

Element 6

***PARKS AND
RECREATION***



I. Introduction and Background

A. State Growth Management Act

The State of Washington Growth Management Act (GMA) mandates a Parks and Recreation Element as part of the City’s Comprehensive Plan. A portion of this act as set for in Section 36.70A.070 (entitled “Comprehensive plans — Mandatory elements”) of the Revised Code of Washington (RCW) states:

Each comprehensive plan shall include a plan, scheme, or design for each of the following:

- (8) A park and recreation element that implements, and is consistent with, the capital facilities plan element as it relates to park and recreation facilities. The element shall include:

 - a) Estimates of park and recreation demand for at least a ten-year period;*
 - b) an evaluation of facilities and service needs; and*
 - c) an evaluation of intergovernmental coordination opportunities to provide regional approaches for meeting park and recreational demand.**

In addition, that same RCW section includes the following:

- (9) It is the intent that new or amended elements required after January 1, 2002, be adopted concurrent with the scheduled update provided in RCW [36.70A.130](#). Requirements to incorporate any such new or amended elements shall be null and void until funds sufficient to cover applicable local government costs are appropriated and distributed by the state at least two years before local government must update comprehensive plans as required in RCW [36.70A.130](#).*

However, the GMA requirement for a Park and Recreation element, then, is contingent on sufficient funds being distributed by the State to cover the local government cost of preparing the element. That has not happened. Nevertheless, the City of Fife is preparing a Park and Recreation element recognizing the important role parks and recreation plays in the City’s quality of life.

B. Community Goals and Plans

Goals and Policies of the Fife Comprehensive Plan’s Land Use Element include:

Goal 11 Maintain and implement the City’s Comprehensive Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

- Policy 11.1 The City shall maintain a current park and recreation plan as part of this Comprehensive Plan so as to be eligible for grants, matching funds, and other opportunities that may occur.
- Policy 11.2 Plan potential park and recreation opportunities for the future when the means for their acquisition and/or development becomes feasible.
- Policy 11.3 Maintain a Bikeways/Pathways, Parks, and Open Space Overlay Map.

Fife's first Parks and Recreation Plan was developed in 1977. The plan included a description of Fife's history and natural environment, and proposed improvements to be made to the City's Civic Center site. It also proposed that trails be developed along Wapato Creek and the Union Pacific Railway. Fife has continued to experience rapid growth and extensive change since the development of this Plan and the adoption of the City's 1996 Comprehensive Plan. If not carefully planned, the character of the City's park, recreation, and open space facilities and services could diminish because of this growth and change.

To meet this challenge, the Fife City Council adopted the City of Fife Comprehensive Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan on August 28, 2001. In 2007, the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan was developed, coinciding with Fife's 50th Golden Jubilee anniversary, and accepted by City Council on January 22, 2008. (*Resolution #1163*)

The recommendations contained in the 2007 update reinforce the vision set forth in previous documents and policies. They outlined provisions for parks, trails, open space and recreation facilities during the next 20 years, accounting for population growth, community interests, and the need to comply with GMA guidelines, newer funding requirements, and Washington state law.

A new Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Plan update was prepared in 2013-2014 with substantial public involvement. As with prior plans, the preparation of the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan update involved substantial citizen outreach and participation. The Updated PROS Plan was adopted in 2015 as part of the 2014 Comprehensive Plan docket process.

C. Organization

This Parks and Recreation Element is an updated compilation and summation of the facts, findings, and policies set forth in the Comprehensive Plan, the Plan's updated Capital Facilities Element, Pierce County's County-Wide Planning Policies, the Buildable Lands Program for Pierce County, and, primarily, the 2014 Fife Comprehensive Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan Update. However, for consistency with the updated Capital Facilities Element and compliance with RCW 36.70A.070(8), it focuses on traditionally defined publicly owned land and facilities within the Fife Urban Growth Area (UGA) that are available to all citizens of Fife. Detailed discussion of other types of facilities and activities can be found in the 2014 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan Update.

The Fife Comprehensive Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan proposals are based on the results of field analysis, environmental inventories, demand analysis, surveys and workshop planning sessions. Some descriptions are organized by the major type of land or activity to be provided. Any particular park may include one or all of a variety of features. The Plan describes the improvements that are proposed under various sections of the Plan. The chapters on existing land and facilities or opportunities also provide a description of each site's current conditions, ownership, and other particulars.

II. Existing Facilities

A. Summary

Park service standards were reviewed through an evaluation of local needs and conditions, in combination with an analysis of comparable cities and national guidelines as identified in “Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines” (1983) by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA).

There are five basic park, recreation and open space facility types used by the City of Fife:

- **Neighborhood Parks** – generally no more than 5 acres in size, depending on a variety of factors including need, location and opportunity. These active-use parks are intended to serve residential areas within a 1/2-mile radius, and typically include amenities such as pedestrian paths and trails, picnic tables, play fields, equipment and sports courts, landscaping and irrigation.
- **Community Parks** – generally 10-50 acres designed for organized activities and sports. These active-use parks may include athletic complexes, skate parks, wildlife-observation areas, picnic shelters, restrooms, trails, landscaping, irrigation and parking areas.
- **Natural Areas and Greenspace Corridors** – much variety exists for parks of this nature. Intended to provide visual and psychological relief from man-made development, provisions are made for passive recreation, such as walking trails, benches and environmental interpretive panels.
- **Trails** – may be developed in conjunction with other park types or independently. A trail may be a stand-alone feature, or it may serve to connect two or more destinations. Classifications include:
 - Regional Trail
 - Community Trail
 - Rustic Trail
 - Bike Routes and Sidewalks
 - Rail Trail
- **Special Facilities** – include single-purpose recreational centers. Included in this type are golf courses, display gardens, pools, museums, historical landmarks and public plazas. The size, location and programming of these facilities is dependent upon community demand.

B. Inventory

Park Classifications

Park land is classified to assist in planning for the community’s recreational needs. The Fife park system is composed of a hierarchy of various park types, each offering recreation and/or natural area opportunities. Separately, each park type may serve only one function, but collectively the system will serve the full range of community needs.

Classifying park land by function allows the City to evaluate its needs and plan for an efficient, cost effective and usable park system that minimizes conflicts between park users

and adjacent uses. The classification characteristics are meant as general guidelines addressing the intended size and use of each park type. The following five classifications are in effect in Fife and are defined as follows:

- Community Parks
- Neighborhood Parks
- Special Facilities
- Greenways & Natural Areas
- Trails

Community Parks

Community parks are larger sites developed for organized play, contain a wider array of facilities and, as a result, appeal to a more diverse group of users. Community parks are generally 10 to 50 acres in size, should meet a minimum size of 15 acres when possible and serve residents within a 1-mile drive, walk or bike ride from the site. In areas without neighborhood parks, community parks can also serve as local neighborhood parks. In general, community park facilities are designed for organized or intensive recreational activities.

Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks are generally considered the basic unit of traditional park systems. They are small park areas designed for unstructured, non-organized play and limited active and passive recreation. They are generally 3-5 acres in size, depending on a variety of factors including neighborhood need, physical location and opportunity, and should meet a minimum size of 2 acre in size when possible.

Neighborhood parks are intended to serve residential areas within close proximity (up to 1/2-mile walking or biking distance) of the park and should be geographically distributed throughout the community. Access to neighborhood parks is mostly pedestrian, and park sites should be located such that people living within the service area can reach the park safely and conveniently. Park siting and design should ensure pedestrians do not have to cross a major arterial street or other significant natural or man-made barrier to get to the site, unless safe crossings are provided. Neighborhood parks should be located along road frontages to improve visual access and community awareness of the sites. Connecting and frontage streets should include sidewalks or other safe pedestrian access. Additionally, street plans should encourage maximum connectivity and public access to park sites.

Generally, developed neighborhood parks typically include amenities such as pedestrian paths, picnic tables, benches, play equipment, a multi-use open field for informal play, sport courts or multi-purpose paved areas and landscaping. Restrooms are not provided due to high construction and maintenance costs. Parking is also not usually provided; however, on-street, ADA-accessible parking stall(s) may be provided.

School grounds in the Fife urban area do not play a formal role in its overall park system, with regard to service standards or parkland distribution. While school sites may offer an open field or play equipment, daytime access is restricted by school use and limited for security concerns. School facilities play an important role in providing access to recreational opportunity, but that access is limited and priority is justly given to the student population.

Special Facilities

Special use areas include single-purpose recreational areas or stand-alone sites designed to support a specific, specialized use. This classification includes stand-alone sports field complexes, waterfront facilities, recreation centers and pools, areas sites of historical or cultural significance, such as museums, historical landmarks and structures, and public plazas in or near commercial centers. Specialized facilities may also be provided within a park of another classification. No standards exist or are proposed concerning special facilities, since facility size is a function of the specific use.

Greenways & Natural Areas

Greenways are undeveloped lands primarily left in a natural state with recreation use as a secondary objective. Greenways provide for connected or linked open space corridors that can support broader ecological functions than stand-alone properties. Natural areas are individual or isolated tracts of open space that are not connected to a larger greenway network. These lands are usually owned or managed by a governmental agency, which may or may not have public access. This type of land often includes wetlands, steep hillsides or other similar spaces. In some cases, environmentally sensitive areas are considered greenways and can include wildlife habitats, stream and creek corridors, or unique and/or endangered plant species. Greenways may serve as trail corridors, and provide for low-impact or passive activities, such as walking, nature observation. No standards exist or are proposed for greenways and natural areas.

Trails

Trails are non-motorized recreation and transportation networks generally separated from roadways. Trails can be developed to accommodate multiple or shared uses, such as pedestrians and bicyclists, or a single use. Recreation trail alignments aim to emphasize a strong relationship with the natural environment and may not provide the most direct route from a practical transportation viewpoint. Trails may be developed in conjunction with various recreational activities, such as jogging, cycling, nature study and historic observation.

The trail should be sufficiently wide enough to accommodate the intended type of trail user(s), preserve the features through which the trail is traveling and buffer adjacent land use activities. Surfaces will vary with location and use. Provisions for parking, consistent signage and interpretive markers may also be included in trail development. In order to provide an appealing, safe, accessible, economical and diverse trail system, trail standards and classifications should be developed and may be based on the following:

- **Regional Trail:** Paved, shared-use, long-distance linear trail corridors for the exclusive use of pedestrians, bicycles and other approved trail users. Regional trails are typically 12'-14' wide with a 2' wide gravel shoulder on both sides. The InterUrban Trail is an example of a nearby regional trail.
- **Community Trail:** Paved, shared-use trails typically found within community parks or linking park facilities. Community trails are typically 8'-10' wide. The path within Dacca Park and proposed trail along Wapato Creek are examples of community trails.

- **Rustic Trail:** Earthen or soft-surface trails with limited horizontal clearances and challenging grades and obstacles. Providing accessibility and regular facility maintenance are issues typical of this type of trail, since they vary in width and surfacing. The trails of the Hylebos Creek Nature Area are rustic trails.
- **Bike Routes and Sidewalks:** Typically associated with the transportation system, these linear paths are heavily used within urban areas and should be included in trail planning efforts in coordination with the Public Works Department.

Facility Inventory

The Park and Greenway Lands inventory in Table PR-1 identifies the recreational assets within Fife. The City provides 112 acres of public parkland and recreation facilities distributed among 15 parks and natural areas. The existing trails inventory is provided in Table PR-2.

Table PR-1. Existing Inventory: Park & Greenway Lands by Type

Park Name	Classification	Status	Acreage
Brookville Gardens Park	Community Park	Undeveloped	15.0
Dacca Community Park	Community Park	Developed	31.0
	Subtotal		46.0
5 - Acre Park	Neighborhood Park	Developed	5.3
Centennial Park	Neighborhood Park	Developed	0.4
Colburn Park	Neighborhood Park	Developed	0.6
Wedge Park	Neighborhood Park	Developed	2.0
	Subtotal		8.3
Fife Community Center	Special Use	Developed	0.7
Fife Swim Center	Special Use	Developed	1.4
Fountain Memorial Park	Special Use	Developed	0.9
Levee Road Property	Special Use	Partially Developed	14.7
	Subtotal		17.7
Frank Albert Park Way	Greenway & Natural Area	Undeveloped	5.9
Hylebos Creek Natural Area & Trail	Greenway & Natural Area	Partially Developed	15.3
Milgard Natural Area & Trail	Greenway & Natural Area	Partially Developed	9.0
Radiance Oxbow Greenspace	Greenway & Natural Area	Undeveloped	5.9
Wapato Creek Nature Area	Greenway & Natural Area	Undeveloped	1.0
Triangle Greenspace	Greenway & Natural Area	Undeveloped	2.7
	Subtotal		39.8
	Total Acreage		111.8

Table PR-2. Existing Inventory: Trails by Type

Trail Name	Surface Type	Mileage
Frank Albert Way Park Trail	Paved	0.42
Dacca Park Trail	Paved	1.16
5 - Acre Park Trail	Paved	0.78
N Levee Rd Pond Trail	Paved	0.32
Hylebos - Milgard Trail	Earthen	0.30
Hylebos Creek Trail	Earthen	0.33
Interurban Trailhead	Earthen	0.13
Wapato Pointe HOA Trail	Earthen	0.15
Sheffield Trail	Paved	0.55
FedEx Trail	Paved	0.42
Unnamed: Radiance Oxbow	Paved	0.14
Unnamed: Radiance Oxbow	Paved	0.27
Total Mileage		4.96

III. Level of Service Assessment

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 greenways. Service standards are the adopted guidelines or benchmarks the city is trying to attain with their parks system; the level of service is a snapshot in time of how well the city is meeting the adopted standards

As noted in the inventory chapter, the city owns approximately 103 acres of parks and greenways. An addition 100 acres of private parks and open space tracts also exists within Fife. Using the service standards from the previously adopted plan, Table PR-3 illustrates the current level of service for different parklands, along with current surpluses or deficits to those existing service standards. It should be noted that the table includes only the developed parkland acreage for community and neighborhood parks. No standards were previously adopted for special use facilities.

Table PR-3. Current Levels of Service by Park Type
Recreation Lands

<i>Type (incl. public & private lands)</i>	<i>Existing Standard</i>		<i>Current Inventory*</i>	<i>Current Level of Service</i>	<i>Current Surplus / (Deficit)</i>
Community & Neighborhood Parks	8.5	ac/000	44.90	5.78 ac/000	(34.07)
Greenway	30	ac/000	124.75	12.93 ac/000	(153.95)
Special Use Facilities	---	ac/000	27.50	2.55 ac/000	---
	38.5	ac/000	197.15		(188.02)
* NOTE: Current Inventory column excludes currently undeveloped sites					

At approximately 198 acres, the current, overall level of service for the City of Fife is 21.3 acres per 1,000 people, which is below the adopted standard from the previous plan. Even with the inclusion of privately-held parks and open space tracts, the city has a combined acreage deficit of nearly 197 acres - most of which is within the greenway (formerly called 'open space') classification.

Today, the city is close to meeting its stated standard for community and neighborhood parks, with a current deficit of 34 acres. The Brookville Gardens Community Park and the North Levee Road site were not included in the above calculation, since they are currently undeveloped. If Brookville Gardens were developed and included above, the current deficit would be reduced to only 18 acres.

The use of numeric standards is a 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 and active use parks (neighborhood and community parks) within a reasonable distance from their homes. To more appropriately measure and target toward that desire, the service standards, and the resulting service snapshot, were re-evaluated and re-aligned during the development of this Plan.

One consideration is the future, planned use of the North Levee Road site. At the present, the city owns approximately 43 acres between Levee Road and 48th Street. This Plan assumes that the city will retain and develop only the portion of the site west of the detention pond. In total, approximately 14.7 acres is assumed to be retained for park and greenway lands. In projecting the amount of land at this site available and usable for a future neighborhood park, an estimate of 4 acres was applied and used in the calculations to derive the numbers shown in Table PR-5 below. The remaining 10.7 acres were applied to the greenways classification.

Following a review of the existing inventory along with the near-term projects (i.e., Brookville Gardens and N. Levee Road) and anticipated parkland acquisitions, the projected park deficit is modest; the projected acreage balance is neither too large in surplus or deficit, such that an adjustment to the standards would be warranted. Therefore, this Plan proposes to maintain the combined acreage standard for community and neighborhood parks at 8.5 acres per 1,000 people.

The following Table PR-4 illustrates the effect of the proposed standards.

Table PR-4. Proposed Levels of Service by Park Type

	<i>Type (incl. public & private lands)</i>	<i>Proposed Standard</i>		<i>Inventory **</i>	<i>Projected Additions</i>	<i>Projected Surplus / (Deficit)</i>
	Community & Neighborhood Parks	8.5	ac/000	63.91	8	(9.69)
	Greenway	---	ac/000	135.45	---	---
	Special Facilities	---	ac/000	13.10	---	---
		8.5	ac/000	212.46		
** NOTE: Inventory column includes Brookville Gardens & the western portion of the North Levee Road site						

The PROS Plan also proposes the elimination of numeric standards for greenways. While numerical planning standards are common for helping to determine a desirable number of neighborhood parks per thousand residents, they do not translate easily to greenways because the uniqueness of the land base itself. Additionally, the city has provided strong leadership in the protection of sensitive lands through its Critical Areas Ordinance. At the present, approximately 85 acres of sensitive or protected lands have been set aside as privately held open space tracts via the platting and land development process. The inclusion of future, protected critical areas and creek corridors as part of the broader greenway network further clouds the relevance of a numeric standard for greenways or natural areas. While it is still important for the city to protect sensitive lands to set them aside as part of a greenway system, priority should be focused toward either the acquisition of or negotiation for additional, adjacent greenway lands to ensure sufficient property is available to accommodate trail connections.

As with greenways, numeric standards for trails are not an optimal guideline. The greater intent of a trail network is more related to community connectivity and access, rather than a per capita distance measurement. The previous plan did not establish a mileage standard for trails, and this Plan maintains the same approach for trails. As noted in the Goals chapter, the provision of trails should be toward maximal connectivity from the core community trails (i.e., Wapato Creek trail spine) to neighborhood, downtown and greenway destinations.

IV. Parks and Recreation Goals and Policies

The following goals and objectives are formulated from the Fife Comprehensive Plan, previous parks and recreation plans, and county-wide planning policies.

Parks & Greenways

Goal 1: Acquire and develop a high-quality, diversified system of parks, recreation facilities and greenways that is attractive and safe and provides equitable access to all residents.

- 1.1 Proactively seek parkland identified within this Plan, in both developed and undeveloped areas, to address gaps in the geographic distribution of parkland and secure suitable locations for new parks and greenways to serve future residents.
 - 1.1A Strive to provide a distributed network of parks, such that all city residents live within one-half mile of a developed neighborhood park or within one mile of a developed community park.
 - 1.1B Provide a combined level of service (LOS) standard of 8.5 acres per 1,000 persons of developed community and neighborhood parks.
- 1.2 Identify and prioritize lands for inclusion in the parks and greenway system based on factors such as contribution to level of service, connectivity, preservation and scenic or recreational opportunities for residents.
- 1.3 Periodically coordinate with Pierce County for acquisition of properties to be used for parks and greenways within Fife's urban growth area to leverage financial resources and in anticipation of future annexation.
- 1.4 Pursue low-cost and/or non-purchase options to preserve open space, including accepting land donations and the use of conservation easements and development covenants.

Goal 2: Protect and manage the city's natural and cultural resources and environmentally sensitive lands to highlight their uniqueness and preserve local history.

- 2.1 Coordinate with other public agencies, tribes and private partners for the protection of a system of greenway corridors to support ecological values and functions of sensitive natural lands and to facilitate connectivity for an effective, accessible trail system.
- 2.2 Develop management plans and restoration strategies for the Hylebos and Wapato Creek corridors and facilitate community-based volunteer restoration within publicly-owned lands.
- 2.3 Manage vegetation in natural areas and creek corridors to enhance or maintain native plant species, habitat function and other ecological values and functions. Remove and control non-native or invasive plants as appropriate.
- 2.4 Identify and incorporate significant historical and cultural sites and facilities into the park system to preserve these resources, such as the Fife History Museum.

Trails

Goal 3: Develop a high-quality system of shared-use trails that connect recreational facilities with developed neighborhoods and business centers in coordination with the City's system of sidewalks and bicycle facilities.

- 3.1 Connect and coordinate the City's street-based pedestrian and bicycle system with offstreet recreational trails.
- 3.2 Create a system of on-road bicycle routes (bicycle lanes) for commuter, recreational and touring enthusiasts using road rights-of-way and alignments through Fife.
- 3.3 Expand the system of off-street trails by utilizing greenways, parks, utility corridors and critical areas as appropriate.
- 3.4 Work with local agencies, utilities and private landholders to secure trail easements and access to greenspace for trail connections.
- 3.5 Develop or extend trails along Hylebos Creek and Wapato Creek.
- 3.6 Partner with Pierce County to develop a trail along the Puyallup River and linkages to regional trail systems.
- 3.7 Integrate the siting of proposed trail segments into the development review process; Require development projects along designated trail routes to be designed to accommodate planned trail segments.
- 3.8 Provide trailhead accommodations, as appropriate, to include parking, wayfinding signage, restrooms and other amenities.

Recreation Programs & Services

Goal 4: Provide a varied, interesting and evolving menu of recreational activities, healthy lifestyles and cultural events that accommodate a spectrum of ages, interests and abilities and promote Fife's identity and brand as a livable city.

- 4.1 Maximize resources by developing and maintaining partnerships with other public, non-profit and private recreation providers to deliver community services for recreation, health and cultural activities.
- 4.2 Emphasize service provision to children, teens, senior citizens, people with disabilities and other population groups with limited access to market-based recreation options.
- 4.3 Promote and expand special events and recreational programming to enhance community identity, community activity and environmental education; Incorporate the diversity of community festivals, events, movies in parks, community gardens, historical interpretation and other cultural activities into the brand of park and recreation services.
- 4.4 Periodically evaluate recreation program offerings in terms of attendance, current trends, customer satisfaction, cost-to-subsidy and availability of similar programs through other providers and make adjustments as necessary.

- 4.5 Review parks and recreation fee schedules annually and update as necessary based on program demand and local market comparisons.
- 4.6 Evaluate recreation pricing strategies that produce revenues in excess of costs in appropriate areas (i.e., adult sports) to help support or expand other recreational programs.

Outreach & Communication

Goal 5: Encourage meaningful public involvement in park and recreation planning and engage residents through department communications.

- 5.1 Support the PRCS Board as the forum for public discussion of parks and recreation issues.
- 5.2 Involve residents and stakeholders in park and recreation facility planning and design and recreation program development to solicit community input, facilitate project understanding and engender public support.
- 5.3 Conduct periodic joint sessions between the PRCS Board and the Planning Commission and City Council to improve coordination and discuss policy matters of mutual interest pertaining to park management and development, and recreational planning, resources, opportunities and funding.
- 5.4 Continue to use a variety of methods and media channels to publicize and increase resident awareness about parks and recreational opportunities available in the City.
- 5.5 Expand and update the City's website and develop Internet address mailing lists to enhance parks and recreation-related communication and marketing efforts with the public.
- 5.6 Prepare, publish and promote a park and trail facilities map for online and print distribution to highlight existing and proposed sites and routes, while promoting Fife as a walkable community.
- 5.7 Evaluate user satisfaction and numerical use of parks, trails, recreation facilities and programs at least every six years to stay current with community attitudes and interests. Use this information to inform staff, PRCS Board and City Council as part of the decision making process to revise program offerings and/or pursue major capital improvements.

Maintenance & Operations

Goal 6: Provide a parks and recreation system that is efficient to maintain and operate, provides a high level of user comfort, safety, and aesthetic quality, and protects capital investments.

- 6.1 Develop and maintain all parks and facilities in a manner that keeps them in safe and attractive condition; Repair or remove damaged components immediately upon identification.
- 6.2 Maintain an inventory of assets and their condition; Update the inventory as assets are added, updated or removed from the system and periodically assess the condition of park and recreation facilities and infrastructure.

- 6.3 Consider maintenance costs and staffing levels associated with acquisition, development or renovation of parks or greenways, and adjust the annual operating budget accordingly for adequate maintenance funding of the system expansion. Consider site design that facilitates public safety, conservation of energy, water and other resources, and low maintenance plant materials.
- 6.4 Encourage and promote volunteer park improvement and maintenance projects from a variety of service clubs, scouting organizations, religious institutions and businesses; encourage the use of Adopt-A-Park, community park watch and other similar programs that will increase safety, security and public awareness.

Design & Development

Goal 7: Plan for and develop high-quality parks, trails and recreation facilities throughout the City.

- 7.1 When developing new facilities or redeveloping existing facilities, review and consider the projected maintenance and operations costs prior to initiating design development.
- 7.2 Design and maintain parks and facilities to offer universal accessibility for residents of all physical capabilities, skill levels and age as appropriate; Assess planned and existing parks and trails for compliance with the newly adopted ADA Standards for Accessible Design for requisite upgrades.
- 7.3 Incorporate sustainable development and low impact design practices into the design, planning and rehabilitation of new and existing facilities; Use native vegetation for landscaping in parks to minimize maintenance requirements.
- 7.4 Maximize the multiple-use aspects of critical areas, detention ponds, utility easements, etc. by preserving and enhancing the natural and ecological value of these lands, while facilitating pedestrian access or wildlife viewing.
- 7.5 Develop Master Plans with community input for major parks and facilities in advance of undertaking major improvements, additions or changes in existing uses.
- 7.6 Standardize the use of graphics and signage to establish a consistent identity and brand at all parks and facilities.
- 7.7 Standardize park furnishings and amenities (trash cans, tables, benches, fencing) to reduce inventory and replacement costs and improve appearance of, and maintenance consistency within the park system.
- 7.8 New residential development shall provide funds or parkland for park development consistent with the City's standards for parks and facilities.

Park Planning Consistency

Goal 8: Ensure that planning for parks, recreation and opens space supports, is consistent with and implements broader elements the City's community and economic development vision.

- 8.1 Provide parks, open space and public spaces as essential components to the success of a livable City Center, and recognize that parks facilities in a city center

- may take different forms (e.g. hardscape, pedestrian walkways) than provided for elsewhere in the City.
- 8.2 Actively market the positive attributes of the City's parks, recreation and open space system in enhancing in community and economic development marketing and business recruitment efforts.
 - 8.3 Strategically consider parks and open space acquisition and improvements as a means of enhancing property values in the City.
 - 8.4 To ensure overall coordination and consistency amongst city plans, review and, if necessary, amend Parks Recreation and Open Space goal and objectives whenever another major functional City plan is considered for adoption and/or amended.
 - 8.5 Consider the City's economic competitiveness in the adoption of park impact fee amounts.

Urban Forestry

Goal 9: Achieve, maintain and protect a healthy and diverse urban forest through sound, affordable and proper urban forestry planning and operational practices.

- 9.1 Protect and expand the existing urban forest resource/canopy development through street standards that promote tree retention, maintenance and planting, as well as through the use of urban forestry management plans for public parks.
- 9.2 Integrate and employ urban forestry best management principles and practices in both planning and operations.
- 9.3 Promote urban forestry awareness through public education and outreach, using the City's Tree Commission and public outreach techniques to engage and inform the public and establish broad support about the benefits of urban forestry.
- 9.4 Continue to maintain Tree City USA status and consider systems to more easily track Tree City USA-related reporting.
- 9.5 Provide for staff training to increase awareness of urban forestry issues and best practices, particularly related to operations and maintenance.
- 9.6 Develop strategies for sustainable urban forestry programming.

Administration & Management

Goal 10: Provide clear leadership that supports and promotes the PRCS Board and the Department to residents, stakeholders, partners and City Council.

- 10.1 Provide sufficient financial and staff resources to maintain the overall parks and recreation system to high standards.
- 10.2 Promote professional development opportunities that strengthen the core skills and commitment from staff, PRCS Board members and key volunteers to further the goals and objectives of this plan and broader City vision.
- 10.3 Collaborate, where appropriate, with the Fife School District to improve joint

recreation facilities; Coordinate with other municipalities, state and federal agencies, nonprofit organizations and the private sector in fulfilling the recreational and parkland needs of the urban area.

- 10.4 Work with the Fife Chamber of Commerce to develop information packets that promote City services to tourists, new residents and potential new businesses.
- 10.5 Periodically revise park impact fee rates to accurately reflect changes in level of service standards and/or the costs of expanding the park infrastructure to accommodate population growth.
- 10.6 Pursue alternative funding options and dedicated revenues for the acquisition and development of parks and facilities, such as through private donation, sponsorships, partnerships, state and federal grant sources, among others.

V. Capital Facilities Plan

The Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan includes 6-year and 20-year capital plans. The 6-Year projects are more likely to proceed, may have identified funding, and/or are ranked as community priorities.

The 20-Year list identifies critical, needed facilities to meet the demand of the expected population growth. These are primarily acquisitions for new neighborhood and community parks, as well as recreation facility upgrades and construction.

The specific Six-Year projects can be viewed in table format in Element 7, Capital Facilities.