the most popular outdoor activity by levels of participation, as shown in the chart below, followed by fishing, hiking biking and camping.

Figure F6. Most Popular Outdoor Activities by Participants, Nationwide



Youth Participation Declines

The youngest participants, children 6 to 17, were outdoors far less than in previous years. Their average outings fell from a high of 91 in 2012 to just 77 per child in 2019. Youth participation declined across the board in 2019, with the biggest declines seen in girls aged 18 to 24 (-5%) and boys ages 13 to 17 (-4%). Households with children, however, continue to drive growth in participation. Adults with children had much higher outdoor recreation participation rates (57%) than adults without children (44.4%).

Female Participation Continues to Grow

In 2019, women made up 46% of participants in outdoor recreation while men made up 53.8%, representing the smallest gender gap measured in the report's history. Women's participation has increased from 43% of all participants in 2009 to 46% in 2019.

Diversity Gap Remains

Despite increases in participation, Black/African American and Hispanic Americans continue to be significantly underrepresented in outdoor recreation. Hispanics made up 11.6% of outdoor recreation participants, a 35 percent shortfall relative to their proportion of the population ages 6 and over (17.9%). Similarly, Black/African Americans represented 12.4% of the U.S. population ages 6 and over in 2019, but just 9.4 percent of outdoor participants, a 24 percent participation deficit. Black youth were the least likely to participate in outdoor recreation as compared to Asian, Hispanic, and Caucasian youth – signaling a potential future gap in outdoor participants. However, those Black and Hispanic Americans who do participate in outdoor recreation do so frequently – more often, on average, than members of other racial groups.

In 2019, 62% of Asian Americans participated in outdoor recreation, followed by 53% of White, 48% of Hispanic, and 40% of Black/African Americans.

Impacts of COVID-19

An August 2020 report from the Outdoor Industry Association indicated that COVID-19 impacted recreation participation in April, May and June as Americans flocked to outdoor recreation amid COVID restrictions. Americans took up new activities in significant numbers with the biggest gains in running, cycling, and hiking given that these activities were widely considered the safest activities during pandemic shutdowns. The hardest hit activity segments during COVID shutdowns were team sports (down 69%) and racquet sports (down 55%). Reviewing just April, May and June 2020, participation rates for day hiking rose more than any other activity, up 8.4%.

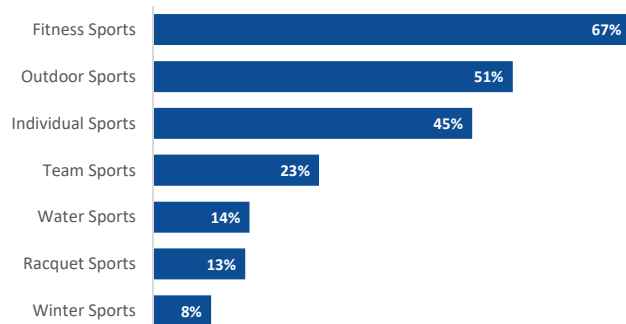
2020 Sports, Fitness, and Leisure Activities Topline Participation Report

Prepared by a partnership of the Sports and Fitness Industry Association (SFIA) and the Physical Activity Council (PAC), this February 2020 participation report summarizes levels of activity and identifies key trends in sports, fitness, and recreation in the US. The report is based on over 18,000 online interviews of a nationwide sample that provides a high degree of statistical accuracy using strict quotas for gender, age, income, region, and ethnicity. The study looked at 122 different team and individual sports and outdoor activities.

Compared to 2014, eight million more Americans were casually active in 2019 indicating a positive movement toward an increasingly active population. Sports that made great strides in the last six years include trail running, cardio tennis, BMX biking, and day hiking. Over the last year, only 2.1 million additional people reported participating in an activity that raises their heart rate for more than 30 minutes. Participation in active high calorie activities has remained flat for the last four years.

The percentage of people reporting no physical activity during the past year declined to 27% in 2019 - its lowest point in six years – continuing an increasing trend in activity. Rates of inactivity continue to be linked to household income levels, with lower income households having higher rates of inactivity. However, in 2019, households across the income spectrum saw declines in inactivity.

Figure F7. Total Participation Rate by Activity Category



Fitness sports continue to be the most popular activity type for the 5th consecutive year. Other sports activities, including individual sports, racquet sports, and water sports have seen a modest decline in participation since 2018. Team sports experienced a slight increase in participation, driven by the increasing popularity of basketball and outdoor soccer. While racquet sports lost about 2% of participants since 2018, mostly due to declines in squash and badminton participation, the rising popularity of pickleball and cardio tennis may reverse this declining trend.

When asked which activities they aspire to do, all age-groups and income levels tend to show interest in outdoor activities like fishing, camping, hiking, biking, bicycling, and swimming. Younger age groups are more interested in participating in team sports, such as soccer, basketball and volleyball, while older adults are more likely to aspire to individual activities like swimming for fitness, bird/nature viewing, and canoeing.

Physical education (PE) participation shows 96% of 6 to 12-year old youth and 82% of 13-17 year olds participated in PE in 2019. While younger children were more likely to participate in PE, older youth had higher average days of participation. Children were more than twice as likely to be inactive if they did not attend PE. Overall, all ages saw an increase in PE 2019. Participation in PE is thought to lead to an increase of active healthy lifestyles in adulthood.

Figure F8. Sports with the highest 5-year increase in participation

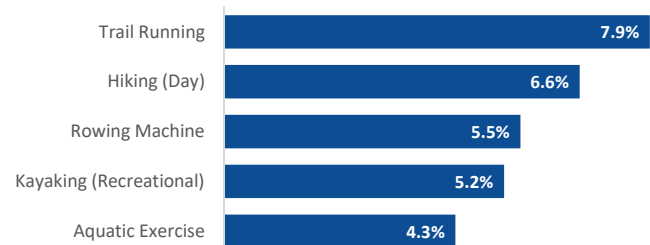
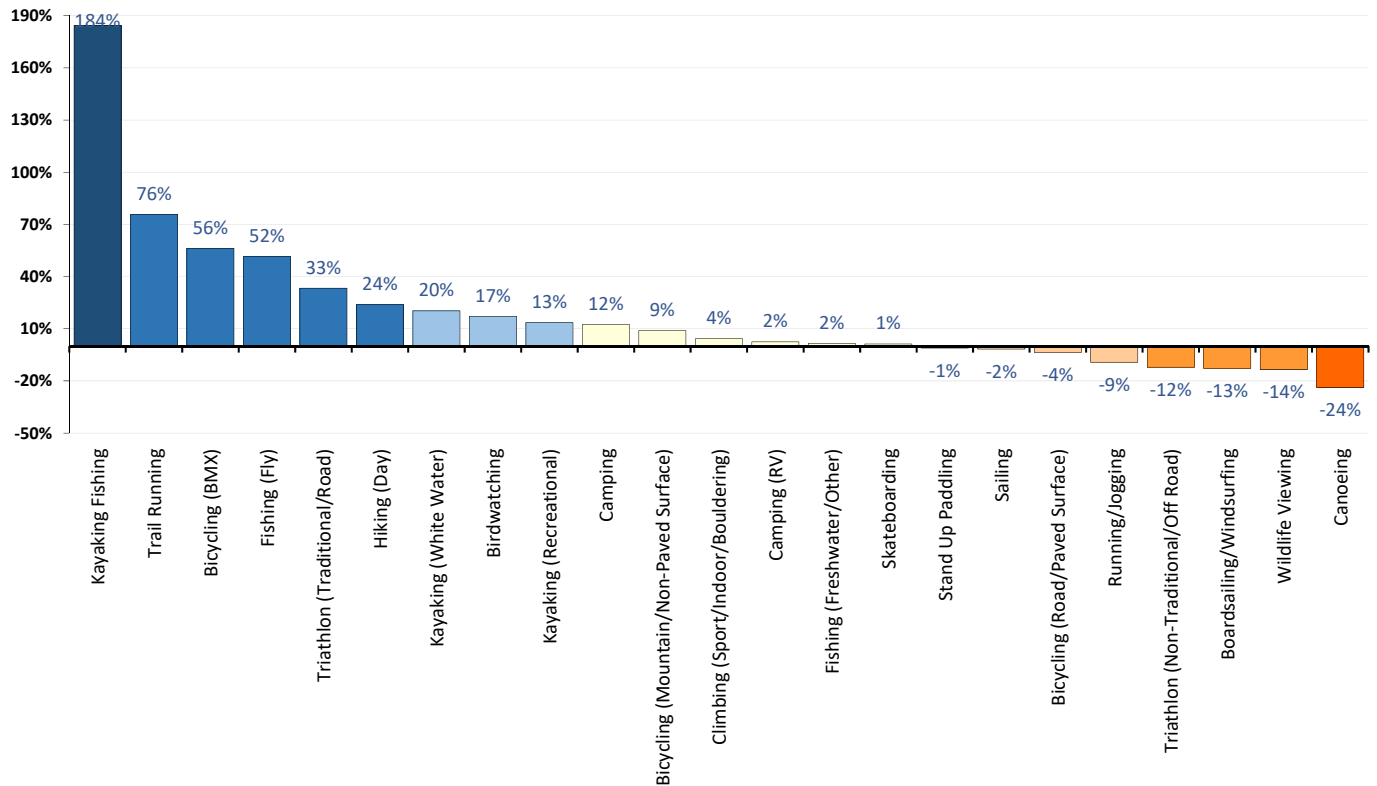


Figure F9. 5-Year Change in Outdoor Sports Participation



Americans Engagement with Parks Survey

This annual study from the National Park and Recreation Association (NRPA) probes Americans' usage of parks, the key reasons that drive their use, and the greatest challenges preventing greater usage. Each year, the study examines the importance of public parks in Americans' lives, including how parks compare to other services and offerings of local governments. The survey of 1,000 American adults looks at frequency and drivers of parks/recreation facilities visits and the barriers to that prevent greater enjoyment. Survey respondents also indicate the importance of park and recreation plays in their decisions at the voting booth and their level of support for greater funding.

In 2020, NRPA conducted a shorter-than-typical Engagement survey because of the dynamic nature of life during the COVID-19 pandemic. The 2020 Study focused on the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on park and recreation usage, whether residents see public parks as an essential public service, and whether people vote for political leaders based on their support for parks and recreation funding.

Key findings include:

- Eighty-two percent of U.S. adults agree that parks and recreation is essential.
- Seventy-seven percent of survey respondents indicate that having a high-quality park, playground, public open space or recreation center nearby is an important factor in deciding where they want to live.
- U.S. residents visit local park and recreation facilities more than twice a month on average.
- Three in five U.S. residents — more than 190 million people — visited a park, trail, public open space or other recreation facility at least once during the first three months of the pandemic (mid-March through mid-June 2020). Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic

According to the Americans Engagement with Parks report,

“In many communities across the nation, parks, trails and other public open spaces have been crucial resources available to people seeking a brief respite from the public health crisis. As businesses shut down operations during the spring, many parks and trails remained open, providing people with opportunities to safely enjoy outdoor physical

activity with its many attendant physical and mental health benefits. According to NRPA Parks Snapshot Survey data (nrpa.org/ ParksSnapshot), 83 percent of park and recreation agencies kept some/all of their parks open during the initial wave of COVID-19 infections in April 2020, while 93 percent did the same with some/all of their trail networks.

Consequently, people flocked to their local parks, trails and other public open spaces. Three in five U.S. residents — more than 190 million people — visited a park, trail, public open space or other recreation facility at least once during the first three months of the pandemic — from mid-March through mid-June 2020. Parks and recreation usage was particularly strong among GenZers, Millennials, Gen Xers, parents, people who identify as Hispanic/Latinx and those who identify as nonwhite.

As has been the case with virtually every aspect of life, the COVID-19 pandemic has altered the frequency with which most people engage with their local park and recreation amenities. Still, slightly more than half of people have been visiting parks, trails and other public open space amenities as often — if not more often — since the start of the pandemic than they had during the same period in 2019. Twenty-seven percent of U.S. residents report that their use of parks, trails and other public open spaces increased during the first three months of the pandemic relative to the same period in 2019. A quarter of survey respondents indicates their parks and recreation usage during the period from mid-March to mid-June 2020 matched that of the same three months in 2019. Forty-eight percent of people report that their usage of parks, trails and public open spaces declined during the early months of the pandemic.”

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Plan

The 2018–2022 Recreation and Conservation Plan for Washington State provides a strategic direction to help assure the effective and adequate provision of outdoor recreation and conservation to meet the needs of Washington State residents. The plan identifies the following five near and long-term priority areas and establishes specific actions within each priority to help meet the outdoor recreation and conservation needs within the state:

1. Sustain and Grow the Legacy of Parks, Trails, and Conservation Lands
2. Improve Equity of Parks, Trails, and Conservation Lands
3. Meet the Needs of Youth
4. Plan for Culturally Relevant Parks and Trails to Meet Changing Demographics
5. Assert Recreation and Conservation as a Vital Public Service

Sustain & Grow the Legacy

A wealth of existing recreation and conservation areas and facilities should be kept open, safe, and enjoyable for all. Some modifications to meet the interests of today’s population may be needed at some facilities. Sustaining existing areas while expanding and building new facilities to keep up with a growing population is one of the five priority goals.

Improve Equity

The National Recreation and Park Association’s position on social equity states:

“Our nation’s public parks and recreation services should be equally accessible and available to all people regardless of income level, ethnicity, gender, ability, or age. Public parks, recreation services and recreation programs including the maintenance, safety, and accessibility of parks and facilities, should be provided on an equitable basis to all citizens of communities served by public agencies.”

The Washington plan restates that equity goal for all its citizens. Improving equity is also a strategy for improving a community’s health. Current statewide participation rates in outdoor activities were surveyed as part of the plan.

Figure F10. Participation Rates for Washington Residents in Outdoor Activities

Participation Rates for Top 12 Categories	
Activity	%
Walking	94%
Nature activities	89%
Leisure activities at parks	82%
Swimming	68%
Sightseeing activities	67%
Hiking	61%
Outdoor sports	48%
Water-based activities (freshwater)	46%
Camping	45%
Trending activities	33%
Snow and ice activities	30%
Bicycling	28%

Get Youth Outside

Washington State youth participate in outdoor activities to a greater extent than youth nationally. Park and recreation providers are urged to offer a variety of outdoor activities for youth and to support youth programs. Most youth are walking, playing at a park, trying new or trending activities, fishing in freshwater, exploring nature, and riding bikes. Other activities of interest to youth are activities in freshwater such as boating and paddling, fishing in saltwater, and target shooting, hiking, outdoor sports, and riding off-road vehicles.

Figure F11. Youth Participation Rates for Washington Residents in Outdoor Activities

Youth Participation Rates	
Activity	%
Walking	88%
Leisure in parks	78%
Trending activities	77%
Fishing in freshwater	77%
Nature-based activities	75%
Bicycling	74%
Freshwater-based activities*	66%
Target shooting	62%
Hiking	57%
Outdoor sports	57%
Off-road vehicle riding	57%
Fishing in saltwater	53%

*(not swimming)

Plan for Culturally Relevant parks and Trails to Meet Changing Demographics

Washington's population is expected to grow by 2 million people by 2040 leading to more congestion and competition for recreation resources. Between 2010-2040, the percent of people of color are expected to increase from 27 percent to 44 percent. With the cultural change in the population, preferred recreational activities also will change. By 2030, more than one of every five Washingtonians will be 65 years old or older. By 2040, there will be more seniors than youth. Park and recreation providers should be prepared to create new and diverse opportunities and accommodate the active senior population.

Assert Recreation and Conservation as a Vital Public Service

The plan recognizes that outdoor recreation contributes to a strong economy and is a public investment like other public services and infrastructure. The report cites the Outdoor Industry Association and other economic studies that reinforce the importance of park and recreation services locally, regionally and statewide.

2019 Special Report on Paddlesports & Safety

In 2019, the Outdoor Foundation produced a report focused on paddlesports data based on a participation survey (over 20,000 online interviews with a nationwide sample of individuals and households). In 2018, 22.9 million Americans (approximately 7.4% of the population) participated in paddle sports. This represents an increase of more than 4 million participants since the study began in 2010. Over the last five years, there continues to be an increase in paddlesports popularity among outdoor enthusiasts, with significant portions of the nationwide growth occurring in the Pacific region.

Recreational kayaking continues to grow in popularity but may be driving some of the decline in canoeing. The popularity of stand-up paddling has soared, increasing by 1.5 million participants over the past five years, though it does not have nearly as high a participation rate as either recreational kayaking or canoeing.

Most paddlers are Caucasian, other racial and ethnic groups are largely under-represented. However, Caucasian participation has remained relatively flat while participation by people identifying as Hispanic or Black/African American has grown by 0.5% to 1% per year since 2013. This growth has led to more than 773,000 new Hispanic paddlers in just six years, signaling the importance and potential of engaging minority groups in paddlesports.

One in eight paddlers have been participating in the sport for 21 years or more. However, many participants – between thirty and sixty percent, depending on the discipline – tried a paddlesport for the first time in 2018. Such high levels of first-time participation may produce longer term growth in paddling, assuming participants continue to enjoy the sport.

Among adult paddlers, most participate for excitement and adventure, for exercise, or to be close to nature. Kayakers, rafters, canoers and stand-up paddlers often enjoy, or would be willing to try, other paddlesports. Many also enjoy similar outdoor “crossover” activities such as hiking, camping, walking, and nature viewing.



APPENDIX G

IMPLEMENTATION TACTICS



LOCAL FUNDING OPTIONS

The City of Edmonds possesses a range of local funding tools that could be accessed for the benefit of growing, developing and maintaining its parks and recreation program. The sources listed below represent likely potential sources, but some also may be dedicated for numerous other local purposes which limit applicability and usage. Therefore, discussions with City leadership are critical to assess the political landscape to modify or expand the use of existing City revenue sources in favor of park and recreation programs.

Councilmanic Bonds

Councilmanic bonds may be sold by cities without public vote. The bonds, both principal and interest, are retired with payments from existing city revenue or new general tax revenue, such as additional sales tax or real estate excise tax. The state constitution has set a maximum debt limit for councilmanic bonds of 1½% of the value of taxable property in the city.

General Obligation Bond

For the purposes of funding capital projects, such as land acquisitions or facility construction, cities and counties have the authority to borrow money by selling bonds. Voter-approved general obligation bonds may be sold only after receiving a 60 percent majority vote at a general or special election. If approved, an excess property tax is levied each year for the life of the bond to pay both principal and interest. The state constitution (Article VIII, Section 6) limits total debt to 5% of the total assessed value of property in the jurisdiction.

Excess Levy – One Year Only

Cities and counties that are levying their statutory maximum rate can ask the voters, at any special election date, to raise their rate for one year (RCW 84.52.052). As this action increases revenue for one-year at a time it is wise to request this type of funding for one-time uses only.

Regular Property Tax - Lid Lift

Cities are authorized to impose ad valorem taxes upon real and personal property. A city's maximum levy rate for general purposes is \$3.375 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. Limitations on annual increases in tax collections, coupled with changes in property value, causes levy rates to rise or fall; however, in no case may they rise above statutory limits. Once the rate is established each year, it may not be raised without the approval of a majority of the voters. Receiving voter approval is known as a lid lift. A lid lift may be permanent, or may be for a specific purpose and time period.

A levy lid lift is an instrument for increasing property tax levies for operating and/or capital purposes. Taxing districts with a tax rate that is less than their statutory maximum rate may ask the voters to "lift" the levy lid by increasing the tax rate to some amount equal to or less than their statutory maximum rate. A simple majority vote of citizenry is required.

Cities and counties have two "lift" options available to them: Single-year/basic or Multi-year.

Single-year: The single-year lift does not mean that the lift goes away after one year; it can be for any amount of time, including permanently, unless the proceeds will be used for debt service on bonds, in which case the maximum time period is nine years. Districts may permanently increase the levy but must use language in the ballot title expressly stating that future levies will increase as allowed by chapter 84.55 RCW. After the initial "lift" in the first year, the district's levy in future

years is subject to the 101 percent lid in chapter 84.55 RCW. This is the maximum amount it can increase without returning to the voters for another lid lift.

The election to implement a single-year lift may take place on any election date listed in RCW 29A.04.321.

Multi-year: The multi-year lift allows the levy lid to be “bumped up” each year for up to a maximum of six years. At the end of the specified period, the levy in the final period may be designated as the basis for the calculation of all future levy increases (in other words, be made permanent) if expressly stated in the ballot title. The levy in future years would then be subject to the 101 percent lid in chapter 84.55 RCW.

In a multi-year lift, the lift for the first year must state the new tax rate for that year. For the ensuing years, the lift may be a dollar amount, a percentage increase tied to an index, or a percentage amount set by some other method. The amounts do not need to be the same for each year. If the amount of the increase for a particular year would require a tax rate that is above the maximum tax rate, the assessor will levy only the maximum amount allowed by law.

The election to implement a multi-year lift must be either the August primary or the November general election.

The single-year lift allows supplanting of expenditures within the lift period; the multi-year lift does not, and the purpose for the lift must be specifically identified in the election materials. For both single- and multi-year lifts, when the lift expires the base for future levies will revert to what the dollar amount would have been if no lift had ever been done.

The total regular levy rate of senior taxing districts (counties and cities) and junior taxing districts (fire districts, library districts, etc.) may not exceed \$5.90/\$1,000 AV. If this limit is exceeded, levies are reduced or eliminated in the following order until the total tax rate is at \$5.90.

1. Parks & Recreation Districts (up to \$0.60)
Parks & Recreation Service Areas (up to \$0.60)
Cultural Arts, Stadiums & Convention Districts (up to \$0.25)
2. Flood Control Zone Districts (up to \$0.50)
3. Hospital Districts (up to \$0.25)
Metropolitan Parks Districts (up to \$0.25)

All other districts not otherwise mentioned

4. Metropolitan Park Districts formed after January 1, 2002 or after (up to \$0.50)
5. Fire Districts (up to \$0.25)
6. Fire Districts (remaining \$0.50)
Regional Fire Protection Service Authorities (up to \$0.50)
Library Districts (up to \$0.50)
Hospital Districts (up to \$0.50)
Metropolitan Parks Districts formed before January 1, 2002 (up to \$0.50)

Sales Tax

Paid by the consumer, sales tax is a percentage of the retail price paid for specific classifications of goods and services within the State of Washington.

Governing bodies of cities and counties may impose sales taxes within their boundaries at a rate set by state statute and local ordinances, subject to referendum.

Until the 1990 Legislative Session, the maximum possible total sales tax rate paid by purchasers in cities was 8.1 percent. This broke down as follows: state, 6.5 cents on the dollar; counties, 0.15 cents; cities, 0.85 cents; and transit districts, a maximum of 0.6 cents (raised to 0.9 cents in 2000). Since then multiple sales options were authorized. Those applicable to Parks and Recreation include: counties may ask voters to approve a sales tax of up to 0.3 percent, which is shared with cities. At least one-third of the revenue must be used for criminal justice purposes.

Counties and cities may also form public facilities districts, and these districts may ask the voters to approve a sales tax of up to 0.2 percent. The proceeds may be used for financing, designing, acquisition, construction, equipping, operating, maintaining, remodeling, repairing, and reequipping its public facilities.

Revenue may be used to fund any essential county and municipal service.

If a jurisdiction is going to change a sales tax rate or levy a new sales tax, it must pass an ordinance to that effect and submit it to the Department of Revenue at least 75 days before the effective date. The effective date must be the first day of a quarter: January 1, April 1, July 1 or October 1.

Business and Occupation Tax

Business and occupation (B&O) taxes are excise taxes levied on different classes of business to raise revenue. Taxes are levied as a percentage of the gross receipts of a business, less some deductions. Businesses are put in different classes such as manufacturing, wholesaling, retailing, and services. Within each class, the rate must be the same, but it may differ among classes.

Cities can impose this tax for the first time or raise rates following referendum procedure.

B&O taxes are limited to a maximum tax rate that can be imposed by a city's legislative body at 0.2 percent (0.002), but grandfathered in any higher rates that existed on January 1, 1982. Any city may levy a rate higher than 0.2 percent, if it is approved by a majority of voters (RCW 35.21.711). Beginning January 1, 2008, cities that levy the B&O tax must allow for allocation and apportionment, as set out in RCW 35.102.130.

Admissions Tax

An admissions tax is a use tax for entertainment. Both cities and counties may impose this tax through legislative action.

Cities and/or counties may levy an admission tax in an amount no greater than five percent of the admission charge, as is authorized by statute (cities: RCW 35.21.280; counties: RCW 35.57.100). This tax can be levied on admission charges (including season tickets) to places such as theaters, dance halls, circuses, clubs that have cover charges, observation towers, stadiums, and any other activity where an admission charge is made to enter the facility.

If a city imposes an admissions tax, the county may not levy a tax within city boundaries.

The statutes provide an exception for admission to elementary or secondary school activities. Generally, certain events sponsored by nonprofits are exempted from the tax; however, this is not a requirement. Counties also exempt any public facility of a public facility district for which admission is imposed. There are no statutory restrictions on the use of revenue.

Impact Fees

Development impact fees are charges placed on new development in unimproved areas to help pay for various public facilities that serve new development or for other impacts associated with such development. Both cities and counties may impose this tax through legislative action.

Counties that plan under the GMA, and cities, may impose impact fees on residential and commercial development activity to help pay for certain public facility improvements, including parks, open space, and recreation facilities identified in the county's capital facilities plan. The improvements financed from impact fees must be reasonably related to the new development and must reasonably benefit the new development. The fees must be spent or encumbered within ten years of collection.

Real Estate Excise Tax

Excise tax levied on all sales of real estate, measured by the full selling price, including the amount of any liens, mortgages, and other debts given to secure the purchase. Both cities and counties may impose this tax through legislative action.

Counties and cities may levy a quarter percent tax (REET 1); a second quarter percent tax (REET 2) is authorized. First quarter percent REET (REET 1) must be spent on capital projects listed in the city's capital facilities plan element of their comprehensive plan. Capital projects include planning, acquisition, construction, reconstruction, repair, replacement, rehabilitation, or improvement of parks, recreational facilities, and trails.

The second quarter percent REET (REET 2) must also be spent on capital projects, which includes planning, construction, reconstruction, repair, rehabilitation, or improvement of parts. Acquisition of land for parks is not a permitted use of REET 2. Both REET 1 and REET 2 may be used to make loan and debt service payments on projects that are a permitted use of these funds. The City of Edmonds currently assesses both REETs and uses this funding for a variety of capital project needs.

Lodging Tax

The lodging tax is a user fee for hotel/motel occupation. Both cities and counties may impose this tax through legislative action.

Cities and/or counties may impose a “basic” two percent tax under RCW 67.28.180 on all charges for furnishing lodging at hotels, motels and similar establishments for a continuous period of less than one month.

This tax is taken as a credit against the 6.5 percent state sales tax, so that the total tax that a patron pays in retail sales tax and hotel-motel tax combined is equal to the retail sales tax in the jurisdiction. In addition, jurisdictions may levy an additional tax of up to two percent, or a total rate of four percent, under RCW 67.28.181(1). This is not credited against the state sales tax. Therefore, if this tax is levied, the total tax on the lodging bill will increase by two percent.

If both a city and the county are levying this tax, the county must allow a credit for any tax levied by a city so that no two taxes are levied on the same taxable event. These revenues must be used solely for paying for tourism promotion and for the acquisition and/or operating of tourism-related facilities. “Tourism” is defined as economic activity resulting from tourists, which may include sales of overnight lodging, meals, tours, gifts, or souvenirs; there is no requirement that a tourist must stay overnight.

Conservation Futures Tax (Snohomish Counties)

The Conservation Futures Tax (CFT) is provided for in Chapter 84.34 of the Revised Code of Washington. Snohomish County imposes a Conservation Futures levy at a rate of \$0.0625 per \$1,000 assessed value for the purpose of acquiring open space lands, including green spaces, greenbelts, wildlife habitat and trail rights-of-way proposed for preservation for public use by either the county or the cities within the county. Funds are allocated annually, and cities within the county, citizen groups and citizens may apply for funds through the county’s process. The CFT program for each county provides grants to cities to support open space priorities in local plans.

FEDERAL & STATE GRANTS AND CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program

The Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program, also known as the Rivers & Trails Program or RTCA, is a technical assistance resource for communities administered by the National Park Service and federal government agencies so they can conserve rivers, preserve open space and develop trails and greenways. The RTCA program implements the natural resource conservation and outdoor recreation mission of NPS in communities across America.

Community Development Block Grants

These funds are intended to develop viable urban communities by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment, and by expanding economic opportunities, principally for low and moderate income persons. Snohomish County, in partnership with 18 cities and towns within the county through an interlocal agreement, receives CDBG funds on an entitlement basis as an Urban County Consortium. The county administers this funding on behalf of the consortium through the Snohomish County Office of Housing and Community Development (OHCD). CDBG funds can be used for a wide variety of projects, services, facilities and infrastructure.

North American Wetlands Conservation Act Grants Program

The North American Wetlands Conservation Act of 1989 provides matching grants to organizations and individuals who have developed partnerships to carry out wetland conservation projects in the United States, Canada, and Mexico for the benefit of wetlands-associated migratory birds and other wildlife. Two competitive grants programs exist (Standard and a Small Grants Program) and require that grant requests be matched by partner contributions at no less than a 1-to-1 ratio. Funds from U.S. Federal sources may contribute toward a project, but are not eligible as match.

The Standard Grants Program supports projects in Canada, the United States, and Mexico that involve long-term protection, restoration, and/or enhancement of wetlands and associated uplands habitats.

The Small Grants Program operates only in the United States; it supports the same type of projects and adheres to the same selection criteria and administrative guidelines as the U.S. Standard Grants Program. However, project activities are usually smaller in scope and involve fewer project dollars. Grant requests may not exceed \$75,000, and funding priority is given to grantees or partners new to the Act's Grants Program.

Recreation and Conservation Office Grant Programs

The Recreation and Conservation Office was created in 1964 as part of the Marine Recreation Land Act. The RCO grants money to state and local agencies, generally on a matching basis, to acquire, develop, and enhance wildlife habitat and outdoor recreation properties. Some money is also distributed for planning grants. RCO grant programs utilize funds from various sources. Historically, these have included the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund, state bonds, Initiative 215 monies (derived from unreclaimed marine fuel taxes), off-road vehicle funds, Youth Athletic Facilities Account and the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program.

Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA)

This program, managed through the RCO, provides matching grants to state and local agencies to protect and enhance salmon habitat and to provide public access and recreation opportunities on aquatic lands. In 1998, DNR refocused the ALEA program to emphasize salmon habitat preservation and enhancement. However, the program is still open to traditional water access proposals. Any project must be located on navigable portions of waterways. ALEA funds are derived from the leasing of state-owned aquatic lands and from the sale of harvest rights for shellfish and other aquatic resources.

Washington Wildlife & Recreation Program (WWRP)

The RCO is a state office that allocates funds to local and state agencies for the acquisition and development of wildlife habitat and outdoor recreation properties. Funding sources managed by the RCO include the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program. The WWRP is divided into Habitat Conservation and Outdoor Recreation Accounts; these are further divided into several project categories. Cities, counties and other local sponsors may apply for funding in urban wildlife habitat, local parks, trails and water access categories. Funds for local agencies are awarded on a matching basis. Grant applications are evaluated once each year, and the State Legislature must authorize funding for the WWRP project lists.

Land and Water Conservation Fund

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) provides grants to buy land and develop public outdoor facilities, including parks, trails and wildlife lands. Grant recipients must provide at least 50% matching funds in either cash or in-kind contributions. Grant program revenue is from a portion of Federal revenue derived from sale or lease of off-shore oil and gas resources.

National Recreational Trails Program

The National Recreational Trails Program (NRTTP) provides funds to maintain trails and facilities that provide a backcountry experience for a range of activities including hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, motorcycling, and snowmobiling. Eligible projects include the maintenance and re-routing of recreational trails, development of trail-side and trail-head facilities, and operation of environmental education and trail safety programs. A local match of 20% is required. This program is funded through Federal gasoline taxes attributed to recreational non-highway uses.

Youth Athletic Facilities (YAF) Program

The YAF provides grants to develop, equip, maintain, and improve youth and community athletic facilities. Cities, counties, and qualified non-profit organizations may apply for funding, and grant recipients must provide at least 50% matching funds in either cash or in-kind contributions.

Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration Fund

Grants are awarded by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board for acquisition or restoration of lands directly correlating to salmon habitat protection or recovery. Projects must demonstrate a direct benefit to fish habitat. There is no match requirement for design-only projects; acquisition and restoration projects require a 15% match. The funding source includes the sale of state general obligation bonds, the federal Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund and the state Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration Fund.

STP Regional Competition - Puget Sound Regional Council

Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds are considered the most “flexible” funding source provided through federal transportation funding. Every two years the Puget Sound Regional Council conducts a competitive grant program to award FHWA Surface Transportation Program (STP) and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds. These funds are awarded at the Regional level by PSRC and at the countywide level by the Infrastructure Coordinating Committee (ICC). The ICC is a standing sub-committee of Snohomish County Tomorrow (SCT) comprised of public works representatives of the cities, the County and the Tulalip Tribe; representatives from the PUD, the Washington State Department of Transportation, Port of Everett, and local transit agencies.

For the Countywide STP/CMAQ competitions, the policy focus is on providing transportation improvements to a center or centers and the corridors that serve them. Centers are defined as regional growth and regional manufacturing/industrial centers, centers as designated through countywide processes, town centers, military bases/facilities and other local centers

OTHER METHODS & FUNDING SOURCES

Metropolitan Park District

Metropolitan park districts may be formed for the purposes of management, control, improvement, maintenance and acquisition of parks, parkways and boulevards. In addition to acquiring and managing their own lands, metropolitan districts may accept and manage park and recreation lands and equipment turned over by any city within the district or by the county. Formation of a metropolitan park district may be initiated in cities of five thousand population or more by city council ordinance, or by petition, and requires majority approval by voters for creation.

Park and Recreation District

Park and recreation districts may be formed for the purposes of providing leisure-time activities and recreation facilities (parks, playgrounds, pools, golf courses, paths, community centers, arboretums, campgrounds, boat launches, etc.) and must be initiated by petition of at least 15% percent of the registered voters within the proposed district. Upon completion of the petition process and review by county commissioners, a proposition for district formation and election of five district commissioners is submitted to the voters of the proposed district at the next general election. Once formed, park and recreation districts retain the authority to propose a regular property tax levy, annual excess property tax levies and general obligation bonds. All three of these funding types require 60% percent voter approval and 40% percent voter turnout. With voter approval, the district may levy a regular property tax not to exceed sixty cents per thousand dollars of assessed value for up to six consecutive years.

Park and Recreation Service Area (PRSA)

Purpose to finance, acquire, construct, improve, maintain or operate any park, senior citizen activities center, zoo, aquarium and/or recreation facilities; and to provide higher level of park service. The Northshore Parks and Recreation Service Area, which owns the Northshore Senior Center building, is located east of Edmonds.

Business Sponsorships/Donations

Business sponsorships for programs may be available throughout the year. In-kind contributions are often received, including food, door prizes and equipment/material.

Interagency Agreements

State law provides for interagency cooperative efforts between units of government. Joint acquisition, development and/or use of park and open space facilities may be provided between Parks, Public Works and utility providers.

Private Grants, Donations & Gifts

Many trusts and private foundations provide funding for park, recreation and open space projects. Grants from these sources are typically allocated through a competitive application process and vary dramatically in size based on the financial resources and funding criteria of the organization. Philanthropic giving is another source of project funding. Efforts in this area may involve cash gifts and include donations through other mechanisms such as wills or insurance policies. Community fundraising efforts can also support park, recreation or open space facilities and projects. The Community Foundation of Snohomish County also offers small grants (\$500 - \$5,000) to qualified non-profit organizations (501(c)(3)) or public agencies such as local government, schools, libraries or parks.

ACQUISITION TOOLS & METHODS

DIRECT PURCHASE METHODS

Market Value Purchase

Through a written purchase and sale agreement, the city purchases land at the present market value based on an independent appraisal. Timing, payment of real estate taxes and other contingencies are negotiable.

Partial Value Purchase (or Bargain Sale)

In a bargain sale, the landowner agrees to sell for less than the property's fair market value. A landowner's decision to proceed with a bargain sale is unique and personal; landowners with a strong sense of civic pride, long community history or concerns about capital gains are possible candidates for this approach. In addition to cash proceeds upon closing, the landowner may be entitled to a charitable income tax deduction based on the difference between the land's fair market value and its sale price.

Life Estates & Bequests

In the event a landowner wishes to remain on the property for a long period of time or until death, several variations on a sale agreement exist. In a life estate agreement, the landowner may continue to live on the land by donating a remainder interest and retaining a "reserved life estate." Specifically, the landowner donates or sells the property to the city, but reserves the right for the seller or any other named person to continue to live on and use the property. When the owner or other specified person dies or releases his/her life interest, full title and control over the property will be transferred to the city. By donating a remainder interest, the landowner may be eligible for a tax deduction when the gift is made. In a bequest, the landowner designates in a will or trust document that the property is to be transferred to the city upon death. While a life estate offers the city some degree of title control during the life of the landowner, a bequest does not. Unless the intent to bequest is disclosed to and known by the city in advance, no guarantees exist with regard to the condition of the property upon transfer or to any liabilities that may exist.

Gift Deed

When a landowner wishes to bequeath their property to a public or private entity upon their death, they can record a gift deed with the county assessors office to insure their stated desire to transfer their property to the targeted beneficiary as part of their estate. The recording of the gift deed usually involves the tacit agreement of the receiving party.

Option to Purchase Agreement

This is a binding contract between a landowner and the city that would only apply according to the conditions of the option and limits the seller's power to revoke an offer. Once in place and signed, the Option Agreement may be triggered at a future, specified date or upon the completion of designated conditions. Option Agreements can be made for any time duration and can include all of the language pertinent to closing a property sale.

Right of First Refusal

In this agreement, the landowner grants the city the first chance to purchase the property once the landowner wishes to sell. The agreement does not establish the sale price for the property, and the landowner is free to refuse to sell it for the price offered by the city. This is the weakest form of agreement between an owner and a prospective buyer.

Conservation and/or Access Easements

Through a conservation easement, a landowner voluntarily agrees to sell or donate certain rights associated with his or her property (often the right to subdivide or develop), and a private organization or public agency agrees to hold the right to enforce the landowner's promise not to exercise those rights. In essence, the rights are forfeited and no longer exist. This is a legal agreement between the landowner and the city that permanently limits uses of the land in order to conserve a portion of the property for public use or protection. The landowner still owns the property, but the use of the land is restricted. Conservation easements may result in an income tax deduction and reduced property taxes and estate taxes. Typically, this approach is used to provide trail corridors where only a small portion of the land is needed or for the strategic protection of natural resources and habitat. Through a written purchase and

sale agreement, the city purchases land at the present market value based on an independent appraisal. Timing, payment of real estate taxes and other contingencies are negotiable.

Park or Open Space Dedication Requirements

Local governments have the option to require developers to dedicate land for parks under the State Subdivision Law (Ch. 58.17 RCW) and the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) (Ch. 43.21C RCW). Under the subdivision law developers can be required to provide the parks/recreation improvements or pay a fee in lieu of the dedicated land and its improvements. Under the SEPA requirements, land dedication may occur as part of mitigation for a proposed development's impact.

LANDOWNER INCENTIVE MEASURES

Density Bonuses

Density bonuses are a planning tool used to encourage a variety of public land use objectives, usually in urban areas. They offer the incentive of being able to develop at densities beyond current regulations in one area, in return for concessions in another. Density bonuses are applied to a single parcel or development. An example is allowing developers of multi-family units to build at higher densities if they provide a certain number of low-income units or public open space. For density bonuses to work, market forces must support densities at a higher level than current regulations.

Transfer of Development Rights

The transfer of development rights (TDR) is an incentive-based planning tool that allows land owners to trade the right to develop property to its fullest extent in one area for the right to develop beyond existing regulations in another area. Local governments may establish the specific areas in which development may be limited or restricted and the areas in which development beyond regulation may be allowed. Usually, but not always, the "sending" and "receiving" property are under common ownership. Some programs allow for different ownership, which, in effect, establishes a market for development rights to be bought and sold.

IRC 1031 Exchange

If the landowner owns business or investment property, an IRC Section 1031 Exchange can facilitate the exchange of like-kind property solely for business or investment purposes. No capital gain or loss is recognized under Internal Revenue Code Section 1031 (see www.irc.gov for more details). This option may be a useful tool in negotiations with an owner of investment property, especially if the tax savings offset to the owner can translate to a sale price discount for the City.

Current (Open Space) Use Taxation Programs

Property owners whose current lands are in open space, agricultural, and/or timber uses may have that land valued at their current use rather than their “highest and best” use assessment. This differential assessed value, allowed under the Washington Open Space Taxation Act (Ch.84.34 RCW) helps to preserve private properties as open space, farm or timber lands. If land is converted to other non-open space uses, the land owner is required to pay the difference between the current use annual taxes and highest/best taxes for the previous seven years. When properties are sold to a local government or conservation organization for land conservation/preservation purposes, the required payment of seven years worth of differential tax rates is waived. The amount of this tax liability can be part of the negotiated land acquisition from private to public or quasi-public conservation purposes. Snohomish County has four current use taxation programs that offer this property tax reduction as an incentive to landowners to voluntarily preserve open space, farmland or timber land on their property.

OTHER LAND PROTECTION OPTIONS

Land Trusts & Conservancies

Land trusts are private non-profit organizations that acquire and protect special open spaces and are traditionally not associated with any government agency. Forterra is the regional land trust serving the Edmonds area, and their efforts have led to the conservation of more than 234,000 acres of forests, farms, shorelines, parks and natural areas in the region (www.forterra.org). Other national organizations with local representation include the Nature Conservancy, Trust for Public Land and the Wetlands Conservancy.

Regulatory Measures

A variety of regulatory measures are available to local agencies and jurisdictions. Available programs and regulations include: Critical Areas Ordinance, Edmonds; State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA); Shorelines Management Program; and Hydraulic Code, Washington State Department of Fisheries and Department of Wildlife.

Public/Private Utility Corridors

Utility corridors can be managed to maximize protection or enhancement of open space lands. Utilities maintain corridors for provision of services such as electricity, gas, oil, and rail travel. Some utility companies have cooperated with local governments for development of public programs such as parks and trails within utility corridors.

