



City of Fife

2014 Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan

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Executive Summary

This Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Plan is a six-year guide and strategic plan for managing and enhancing park, trail and recreation services in Fife. It establishes a path forward for providing high quality, community-driven parks, trails, greenspaces and recreational opportunities. The Plan provides a vision for the City's park and recreation system, proposes updates to City service standards for park and facility classifications and addresses departmental goals, objectives and other management considerations toward the continuation of high-quality recreation opportunities to benefit residents of Fife.

This Plan was guided with input and direction of city residents and the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Board. 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.

Fife's Park & Recreation System

The City of Fife currently provides over 100 acres of public parkland and recreation facilities distributed among 15 parks, special facilities and natural areas. This system of parks supports a range of active and passive recreation experiences. In addition, the City provides a skate park and approximately 5 miles of trails within its parks and greenways.

Recreation services are available to Fife residents through a wide range of public and private recreation, health and fitness providers and facilities. The Fife Swim Center and Community Center are the backbone of the City's recreation programming, and each provides a venue for specialized recreation classes, activities and events. City residents also have access to Fife School District, Pierce County and Metro Parks Tacoma recreational facilities within close proximity.

Fife is a maturing young city with many families with children. New investments in parks and recreation will be necessary to meet the needs of the community, support youth development, provide options for residents to lead healthy, active lives and foster greater social and community connections.

Goals & Policies

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

- **Community Involvement & Information:** Encourage and support public involvement in park and recreation issues.
- **Parks & Greenways:** Acquire and develop a high-quality, diversified system of parks, recreation facilities and natural areas that provides equitable access to all residents.
- **Trails:** Develop a network of shared-use trails and bicycle and pedestrian corridors to enable connectivity between parks, neighborhoods and public amenities.
- **Recreation Programs & Services:** Provide and promote a varied and inclusive suite of recreation programs that accommodate a spectrum of ages, interests and abilities.
- **Economic Development:** Ensure that planning for parks, recreation and opens space supports, is consistent with and implements broader elements of the City's community and economic development vision.
- **Maintenance & Operations:** 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.
- **Design:** Provide high-quality care for play structures and surfaces and maintenance of trails, parks and recreation facilities throughout the City.
- **Administration & Management:** Provide leadership that supports and promotes the PRCS Board and the Department to the community, stakeholders, partners and City Council.

Level of Service Standards

This Plan proposes adjustments to the City's service standards for parks and recreation facilities to achieve community goals within projected resources. These standards include:

- **Community & Neighborhood Parks:** This Plan maintains the acreage standard for community and neighborhood parks of 8.5 acres per 1,000 people to continue to emphasize the relative importance of active parks within the park system. The City currently is not meeting this standard, and it will need to acquire an additional 23 acres of parkland to meet the needs of future residents.
- **Greenways:** This Plan proposes to eliminate the numeric standard for greenways and emphasizes the protection of critical natural areas through existing regulations. Acquisitions should be focused on greenway properties necessary to create critical connections in the greenway and trail system, rather than toward meeting a population-based standard.
- **Specialized Recreation Facilities:** The previous PROS Plan did not include a numeric standard for special use facilities, and this Plan maintains that approach. Special use recreation facilities are, by their nature, unique and do not translate well to a population based numeric standard.

Future Improvements

The City of Fife is anticipated to grow to approximately 9,600 residents over the next ten years. 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 \$7.8 million of investment in acquisition, development and renovation of

the parks system over the next six years and identifies additional investment priorities for the future.

Figure ES1: Capital Facilities Plan Summary by Classification & Type

Park Type	Acquisition	Development	Renovation	Sum
Community Parks	\$ -	\$ 3,500,000	\$ 62,500	\$ 3,562,500
Neighborhood Parks	\$ 1,650,000	\$ 1,420,000	\$ 63,400	\$ 3,133,400
Greenways & Natural Areas	\$ -	\$ 32,500	\$ 5,000	\$ 37,500
Trails	\$ -	\$ 1,045,000	\$ -	\$ 1,045,000
TOTAL	\$ 1,650,000	\$ 5,997,500	\$ 130,900	\$ 7,778,400

To ensure existing parks provide desired recreational amenities and opportunities, the Plan includes investments in the development and improvement of neighborhood and community parks. For example, development of the Brookville Gardens Community Park will greatly expand park access and resources for the community as a whole. The Plan also proposes smaller improvements throughout the park system to enhance accessibility, safety and usability of park features.

The Plan includes a focused land acquisition program to ensure sufficient land for outdoor recreation as City population grows. It identifies target acquisition areas to secure community parkland and fill gaps in neighborhood park access.

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Introduction

Plan Overview

The City of Fife began this update to its Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan in July 2013 to provide a logical blueprint for the management and growth of the City's park system. As a six-year guide and strategic plan for enhancing park and recreation services for the community, the Plan establishes a path forward for providing high quality, community-driven parks, trails, open spaces and recreational opportunities throughout Fife. 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 opportunities and potential upgrades to benefit the residents of Fife.

This Parks, Recreation & Open Space (PROS) Plan was developed with the input and direction of Fife residents, which included public meetings and a community survey. 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.

Introduction

The City of Fife's first parks and recreation plan was developed in 1977. At that time, the population had yet to reach 1,500 people, but the plan showed foresight and a sense of stewardship on behalf of the community and its resources. It included an overview of the city's history and natural environment and proposed that improvements be made to the Civic Center site and that trails be developed along Wapato Creek and the Union Pacific Railway.

The nature of urban planning in the State of Washington has evolved considerably in 25 years, most notably with the adoption of the Growth Management Act (GMA) in 1990. The GMA with its 14 stated goals and call for citizen participation became the foundation for regional planning. Since its passage, the GMA has guided many major planning decisions made by Puget Sound municipalities and others across in the state.

Fife's original GMA comprehensive plan, developed in 1996, provided the framework for achieving goals established by the GMA, several of which related directly to parks and recreation. The plan was developed by a Comprehensive Plan Task Force with technical

assistance from the city staff and input from the community during key phases of the planning process. Various revisions to the original plan were made in 2005 and included additional public outreach. The updated comprehensive plan serves as the umbrella document guiding all decisions made by city government, including all policies related to parks, open space and recreation.

This update to the city's most recent parks and recreation plan, adopted in 2008, reinforce the vision set forth in previous documents and current policies. It also takes into consideration updates to the community vision reflected in more recent planning efforts. This Plan will guide the provision of parks, trails, natural areas and recreation programs during the next 6 years, accounting for population growth, community interests, and the need to comply with GMA guidelines, newer Recreation and Conservation Funding Board requirements and Washington state law.

Vision for the Future

The previous PROS Plan offered a vision for the future of Fife that was an outgrowth from the feedback from residents regarding their interests, needs and preferences for parks and recreation services. This vision remains relevant today as a guiding force for City efforts.

Our vision for the future is to create a parks and recreation system that is a source of community pride and values its surroundings, reflecting Fife's special character and physical setting. Parks and recreation facilities will offer a diversity of experience from exceptional public gathering places to places of quiet respite and renewal such as Wapato and Hylebos nature areas.

In our vision for the future, Fife is a walkable community with an expanded trails network connecting parks and facilities with neighborhoods and business centers. Our vision includes a comprehensive system of on-road bicycle routes as well as off-road trails, so people have the option to access places to live, work, shop and play by means other than car.

Our vision calls for Fife to be responsive to change and shifting demographics. We will evolve programs and services and acquire additional park land to meet the needs of our growing population. Working with other agencies, we will pursue opportunities, partnerships and innovative funding for new facilities, proper maintenance and inclusive access to programs and services.

Safe, attractive, well-kept parks and facilities will be a key contributor to our health and economy. Properly maintained and sustainable, they will encourage a greater sense of public ownership among citizens. Through effective outreach we will build awareness of the benefits of parks and open space, and the need to protect and preserve our natural and cultural resources and environmentally sensitive lands for future generations.

This vision provided the foundation for the goals and recommendations in the subsequent chapters within this Plan.

Review of Other Community Plans

Six community plans were reviewed for past policy direction and goals as they pertain to the provision and planning for parks, trails and recreation opportunities for Fife. The development of each involved (or will involve) public input and final adoption by their respective responsible legislative body. Several planning efforts in Fife currently are ongoing with the preparation of this Plan, and information from these plans will help ensure inter-plan consistency.

Fife Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan (2008)

Adopted in January 2008, the previous Fife Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan was prepared as an update to the 2001 Fife PROS Plan. A mail- and Internet-based community survey, along with community meetings and stakeholder discussions, were used to elicit recommendations and input from residents. The plan outlined 6 broad goals and 38 specific objectives for park and recreation service delivery and for the maintenance and expansion of the park system. The six-year Capital Facilities Plan identified up to \$6.5 million in projects between 2008-2013, with a significant amount of proposed project expenditures geared toward land acquisition and park site development.

City of Fife Comprehensive Plan (2005)

Completed in conformance with the GMA, the 2005 Fife Comprehensive Plan Update entailed an extensive community outreach program consisting of a citizen committee, numerous public meetings and over a dozen public hearings. The Fife Comprehensive Plan establishes 12 general planning goals, with 41 specific policies, to guide the future growth and land use patterns of the city. Regarding parks and recreation, the classifications, standards, policies and goals outlined in the 2007 PROS Plan were incorporated into the Comprehensive Plan as a stand-alone chapter (Element 6). An update to the GMA Comprehensive Plan is required under the GMA by June 30, 2015.

Fife Transportation System Plan (ongoing)

The City currently is updating its 2002 Transportation System Plan, which includes revisions to policies and implementation tactics to enhance the city's transportation network. The plan includes a chapter on pedestrian and bicycle facilities and assesses user needs, functionality and safety. The street based sidewalk and bike lane system outlined in the TSP provided a framework for trail connectivity and park access for this Plan.

City Center Plan (ongoing)

The Fife City Center Plan was prepared to serve as a blueprint for the development of a stronger downtown core. The plan defines four distinct neighborhoods that are anchored by a diversity of activities, uses and physical and social spaces. The plan outlines 8 land use policies areas and recommends specific enhancements to facilitate the development of a cohesive and vibrant city center. Policy statements reference non-motorized transportation, infrastructure improvements, parks and plazas.

Fife Urban Forestry Management Plan (ongoing)

The Urban Forestry Management Plan outlines four broad goals for Fife's urban forestry program that address maintenance, safety, community education and funding. The plan provides an overview of tree inventory data and describes urban tree management objectives. Specific to parks and recreation, the plan suggests the completion of habitat management plans for natural areas, in addition to tree replacement on public lands.

Pierce County Park, Recreation & Open Space Plan (2014)

Pierce County adopted in February 2014 an update to its 2008 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan, and a public review draft was issued in September 2013. The 2014 PROS Plan provides revised inventories, demographic conditions, growth projections, needs analysis, revenue forecasts and capital project phasing. The PROS Plan also includes a new habitat component using the foundation of Pierce County's extensive work on critical areas, shoreline and biodiversity planning. The plan includes a revised trail section that continues to support a long-time vision for a regional trail along the Puyallup River.

Contents of the Plan

The remainder of the Fife Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan is organized as follows:

- Chapter 2: Community Profile – provides an overview of the City, and its demographics.
- Chapter 3: Community Involvement – highlights the methods used to engage the Fife community in the development of the Plan.
- Chapter 4: Goals & Objectives – provides a policy framework for the parks and recreation system grouped by major functional or program area.
- Chapter 5: Existing Inventory & Recreational Opportunities – describes the existing park and recreation system in the City.
- Chapters 6: Needs Assessment & Recommendations – discusses survey results, stakeholder feedback and other recreation trend data and provides context to the identification of potential park and recreation system enhancements.
- Chapter 7: Capital Facilities Plan – details a 6-year program for addressing park and recreation facility enhancement or expansion projects.
- Chapter 8: Implementation Strategies – describes a range of strategies to consider in the implementation of the Plan.
- Appendices: Provides technical or supporting information to the planning effort and includes a summary of the community survey, funding options, among others.

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Community Profile

Community Setting & History

Incorporated in 1957, Fife is now the sixth largest city in Pierce County - covering approximately 5.6 square miles immediately east of Tacoma. With direct access to, and highly visible from, Interstate 5 and close proximity to the Port of Tacoma and Sea-Tac International Airport, Fife has established itself as a thriving manufacturing, distribution and transportation district, with prime real estate for development and business opportunities. According to the Washington State Office of Financial Management, the city has an estimated 9,290 residents as of April 1, 2013. The 2010 U.S. Census reported 9,173 residents.

The physical setting presents a wide array of recreational opportunities, within and outside the city limits. The city owns and maintains six developed parks, one undeveloped park, five natural areas, the Fife Community Center and the Fife Swim Center. Tacoma, Gig Harbor and the waters of Puget Sound are within a short drive, and the possibilities for scenic, active day trips abound. Mount Rainier, the North Olympics and Pacific Ocean beaches can be reached in two hours or less, and Seattle with its world-class sports events and urban amenities is 32 miles north on I-5.

Fife is located along the Puyallup River and within the eastern edge of the Puget Trough Section of the Cascade Mountain Range. The city offers a nearly unobstructed view of Mt. Rainier's entire 14,411 feet.

The urban growth area is composed of the flatlands and valley created by the Puyallup River, and portions of the plateau or higher ground that face onto the valley floor. Elevations range from 0 to about 300 feet above Puget Sound. Fife is also a tideflat community, meaning the water table is just 10-15 feet below ground in some parts of the city.

Lowland areas within portions of the Hylebos and Wapato Creek corridors are covered by grasses, agricultural crops and riparian vegetation, especially along the creek floodplains and at the edge of wetlands or open bodies of water. Deciduous hardwood trees including red alder, cottonwood, Oregon ash, willow and other understory species are dominant within the wetland areas. The majority of Fife's commercially important timber has been harvested, mostly to accommodate real estate development.

Urban and agricultural development within the Fife urban growth area has substantially reduced wildlife habitat through the years. However, valuable habitat qualities remain in

large undeveloped tracts dominated by native vegetation and around wetlands and riparian forests. The wooded areas support a wide variety of wildlife, and a small number of larger mammals including black-tailed deer and coyote are found at the edge of the plateaus of the urban growth area.

Historical Highlights

A large number of different Native American tribes and bands with their varied lifestyles and cultures made their home in the Puget Sound region long before the arrival of explorers and settlers of European descent. Archaeological investigations indicate a human presence in the area as long as 12,000 years ago.

For generations, members of the Puyallup tribe lived in the area where Fife now is located. In 1856, the Treaty of Medicine Creek established the Puyallup reservation that stretched roughly from Puyallup to Browns Point. Quickly becoming Potlatch Headquarters for the Puyallup, Nisqually and Squaxin tribes, it was a popular trading post for supplies and a site of some of the largest gatherings north of the Puyallup River.

The name Fife was chosen in 1883 by early settlers in honor of Colonel W.H. Fife, who settled some of the Indian treaties and engineered the first water systems in Tacoma. The fertile farm lands of Fife attracted settlers of Italian, Swiss, Scandinavian and Japanese descent, along with many others who made the area their home. Many of these families and their descendants remain to this day and have made important social, cultural and economic contributions to the life of the community.

February 11, 1957 was the date Fife was officially incorporated as a municipal jurisdiction. The city's first decennial population count as shown in the 1960 U.S. Census was 1,463. Early residents were employed in fishing, agriculture, forestry, and some manufacturing activities located in Fife and Tacoma.

Between 1980 and 1990, the population more than doubled, reaching 3,864 people in the 1990 Census. Newly arriving residents were increasingly employed by manufacturing, service, and related enterprises located elsewhere in Pierce and King Counties.

In 1990, an agreement was reached by the city with the Puyallup Tribe of Indians and a number of agencies, acknowledging the Tribe as a distinct group with a unique culture and an autonomous governing body. The Tribe received some properties and the right to place other tribal owned lands into "Trust," a classification similar to reservation status. The largest tracts of Puyallup Tribe Trust lands are located in the southern portion of Fife and are generally undeveloped at this time.

Fife Today

As corporate boundaries were increased to include and allow for suburban development of the valley floor, Fife's growth has consistently outpaced that of the surrounding county. Examination of historic trends and economic factors indicates that Fife's growth rate can be expected to remain significantly higher than that of nearby communities.

From humble beginnings as a valley crossroads, the city's primary business district has grown and developed, running generally east and west along Pacific Highway East. The area is populated by a large number of commercial establishments, scattered industrial uses, small residences and vacant land. The area along 20th Street East has also developed with heavy commercial uses.

The majority of Fife's residential neighborhoods and several planned residential developments

are in the south-central part of the city, and these consist mainly of single-family homes. A large number of multi-family dwelling units, primarily apartment buildings, are located throughout the city and comprise approximately 60% of the housing stock.

The main area of public use is near Fife High School between 23rd Street East and 20th Street East. This includes the Fife Swim Center, the Fife Community Center, the fire station, Fife City Hall, Fife High School, City maintenance shop and two churches. Separately, the city acquired over 115 acres for park development in the year following the adoption of the 1996 Fife Comprehensive Plan.

The 2006 Comprehensive Plan presents the following “vision statement” that describes the community sentiment for the future: *“Fife will be a city where there is balance between residential, commercial, and industrial growth and a city with a wholesome, restful, neighborhood-like atmosphere.”* This PROS Plan aims to reinforce that balance through parkland acquisition and trail development, among other proposed improvements.

Land Use Implications

According to the 2006 Comprehensive Plan, there are 1,565 acres in industrial zoning designations, 876 acres are commercial, 649 are residential, and 127 acres are unzoned. In many cases, land appears to be underutilized relative to national averages and also to the maximum development allowed in the district. The Comprehensive Plan also noted that farmlands in Fife will eventually be converted to urban uses. These uses are likely to include an emphasis on residential development with clustered and higher density housing for a broad mixture of family and income ranges. In accordance with Fife development standards, such developments will conserve sensitive environmental areas and natural features. The most significant constraints are the presence of wetlands, creeks and wildlife habitat areas.

Economics and Demographics

Several demographic factors and trends affect demand for parks and recreation. The key factors influencing participation and demand are described here.

Economics

Historically, Fife has experienced significantly higher levels of economic and employment growth than communities in the surrounding region. This can be attributed largely to the availability of relatively inexpensive land for commercial and industrial development, proximity to the Port of Tacoma, high visibility from Interstate 5 and high traffic volume along Pacific Highway East, along with the city’s advantageous tax structure.

In its most recent 2013 report, the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) indicated that there were 12,504 covered employment positions in Fife, divided among the manufacturing, warehousing, transportation and utilities sector (42%); finance, insurance, real estate, and service (27%); retail – food services (16%); construction – resource (10%); with education and government employment combining for less than 5%.

According to the PSRC data, Fife’s total employment will increase from 12,504 in 2010 to 19,300 by 2030, representing a 54% increase. Manufacturing employment forecasts are expected to remain steady with only incremental increases while retail - food services may see an increase of 55%; finance, insurance, real estate and other service employment is expected to double by 2030.

The following table provides a summary of Fife’s demographic characteristics as compared to Pierce County and Washington State.

Figure 1. Demographic Profile by Geography

Demographics	Fife	Pierce County	Washington
Population Characteristics			
Population (2000)	4,784	700,820	5,894,121
Population (2010)	9,173	795,225	6,724,540
Population (2013 OFM)	9,290	814,500	6,882,400
Percent of Change (2000-13)	94%	16%	17%
Communities of Color	44.8%	25.8%	22.7%
Household Characteristics			
Households	3,642	299,918	2,620,076
Percent with Children	33%	32%	64%
Median Income	\$57,653	\$59,105	\$59,374
Average Household Size	2.5	2.59	2.51
Average Family Size	3.12	3.09	3.06
Home Ownership Rate	40.4%	63.0%	64.0%
Age Groups			
Median Age	30.9	35.9	37.3
Population < 5 years of age	9.3%	7.0%	6.5%
Population < 18 years of age	25.7%	24.9%	23.5%
Population > 65 years of age	6.5%	11.0%	13.2%

Population

Growth in Fife over the last two decades has been roughly three to four times that of the region. The Washington State Office of Financial Management, in its April 1, 2013 report used for allocation of selected state revenues, estimated the population to be 9,290 - a 1.3% increase over the official figure from the 2010 U.S. Census. Fife Community Development Department staff have estimated the 2020 population for Fife as 9,600, which was more than double the 2000 census figure and approximately 3.4% higher than the current population.

Age Groups

The largest population group is comprised of 25- to 49-year-olds, representing 43% of the population in 2010. This is higher than the rest of Pierce County which has 35% of the population within this age group. The percentage of children and youth under the age of 18 in Fife is 25.7%, which is comparable to Pierce County (24.3%). While offering attractive features for retirees, Fife and Pierce County have lower percentages of persons 65 years of age and older (6.4% and 11.8%, respectively) than the state as a whole (13.2%). However, aging of the population is expected to continue due to extended life expectancies.

Household Size

In 2010, the Census indicated 3,495 households in Fife with 2.49 persons per household. This is comparable to the assumed number of 2.5 persons per household set by the

Washington State Office of Financial Management. Households defined as family units by the Census (consisting of a householder and one or more other people related to the householder by birth, marriage or adoption) represented 60.2% of the total households in the city. Households with individuals under 18 years old comprised 35.4% of the total with an average family size of 3.17 persons. Average family size is roughly equal to the rest of the county and state.

Housing

The State Office of Financial Management estimated total housing units in 2013 at 3,926, an increase of less than 1% from the 2010 Census housing estimate of 3,895. Of the total housing units, just under 42% are single family dwelling units; 55.8% are multi-unit dwellings, and 2.5% are mobile homes or special units. Estimates by OFM indicated very little change in the distribution of housing types between 2010 and 2013.

Poverty

As of 2010, Fife's population had 12.6% of its residents living below the poverty level (the statewide average was 12.5%). Of this population, there were 120 families with related children under 18. There were also 704 individuals living below the poverty level, representing an additional 14.9% of the population. These percentages are above county, state and national averages and suggest that there may be significant need for assistance in obtaining recreational services.

However, the Census data that details these measurements are eight years old and subject to scrutiny given Fife's rapid population growth since 2000. Based on the May 2007 recreation survey, 75% of respondents indicated an income of over \$50,000, which may potentially indicate an increase in median household income, along with a potential reduction in poverty rates. Given this variability, ongoing monitoring of requests for recreation fee reductions and enrollment in the free lunch program may provide a more immediate measure of poverty.

Persons with Disabilities

The 2010 Census reported 22.5% of the population 5 years and older (972 persons) as having a disability that interferes with life activities. This is higher than state and national averages (17% and 19.3%, respectively). Among residents 65 and older, the percentage rises to 36.2%, or 128 persons, equal to the state average. The needs of this population may have implications for Fife's delivery of service for recreation programs.

Ethnic Diversity

Fife's population is significantly more diverse than the rest of the county and state. People who identified themselves as of Hispanic or Asian heritage make up the largest populations at 17.4% and 15.5% respectively. Only 55% of residents identified themselves as white in the 2010 Census, which is much lower compared to the county (76.8%) and state (81.6%) figures.

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Community Involvement

Community engagement and input played a crucial role in establishing a clear planning framework that reflects current community priorities. Residents are interested in the future of park and recreation opportunities in Fife and appreciated the opportunity to offer feedback in the development of the Plan. Public outreach methods included:

- An internet-based community survey
- 1 community meeting
- 4 Parks, Recreation & Community Services Citizens Advisory Board meetings

Throughout this process, the public provided information and expressed opinions about their needs and priorities for parks, trails and recreation services in Fife. This feedback was important in preparing and organizing policy statements and prioritizing the capital facilities project list contained within this Plan.

Community Survey

The City of Fife Parks, Recreation & Community Services Department contracted for the administration of a community survey from August through October of 2013. The purpose of the survey was to gather input to help determine park, trail, greenway and recreation priorities of the community. In collaboration with staff, the project team designed a 25-question survey to assess residents' recreational needs, preferences and priorities. This allowed the survey to be tailored to issues of strategic importance to effectively plan the future of the parks and recreation system.

The survey was designed to obtain results from households throughout the City of Fife. It was administered as an internet survey that relied on promotions by the City. Information about the survey was posted in the Fife Free Press on multiple occasions during the summer, and the survey was promoted on the City's website and during a community open house on August 17th. Recreation program users, stakeholders and civic groups were notified about the survey via email. Residents were directed to the City's website to follow the link to the online survey, and it was closed in mid-October.

A total of 104 surveys were recorded. Major survey findings are noted below, and a more detailed discussion of results can be found in the Needs Assessment (Chapter 6). The survey instrument and a summary of the response data are provided in Appendix B.

Major Findings

Fife residents are highly satisfied with parks, trails, and recreation services in the city.

- 72% were satisfied (very/somewhat) with parks, trails, and recreation services in Fife.
- 79% felt the quality of recreation services was either “very good” or “good.”
- 70% rated the quality of park maintenance and upkeep as “excellent” or “good”.
- 78% agreed (strongly/somewhat) that Fife meets the needs of the community for parks, trails, and recreation services.
- Strong majorities of respondents agreed (83.5%) that the City of Fife meets the community needs for parks, trails and recreation services and uses taxpayer money wisely to provides those services (68.8%).

Residents expressed a willingness to pay additional tax money for parks, trails, and recreation services in Fife, with a priority placed on maintaining existing parks and trails.

- 83% would be supportive of an increase in taxes or fees to support additional recreation activities, programs and facilities.
- 79% would support an increase in taxes to fund acquisition and construction of parks, open space and trails.
- 96% rated maintaining existing parks and trails as a high/medium priority, the highest rating among a series of parks services.

Community Open House Meeting

Community members were invited to a public open house to offer direct comments and feedback about the future of parks, trails and recreation opportunities in Fife. The intent was to elicit feedback from residents on the future vision for parks and recreation, explore program and facility opportunities and identify local recreation needs. The meeting was held on August 17, 2013 and included informational displays related to parks, recreation, trails and natural areas. The City’s website, e-mail announcements and the Fife Free Press were used to publicize the event (see the ‘Other Outreach’ section below). The meeting lasted two hours, and a summary from the meeting is provided in Appendix C.

Parks, Recreation & Community Services Board Meetings

The PRCS Board provided feedback on the Plan during 3 regularly scheduled sessions. The first session occurred September 2013, and the Board discussed the PROS Plan update process and provided their thoughts on the current state of Fife’s parks and recreation programs. Another session, held on January 6, 2014, was a joint work session with the PRCS Board and Planning Commission that included a summary of the community survey, along with a discussion of the draft plan, service standards and recommendations.

Other Outreach

In addition to the direct outreach opportunities noted above, the Fife community was informed about the planning process through different media channels. A project webpage was posted on the City’s website to provide background information, meeting announcements and project materials such as meeting notes, displays and summary reports. In advance of each public meeting, the City posted a project webpage update and provided media announcements to local outlets. News articles and sample promotional material are located in Appendix D.

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Goals & Objectives

Overview

The goals and objectives described in this chapter define the park and recreation services that Fife aims to provide. These goals and objectives were derived from input received throughout the planning process, from city staff and officials, the Parks, Recreation & Community Services Citizens Advisory Board and community members.

Goals & Objectives

The Growth Management Act (GMA) adopted by the Washington State Legislature in 1990 provided a new foundation for comprehensive planning in selected cities and counties throughout the state, including Pierce County and the City of Fife. The GMA's purpose is to help communities deal efficiently with the challenges of growth to ensure their long-term sustainability and high quality of life.

The GMA identifies 14 planning goals to guide the development of comprehensive plans and development regulations (codified in Chapter 36.70A of the Revised Code of Washington). Four of these goals directly affect the development and implementation of this plan.

- “Open space and recreation. Retain open space, enhance recreational opportunities, conserve fish and wildlife habitat, increase access to natural resource lands and water, and develop parks and recreation facilities.” RCW 36.70A.020(9)
- “Environment. 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)
- “Historic preservation. Identify and encourage the preservation of lands, sites, and 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)

Furthermore, the Fife Comprehensive Plan, the previous parks and recreation plan and Pierce County county-wide planning policies provide a framework for this PROS Plan. A goal is a general statement describing an outcome the City wishes to provide. Goals typically do not change over time unless community values shift. Objectives are more specific statements that describe a means to achieving the stated goals. Objectives may change over time. Recommendations are specific actions intended to implement and achieve the goals and objectives and are contained in subsequent chapters of the Plan.

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 off-street 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.

Economic Development

Goal 8: Ensure that planning for parks, recreation and open 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.

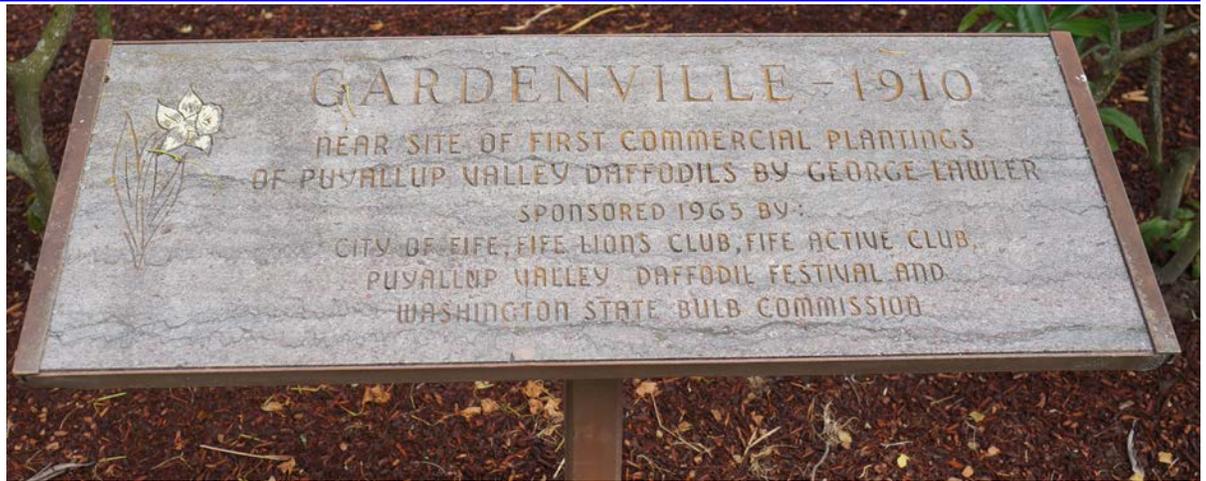
- 9.1 Protect and expand the existing urban forest resource/canopy development through street standards that promote tree retention, maintenance and planting, as well as through the use of urban forestry management plans for public parks.
- 9.2 Integrate and employ urban forestry best management principles 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.

5



Parkland Inventory & Recreational Opportunities

This chapter is segmented into three sections. The first section defines the various facility classifications in use in Fife. The second is an inventory of existing facilities, and the third is a summary of other recreational opportunities available within the greater Fife-Pierce County area.

Park Classifications

Parkland 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 parkland 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 follow.

- 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 and sports, although passive components such as pathways, picnic areas and natural areas are highly encouraged and complementary to active use facilities. Developed community parks typically include amenities such as court sports (basketball, tennis), covered activity areas, soccer and/or baseball fields and bike and pedestrian trails. Since community parks serve a larger area and offer more facilities than neighborhood parks, parking and restroom facilities should be provided.

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 ½-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

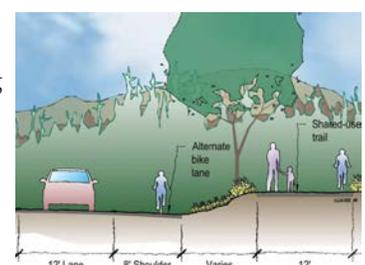
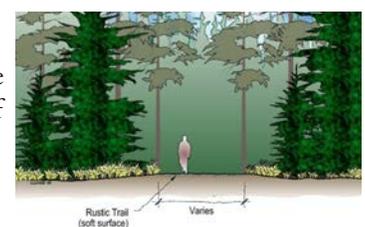
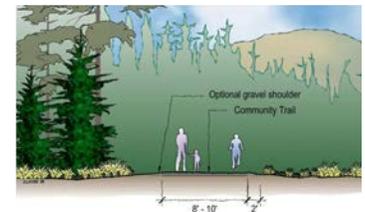
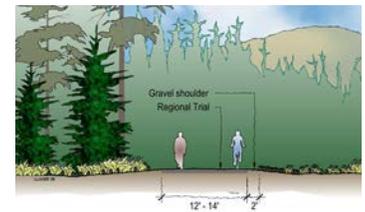
that can support broader ecological functions than stand-alone properties. Natural areas are individual or isolated tracts of open space that are not connected to a larger greenway network. These lands are usually owned or managed by a governmental agency, which may or may not have public access. This 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 open space inventory identifies the recreational assets within Fife. The City provides 112 acres of public parkland and recreation facilities distributed among 15 parks and natural areas.

Figure 2. 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
<i>Subtotal</i>			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
<i>Subtotal</i>			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
<i>Subtotal</i>			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
<i>Subtotal</i>			39.8
Total Acreage			111.8

Figure 3. 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

Additionally, private parks and open space tracts contribute significantly to the overall park system in Fife. The following tables summarize the available land inventory in Fife.

Figure 4. Existing Private Parks & Open Space Lands by Type

Park Name	Classification	Status	Acreage
Kelsey Lane HOA Park	HOA Park	Developed	0.26
Radiance Park #1	HOA Park	Developed	0.61
Radiance Park #2	HOA Park	Developed	0.35
Radiance Park #3	HOA Park	Developed	0.39
Radiance Park #4	HOA Park	Developed	0.48
Radiance Park #5	HOA Park	Developed	0.63
Saddle Ridge HOA Park	HOA Park	Developed	2.74
Stonebrook HOA Park	HOA Park	Developed	0.15
Valley Haven HOA Park	HOA Park	Developed	0.05
Wapato Pointe HOA Park	HOA Park	Developed	0.22
<i>Subtotal</i>			<i>5.61</i>
Multiple Sites	Private Recreation Commons	Developed	10.10
<i>Subtotal</i>			<i>10.10</i>
Multiple Sites	Natural Areas Tracts	Undeveloped	84.95
<i>Subtotal</i>			<i>84.95</i>
Total Acreage			100.66

Through strong leadership in setting aside critical areas and open space tracts through the development review process, residents of Fife have benefitted from an expanded network of recreational lands and natural areas. The private parks and open space tracts complement the existing public parklands. In total, nearly 225 acres of land have been set aside to date, with approximately 53% as greenway or natural areas.

Figure 5. Existing Private Parks & Open Space Lands by Type

Parkland Classification	Acreage
Community Park	46.00
Neighborhood Park	8.30
Special Use Facilities	17.70
Greenway	39.80
Private HOA Parks	5.61
Private Recreation Commons	10.10
Private Open Space Tracts	84.95
Total Acreage	212.46

The following map shows the location of existing parks, trail and recreation areas within the City.

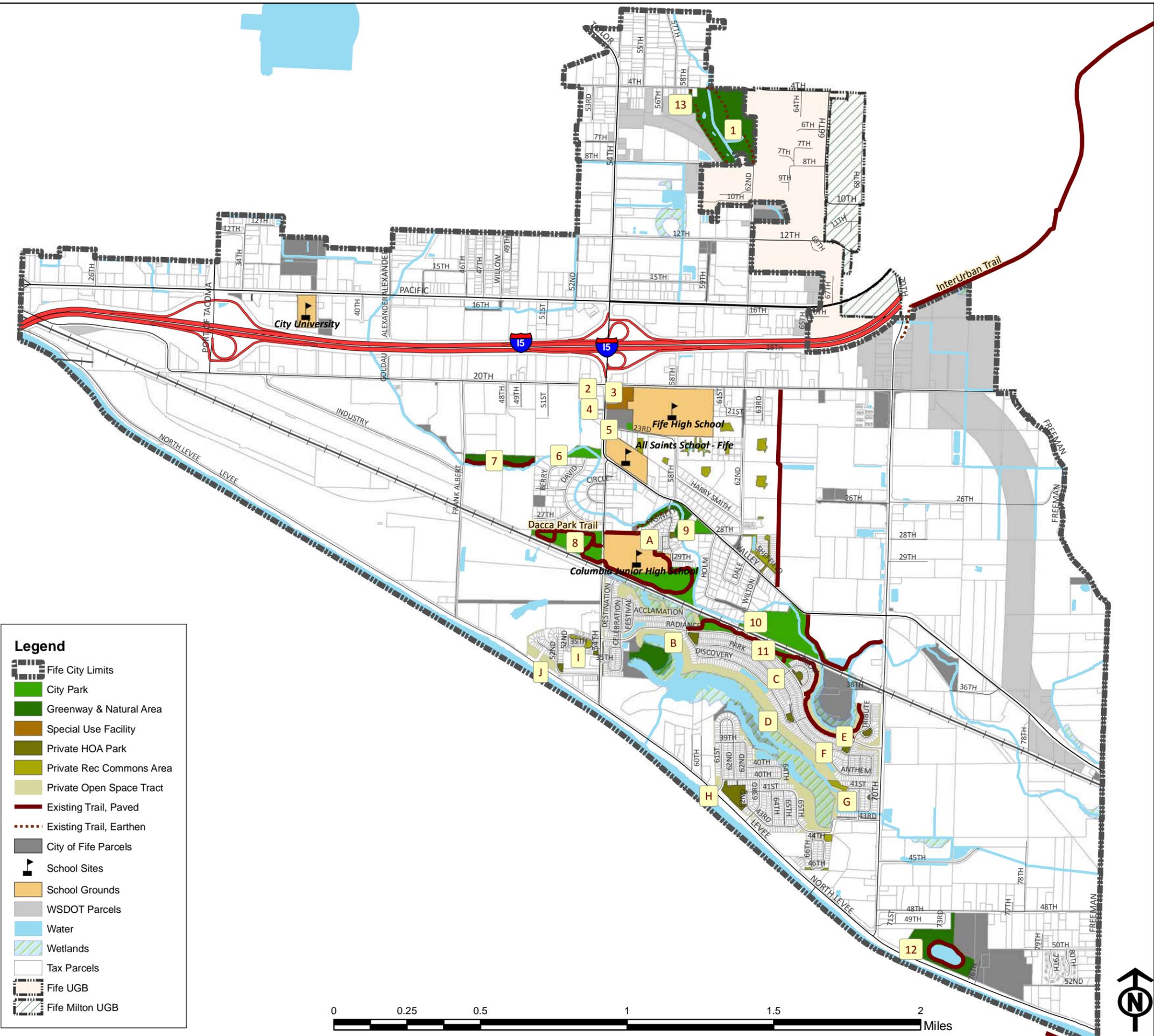
The following section provides inventory information and site-specific recommendations for public parklands managed by City of Fife.

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Label ID	Park Name	Acreage
1	Hylebos Creek Nature Area	15.3
2	Fountain Memorial Park	0.9
3	Fife Swim Center	1.4
4	Fife Community Center	0.7
5	Centennial Park	0.4
6	Triangle Greenspace	2.7
7	Frank Albert Park Way	5.9
8	Dacca Park	31.0
9	Wedge Park	2.0
10	Brookville Gardens	15.0
11	5-Acre Park	5.3
12	N Levee Road Site	14.7
13	Milgard Natural Area	9.0

Label ID	Park Name	Acreage
A	Wapato Pointe HOA Park	0.22
B	Radiance Park #5	0.63
C	Radiance Park #4	0.48
D	Radiance Park #3	0.39
E	Radiance Park #1	0.61
F	Radiance Park #2	0.35
G	Valley Haven HOA Park	0.05
H	Saddle Creek HOA Park	2.74
I	Stonebrook HOA Park	0.15
J	Port Landing HOA Park	0.26

Trail Name	Length (mi.)
Frank Albert Way Park Trail	0.42
Dacca Park Trail	1.16
5 - Acre Park Trail	0.78
N Levee Rd Pond Trail	0.32
Milgard Natural Area Trail	0.30
Hylebos Creek Trail	0.33
Sheffield Trail	0.56
FedEx Trail	0.42
Unnamed: Radiance Oxbow	0.14
Unnamed: Radiance Oxbow	0.27



Legend

- Fife City Limits
- City Park
- Greenway & Natural Area
- Special Use Facility
- Private HOA Park
- Private Rec Commons Area
- Private Open Space Tract
- Existing Trail, Paved
- Existing Trail, Earthen
- City of Fife Parcels
- School Sites
- School Grounds
- WSDOT Parcels
- Water
- Wetlands
- Tax Parcels
- Fife UGB
- Fife Milton UGB

MAP 1: Existing Parks, Natural Areas & Trails

Brookville Gardens Community Park

Community Park



A 9.6-acre future community park with complementary adjoining 4.4-acre open space (Wapato Wetlands restoration) located along the banks of Wapato Creek and south of Valley Avenue East. This undeveloped park site has been planned and designed for a future community park containing open play areas, two thematic playgrounds, restrooms, extensive plantings, perimeter and connecting trails and two picnic areas. The location boasts uninterrupted views of Mt. Rainier and extensive wetlands and natural areas along the creek. The 2011 revised master plan provides direction to become a high value community park. The future Wapato Wetlands Mitigation project comprises the area between the entrance parking and the main part of the community park along the length of the Wapato Creek. This wetland and stream corridor restoration effort will enhance the fish and water quality values of the creek and its riparian corridor and serve as a buffer from the industrial land uses to the east.

Amenities (*planned*)

Community Park

- Perimeter trail
- Open green play space
- Two playgrounds
- Two picnic shelters
- Restroom building
- Parking lot
- Green roofs and rain gardens
- Landscapes representing farming heritage
- Perimeter and internal trails

- Connection to regional bike trail
- Architectural designs evoking Japanese heritage
- Panoramic Views

Wapato Wetland Project

- Restoration of native vegetation and wetlands
- Extension of existing stream channel
- Increased meandering low-flow

- channel
- 400% increase in flood storage capacity
- Improved habitat for fish
- One improved stream crossing (two others eliminated)
- Diverse plantings to support wildlife

Design Opportunities

- Work with adjoining property owners to provide for trail access from additional locations

ADA/Access Considerations

- Park improvements should be designed and constructed to meet the guidelines of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the outdoor design guidelines of the Architectural Barriers Act (ABA) recently adopted by the U.S. Access Board.

Management Considerations

- The future park will not be highly visible from public roads limiting the ability to expose the park to new users.
- Vehicular access is limited to one entry from Valley Avenue.
- High volume and velocity traffic considerations exist along Valley Avenue affecting safe ingress/egress to the site for vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians.
- Floodplain contours and a potential for seasonal high water from the Wapato Creek may affect some park amenities.
- Site and greenway trail access will require cooperation with adjacent land owners to allow additional points of non-vehicular, public access.

Site Recommendations

- Ensure transportation improvements will be concurrent with park development to create a safe park entry along Valley Avenue.
- Implement the master plan in coordination with wetland restoration when operations and maintenance funding can support adequate care and programming of the new park.
- Continue to negotiate with adjoining land owners to connect to other parks and trails.

Dacca Park

Community Park



Dacca Community Park is a high quality, 18-acre community park located in the heart of Fife. This park site is named in honor of a former city councilmember whose farm made up a large portion of the open space. Popular for its sport fields and off-leash dog park, this park was formally dedicated on September 11, 2004 and final phases of construction were completed in 2007. This project was developed in partnership with the Fife School district and is adjacent to the newly built Columbia Junior High School and Fife Performing Arts Center. The Fife Historical Museum is located adjacent to this site.

Amenities

- Parking facilities
- Concession & restroom building
- Softball and baseball fields
- Football field
- Soccer fields
- Playground
- Walking paths
- Picnic tables and benches
- Drinking fountain
- Open play areas
- Basketball court
- Sand volleyball court
- Tennis courts
- Off-leash dog park area
- Natural area

Design Opportunities

- Consider potential value of adding property to north at David Court East. It could provide additional amenities for overall park value and enhance the trail loop connection and bike mobility interface with school property. This property could also continue the Wapato Creek riparian corridor preservation and serve as a node of environmental education facility development for outdoor school, curricular enhancement, and stream corridor and trail activities.
- Dog off-leash area uses single gate as entry point. Double-gate systems work better for leash/unleash activity.
- Signs for walking trail indicate walkers should turn north from Historical Museum along 54th but it is unclear how that connects to the park loop trail system. There is no marked pedestrian crossing north of the Museum although bike lanes begin north of the school property along 54th Avenue.

ADA / Access Considerations

- Four-tiered bleachers at west ball fields are not compliant with IBC code or ADA.
- Benches (3), trash cans (2) and picnic table in off-leash area are not ADA-compliant.

Management Considerations

- Callery Pear trees are doing poorly throughout the park. Many appear to be declining with predicted life span to be much shorter than their potential 20+ years. Check soil conditions and irrigation scheduling to ensure proper cultivation and care is occurring for healthy tree conditions.

Site Recommendations

- Consider creating a loop trail experience in west end of park through reconfiguration of ball field fencing (maybe timed with fence replacement or repairs).
- Plan for replacement of Callery pear trees with several different canopy or medium-sized tree species to ensure continued tree canopy value and establish longer-living more sustainable urban tree plantings.
- Replace non-ADA benches with enough accessible benches to reach 50% quota within park.
- Replace single gate system at entry to off-leash area to ensure safe staging for dogs and park users.
- Bigger picture question of access to park site. Currently only one way in from 54th unless users come through school property from east access (not likely to be available during school hours). With the railroad crossing closed off, this park has limited access from east, south & west that could be improved based on aerial map observations.
- More comprehensive or connected walking wayfinding system could enhance the uninitiated user to the park's trails and reinforce the accepted co-use of school property.

Centennial Park

Neighborhood Park



A small park facility located adjacent to City Hall and the facility's municipal parking area. The 0.36-acre open space provides a small shaded lawn area, landscaping, and picnic facilities and is popular with City Hall visitors and employees.

Amenities

- Open lawn area and landscape
- Picnic tables (2)
- Park bench
- Basketball goal (in parking area)

Design Opportunities

- The small park space is very disconnected from the rest of the City Hall landscape by vehicle traffic and the sections of parking lot. If the primary value of this public space is for city hall visitors and employees, the space could be designed to better accommodate that connection (in conjunction with a city hall/community center/swim center campus redesign).

ADA / Access Considerations

- Sidewalk has curb cuts (for crossing driveway entries) but no paved path connects tables and bench within small park space.
- Tables and bench are not ADA compliant.

Management Considerations

- Balance needs between City Hall visitors and park users
- Providing a quality park experience with limited space and park facilities

Site Recommendations

- Consider the role within context of larger "campus" activities, if value beyond small pocket park is desired.
- Provide designated park parking and ADA access to park facilities
- Consider utilizing parking area for program spaces for parks and recreation events

Colburn Park

Neighborhood Park



This 1.46-acre neighborhood park facility is located adjacent to the Fife Swim Center. Constructed in the mid-1990's, this park provides open areas and playground equipment and is heavily used by swim center users. This facility shares parking with the aquatic facility and is in close proximity to the Community Center and City Hall.

Amenities

- Open lawn area
- Park benches
- Picnic tables
- Playground

Design Opportunities

- Integrating the south patio of the swim center with the playground and Colburn Park's spaces could expand the variety of recreational uses in this public space. The large hedge plantings separating the spaces consumes room that could be used for a water-based play feature or reservable shelter to extend the season of play and use. Consider how the south patio of the swim center is programmed and if it is desirable to have the patio visually and physically separated from the playground.
- Adding more canopy trees to the perimeter of the park will benefit the reduction in "heat island" effect from the adjacent parking lots.
- A nature-based thematic play area could be added in the southeast or southwest sections to provide more variety of play experiences.

ADA / Access Considerations

- In park's lawn area: Two benches and one picnic table = non-ADA compliant
- On south patio of swim center: picnic tables (3) do not have the extended table top to accommodate wheelchairs.

Management Considerations

- Lawn areas were dense with flowering clover. This creates a concern regarding honeybee activity and any incidents with bee stings in such an active child's play area.

Site Recommendations

- Consider a remodel and upgrade of the park's play features, integrating with the south patio of the swim center.
- Consider water-based and/or nature-based thematic play additions
- Plant additional canopy trees
- Provide designated park parking and ADA access to park facilities
- Plant additional park trees
- Consider reservable picnic shelter for small gatherings, birthday parties, etc.

Five Acre Park

Neighborhood Park



This 5.3-acre neighborhood park stretches along Radiance Road in a linear fashion and is connected by a paved trail. Access to the park is via sidewalks and some on-street parking. This park is immediately south of the railroad tracks and was completed in 2007.

Amenities

- Open lawn areas and landscaping
- Park pathway
- Large playground
- Picnic tables
- Park benches
- Picnic shelter with grill
- Restrooms
- Skatepark
- Basketball court
- Bike rack
- Exercise stations
- Natural meadows
- Memorial grove
- Trail connections to neighborhood

Design Opportunities

- Long linear park provides a variety of activities stretched across its extent adding more canopy trees could help define the various open spaces and activity nodes and provide comfortable spaces for gathering, picnicking, or simply watching other activities

ADA / Access Considerations

- No armrests on benches (ADA non-compliance)

Management Considerations

- Document operations and maintenance challenges to consider long-term capital improvements for park amenities.

Site Recommendations

- Develop a tree planting plan to enhance park spatial definition and increase urban canopy cover.

Fountain Memorial Park

Neighborhood Park



A small gateway park located at the intersection of 54th Avenue East and 20th Street East. This site welcomes visitors to Fife and provides passive recreation amenities with access from the adjacent community center and swim center. The original landmark fountain now sits in front of the Fife Swim Center.

Amenities

- Open space with formal landscaping
- Flag pole
- Paved pathway
- Plaza space
- Lighting
- Park Benches (2)
- Trash receptacle
- Fountain sculpture

Design Opportunities

- Park identification signs are obscure for the pedestrian and actual park user. If intended for vehicular traffic, their location is not obvious either.
- This corner park lies at the busy intersection and holds the role of key visual benchmark for the community/swim/city center campus. Consider how best to capture that prominent location with stronger identification.

ADA / Access Considerations

- Sign “box” with walking map located @5’ off path is not accessible to wheelchairs.

Management Considerations

- Several bollard lighting fixtures are starting to settle in their footings and should be repaired or replaced.
- Ensure high level of maintenance to keep this gateway feature in good condition

Site Recommendations

- Bollard light fixtures will need repair or replacement soon.
- Consider developing gateway style signage at this location

Wedge Park / Wapato Nature Area

Neighborhood Park



A 2.35-acre park located in central Fife between Wapato Creek and Valley Avenue. Purchased in 2000, this park has been recently developed and is very popular with Fife residents. Approximately 1-acre of this site has been intensively developed to include passive and active recreation facilities. Natural areas consist of heavily vegetated riparian sections of Wapato Creek. Ongoing restoration work will improve sections of Wapato Creek bank by removing invasive plants and re-establishing native riparian vegetation.

Amenities

- Parking facilities
- Open play area
- Large playground with climbing rocks
- Walking paths with park lighting
- Picnic tables and benches
- Basketball court
- Gazebo
- Natural area
- Fish mural on curved wall

Design Opportunities

- Permeable paving in parking area adjacent to natural area offers illustration for the value of less impervious surface, as part of environmental interpretation.
- New willow stakes/restoration planting along creek corridor could benefit from some interpretive signage.
- The transition into natural area from the formal park could be enhanced with some “nature play” and environmental interpretation kiosk/signage or other design additions.

ADA / Access Considerations

- None noted

Management Considerations

- This park is heavily used and requires high levels of maintenance
- Maintain water quality and reduce erosion in natural areas
- Lack of permanent restrooms necessitates use of portable restroom

Site Recommendations

- Environmental themes, expanded from fish mural and connecting to natural area, could provide some connected visual, tactile and play amenities to link park-to-natural creek.
- Consider adjacent properties along the Creek that could eventually be available for acquisition for trail connections to Dacca Park and continual restoration of the Wapato Creek corridor.
- Develop greenway trails along Wapato Creek greenway
- Consider park system signage or other citywide displays
- Develop permanent restroom structure
- Continued restoration of Wapato Natural Area



A 16.49-acre, waterfront natural area located along the banks of Hylebos Creek. This site is being cooperatively developed and restored by the Commencement Bay Natural Resources Trustees. This natural area provides gravel walking paths, open space and views of Hylebos Creek. Once fully restored, this site will restore salmon habitat and provide important passive recreation and environmental education opportunities for the residents of Fife.

Amenities

- Open space
- Gravel walking paths with
- interpretive signage
- Viewpoints
- Stream bank and water access
- Information kiosk

Design Opportunities

- Access to the trail is limited by lack of defined parking or sidewalks from southern trailhead. As the trail expands, designated parking areas and connecting pedestrian/bicycle facilities (sidewalks/bike lanes) should be added.
- Developing a clear signage and wayfinding system would enhance the identification and use of the trail and respect for the natural area.

ADA / Access Considerations

- North entrance has bollard placed at entry – it may constrict path width to less than 30” (therefore non-ADA compliant). Consider redesign to allow better access without allowing unauthorized motor vehicle access.

Management Considerations

- Access to the site is challenging because of limited vehicle parking areas
- Balancing open space public access with restoration goals
- Maintain partnerships to assist in continued restoration and maintenance of site
- Site is fairly isolated and will be challenging to maintain and provide adequate public safety
- Impacts to site access may occur with development of SR-167 and new interchange
- Coordinate with the adjacent WSDOT properties development.
- Capture any potential opportunities from WSDOT’s planning for stormwater treatment or wetland mitigation for I-5 or other roadway improvements.
- Consider partnership opportunities for WSDOT to provide some degree of trail access to connect to Hylebos and the stream corridor.

Site Recommendations

- Improve identification and access – same as old PROS plan
- Extend sidewalks to south entrance along 8th Street
- Improve access design at northern entry to be more compliant with ADA

- Develop consistent signage system to limit confusion on public/non public areas at south end of natural area along 8th Street (water facility sign for city prohibits public entry)
- Develop small parking facility to allow park users to safely access natural area – including ADA parking and access to pathway
- Improve park entry, access gates and signage
- Install interpretive signage
- Continue with restoration of site, including developing a more natural stream channel



Open spaces tracts located within the Radiance residential development and adjacent to Public Works property. This undeveloped site provides general open space and habitat and may play an important role in future trail system development within Fife.

Amenities

- Open space

Design Opportunities

- Site is constrained by topography and hydrology
- Western most section could support a wildlife observation viewing boardwalk to allow closer visual access to the open water sections. However, such an improvement would be prohibitively expensive (to design/permit and construct) and no adjacent support facilities would be available for visitor parking, etc.

ADA / Access Considerations

- Site access is visual only, therefore, it has no accessibility issues.

Management Considerations

- Site is fairly isolated and will be challenging to maintain and provide adequate public safety
- Manage public access to site to protect natural resources and reduce negative activities

Site Recommendations

- Continue restoration planting activities.

Frank Albert Park Way

Greenway



A 5.9-acre open space located along the banks of Wapato Creek. This natural area provides a paved trail extending from Frank Albert Way to its current terminus 1,200 feet east at the edge of the property. The natural area is surrounded by industrial lands and one point of public access on the west end at Frank Albert Way with an additional side trail extending north approximately halfway along the trail to the adjacent industrial site. This site provides a segment of the future Wapato Creek greenway trail.

Amenities

- Open space
- Paved trail (~1,250 feet)
- Benches (2)

Design Opportunities

- Trail needs clearer identification as a public pathway: no sign at west end; confusing signs at north access.
- Trail wayfinding system to “connect” all Fife trails with similar graphics: directions, identification, information, etc.

ADA / Access Considerations

- Access from west entry (off Frank Albert) is effectively blocked due to fence opening design. Not ADA compliant or attractive.
- Access from north at trail mid-point is signed as private property. Eight (8) parking spaces (on industrial property) seem to serve the trail access. No curb cuts provide for wheelchair or disabled access.
- Pavement from trail ends about 8-10 feet from curb and parking. This gap is surfaced with loose gravel: non-ADA-compliant.

Management Considerations

- Although pavement is relatively recent, horsetails are already pushing through the asphalt and will continue to degrade the paved surface unless controlled quickly and regularly.
- Willows and young alders are tending to crowd the path and hang into overhead pedestrian space. Regular maintenance schedule for vegetation control will be necessary.
- A coordinated system of trail access signage and information across the private industrial property to the north entry of the trail should be developed.
- Site is fairly isolated and will be challenging to maintain and provide adequate public safety
- Manage public access to site to protect natural resources and reduce negative activities
- Develop partnerships with adjacent industrial land owners to assist in maintenance of site

Site Recommendations

- Continue to seek land acquisitions or easements to extend trail connection along riparian corridor.
- Work with industrial land owner(s) to coordinate signage and path connection with curb cut.

- Remove fence barrier at west entrance & replace with removable bollard, staggered to avoid blocking safe (and accessible) pedestrian/bike movements in and out of trail entry.
- Increase frequency of maintenance inspections during active growing season to avoid vegetative growth creating trail obstructions.
- Pursue partnerships with adjacent industrial land owner for continued trail connections and restoration of site
- Consider developing trailhead facilities for future greenway trail

Triangle Greenspace

Greenway



A 2.7-acre open space located along the banks of Wapato Creek and west of Valley Avenue. This natural area site may serve an important role in the future development of the Wapato Creek greenway trail. The site is currently undeveloped.

Amenities

- Open space
- Stream bank and water access
- Undeveloped

Design Opportunities

- Check location of sewer utility easement alignment to see if there are opportunities for partnering on any trail connections or stream crossings
- Bridge crossings may be needed for future connections to potential trail extensions along riparian corridor (between Frank Albert Parkway and Triangle Greenspace).

ADA / Access Considerations

- Not applicable

Management Considerations

- Consider how current rough mow area could be modified based on future restoration and development plans to direct interim mowing patterns. Potential opportunity exists to jump-start the process, if site gets a master plan.
- Site is fairly isolated and will be challenging to maintain and provide adequate public safety
- Manage public access to site to protect natural resources and reduce negative activities

Site Recommendations

- Consider master planning entire trail corridor to assess how and where this property can contribute to a connected trail amenity.
- Review sewer utility corridor alignments to consider potential partnering opportunities for access and creek crossings.
- Conduct master planning work to determine best use of park site.

N Levee Road Park & Stormwater Facility

Special Facility



The North Levee Road park and stormwater facility site is contained within a 43-acre assemblage of five city-owned parcels located north of the Puyallup River. Access to the site is off 48th Street, east of 70th Avenue. The stormwater facility is designed as a wet retention basin with a natural shoreline landscape and perimeter paved trail. The facility also provides an observation deck that extends over the water and facilitates waterfowl viewing. The future use of the property was intended as a combination of residential development and public park and open space land. However, recent determination by the US Army Corps of Engineers directs this site to be fully consumed by the relocation project for the Puyallup River flood levee and its associated expanded floodplains.

Amenities

- “Wet pond” stormwater retention basin
- Perimeter paved trail around entire water body
- Boardwalk with railing - to observation deck
- Gravel parking turnaround

Design Opportunities

- The entire site should be master planned and designed as a combination of residential development, public park, natural open space and existing stormwater facility

ADA / Access Considerations

- Existing connection to gravel parking is sloped, loose material and too steep to be accessible.

Management Considerations

- Consider how operations and maintenance of this space will be integrated into future residential development and its (private) landscape maintenance.

Site Recommendations

- If the USCOE does not acquire the entire site for the Levee expansion project, future development of site as a neighborhood park will need to ensure an accessible connection.

Fife Historical Museum

Special Facility

Opened in 2006, the Fife Historical Museum chronicles the rich agricultural and ethnic history of the community of Fife. Operated by the Fife Historical Society, the museum is housed within the former home of Louis Dacca, a member of the city’s first city council formed after incorporation in 1957. The city bought the former councilman’s house and adjacent barn for use as a museum, which is located next to Dacca Community Park. Since forming in 2002, the Historical Society has received funding from the city’s hotel-motel tax. Much of the money was used to convert the house into a museum. The museum continues to expand operating hours and add new exhibits.

Fife Swim Center

Special Facility

The Fife Swim Center has a 116,000 gallon main pool, a two-foot deep wading pool and a hot tub. Unique in the region, the Swim Center utilizes a salt system to augment the chemical water treatment system for pool water. The Swim Center offers a wide variety of youth and adult learn to swim programs and private lessons. The Swim Center is utilized by the King Aquatic Club, a premier swim team that trains at several locations throughout Pierce and King Counties.

Fife Community Center

Special Facility

The Fife Community Center is the primary venue for recreation programs and classes. The Center can be rented for meetings and events, and it has a large banquet room that can be divided into three separate rooms. Each room has its own air-conditioning and heating as well as its own individual and unique features: room one has a fireplace, room two has a stage, and room three has two lighted alcoves with counter space. The Center also has a spacious kitchen with back door access, which can accommodate catering services for special functions and events.

Other Recreational Opportunities Near Fife

The ownership and management of recreational resources in the Fife regional area involves several public agencies. Facilities include parks, trails, boat launches, golf courses, attractions, camp grounds and wilderness areas. Though many of these facilities are not located within city limits, their close proximity to residents of Fife makes them important components of the broader recreation ecosystem.

Fife School District

Fife School District operates two schools within the City of Fife that provide recreational opportunities for community members. Fife High School offers 4 athletic fields, 5 tennis and basketball courts, an eight-lane track and gymnasium. Columbia Junior High School, adjacent to Dacca Park, offers a gymnasium and utilizes the outdoor athletic facilities at Dacca Park to accommodate their physical education and competitive athletic programs.

Pierce County

Pierce County Parks and Recreation (PCPR) provides public parks and recreation services to the residents of Pierce County, focusing especially on the unmet needs of residents living in unincorporated areas. The department is divided into four divisions: Resource Stewardship, Parks, Recreation Division and Administrative Services. PCPR supports approximately 60 full-time staff, supplemented by volunteers and temporary and seasonal employees to assist with programming and maintenance primarily in the summer. PCPR manages approximately 5,039 acres of park land at 52 sites, which include four recreation centers, three boat launch sites, trail corridors, three golf courses and a large variety of passive and active facilities. Through Pierce County's Conservation Futures system, PCPR manages a large number of passive open space sites.

Tacoma Metro Parks

Metro Parks Tacoma (MPT) was created in 1907 as a municipal corporation to manage park, recreation and zoological services and facilities for the citizens of Tacoma. Governed by an elected five-member board of park commissioners, MPT is known for its comprehensive system of parks and signature attractions, including Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium, Point Defiance Boathouse and Marina, Northwest Trek Wildlife Park, Meadow Park Golf Course, W.W. Seymour Botanical Conservatory and Fort Nisqually Living History Museum.

Other Urban Park Systems

Because of Fife's urban context, several adjacent incorporated cities provide park and recreation opportunities that should be considered relevant components of the overall Fife open space system. Some facilities, such as regional trails, will require partnerships and coordination that extend beyond city boundaries. Three adjacent municipalities operate and maintain park and recreation facilities, including:

- **City of Milton:** Milton manages four urban parks, one skatepark, the Activity Center and Community Building rental facilities, sections of the Interurban Trail and the West Milton Nature Preserve.
- **City of Edgewood:** Edgewood manages one urban park, two passive nature areas, one farm park and sections of the Interurban Trail.
- **City of Puyallup:** The Parks and Recreation Department includes three separate divisions: Recreation Services, Senior Services, and Park Maintenance and Development. These divisions provide recreation programs and park facilities to enhance the quality of life in the community. The department manages ten park sites, one off-leash dog park, a sports center, skatepark and a riverfront trail along the Puyallup River. In addition, Puyallup operate the Puyallup Recreation Center and the Puyallup Activity Center for seniors.

6



Needs Assessment & Recommendations

The park system planning process culminated with recommendations for priorities for the acquisition, development, enhancement and maintenance of park and recreation facilities within Fife based on community feedback and professional analysis. Meeting the expectations and desires of residents and finding the resources necessary to meet their demands for recreational resources can be a challenging task. Diverse needs and interests require a balancing of limited resources. This assessment provides a foundation for the six-year capital facilities plan (see Chapter 7), which identifies and prioritizes crucial upgrades, improvements and expansions consistent with the needs expressed by residents.

Assessing the demand and need for facilities and services entails various methods of review.

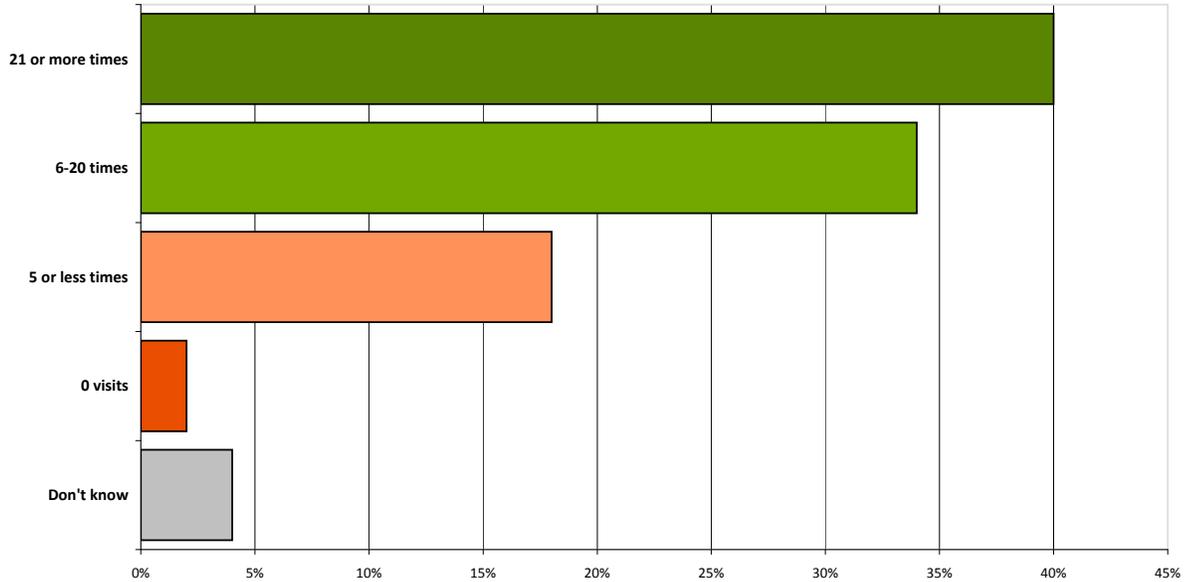
- Public Input is the expression of community wants and desires. Public input can also be reflected, through inference, by unique traits of the community profile that could affect recreational needs.
- Definitional Standards involve a description of the intended use, desired size or location of the facility.
- Numerical Standards involve the numeric quantification of facilities based on community needs or professional judgments or calculations.

The following assessment is divided into four basic categories: community feedback, specific facility demands, park system gap analysis and levels of service. The assessments are based heavily on public input from the survey and site inventories, along with stakeholder discussions and public meetings.

Community Feedback

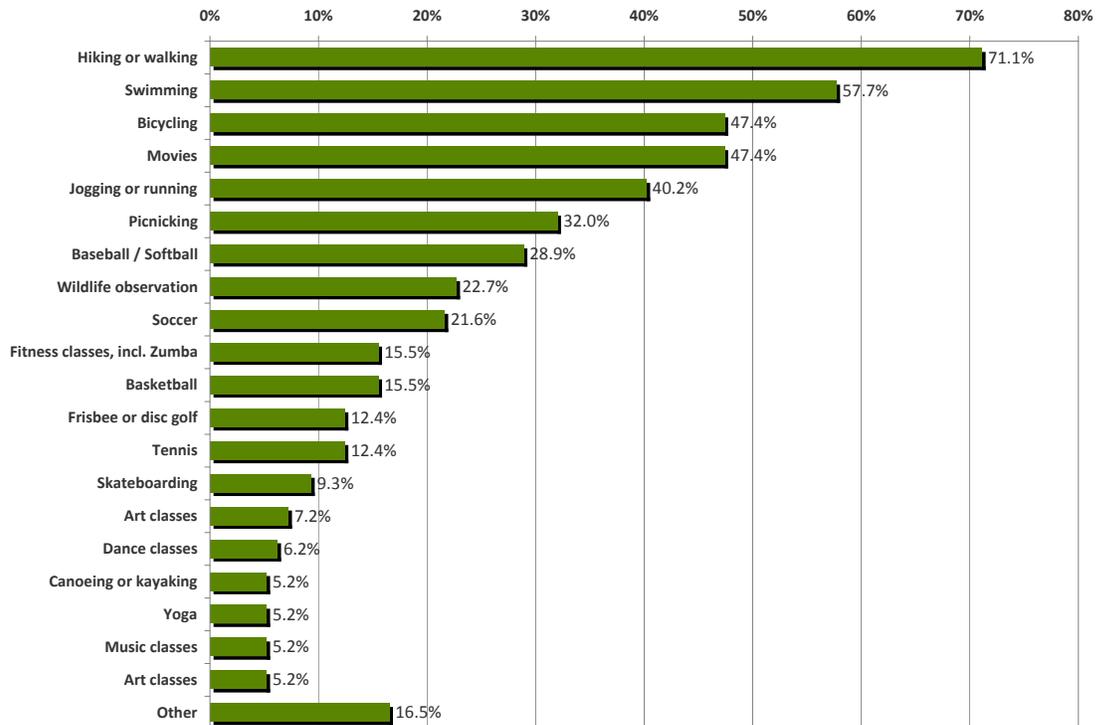
Overall, residents of Fife support parks and recreation and believe these services help make a better community. Nine out of ten (91%) of survey respondents believe parks and recreation are important to Fife's quality of life. The majority of residents indicated that they used their parks on a regular basis. The following chart depicts the degree to which residents visit their local parks.

Figure 6. Frequency of Visits to Local Parks



Given Fife’s geographic location with access to Puget Sound, Mount Rainier and numerous local trail corridors, it is not surprising that residents engage in a variety of outdoor activities. Overall, walking and hiking ranks as the most popular pastime (71.1%), which is consistent with the statewide and national trends. The following chart identifies the popularity of a variety of recreational activities as ranked by survey respondents.

Figure 7. Local Participation Rates for Recreation Activities



The popularity of walking and hiking translates to a high demand for trails within the Fife urban area. With the Fife survey indicating that 71.1% of residents participate in hiking or walking combined with bicycling at 47.4% and jogging or running at 40.2%, the need for

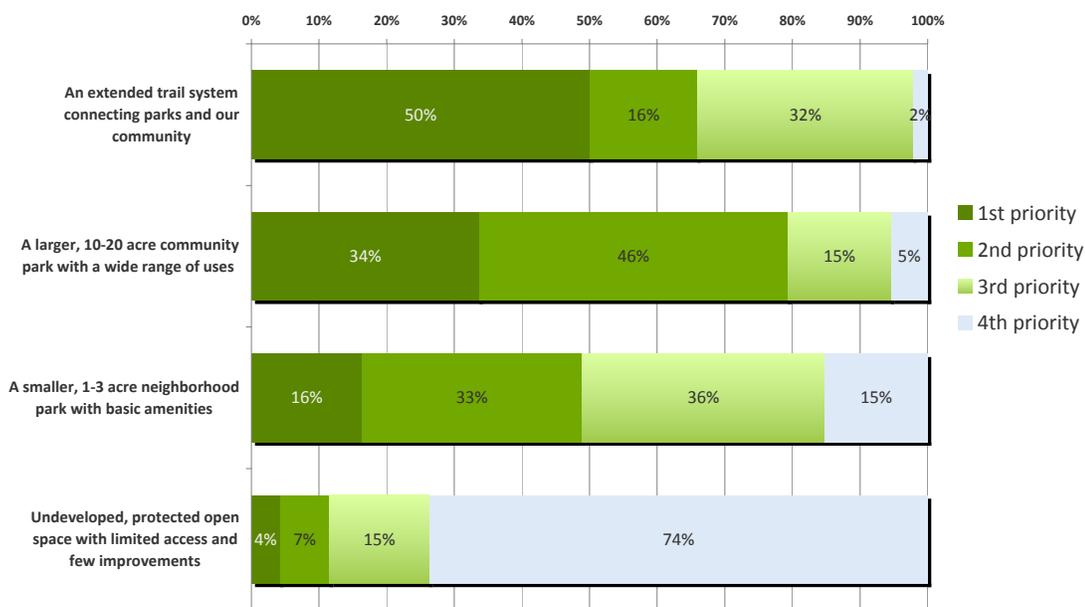
trails and trail connections to support these recreational uses is reinforced.

Fifty percent (50%) of respondents identified “an extended trail system connecting parks and our community” was the highest priority for the city to provide, which was the highest rating of four different recreational amenities.

In the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department data for Fife, two notable health measures differentiated Fife from both Washington State and Pierce County: a lower prevalence of obesity and a higher motor vehicle-related mortality. The rate of obesity experienced during 2006-2010 was 13.6% for Fife vs. 25.6% for Washington vs. 28.9% for Pierce County. The higher rate of motor vehicle-related mortality for Fife (18.1 incidents per 100,000 population) contrasts with the 7.6% for Washington and 6.8% for Pierce County. While a direct correlation cannot be made between these traits, providing a connected trails system could contribute to these lower obesity rates and help alleviate the need for driving short distances for local trips.

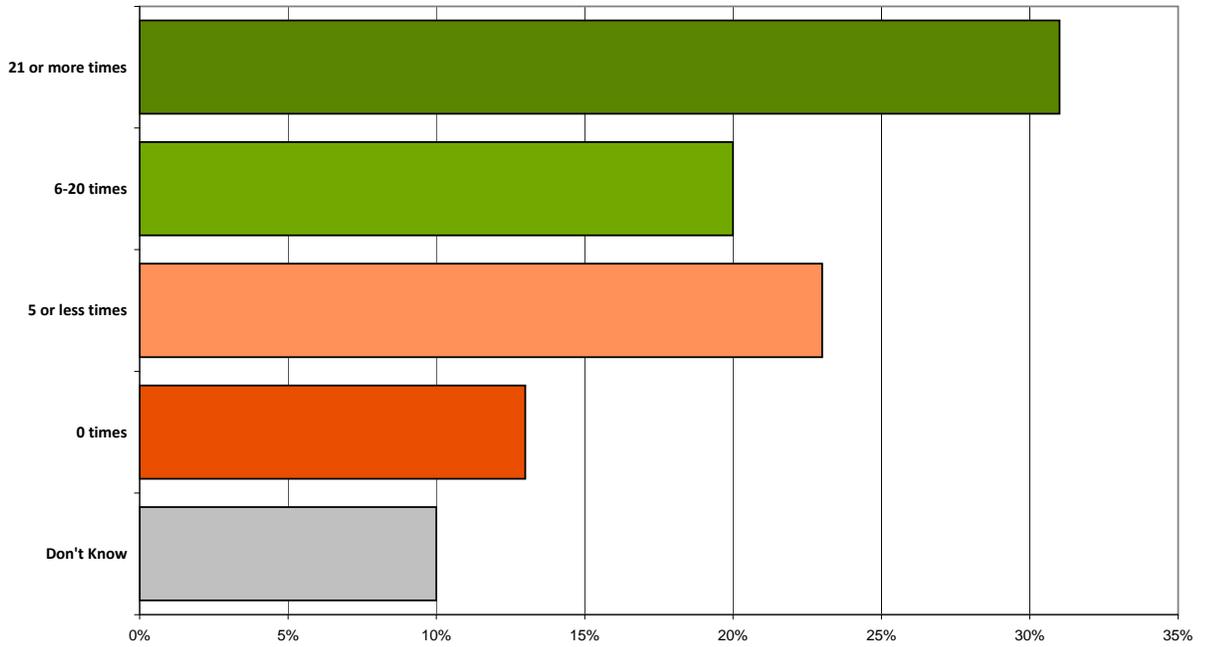
Trail corridors ranked as the most important facility type to expand – more highly desired than a larger, 10-20 acre community parks with a wide range of uses, a smaller 1-3 acre neighborhood park with basic amenities, and undeveloped, protected open space with limited access and few improvement.

Figure 8. Local Priorities for Parks Facilities



In a question regarding frequency of trail use, the majority of residents (51%) used the trail system at least six times per year with 31% using trails 21 times or more annually. Through these indicators, trails were identified as the overall, most needed facility within the parks and recreation system.

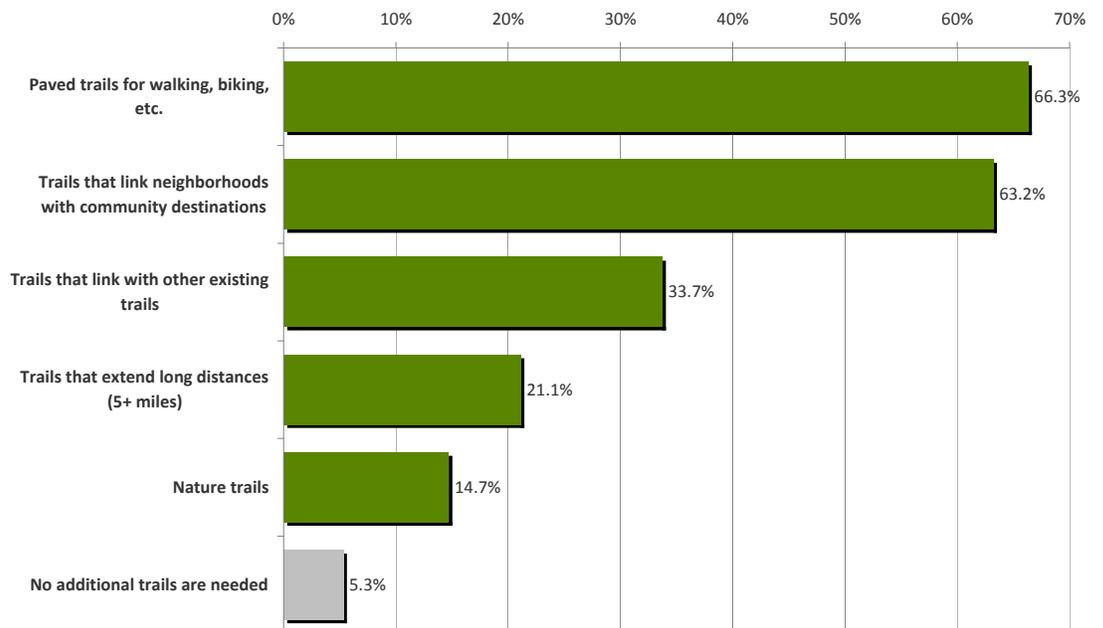
Figure 9. Frequency of Trail Usage



This level of support for trail projects provides significant direction to the City for the development and expansion of trails with Fife, including off-street corridors along Wapato and Hylebos Creeks, on-street corridors following major arterials (such as 70th Avenue and 20th Street) and the extension of the InterUrban Trail or the Puyallup River Trail. The community’s vision for its park system is focused around providing a network of trails and pathways that connect parks to retail districts and through its greenways.

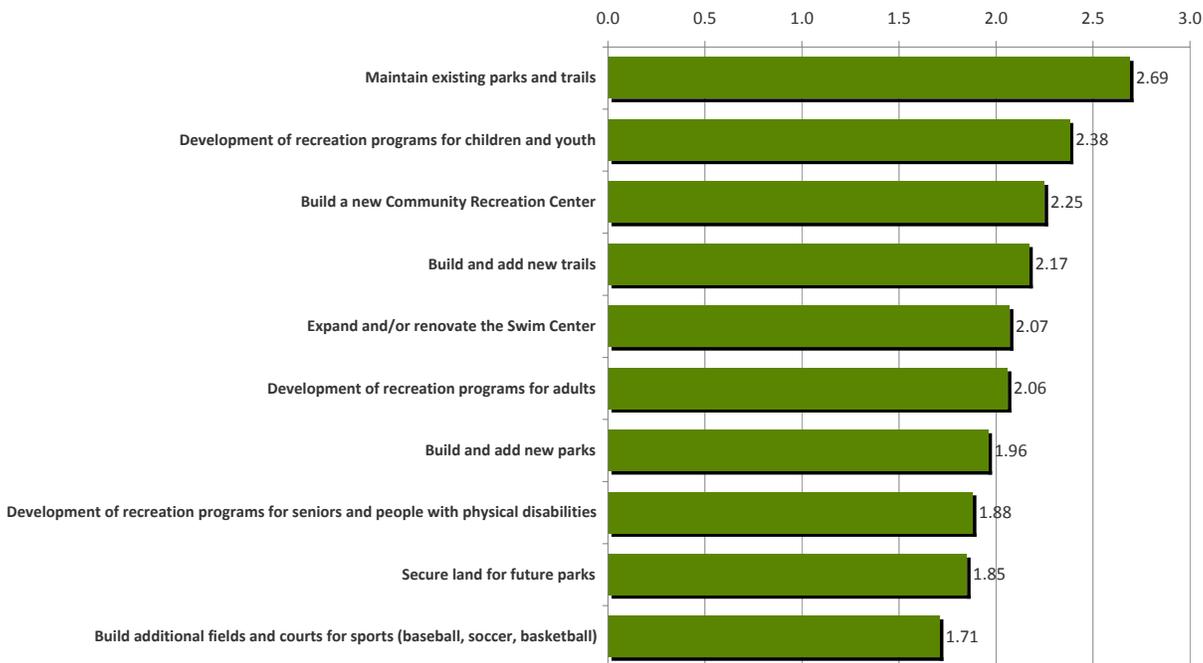
The types of trails that were ranked as high priorities by residents were paved trails for walking and biking (66.3%) and trails that link neighborhoods with community destinations (63.2%).

Figure 10. Local Priorities for Different Trail Types



Among priorities for parks, trails and recreation services, Fife residents look to ensuring that the existing parks and trails can be maintained. As with many communities, the refrain of “take care of what you have” resonates in times of limited resources. Recreation programs for children and youth continue to be a high priority, which is reflective of the local demographics and the high percentage of families with children. The consideration to build a new community recreation center ranked third among a choice of ten (10) options for park and recreation services. Including in the priority ranking, expansion or renovation of the swim center was the fifth priority, placing the recreation facility above adding or building new parks, acquiring land for future parks and building additional sports field or courts. The need for recreation activities revealed aquatic programs, such as swim lessons, open swims, lap swims and water exercise classes as the highest priority (87%) of residents. As the existing recreation facility ages and demand continues for children, youth and adult programming for both residents and non-resident users, the community recreation center will need to stay viable through upgrades or replacement to maintain its value in providing facilities and programming for the community.

Figure 11. Local Priorities for Parks, Trails & Recreation Services



As part of the community feedback, Fife’s demographic traits should be considered in any needs assessment. As outlined in the community profile, Fife’s population is significantly more diverse than the rest of the county and state. Ethnic diversity in Fife will likely shift the demand for recreation to include other favored activities, such as group shelters or larger picnic spaces, multi-use sport fields and special events. Additionally, the largest population group is comprised of 25- to 49-year olds, representing 43% of the population in 2010. This age group often consists of active adults and families with school-age children, both groups have greater needs for programmed recreational activities and facilities within parks that accommodate active uses.

Recreation Trends

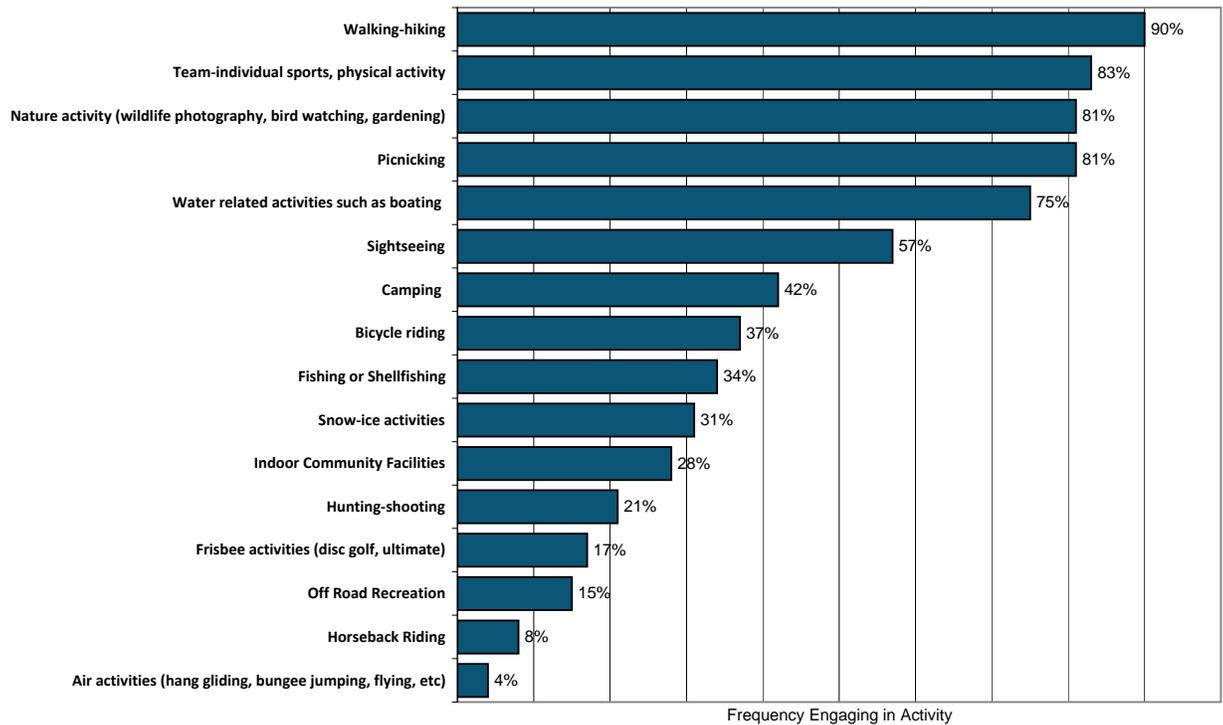
In 2013, the National Parks and Recreation Association (NRPA) issued its first report using PRORAGIS, a geographic information system, to establish industry trends. The 2013 report gathered data from 383 park and recreation agencies across the country and compared changes over the last three years. According to the report, park and recreation agencies typically provide management of park and open space lands and operate recreational facilities and programs. Within these areas of responsibility, some growth occurred from 2010 to 2012 among the agencies participating in the survey, including conducting major special events, maintaining public jurisdiction areas and administering community gardens.

The NRPA report indicated that public park and recreation service providers continue to suffer from reduced funding levels. Agencies receiving higher funding levels generally experienced greater reductions, while smaller agencies (in smaller communities) were more stable over the last three years. Recreation programming experienced a significant drop in attendance from 2010 to 2011. While a slight rebound had begun in 2012, the NRPA 2013 report indicates that program offerings have declined in every major category since 2010.

Washington State Outdoor Recreation Trends

The draft 2013 Washington Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Planning (SCORP) confirms that outdoor recreation is still an integral part of life for most Washington residents, 90% participate in the most popular category of activities, which includes walking and hiking, demonstrating the pervasiveness of outdoor recreation in Washington's culture. A high degree of consistency exists between local interests and statewide results.

Figure 12. Participation Rates in the 2013 SCORP Outdoor Activity Categories.



The participation rates confirm that outdoor recreation is an integral part of life in Washington's communities and a pervasive value in the Pacific Northwest. Research indicates that nature and outdoor recreation have a significant positive impact on human health, both

physical and mental health. Washington's economy also benefits directly and indirectly from outdoor recreation through consumer spending, tax revenue, and jobs.

The draft 2013 SCORP recommendations encourage local park and recreation service providers to:

- Recognize a return to nature-based activities.
- Understand that the top constraints to participation are social factors (not facilities or opportunities).
- Capitalize on the social benefits of outdoor recreation.
- Focus on increasing and/or improving recreation facilities and opportunities that support active recreation.
- Continue to offer diverse outdoor recreation activities and opportunities.
- Take advantage of current technology by using a map-based information system to provide an inventory of supply.
- Recognize recreation types in which supply may not be meeting demand.
- Focus on the capacity of facilities.
- Consider the implications of changing demographics when making recreation decisions.
- Prioritize regional funding allocations.
- Foster collaboration and cooperation among user groups.
- Understand that access issues encompass an array of physical and psychological issues.
- Increase priority of wetlands management as a recreation asset. Based on scientific research and a comprehensive planning process, these recommendations are intended to contribute knowledge and guidance to the future development of outdoor recreation in Washington for the benefit of both residents and the natural environment.

From the draft 2013 SCORP, the broadest recommendation for all areas across Washington is to continue the investment in outdoor recreation facilities and opportunities as the foundation for fulfilling the needs and expectations for the benefit of both residents and the natural environment.

Sports Trends

The National Sporting Goods Association (NSGA) reported on participation levels in 47 sports indicating that 32 sports experienced growth during 2012. Highlights from the 2013 NSGA participation survey include:

- Indoor gaming activities increased by an average of 11%.
- Fitness sports each increased about 5%.
- Team sports showed mixed results with participation lagging in basketball, baseball, ice hockey and soccer and increases in lacrosse, softball and volleyball.
- Tackle football experienced the largest team sport drop of nearly 13% decline in participation. Over half the decline was in the 7-11 age group of those who might participate on an infrequent basis.
- Female participation in 40 of the 47 sports/activities has increased compared to only 11 sports showing increased male participation.

Overall, the trend shows that participation in many sports is rebounding, though some sports continue to struggle to attract new participation.

Outdoor Recreation & Nature-Based Activities

The National Survey on Recreation and the Environment (NSRE) is a comprehensive survey that has been collecting data and producing reports about the recreation activities,

environmental attitudes and natural resource values of Americans since the 1980s. The NSRE core focus is on outdoor activity participation and personal demographics. The most recent NSRE reports the total number of people participating in outdoor activities between 2000 and 2007 grew by 4.4% while the number of days of participation increased by approximately 25 percent. Walking for pleasure grew by 14% and continues to lead as the top favorite outdoor activity.

Nature-based activities, those associated with wildlife and natural settings, showed a discernible growth in the number of people (an increase in 3.1% participation rate) and the number of days of participation. American's participation in nature-based outdoor recreation is increasing with viewing, photographing, or otherwise observing nature clearly measured as the fastest growing type of nature-based recreation activity.

Specific Facility Demands

Civic Campus

The City of Fife initiated a master planning process to re-envision its city center in 2012. The project included consideration for a new civic campus that would include a new, integrated community center and aquatics facility. A renovated city center with integrated public spaces and facilities will create a lively, mixed-use activity center. While the community need for aquatics and recreation center facilities is addressed later in this chapter, the potential creation of a plaza into the civic campus could further promote the notion of a community 'living room' that can include programmable space for events and activities.

Parks

Parkland Gap Analysis

To better understand where acquisition efforts should be directed, 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, primary and secondary service areas were used as follows:

- Community parks: ½-mile primary & 1-mile secondary service areas
- Neighborhood parks: ¼-mile primary & ½-mile secondary service areas

Map 2 on page 61 illustrates the application of the distribution standards from existing, publicly owned community parks, and it shows that much of the central core of the City, north of the railroad is well served with reasonable access to Dacca Park. The Brookville Gardens Community Park was excluded from this walkshed analysis, since the site is currently undeveloped; however, when the project is completed, much of the central area of the city will have reasonable access to community parks. A strong need exists to find ways to safely and appropriately cross the railroad track to accommodate pedestrian and bicycle access for residents south of the railroad.

The gap analysis also reviewed the need for parkland after considering the existing private homeowner association parks, along with the distribution of private condominium or apartment complex recreation common areas. Map 3 on page 63 highlights how the public

neighborhood parks and private parks enhance the overall coverage of parklands in Fife. It should be noted that the park walksheds for the private parks were restricted to the actual homeowner association boundaries of the respective parks. Significant gaps appear in the east and southeast areas of the city, as well as in the unincorporated growth area in the far northeast of Fife.

Resulting from this assessment, a total of four potential acquisition areas are identified. The greatest documented need is for additional neighborhood parks to improve overall distribution and equity, while promoting recreation within walking distance of residential areas.

While the targeted acquisition areas do not identify a specific parcel(s) for consideration, the area encompasses a broader region in which an acquisition would be ideally suited. These acquisition targets represent a long-term vision for improving parkland distribution throughout Fife.

Community Parks

As the city's only developed community park, Dacca Park provides a concentration of athletic fields, the city's off-leash area, playground, basketball courts and other recreation amenities. The future development of Brookville Gardens Community Park offers an opportunity to expand active recreation in Fife. Master planned in 2009 and updated in 2012, Brookville Gardens will provide Fife residents with a community living room set within a restored natural area. The future park will include an open lawn area, an agricultural themed playground, picnic shelter and path. The project also includes stream restoration along Wapato Creek, which is mitigation for the I-5 Interchange Improvement project.

The results from the survey suggest that residents place a high priority on community parks, with 82% ranking as either their first or second priority their interest in a 10-20 acre park with a wide range of uses. The development of Brookville Gardens may fill this need and represents an opportunity for the city to showcase the blending of habitat restoration with family-oriented recreation. Additionally, the previous PROS Plan noted a demand for additional soccer and baseball fields. Although survey respondents placed a relatively low priority on a need for additional sport fields, the city should continue to coordinate with sport leagues and the school district to assess the utilization of and demand for field space along with opportunities to locate new fields within Fife.

Neighborhood Parks

Fife's neighborhood parks are relatively new and require no significant renovations at the present, other than periodic maintenance and minor accessibility improvements. The developed public parks (Wedge, Colburn, Five Acre and Centennial) offer modest amenities for passive recreation and limited, active play. In general, residents have voiced satisfaction with the overall condition of and amenities provided within these parks.

However, during the site assessment of existing parks, the need was noted for minor upgrades to ensure universal accessibility. Minor improvements to access for benches, picnic tables, trash cans, signs and curb cuts are necessary to conform to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The recommendations in the Inventory chapter provide site-specific suggestions.

As noted above, residents support the acquisition of more lands for parks to keep up with the pace of residential growth. To that end, four neighborhood park acquisitions are recommended throughout the City, based on the parkland gap analysis. The identification of these acquisition areas will help direct the City's resources toward filling existing distribution gaps and also provide direction to future residential developments with regard to the need

for and potential locations of neighborhood parks. Any future acquisition or residential development agreement should include street frontage for neighborhood parklands, which is critical for a sense of safety and bearing.

The future development of a portion of the North Levee Road site as a neighborhood park will provide long needed access to recreation opportunities in the far southeast section of Fife. Potential improvements to this site may include community gardens, walking paths, picnic shelter, playground and a small sport court.

Special Use Facilities & New Park Amenities

In addition to landbanking for future parks, new park amenities or facilities could be considered for development within existing parks or as components of future sites.

- **Spraygrounds:** Spraygrounds are water play features that are very popular and provide a means of integrating aquatics into parks at a relatively low cost. Fife should consider at least one sprayground in a community park or as an element of the Civic Campus.
- **Skateboard Facilities:** Skateboard elements currently are provided at 5-Acre Park. Although the need for skateboard facilities did not rank highly in the community survey, Fife should consider incorporating small-scale skateboard features into neighborhood and community park sites, as appropriate, to accommodate this activity and provide a practice area for beginners.

Recreation Facilities & Programs

Sport Fields

The city currently provides limited youth athletic programs for children ages 3 to 8. City sport programs offer young children an opportunity to explore different team sports and learn the basics of team participation and sportsmanship. These programs act as feeder programs into the regional youth sport leagues.

The Fife Milton Edgewood Little League offers youth T-ball, baseball and softball for Fife residents. FME Little League's boundary covers all of Fife and includes Milton and Edgewood. Within Fife, the league practices and plays games at Dacca Park, Fife High School and Columbia Junior High School.

The Fife Milton Edgewood Junior Soccer Club also serves Fife residents. The league offers spring and fall teams for players of ages 5 to 18. FME Soccer offers youth and select teams and utilizes fields at Fife High School and Columbia Junior High School.

Fife Junior Football (FJF) started in 2010 to educate young athletes in sportsmanship and the fundamentals of football. Their programs include flag and tackled football for youth ages 9 to 14. FJF practices and plays games at Columbia Junior High School.

Recommendations for Sport Fields

- The City should participate in annual meetings with the various leagues and field providers within Fife to assist in allocating field space across the leagues and address other issues related to inter-league coordination, field maintenance and protocols for addressing field issues. The city should also remain open to the changing needs and participation rates for youth sports and consider its role in and capacity to provide additional fields within the city to accommodate the growth of the current leagues or the addition of new programs, such as lacrosse.
- The City should evaluate and consider the need to upgrade the soccer/football field

at Dacca Park to synthetic turf. Such an improvement will require coordination and partnership with the school district and leagues for funding and field allocation.

Recreation Facilities

Built in 1985, the Fife Community Center houses many of the city's recreation programs. The center offers a large banquet room for rent, a lobby area with community-access computer terminals and office space for staff. While its small size and age are potential limitations, residents appreciate having access to the facility, but feel that a new community recreation center is warranted to provide more space for programming and offer a more customer-friendly environment. Respondents to the survey ranked the need for a new community center as the highest against a number of different facility choices.

The Fife Swim Center was renovated in 2007 to update the lobby and reception areas, improve the locker rooms and add two new family changing rooms. A strong interest in aquatic programs exists among residents, reinforcing the local demand for Swim Center programming and facilities. Survey respondents expressed a strong interest for an expanded swim center, which was second only to a new community center of a list of facility options.

Recreation Programming

From the community survey, the majority of respondents (79%) rated the quality of Fife's recreation programs and services as good or very good. Although 84% agreed that Fife meets the community needs for parks, trails and recreation services, the survey responses showed that approximately 33% of residents did not participate in any recreational programs. Reasons for not participating were more often due to a lack of time, lack of awareness about programs or inconvenient scheduling. Resident interest in aquatics programs ranked highest, followed by adult health and fitness activities (66.3%). Majorities of respondents also expressed a need for adult health and fitness activities (66.3%), youth sport leagues (57%), children's activities (55%) and instructional arts programs (55%). While a trail system is defined as facility rather than a recreation programming option, survey respondents indicated that their primary interest for developing more trails was for exercise and recreation.

Special events in Fife also ranked as an important need (79.6%) among recreation options for providing activities for members of Fife households. The city currently offers a range of summertime activities including the Harvest Festival and National Night Out. While these offerings are successful, consideration should be given to engaging community partners to publicize and promote additional programs to broaden community awareness about them. The city also should consider hosting additional summertime events at the parks, such as concerts and festivals, as well as plan and coordinate with the YMCA, Boys & Girls Club, Fife School District and Pierce County to maximize facility usage and minimize overlapping events and activities.

Recommendations for Recreation Facilities & Programs

- The city should explore the feasibility of renovating and expanding the existing facility or constructing a new, larger community recreation center that could include a new aquatic facility. Multi-purpose recreation centers can enhance community identity, provide additional space for programming and enable higher cost recovery and revenue generating potential through rentals and recreation pass sales.
- 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.
- The city 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 Fife.

- The city should continue to coordinate with the school district for the use of indoor space for a variety of recreation programming.

Trails & Bikeways

Demand for trails surpasses that of other park and recreation services. The 2013 community survey indicated that over 70% of residents participate in walking or hiking as their most popular recreational activity. Today, Fife has only a few existing trail corridors; however, a broader network of linked trail segments is possible that can create the level of connectivity and recreational opportunity requested by the community. Fife residents place a priority on developing an extended trail system that connects existing city parks and all areas of the community. The off-street trail system should connect to other pedestrian (sidewalks) and bicycle (bike lanes) corridors within Fife.

The 2013 Fife Transportation System Plan (TSP) acknowledges the current gaps in existing pedestrian and bicycle facility networks, which limit the effectiveness of connecting neighborhoods and businesses. The TSP recognizes the vision offered by the previous PROS Plan to create a more walkable community. The on-street bike route and sidewalk system meet transportation needs, but it also supplements the off-street, park-based system by providing linkages and offering connections where off-street connections are presently not feasible. The continued improvements to the on-street network are guided by the city's Transportation System Plan.

Additionally, during the inventory assessment for trails, it was noted that certain trail segments require improvements to accommodate universal accessibility. Designing trails and trail amenities for compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) should be considered to remove barriers to access for trail users and include such improvements as sidewalk curb cuts, re-locating the placement of bollards and redesigning paved entryways.

A comprehensive and unified trail signage system is needed to help residents identify and navigate the existing trails and understand the trail directions, identity and allowed uses. In the Tacoma–Pierce County Health Department data for Fife, a higher motor vehicle-related mortality differentiated Fife from both Washington State and Pierce County. Providing for an interconnected system of walking and biking trails may encourage increased trail use and accommodate healthier transportation alternatives through the reduction in short, local vehicular trips.

Recommendations for the Trails Network

- Wapato Creek Trail Spine: The existing Dacca Park trail should continue to the northwest and connect to the Frank Albert Park Way trail and onto 20th Street East. The city should continue to explore opportunities to work with Union Pacific Railroad to enable crossings of the railroad to facilitate trail connections that connect south from Columbia Junior High School and Brookville Gardens Community Park. These crossings will be important to tie the various segments of trail together along Wapato Creek, as well as allow for safe transit for the residents who live south of the railroad corridor.
- Hylebos: Two trail segments exist along Hylebos Creek between 4th Street East and 8th Street East. The city should plan for the extension of these segments northward into Tacoma and southward along the creek toward Pacific Highway. The future extension of

SR-167 may accommodate an additional pedestrian connection across Interstate 5 to the central core of Fife and to the Interurban Trail.

- Linking with Bikeways: As noted above, the city should continue to integrate the planning and development of recreational trails with the on-street bikeway network. Bikeways along 20th Street East, 70th Avenue and Frank Albert Road will be crucial in linking the entire network of trails together.
- Additionally, the City should endeavor to upgrade existing trail segments to provide uniform width, surfacing and maintenance, as appropriate for the trail setting, for the benefit of trail users. Trail surfacing ranges from earthen to gravel to paved, and these transitions may create accessibility challenges for some users. Also, existing trail segments should be maintained to remove encroaching vegetation and non-native or invasive species.

Greenways & Natural Areas

Fife is fortunate to have retained several significant natural areas across the city. This greenway network includes wildlife habitat and creek corridors, which create unique connections as habitat for birds and other wildlife, as well as areas for special and/or endangered species to thrive. The network includes areas protected by the critical areas ordinance or shoreline master program and incorporates subdivision open space corridors. While many of the city-managed sites do not currently accommodate formal, public access, many of these properties will serve as the backbone for future trail corridors.

In addition to protecting habitat and maintaining ecologic benefits (e.g., stormwater management and air quality), the greenway system provides educational and stewardship opportunities and is the primary framework for off-street recreational trails. The greenway network provides access to nature for passive recreation (including opportunities for viewpoints and wildlife viewing areas), relaxation, and serves as both midpoint and ultimate destinations within a future trail network. The installation and integration of interpretive signage that reflects Fife's unique history, natural assets and wildlife populations may enable programmed or self-guided outdoor learning.

In the previous PROS Plan, residents voiced interest for continued creek restoration projects and vegetation management to control non-native and/or invasive species. Focused effort should be placed toward the expansion of public ownership and access along the Wapato and Hylebos Creek corridors to provide uniform and consistent management and improvement to these areas. Although the public ownership along these two creek corridors is currently fragmented, future city efforts to protect or manage areas along these creeks represent an opportunity to not only provide buffers in critical areas to preserve or restore water quality and aquatic habitat values, but also provide extended width to accommodate trail connections through the central and northern parts of Fife.

The city's greenway corridor and easement acquisition efforts should be focused toward locations that support of the expansion of the trail network. In other locations, the city should encourage the holding of greenways as development common areas or tracts, whenever possible, and include public access easements or rights over those tracts to minimize maintenance demands while allowing future development for public use.

Recommendations for Greenways

- The city should continue to protect, link and expand the critical areas throughout Fife via developer set-asides and limited direct purchases to further the recreation trail program. Critical riparian areas along stream corridors offer an opportunity to weave nature throughout the community, protect critical habitat and create a broader network

of trails.

- The city should consider ways in which existing stormwater facilities and wetlands, including multiple publicly-owned sites, could be integrated into a natural area system and include nature-based education opportunities.
- The city should utilize volunteers to aid in habitat restoration and developing an environmental interpretive and signage program to increase public awareness of the role of natural areas within the urban environment. Enhancement opportunities exist at the following park sites: Frank Albert Park Way, Triangle Greenspace, Hylebos Creek Natural Area, Radiance Oxbow and the North Levee Road site.

Communications & Management

Information & Wayfinding

General Information & Communications

To broaden the public awareness about city programs, parks and facilities, the city's website should be expanded to facilitate quick links to popular destinations and also be designed with mobile internet users (iPhone, Android, etc) in mind. This includes posting park system maps, trail maps and an updated listing of park sites and amenities to enhance the experience of the on-the-go user. In developing new materials, the city should prepare visually attractive materials (print and electronic) that have consistency of graphic style and theme. Additionally, the City should consider expanding the use of email marketing with periodic e-newsletters and enhancing its social media presence, especially as a venue to solicit volunteers for small projects and community event support.

Wayfinding

The City of Fife would benefit from enhanced wayfinding and signage for city parks and facilities. Better signage and consistency in brand identification could increase awareness for residents and visitors. Better signage in conjunction with publicly available maps of parks and trails can also improve the enjoyment and understanding of the parks system and encourage visitors to experience more sites within the City.

Design Continuity & Standards

Upon review of the city's existing developed parks and the privately-held homeowner association (HOA) parks, it was noted that a general lack of design continuity exists throughout the city.

Privately-held or privately-constructed parks could be held to minimum design and maintenance criteria to ensure quality and consistency of park amenities. While these parks may be neither owned nor operated by the city, public perceptions about their appearance and level of development may reflect on the city's park system management resulting from misinformation or a misunderstanding of who owns and manages these parks. In addition, without such standards, privately-developed parks may not meet community needs or could pose long-term maintenance or safety issues.

To address facility design, the city could prepare and adopt design standards to be applied to site development at the time of development review. Application of such standards is particularly critical in cases where a developer is building the park in lieu of paying park impact fees. Such standards could also proscribe minimally-acceptable maintenance

requirements. Requirements could be placed on the tract title or applied through a written development agreement between the developer and the city. Such agreements and design criteria will help ensure the broader goals parks system are met and that the facilities provided meet the needs of residents as outlined in this or a subsequent PROS Plan. Recommended guidelines are outlined in Appendix E of this Plan.

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, Figure 13 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.

Figure 13. Current Levels of Service by Park Type

Type (incl. public & private lands)	Existing Standard	Current Inventory*	Current Level of Service	Current Surplus / (Deficit)
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 Figure 14 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 illustrates the affect of the proposed standards.

Table 14. 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

This 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.

The proposed capital projects noted in the next chapter ameliorate the projected acreage needs and maintain service levels to meet the proposed, revised standards.

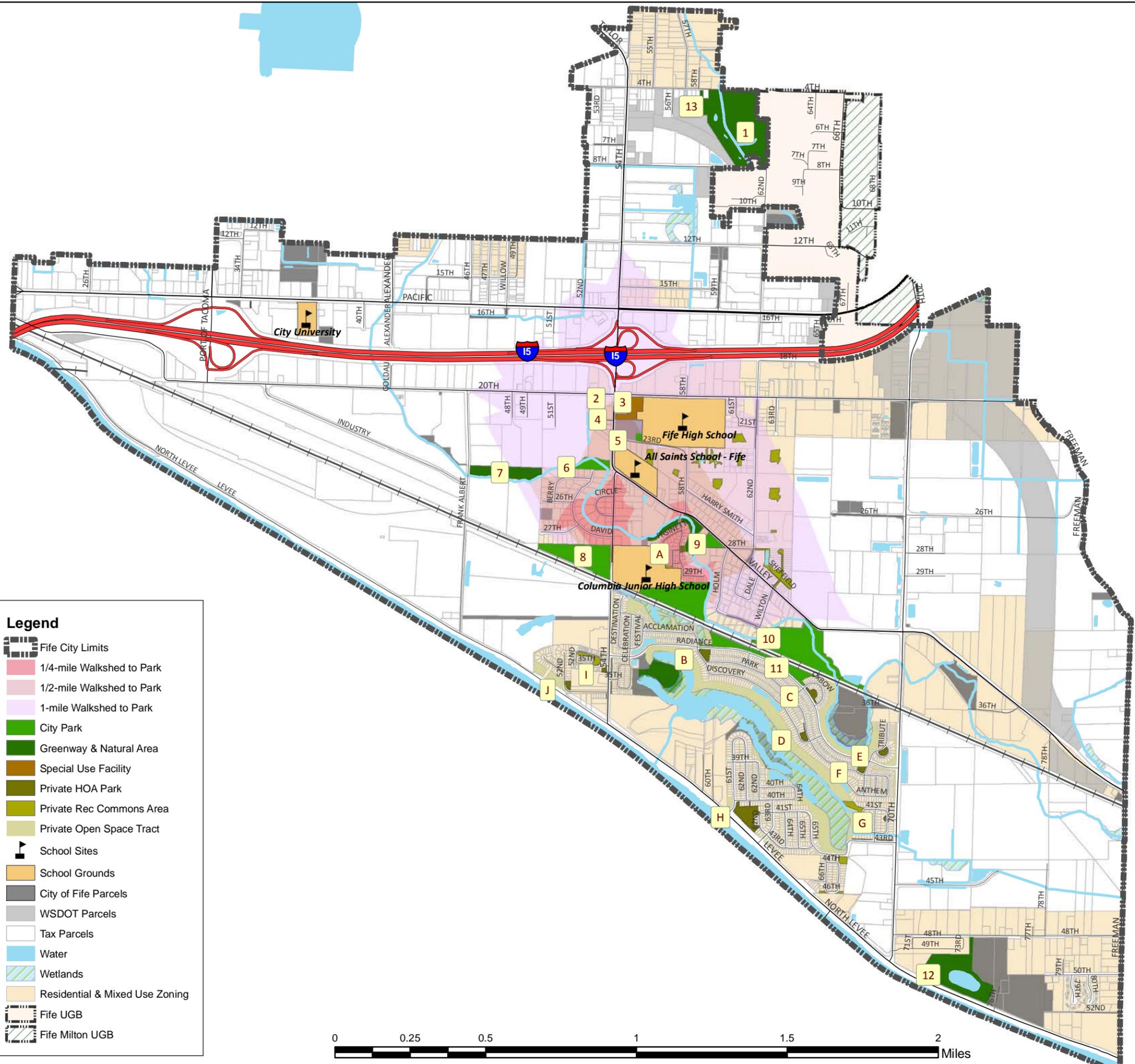
NOTE: The Park Walkshed is a service area based on the travel distance along the street network from defined park access points. For private homeowner association parks, the walkshed was clipped to the outer boundary of the respective homeowners associations. The Walkshed for community parks was calculated from access points from Dacca Park only, since Brookville Gardens is not yet developed.

Label ID	Park Name	Acreage
1	Hylebos Creek Natural Area	15.3
2	Fountain Memorial Park	0.9
3	Fife Swim Center	1.4
4	Fife Community Center	0.7
5	Centennial Park	0.4
6	Triangle Greenspace	2.7
7	Frank Albert Park Way	5.9
8	Dacca Park	31.0
9	Wedge Park	2.0
10	Brookville Gardens	15.0
11	5-Acre Park	5.3
12	N Levee Road Site	14.7
13	Milgard Natural Area	9.0

Label ID	Park Name	Acreage
A	Wapato Pointe HOA Park	0.22
B	Radiance Park #5	0.63
C	Radiance Park #4	0.48
D	Radiance Park #3	0.39
E	Radiance Park #1	0.61
F	Radiance Park #2	0.35
G	Valley Haven HOA Park	0.05
H	Saddle Creek HOA Park	2.74
I	Stonebrook HOA Park	0.15
J	Port Landing HOA Park	0.26

Legend

- Fife City Limits
- 1/4-mile Walkshed to Park
- 1/2-mile Walkshed to Park
- 1-mile Walkshed to Park
- City Park
- Greenway & Natural Area
- Special Use Facility
- Private HOA Park
- Private Rec Commons Area
- Private Open Space Tract
- School Sites
- School Grounds
- City of Fife Parcels
- WSDOT Parcels
- Tax Parcels
- Water
- Wetlands
- Residential & Mixed Use Zoning
- Fife UGB
- Fife Milton UGB

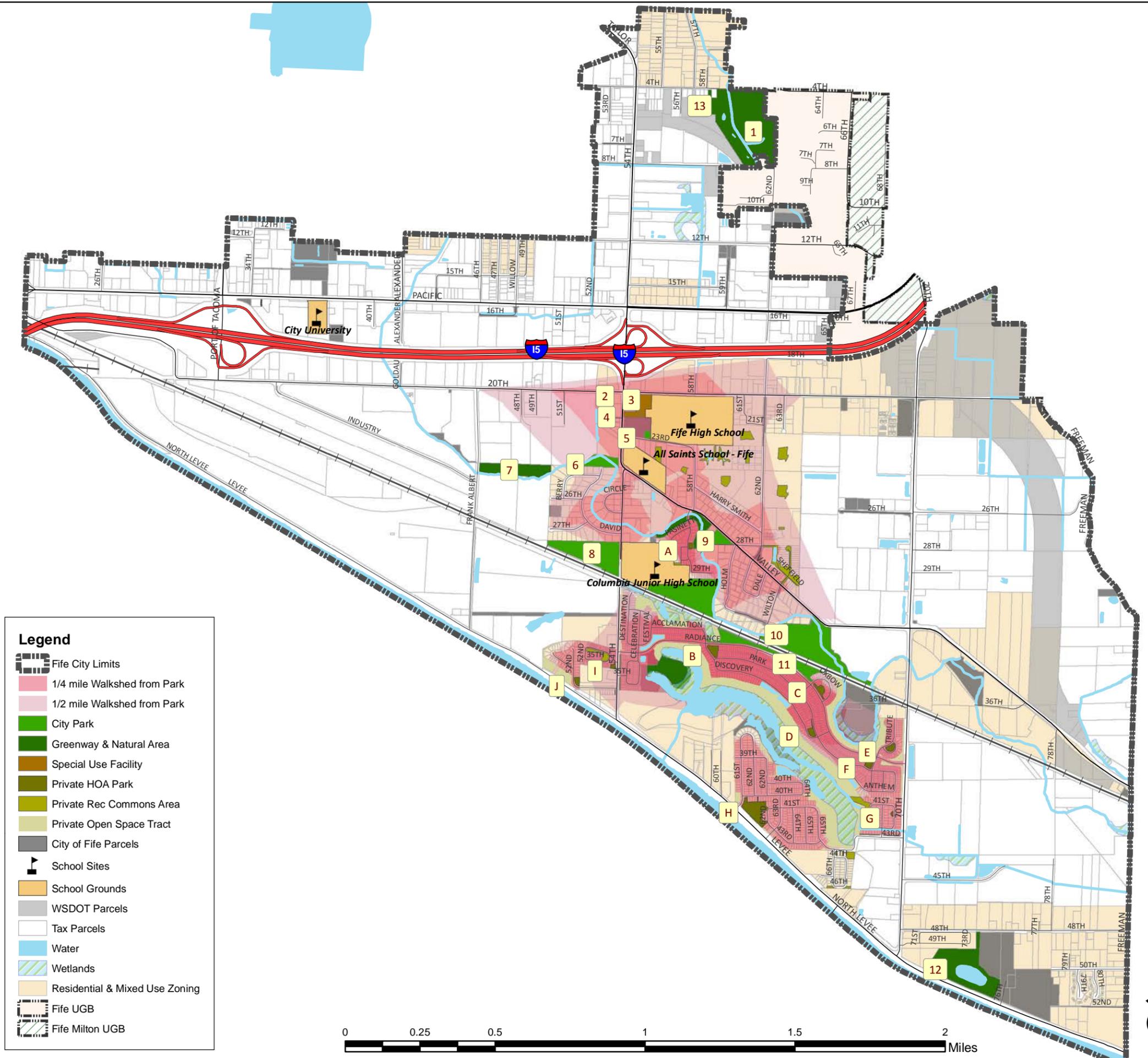


MAP 2: Park Walksheds to Public Community Parks

NOTE: The Park Walkshed is a service area based on the travel distance along the street network from defined park access points. For private homeowner association parks, the walkshed was clipped to the outer boundary of the respective homeowners associations.

Label ID	Park Name	Acreage
1	Hylebos Creek Natural Area	15.3
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3	Fife Swim Center	1.4
4	Fife Community Center	0.7
5	Centennial Park	0.4
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7	Frank Albert Park Way	5.9
8	Dacca Park	31.0
9	Wedge Park	2.0
10	Brookville Gardens	15.0
11	5-Acre Park	5.3
12	N Levee Road Site	14.7
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G	Valley Haven HOA Park	0.05
H	Saddle Creek HOA Park	2.74
I	Stonebrook HOA Park	0.15
J	Port Landing HOA Park	0.26



Legend

- Fife City Limits
- 1/4 mile Walkshed from Park
- 1/2 mile Walkshed from Park
- City Park
- Greenway & Natural Area
- Special Use Facility
- Private HOA Park
- Private Rec Commons Area
- Private Open Space Tract
- City of Fife Parcels
- School Sites
- School Grounds
- WSDOT Parcels
- Tax Parcels
- Water
- Wetlands
- Residential & Mixed Use Zoning
- Fife UGB
- Fife Milton UGB

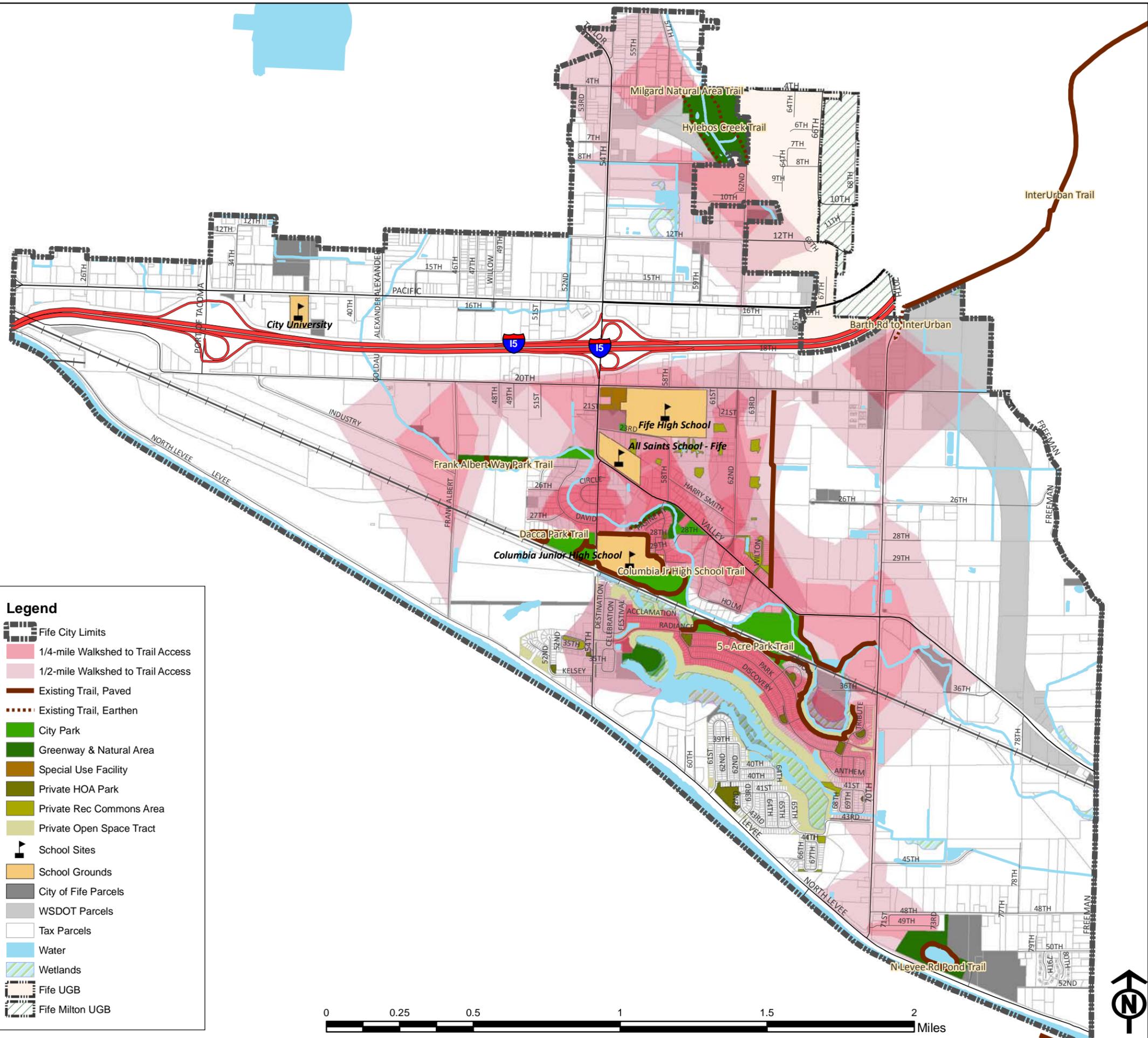
MAP 3: Park Walksheds to Public & Private Neighborhood Parks

NOTE: The Trail Walkshed is a service area based on the travel distance along the street network from defined trail access points.

Trail Name	Length (mi.)
Frank Albert Way Park Trail	0.42
Dacca Park Trail	1.16
5 - Acre Park Trail	0.78
N Levee Rd Pond Trail	0.32
Milgard Natural Area Trail	0.30
Hylebos Creek Trail	0.33
Sheffield Trail	0.56
FedEx Trail	0.42
Unnamed: Radiance Oxbow	0.14
Unnamed: Radiance Oxbow	0.27

Legend

- Fife City Limits
- 1/4-mile Walkshed to Trail Access
- 1/2-mile Walkshed to Trail Access
- Existing Trail, Paved
- Existing Trail, Earthen
- City Park
- Greenway & Natural Area
- Special Use Facility
- Private HOA Park
- Private Rec Commons Area
- Private Open Space Tract
- School Sites
- School Grounds
- City of Fife Parcels
- WSDOT Parcels
- Tax Parcels
- Water
- Wetlands
- Fife UGB
- Fife Milton UGB



MAP 4: Trail Walksheds to Public Trail Access Points

7



Capital Facilities Plan

The following Capital Facilities Plan (CFP) lists all park and facility projects considered for the next six years. The majority of these projects entail the acquisition and development of parks, renovating or repairing existing facilities and expanding trail corridors. The following table summarizes the projected aggregate capital estimates by park types for the next six years.

Figure 15. Capital Facilities Plan Expenditures Summary

Park Type	Acquisition	Development	Renovation	Sum
Community Parks	\$ -	\$ 3,500,000	\$ 62,500	\$ 3,562,500
Neighborhood Parks	\$ 1,650,000	\$ 1,420,000	\$ 63,400	\$ 3,133,400
Greenways & Natural Areas	\$ -	\$ 32,500	\$ 5,000	\$ 37,500
Trails	\$ -	\$ 1,045,000	\$ -	\$ 1,045,000
TOTAL	\$ 1,650,000	\$ 5,997,500	\$ 130,900	\$ 7,778,400

Acquisition target areas have been identified and ranked in priority. Emphasis has been placed on securing neighborhood park acquisitions and access rights along key trail corridors to serve the greatest population centers.

The following CFP project list provides brief project descriptions and priority ranking to assist staff in preparing future capital budget requests.

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Fife Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan
6-Year Capital Facilities Plan
2014-2019

Park Type	Park Site	Project Description	Activity	Priority	Funding Tools	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020+	Sum
Community	Brookville Garden Community Park	New park development - phase 1	D	1	PIF, REET, Gr, GF	\$ 3,500,000							\$ 3,500,000
Neighborhood	Fountain Memorial Park	Bollards, entry/ID sign	R	2	REET, GF	\$ 20,000							\$ 20,000
Neighborhood	North Levee Road Site	Park master plan concept	D	1	GF	\$ 15,000							\$ 15,000
Neighborhood	Colburn Park	New park development	D	2	PIF, REET, Gr							\$ 600,000	\$ 600,000
		ADA upgrades: 2 benches, table; new trees	R	2	REET, GF				\$ 8,400		\$ 5,000		\$ 13,400
		Playground addition	D	2	Gr, REET, GF			\$ 45,000					\$ 45,000
		South patio redesign	D	3	GF, Gr					\$ 35,000			\$ 35,000
		Splashpad installation	D	3	REET, GF, PIF						\$ 75,000		\$ 75,000
Community	Dacca Community Park	ADA upgrades: benches, tables, bleachers	R	1	REET, GF		\$ 15,000		\$ 10,000		\$ 25,000		\$ 50,000
		Tree replacement plantings	R	2	GF		\$ 7,500		\$ 5,000				\$ 12,500
Neighborhood	Centennial Park	ADA upgrades: bench, table, path	R	1	REET, GF		\$ 10,000						\$ 10,000
Neighborhood	Five Acre Park	ADA upgrades: added benches	R	2	REET, GF		\$ 5,000						\$ 5,000
Greenway	Radiance Oxbow	Restoration plantings	D	2	Pr, Gr, TBD		\$ 2,500		\$ 2,500		\$ 2,500		\$ 7,500
		Rustic path & environmental interpretive panels	D	2	REET, GF, Gr			\$ 15,000	\$ 10,000				\$ 25,000
Greenway	Frank Albert Park Way	Redesign western access for ADA/ABA	R	1	REET, GF		\$ 5,000						\$ 5,000
Neighborhood	Wedge Park	Seasonal restroom enclosure	R	2	REET, GF			\$ 15,000					\$ 15,000
Trail	Hylebos Creek Natural Area & Trail	Entry sign & environmental interpretive panels	D	2	REET, PIF, Gr, Pr		\$ 15,000						\$ 15,000
Trail	Milgard Natural Area & Trail	Entry sign & environmental interpretive panels	D	2	REET, PIF, Gr, Pr				\$ 15,000				\$ 15,000
Trail	Wapato Creek Trail	Dacca to Frank Albert Way to Triangle Greenspace	D	3	REET, PIF, Gr			\$ 550,000					\$ 550,000
		Brookville Garden to Five Acre	D	2	REET, PIF, Gr							\$ 465,000	\$ 465,000
Neighborhood	Neighborhood Park Acquisition	Acquire 2-3 acres (Gap Area #1)	A	1	PIF, Gr		\$ 450,000						\$ 450,000
Neighborhood	Neighborhood Park Acquisition	Acquire 3-4 acres (Gap Area #2)	A	2	PIF, Gr				\$ 550,000				\$ 550,000
Neighborhood	Neighborhood Park Acquisition	Acquire 2-4 acres (Gap Area #3)	A	3	PIF, Gr					\$ 350,000			\$ 350,000
Neighborhood	Neighborhood Park Development	Acquire 1-2 acres (Gap Area #4)	A	3	PIF, Gr, REET							\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000
Neighborhood	Neighborhood Park Development	Park master plan and development (Gap Area #1)	D	3	PIF, Gr, REET						\$ 650,000		\$ 650,000
													\$ -
						\$ 3,535,000	\$ 510,000	\$ 625,000	\$ 600,900	\$ 385,000	\$ 757,500	\$ 1,365,000	\$ 7,778,400

Code Potential Funding Sources

- PIF Park Impact Fees
- REET Real Estate Excise Tax
- Pr Private funds; Dedications; Donations
- Gr Grants
- GF General Fund / Local Share
- TBD To Be Determined: Other funding sources needed for replacement, rehabilitation and general maintenance

Code Activity

- A Acquisition
- D Development
- R Renovation / Repair

Code Priority

- 1 High Priority
- 2
- 3

NOTE: The funding tools shown in the table represent potential sources to implement projects. The City will review the availability and viability of funding sources per project during capital budget development. The funding sources noted here are not meant to be prescriptive, rather they are related to the general applicability of the funding source to the project type. For example, Park Impact Fees can be used for acquisition or development, not renovation or repairs.



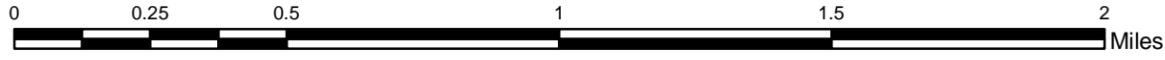
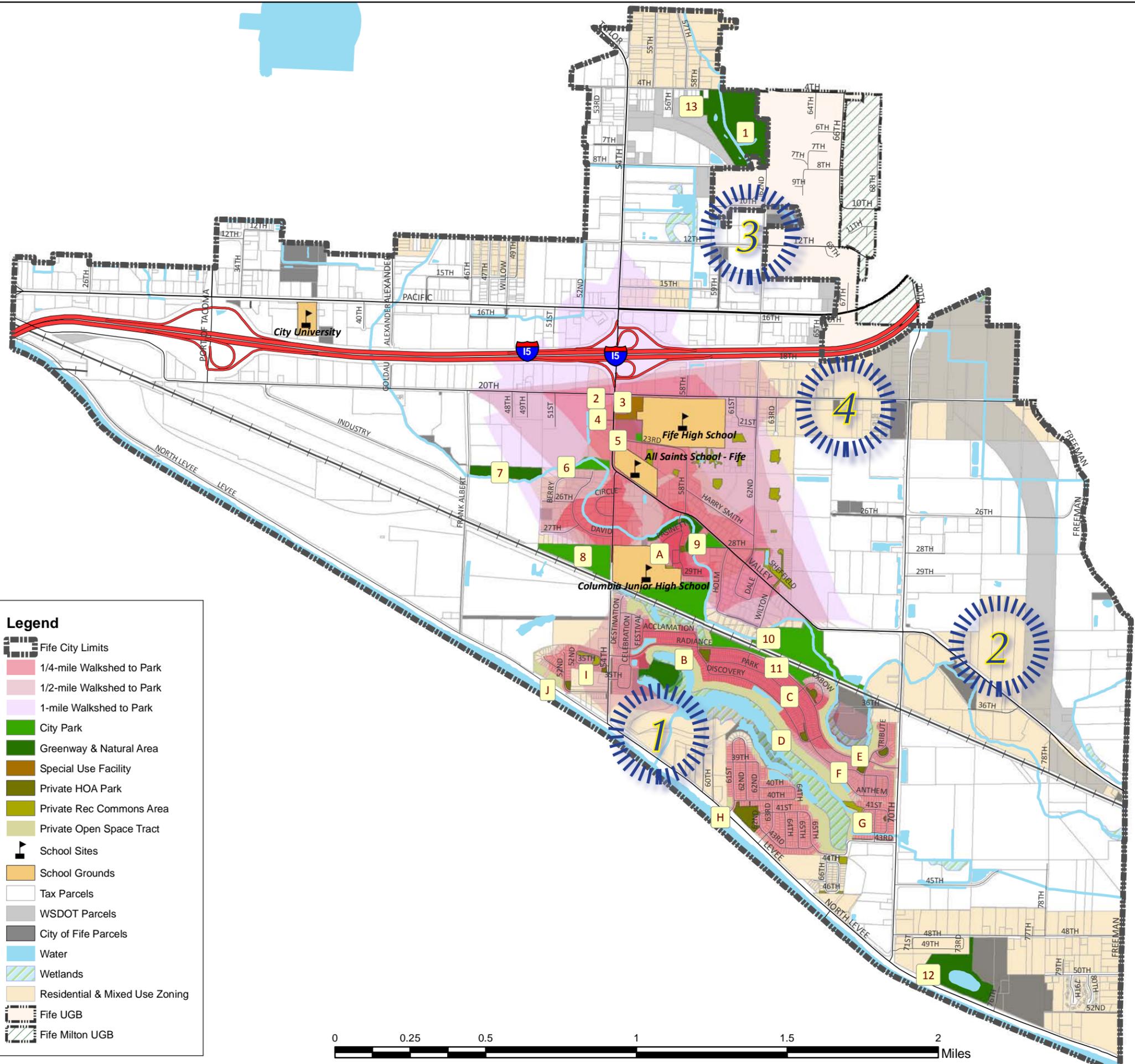
Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan | 2014

Label ID	Park Name	Acreage
1	Hylebos Creek Natural Area	15.3
2	Fountain Memorial Park	0.9
3	Fife Swim Center	1.4
4	Fife Community Center	0.7
5	Centennial Park	0.4
6	Triangle Greenspace	2.7
7	Frank Albert Park Way	5.9
8	Dacca Park	31.0
9	Wedge Park	2.0
10	Brookville Gardens	15.0
11	5-Acre Park	5.3
12	N Levee Road Site	14.7
13	Milgard Natural Area	9.0

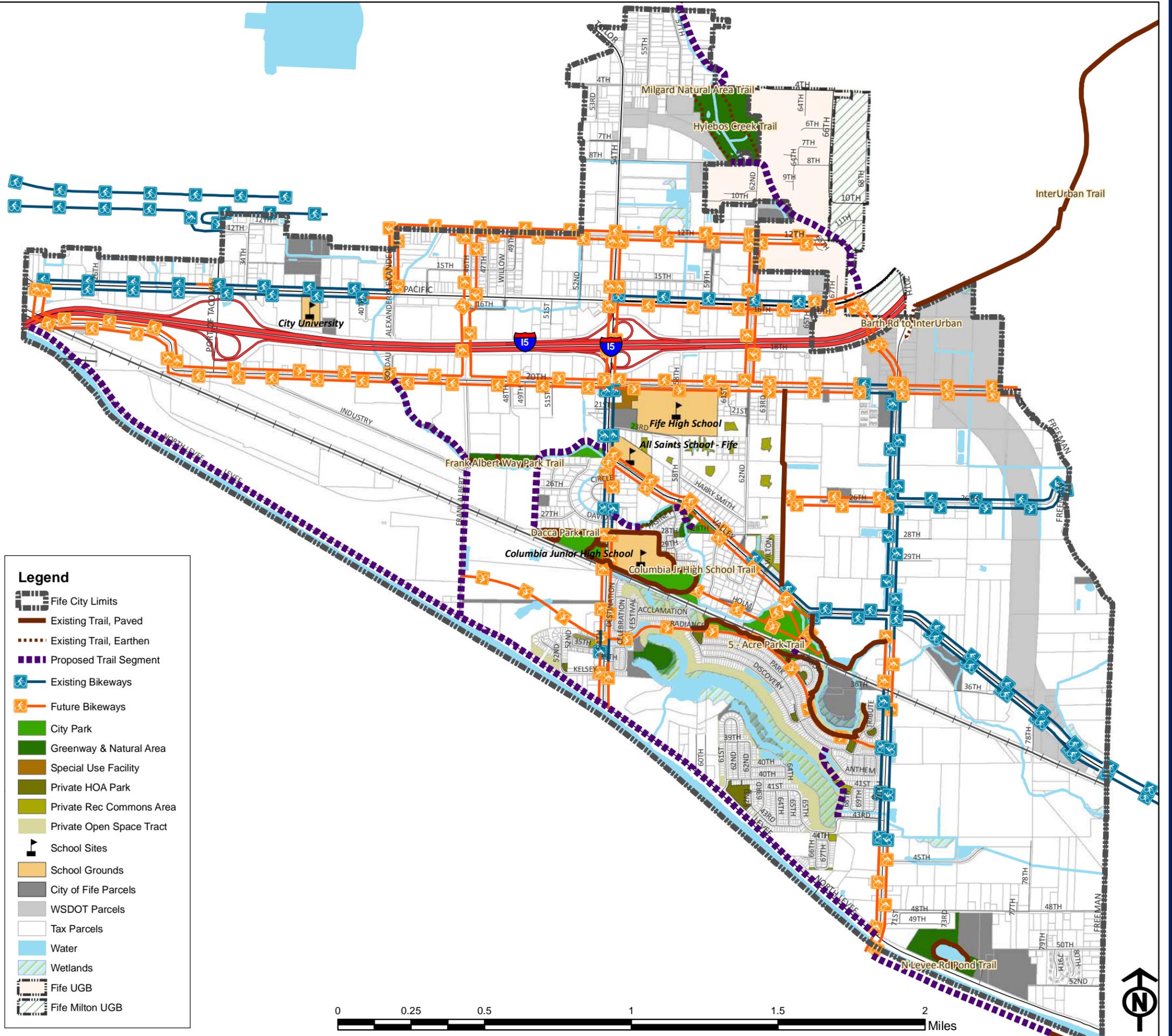
Label ID	Park Name	Acreage
A	Wapato Pointe HOA Park	0.22
B	Radiance Park #5	0.63
C	Radiance Park #4	0.48
D	Radiance Park #3	0.39
E	Radiance Park #1	0.61
F	Radiance Park #2	0.35
G	Valley Haven HOA Park	0.05
H	Saddle Creek HOA Park	2.74
I	Stonebrook HOA Park	0.15
J	Port Landing HOA Park	0.26

Legend

- Fife City Limits
- 1/4-mile Walkshed to Park
- 1/2-mile Walkshed to Park
- 1-mile Walkshed to Park
- City Park
- Greenway & Natural Area
- Special Use Facility
- Private HOA Park
- Private Rec Commons Area
- Private Open Space Tract
- School Sites
- School Grounds
- Tax Parcels
- WSDOT Parcels
- City of Fife Parcels
- Water
- Wetlands
- Residential & Mixed Use Zoning
- Fife UGB
- Fife Milton UGB



MAP 5: Proposed Parks & Greenways



Legend

- Fife City Limits
- Existing Trail, Paved
- Existing Trail, Earthen
- Proposed Trail Segment
- Existing Bikeways
- Future Bikeways
- City Park
- Greenway & Natural Area
- Special Use Facility
- Private HOA Park
- Private Rec Commons Area
- Private Open Space Tract
- School Sites
- School Grounds
- City of Fife Parcels
- WSDOT Parcels
- Tax Parcels
- Water
- Wetlands
- Fife UGB
- Fife Milton UGB

Trail Name	Length (mi.)
Frank Albert Way Park Trail	0.42
Dacca Park Trail	1.16
5 - Acre Park Trail	0.78
N Levee Rd Pond Trail	0.32
Milgard Natural Area Trail	0.30
Hylebos Creek Trail	0.33
Sheffield Trail	0.56
FedEx Trail	0.42
Unnamed: Radiance Oxbow	0.14
Unnamed: Radiance Oxbow	0.27



MAP 6: Proposed Trails & Bikeways

8



Implementation Strategies

A number of strategies exist to improve service delivery for the Fife Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department. However, clear decisions must be made in an environment of competing interests and limited resources. The following considerations are presented to offer near-term direction on implementation and as a means to continue dialogue between the Department and its stakeholders.

Volunteer & Community Action

The public process for this Plan has demonstrated that many residents want to be involved in improving the city's park system and want to have their energies guided through coordination with the Department. Staff should conduct additional outreach to neighborhoods to identify small projects that neighborhoods can undertake to improve their local parks. Neighborhood sponsored park clean-ups, beautification and planting projects, and park patrols should be considered to engage citizens and create a stronger sense of community and ownership. The parks program can benefit from on-going coordination and involvement from the Rotary Club of Fife-Milton, local scout troops and other area service and civic groups. The City should also prepare a revolving list of potential small works or volunteer-appropriate projects to post on its website, while also reaching out to the high school to encourage student projects.

Grants

Several state and federal grant programs are available on a competitive basis, including WWRP, ALEA, USDA, SAFETEA-LU. 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. Fife should continue to leverage its local resources to the greatest extent by pursuing grants independently and in cooperation with other local partners.

Pierce County Conservation Futures

The county currently assesses the maximum allowable excise of \$0.0625 per \$1,000 assessed value to fund the Conservation Futures program. The city should initiate discussions with the county to access the Conservation Futures funding as a way to finance the acquisition of additional greenway lands along the primary creeks to facilitate the protection of these lands and enable improved linkages for the trail network.

Interagency Coordination & Collaboration

Specific projects and goals identified in this Plan demand a high degree of coordination and collaboration with other city departments and outside agencies. Partnerships with the Public Works and Community Development departments can increase the potential discrete actions toward the implementation of the proposed trail network, which relies heavily on street right-of-ways and connections between residential developments. However, to more fully extend the extent of the park system and recreation programs, additional agreements should be sought. Coordination with the YMCA, Boys & Girls Club and Fife School District should be ongoing to assess the range and type of recreation programs offered regionally and to maximize use of community facilities, such as fields and indoor centers.

Park Impact Fees

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, maintenance or repairs of parks and facilities. The City of Fife 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 renewed residential development. Once revised, the methodology and rates should be forwarded to City Council for review and approval. The City should prioritize the usage of PIF to acquire and develop additional parkland and consider the potential to match PIF with grant dollars.

Appendix A: References

References

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Appendix B: Survey Summary



CONSERVATION TECHNIX

To: Kurt Reuter, Director,
City of Fife Department of Parks, Recreation & Community Services

From: Steve Duh, Conservation Technix Inc.

Date: November 8, 2013

Re: **Fife Parks & Recreation Plan Community Survey** (Summary Results)

I. METHODOLOGY

Conservation Technix is pleased to present the results of the Fife community survey assessing residents' recreational needs, preferences and priorities. In close collaboration with staff, Conservation Technix developed the 25-question survey which was estimated to take approximately 5-7 minutes to complete.

The survey was posted online via Fife's website on August 15, 2013. Information about the survey was posted in the Fife Free Press on multiple occasions during the summer, and the survey was promoted on the City's website and during a community open house on August 17th. Recreation program users, stakeholders and civic groups were notified about the survey via email. The survey was closed on October 18, 2013.

A total of 104 completed surveys were recorded. Since the survey was open to the general public, and respondents were not selected through statistical sampling methods, the results are not necessarily representative of all Fife residents. Percentages in the report may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

City of Fife: Parks & Rec Plan Update
Community Survey 2013
Summary Results

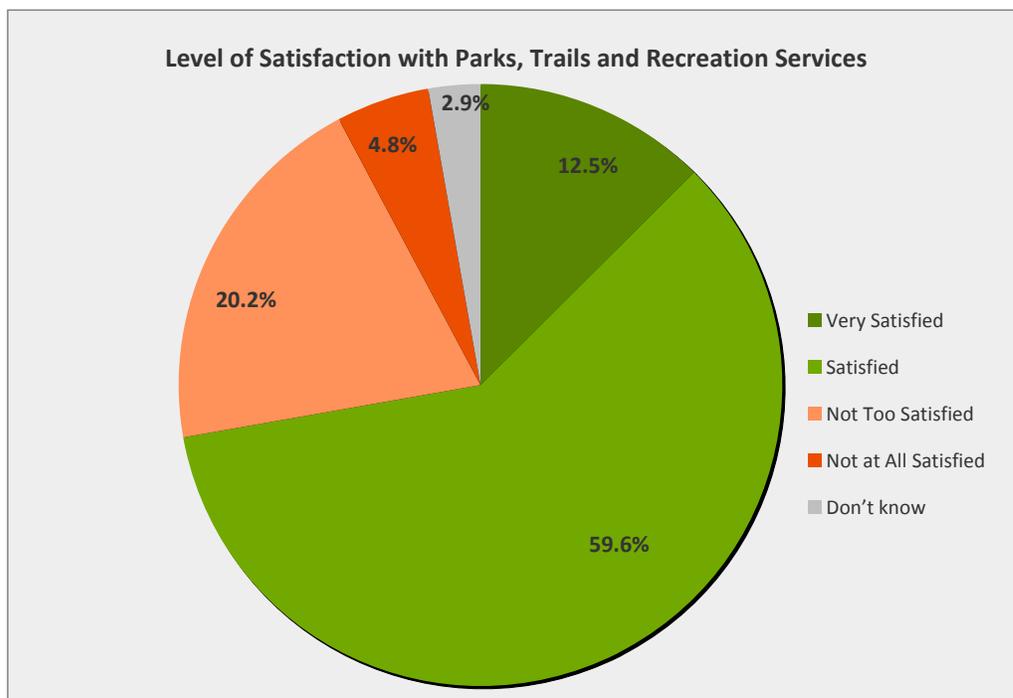
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II. KEY FINDINGS

A. PERCEPTIONS OF FIFE PARKS AND RECREATION

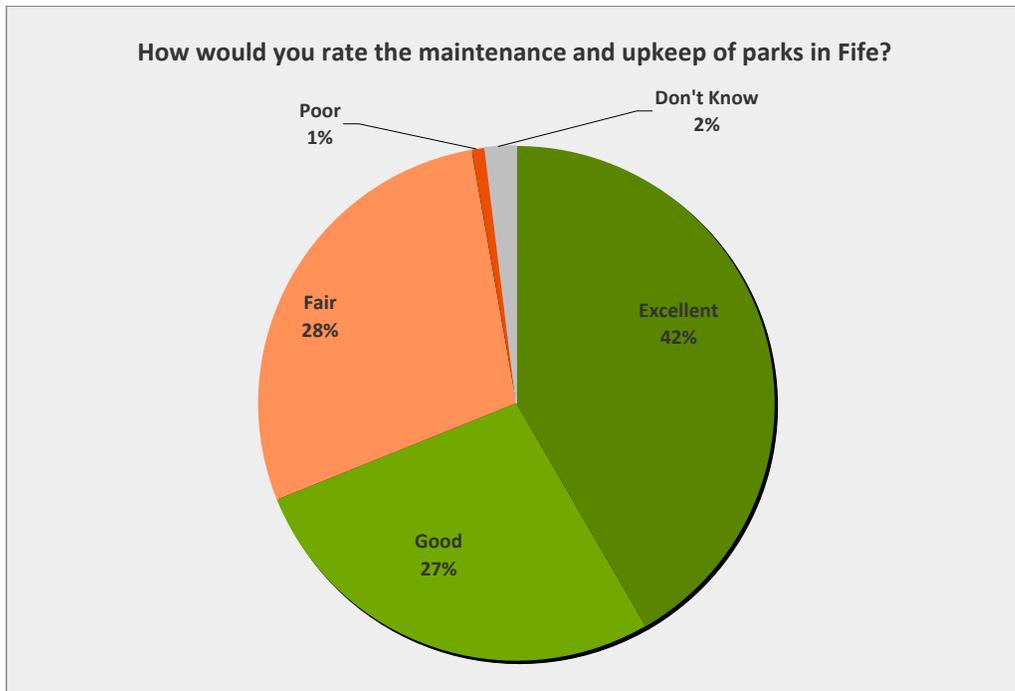
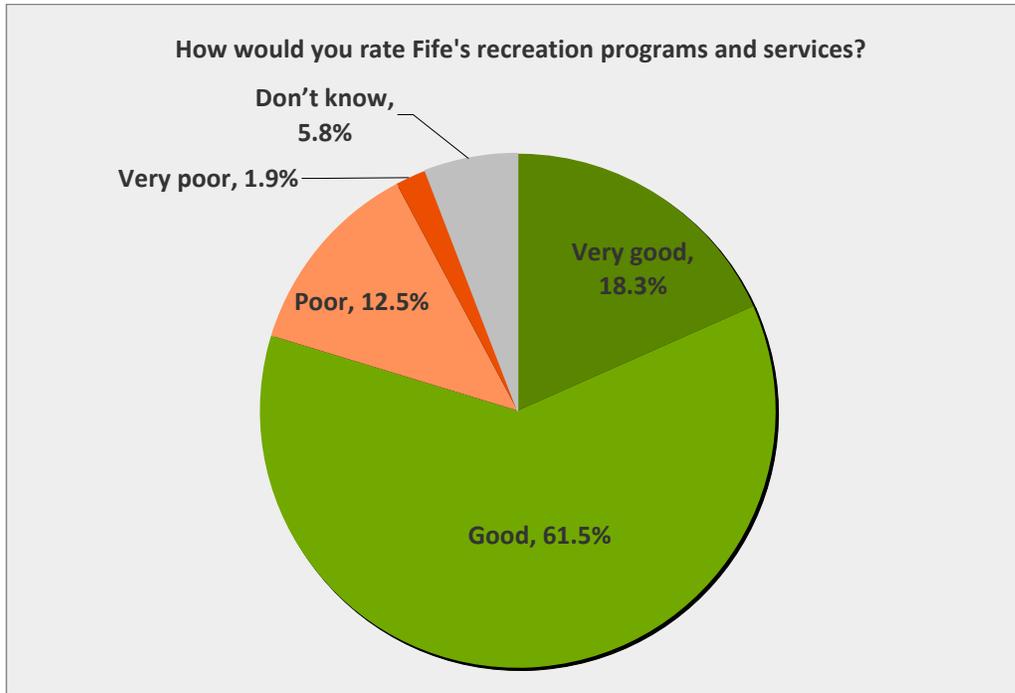
Satisfaction

Residents were asked to rate their satisfaction with the parks, trails and recreation services in Fife (Q8). A majority of respondents (71.5%) expressed overall satisfaction with Fife Parks and Recreation.



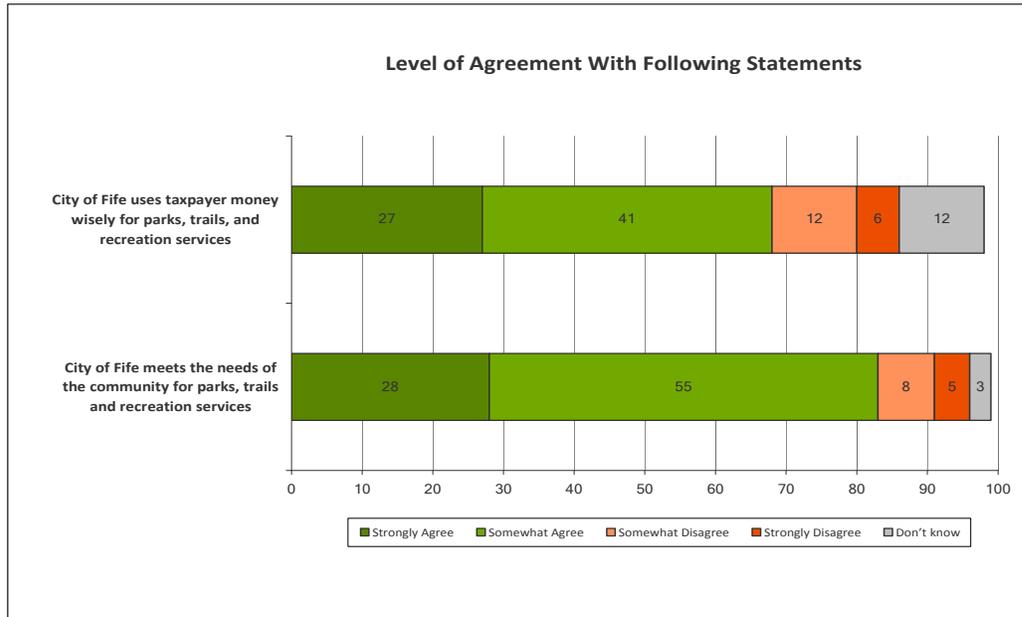
A majority of respondents (79.4%) rated the quality of recreation programs and services (Q9) as good or very good and expressed overall satisfaction (70.3%) with the maintenance and upkeep of city parks (Q10) by selecting ratings of excellent (41.6%) or good (28.7%).

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Summary Results



City of Fife: Parks & Rec Plan Update
Community Survey 2013
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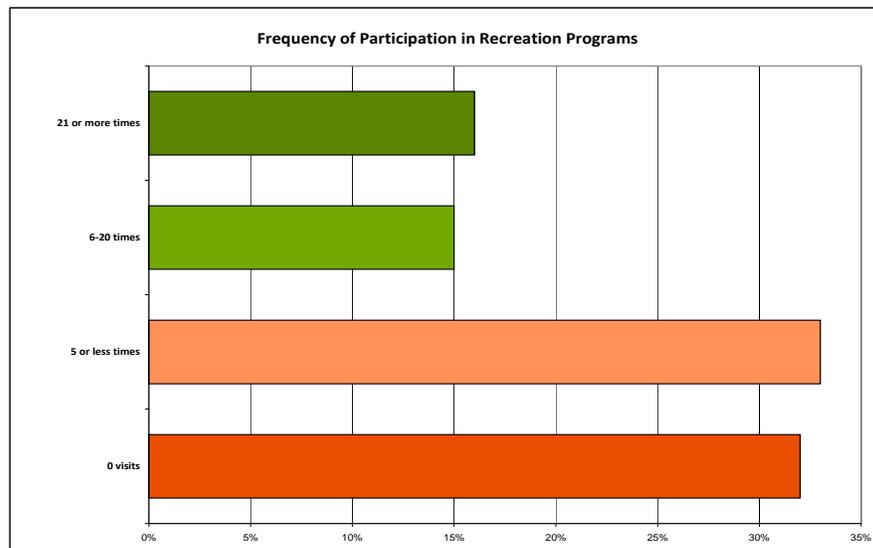
Similar to the responses on the quality of programming and condition of facilities, strong majorities of respondents agreed (83.5%) that the City of Fife meets the community needs (Q15) for parks, trails and recreation services and uses taxpayer money wisely to provides those services (68.8%).



B. PUBLIC USE OF PARKS AND RECREATION

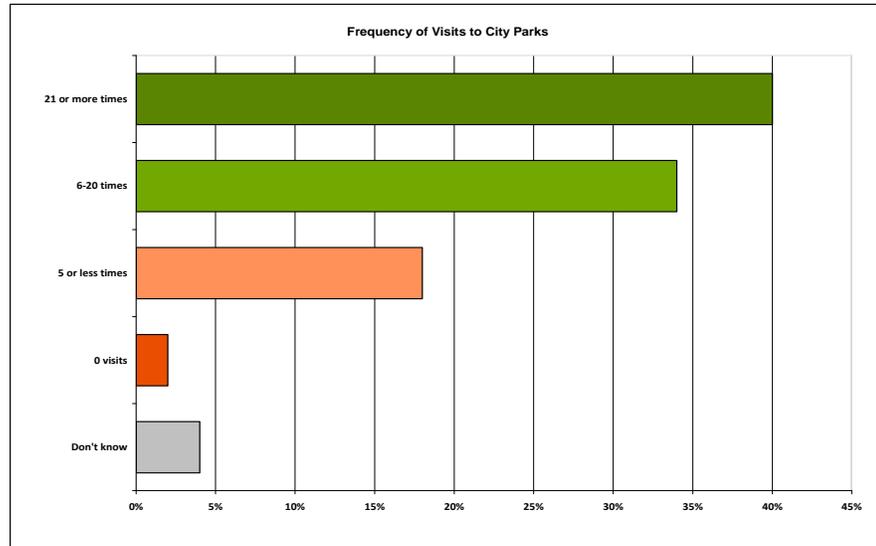
Participation and Frequency of Use

Residents were asked how many times over the past year they or other members of their household had visited parks in Fife (Q11). Responses ranged from zero to every day with an approximate average of 44 visits per household.

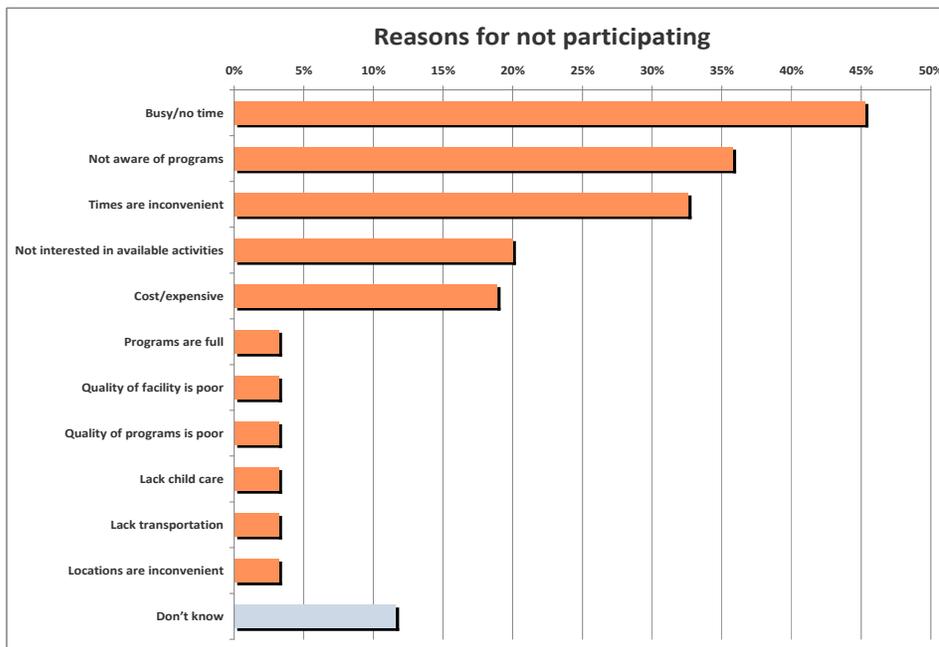


City of Fife: Parks & Rec Plan Update
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 Summary Results

Residents were also asked how many times over the past year they had participated in recreation programs in Fife (Q12). Approximately 33% of survey respondents did not participate in any recreational programs.

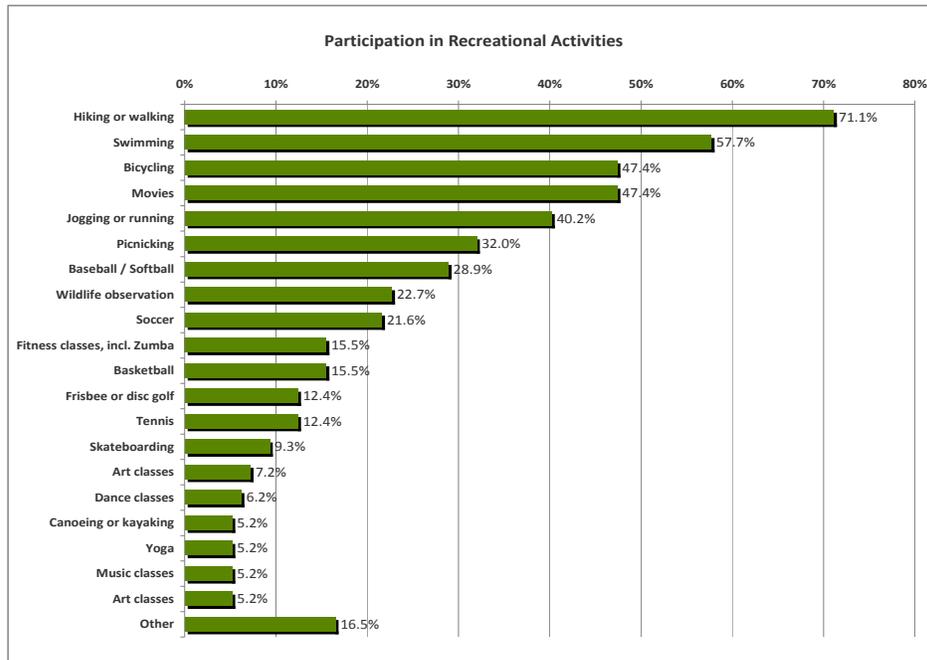


Reasons for not participating more often in programs offered by the City of Fife were primarily lack of time, awareness of programs or convenient timing of programs.

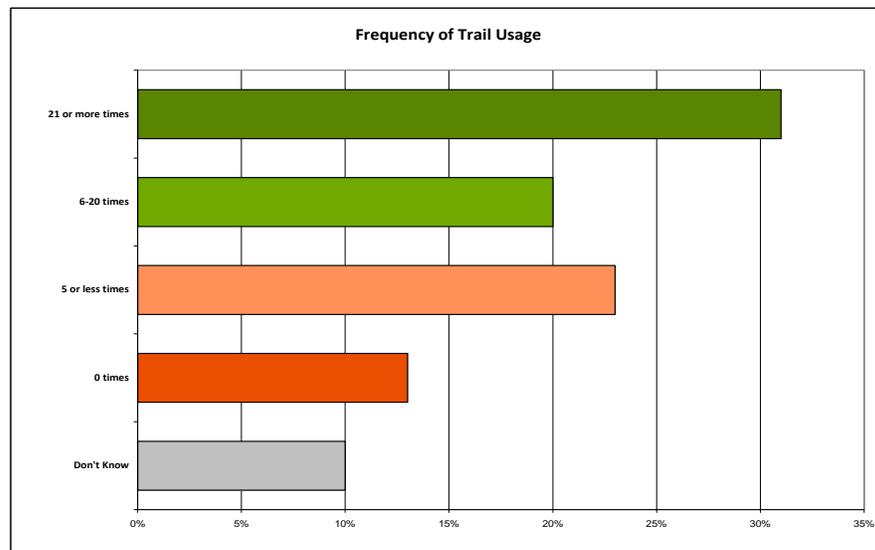


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Residents were asked what recreational activities they participated in within the last year. Walking or hiking was the most popular (71.1%) followed by swimming (57.9%), bicycling (48.4%), movies (47.4%) and jogging or running (40.2%). Walking or hiking can occur in many places.



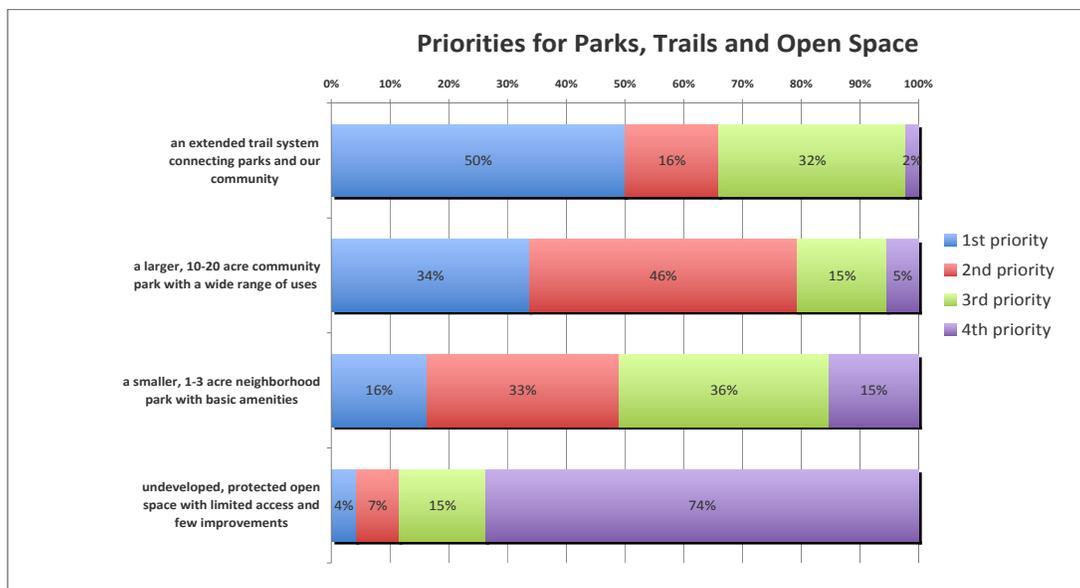
Residents were asked how many times over the past year they used the walking or biking trails (excluding sidewalks) in Fife (Q18). Responses varied widely from no use at all to every day of the year. At least 15% of the survey respondents indicated using trails for the equivalent of twice a week, and over 23% stated their use of Fife's trails at 50 or more times per year.



C. PRIORITIES FOR PARKS AND RECREATION

Choosing Priorities

Residents were informed that planning for the future can involve making choices and trade-offs. They were then asked to prioritize among four choices for potential future development of parks, trails or natural areas to indicate how each of the options might fit their needs among potential park and recreation services (Q17). The highest ranking in over half of the responses (50.5%) was given to *an extended trail system that connects existing City parks and all areas of our community*. The option for community parks (*a larger, 10-20 acre community park with a wide range of uses within a short drive from your home*) ranked higher with 80% of responses placing community parks in the top two choices compared with neighborhood parks (*a smaller, 1-3 acre neighborhood park with basic amenities, such as play equipment and open fields, within walking distance of your home*) receiving only 49% of the response placing smaller parks in the top two choices. Natural areas (*undeveloped, protected open space with limited access and few improvements*) was ranked as fourth choice by the majority (74.5%) of the residents.

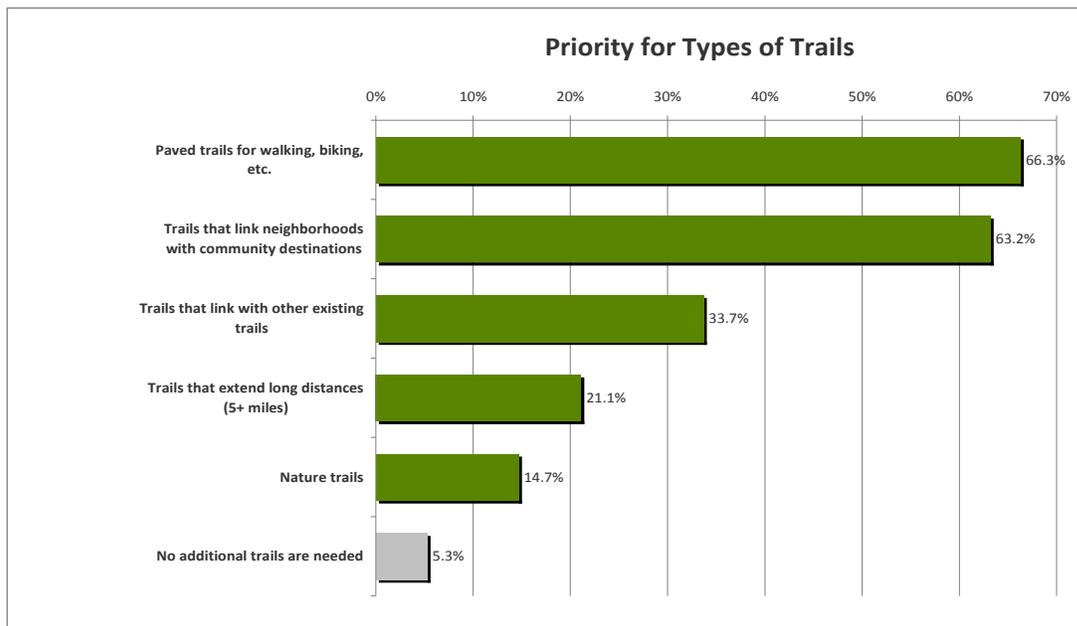


When asked about their top two primary reasons for developing more trails in Fife, exercise topped the list with the greatest majority (73.4%) of residents (Q19). Recreation was the second most important reason (50.0%) for trail development in Fife. Increasing non-motorized transportation choices and improving children’s access to schools and parks were both included in the top two choices among over one third of the responses (36.2%). A small number of residents (5.3%) chose the option that no additional trails are needed.

City of Fife: Parks & Rec Plan Update Community Survey 2013 Summary Results

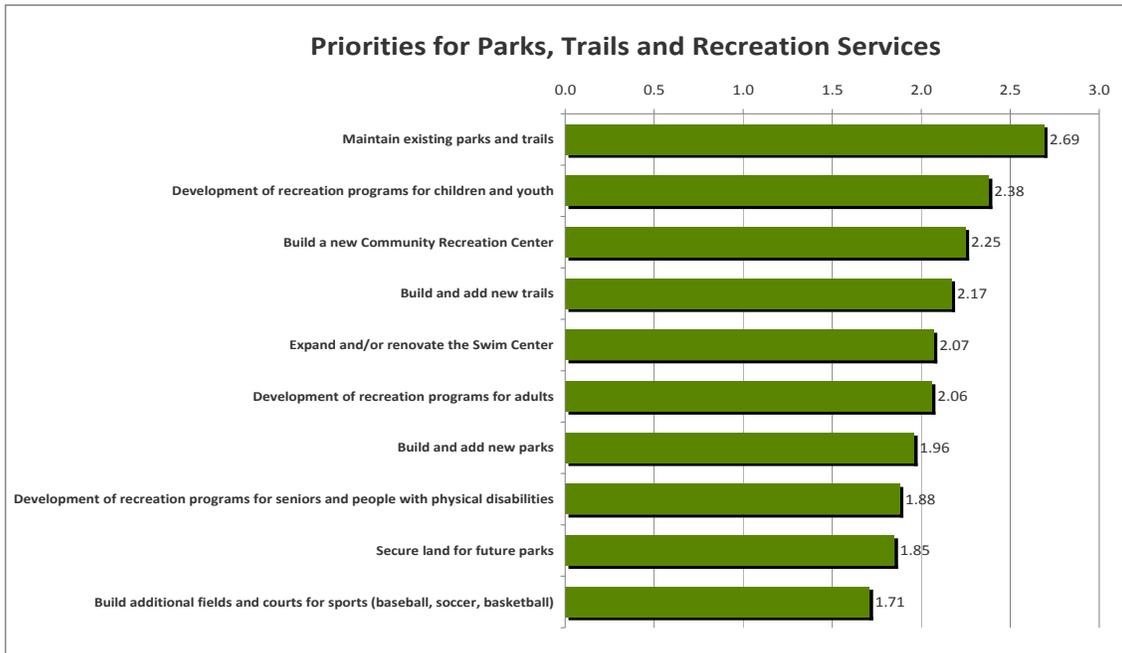
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Further exploring the trail preferences and priorities of residents, the type of trails were prioritized by selection of the top two choices among five (5) characterizations of trails. *Paved trails for walking, biking, etc.* (67.0%) and *trails that link neighborhoods with community destinations* (63.8%) ranked in the top two choices above *trails that link other existing trails* (34.0%), *trails that extend long distances 5+ miles* (21.3%) and *nature trails* (14.9%). A small number of responses (4.3%) chose *no additional trails are needed*.

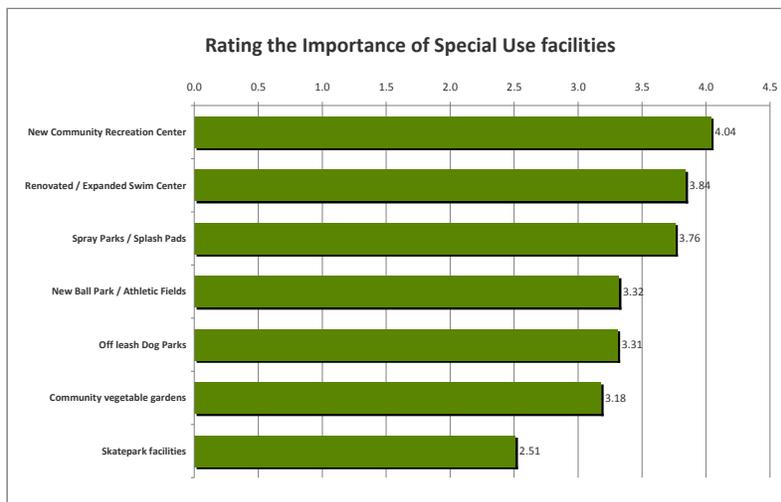


Among a listing of parks, trails and recreation services provided by the City of Fife, residents were asked to assign a high, medium or low priority ranking to ten potential future actions (Q21). A high priority among 74.2% of the responses was assigned to maintaining existing parks and trails. The development of recreation programs for children and youth also received a high priority ranking among the majority of residents (58.9%).

City of Fife: Parks & Rec Plan Update
Community Survey 2013
 Summary Results



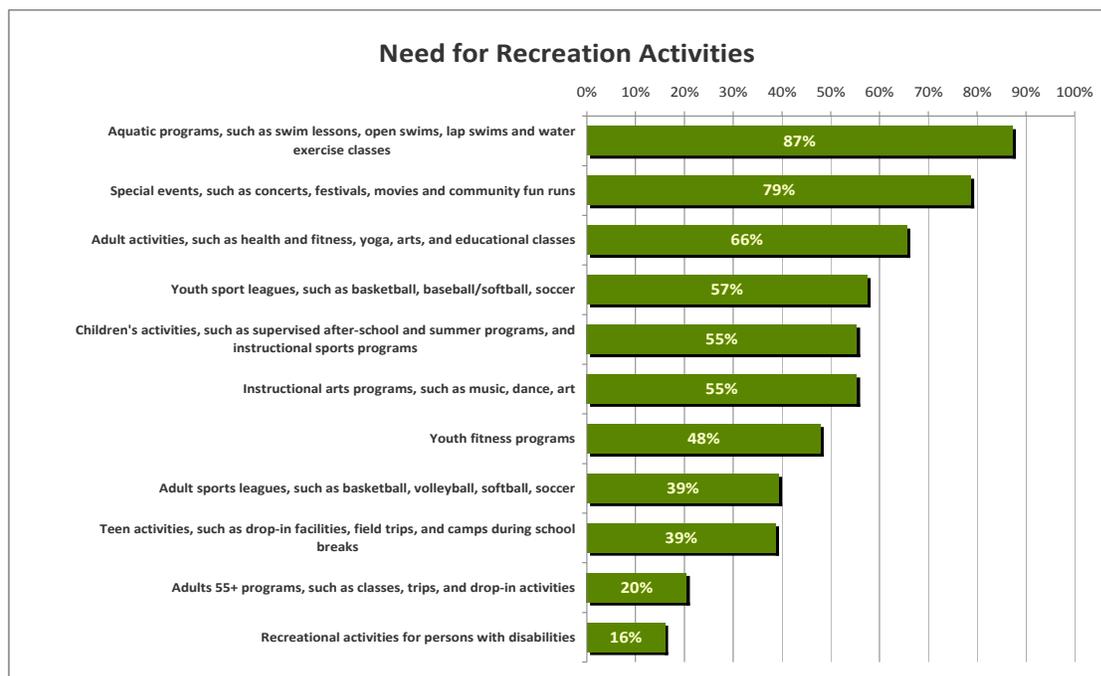
Next, residents were asked to rank the importance for the City of Fife to provide several different special use facilities using a scale of 1 (very important) to 5 (not important at all). The results were spread across the range of importance with the assignment of very important being given to new community recreation center (47.9%), renovated/expanded swim center (39.4%) and spray parks/splash pads (36.6%) showing the strongest preferences.



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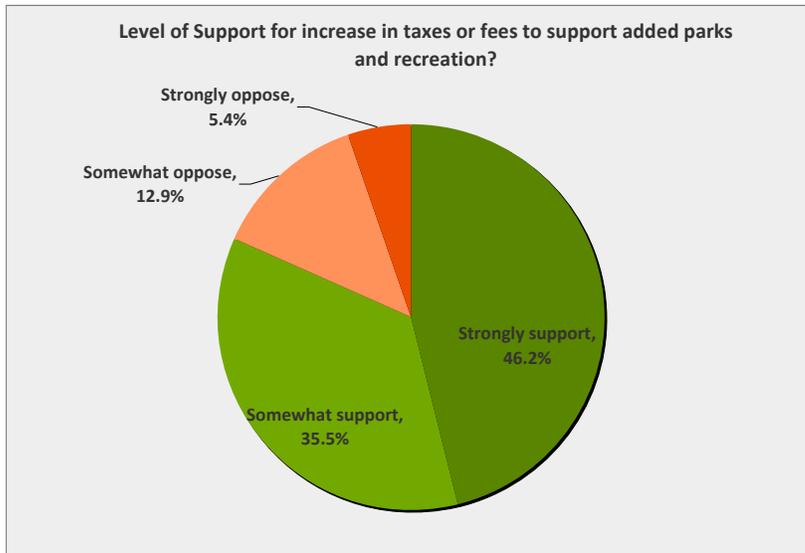
A listing of recreation options was offered with a “yes” or “no” question (Q23) regarding the need for activities for members of the household. The chart below indicates the “yes” answers for each listed option with the most frequent positive answer arranged from top to bottom. A strong desire for aquatic programs such as swim lessons, open swims, lap swims and water exercise classes was expressed by 87.1% residents expressing a need (“yes”) for this program. Special events were also strongly needed by 79.6% “yes” responses among the eleven options. The majority of residents also expressed a need for adult health and fitness activities (66.3%), youth sport leagues (57%), children’s activities (55%) and instructional arts programs (55%).



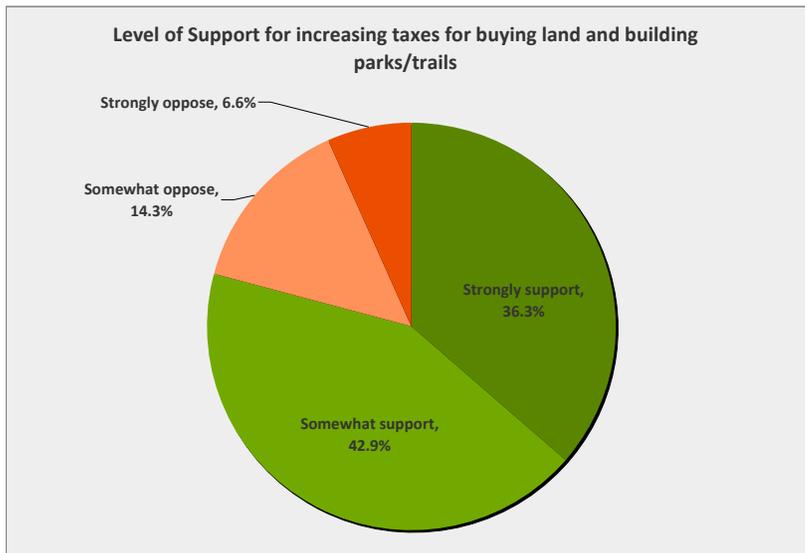
Support for Funding

Finally, residents were informed that maintaining existing parks and providing recreation activities, programs and facilities in Fife to meet the needs of residents might increase costs. Funding might have to come from taxes and user fees. Residents were asked for their level of support for an increase in taxes or fees to fund additional recreation activities, programs and facilities. Among the majority (82.6%) of supportive responses, 46.7% were *strongly supportive* and 35.9% were *somewhat supportive*. Only 5.4% were *strongly opposed* to any increase in taxes or fees.

City of Fife: Parks & Rec Plan Update
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Residents were informed that buying land for future parks and natural spaces, building new parks, and building trails may require funding through additional taxes. Residents were asked to indicate their level of support for an increase in taxes to fund acquisition and construction of parks, open space and trails. The majority of residents (78.9%) were supportive of an increase in taxes for these efforts, with 36.7% being strongly supportive and 42.2% being somewhat supportive. An indication of strong opposition to any increase was expressed by 6.7% of the residents.



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Open Ended Responses

Q14. Which recreation activities, programs, or facilities would you most like to see offered or continued to be offered in Fife for you and your household? Please try and be specific.

More outdoor running events like Puyallup has.

Spray park, new community center,

I don't get off until 6:00 in Tacoma and really just don't have much interest in programs after work.

Keep pool open---add more trails IE connect Wedge Park to play fields at Columbia Jr High----extend Interurban trail to CJH

Some place for families to go and relax and hang out. A place like Java Billiards would be great!

Parks

Sports, Baseball, Softball, for all ages of course

More times for toddler activities and swim lessons

Workout facilities

I find the current slate of programming to be varied and interesting - it just a matter of finding the time in my own schedule to participate. Mostly I find myself envious of the programs I can't take advantage of!

No sure

Exercise and art classes

Better soccer and baseball fields, parks with bigger play toys for older kids

We would love a dog park or longer walking paths

Soccer and swimming

Adult softball, kickball

Adult Zumba, hip hop, belly dancing, kick boxing

Ping pong, tennis, bocce ball, volleyball

Trails for walking or riding. More parks that take more advantage of natural settings (I.e. Picnic tables with views of river /creek, view of Mt. Rainier).

I'm not sure because I'm unaware of what offered. There is a complete breakdown of advertisement and communication to the residents.

Splash / Spray ground in Fife so we don't have to drive to Tacoma.

I would like to see a spray ground, more creative and athletic extra curricular activities and programs for kid's age 12-17, some sort of bike park with bike trails and exercise stations, a skate park, also life guard training programs at the Fife pool for ages 13-18, with Wild waves near by it would help prepare kids for summer lifeguard jobs, the children of Fife also need more sidewalks to ride their bikes safely to these places ,it seems like Fife is geared more towards casinos and smoke shops, I think the community center should offer babysitting courses and a teen mentoring program where the teens could mentor younger kids, also a prom once a year for the Jr high and High school kids at the community center

We would like to see a bigger pool. Better/improved parks. And definitely splash/spray parks. We currently have to travel a ways to other cities.

Swim. Larger facility that clubs could have shows and get-togethers building space of 8000 sq. Ft. So they could rent it. To rent buildings at the Puyallup fair grounds and others are too expensive for smaller clubs to rent but these club shows bring in people who will rent motel rooms and to get food.

Water park similar to the Auburn Rotary water park

I like the kid stuff at the community center. I want to get my kids in more classes, but time is a factor for us

City of Fife: Parks & Rec Plan Update Community Survey 2013 Summary Results

(because they won't give up swimming!).

More for little kids, like 0-5.

Bike trails

Exercise classes at night

Gym at community center. Splash park

Baseball/softball for all ages not just kids.

Swimming lessons continued ,smaller class sizes more classes offered for young children aged 3-6 and more convenient time

The use of Dacca fields for more local baseball and softball, not renting out the fields for out of city leagues and teams. Its pathetic that our children have to use the crappy lower Milton, Surprise Lake fields that are crap, but the out of town teams get first chance at the Dacca fields. That land was "donated" for youth sports, but was not donated for other communities and teams with more money to use while the children in the community use the other very poor fields. We need to put "OUR" children ahead of out of city teams. Yes we all know that the city makes good money renting them out, but they were meant to be used by the community for the community not profit!!!!!!!

Fife needs a really fun and age appropriate summer program for working parents. I have been taking my son to the SeaTac Community Center summer program because my son is very active and is bored at the Fife Summer Camp. We also need a family community center with a lot more options for families, adults and kids and the cost needs to be reasonable and more classes offered in the evenings and weekends.

For children under 5.

Cheerleading/ballet/drama/dance/Lego club/breakfast w/Santa

Swimming, basketball

I just wish that there were later evening classes or programs so that the working family can participate

Swimming lessons, kids sports, reading incentive programs for children.

Recreation center with an indoor track, basketball courts for walking, intramural sports programs and work out center.

All are awesome

Yoga

Better dog park

Swim lessons

Summer camp, recreation center, pool, farmer's market

Children's club sports. Adult recreation

Kids activities, 4th July , harvest fest. Farmers Market

Would like a dog park

Swim center, more organized outdoor sports for older adults like softball leagues or other

I would like to see more classes for adults.

The recreation center could use a remodel. We mostly use the parks around CJH and Dacca.

Aquatics

Swimming

Would like to see Self Defense classes for women and children

Jr camp counselor program

Please continue the summer camp. More kids night out during the week day.

City of Fife: Parks & Rec Plan Update Community Survey 2013 Summary Results

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Children's sports or youth group

More playgrounds with more toys and slides for kids to play on

Sports

Swimming Lessons at the Fife Pool (continue), Hiking day trips (weekends maybe), Farmer's Market (better times, current market is during work hours), Couples Dance Lesson (Friday nights), and Children's Dance/gymnastics (weekend times), continued education classes (Microsoft Excel/Access classes at library)

Farmers market

Swimming and more younger kids classes, dance and gymnastics

Things teen girls would want to do- swimming, art, martial arts, babysitting class, teen outreach (confidence building programs)

Piano lessons for kids

A big brother program would be nice for boys that have lost their dads

Martial arts

Off Leash Dog Park, Skate Park, Rock Climbing Wall, Bicycle Trails, Creative Art Pieces, Community Based Festivals, Sports Leagues, Awesome Playground Equipment for Kids

I think they need a newer/modern Community Center/Senior Center. It is not a very spacious place, and getting around the building is difficult in a wheelchair.

Very excited to see Zumba being offered this fall on another night from Mondays. A Weight Watcher's meeting group. A book club. A spin room/class.

Only thing I'm aware of is pool

Gym facilities, yoga programs

Swimming, photography (especially with the parks and all the new artwork)

Low income swim lessons

BBQ, polar bear swim, and rock wall, fun runs, beginner skate park but not just wooden ramps...like the sections at Sprinkler

WIC

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Appendix C: Community Meeting Summary



MEETING NOTES

PROJECT NUMBER: #13-044PLN ISSUE DATE: August 18, 2013
PROJECT NAME: Fife Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan

RECORDED BY: Steve Duh
TO: FILE
PRESENT: Members of the Public
Staff from City of Fife
Project Team Members from Conservation Technix

SUBJECT: PROS Plan Update: Open House Meeting Notes (08/17/13)

Community members were invited to an open house on Saturday, August 17, 2013 at 7 p.m. at Dacca Park in downtown Fife. The project team prepared informational displays covering four major themes for parks and recreation. These display stations included Indoor Recreation, Parks & Recreation Priorities, Trails, and Parks & Natural Areas. Attendees were encouraged to complete the online community survey, which was available via two computers provided by the project team.

City staff and project team staff engaged with participants to explore current issues, needs and interests related to park and recreation services.

DISPLAY STATION COMMENTS

The following represents a summary of the comments received.

General Comments

- Extend the Interurban Trail into town
- Consider more walking areas for local employees
- Add more paths/trail - find ways to cross the railroad tracks
- Have safer walking loops
- Make more trail connections
- Add more sidewalks and riding (bicycle) paths
- More parks and sport fields (baseball & soccer)
- Expand the aquatic center for greater use/variety (especially for winter months)
- Add more times for swim lessons (Saturdays)
- What is the status of SR-167
- Why didn't the City use one-time funding for red light cameras?

Priorities Voting Board (tally of dots)

- 6 – Water spray park or splash pad
- 3 – Expand and/or renovate the Swim Center
- 3 – Multi-use paved trails
- 2 – Picnic shelters and playgrounds
- 1 – Improve and/or enhance existing parks
- 1 – Additional or synthetic turf sport fields

PROS Plan Update: Open House Meeting Notes (08/17/13)

Fife Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan

Project Number #13-044PLN

Page 2

Comments on Trails & Bikeways Map

- Have a separate bridge for pedestrians/bikes across the Puyallup River (separate from a future bridge for vehicles)
- Connect more trails through Radiance from the river trail into the central part of town (i.e., Dacca Park)
- Extend the Puyallup River trail toward downtown Tacoma trail

Every effort has been made to accurately record this meeting. If any errors or omissions are noted, please provide written response within five days of receipt.

-- *End of Notes* --

cc: Kurt Reuter
File

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Appendix D: Community Outreach Materials

Up to **\$450** Reward
for your auto, boat and RV loans

New and used
Auto Loan
rates as low as
2.99%
fixed rate

RV Loans
rates as low as
4.49%
fixed rate

Boat Loans
rates as low as
5.49%
fixed rate

*APR = Annual Percentage Rate.
Some restrictions apply.
See TwinStarCU.com for
complete details.



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NEWS BRIEFS

Published in the **Fife Free Press**
Tuesday, 6 August 2013

RUMMAGE SALE FOR A CAUSE

Help support local leukemia patient Elisha Imbert by attending a rummage sale Aug. 10-11 at the Milton Activity Center. All proceeds will support Elisha in her battle, as she undergoes treatment away from home at the MD Anderson Cancer Hospital in Houston. Organizers are accepting donations of furniture, clothes, books, small appliances and more. Other donations such as frequent flyer miles and cash are also greatly appreciated. The sale runs all day Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Milton Activity Center is located at 1000 Lauren St. in Milton.

HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF YOUR PARKS, TRAILS AND RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

The City of Fife has initiated the update of its Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan previously adopted in 2008. The involvement of Fife residents plays an important role in guiding the plan update and direction for how outdoor recreation spaces are acquired, connected and managed to contribute to the community's character. An open house on Aug. 17 at Dacca Park beginning at 7:30 p.m. will launch the public conversation on the parks plan update. This outdoor open house will immediately precede the Movie in the Park showing of Rise of the Guardians that will start at dusk. Please attend to hear more about this project and share your visions for the future of Fife's park and recreation services.

The open house will provide a variety of ways to gather and record your feedback. Community members will have the opportunity to offer direct comments and opinions. Activities will be available for children to participate in sharing their ideas as well. This is the first public meeting for the parks and recreation plan update and will help set a community direction for the Fife parks, recreation and trail system.

Fife has experienced significant growth since the adoption of its last parks system plan. As such, the Plan needs to be revised to address community demands and opportunities for local recreation experiences. The Parks Plan will guide the City's efforts and establish a way forward for providing high quality, community-driven parks, trails, open spaces and recreational opportunities throughout Fife. The Plan will include a vision for the City's park and recreation system, a capital improvements program, and implementation strategies for parks, open spaces and trails.

In addition to the August open house, other opportunities for residents to participate include a community survey, public meetings and community stakeholder discussions. This process will provide the City with opportunities to identify and best serve the recreational needs of our growing community over the next 6 to 10 years. Completion of the Parks and Recreation Plan update is targeted for early next year.

Facebook Content

 **City of Fife, Washington** shared a link.
Yesterday

What will our Parks look like in the years to come? What do YOU want to see, and what do YOU need? Tell us!

Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan Survey
www.surveymonkey.com

Dear Fife Community Member: The City of Fife is conducting a short survey to assess the recreational needs of the community as part of an update to the City's Parks and Recreation Plan. The new Plan will establish a way forward for providing high quality, community-driven

Like · Comment · Share

 Jennifer Brooks Chapman, Holly Hobucket and Brian Brozovic like this.

 **Kjersti M Humphreys** it would be great if we could have a free small splash park like Auburns Les Gove park. i hate having to drive all the way there for the kids to play in the water 😊

1 · Yesterday at 10:27am via mobile

 **City of Fife, Washington** Great suggestion! Take the survey and make sure you add that!

Yesterday at 10:28am

 **Tara Jean Cochran** not a lot of cement in them. keep it green and use bark, pebbles, sand, or packed dirt for pathways.

Yesterday at 1:59pm

 **City of Fife, Washington** Great feedback! Please take the survey and comment in that. Thanks!

1 · 23 hours ago

Recommendations See All

 **Diana Armstrong**
Great community center. Friendly staff and cool events thro...
over a year ago

 **Doug Fagundes**
Fife has one of the Best School Districts that I have ever he...
3 · over a year ago

 **City of Fife, Washington**
July 31

The Fife Parks & Rec Open Space Plan needs your input! Join us for a community open house and give us your feedback! Saturday, August 17th, beginning at 7:30 p.m. and will be held at Dacca Park immediately before the Movie in the Park event.



Like · Comment · Share

 Brian Brozovic, Darel Roa and 2 others like this.



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Parks System Plan

Parks And Recreation

Adult Programs

Camps

City Parks

Community Services

Facility Rental

Family Trips And Classes

Fife Swim Center

Harvest Festival

Library

Meet Our Instructors

Parks System Plan

Picnic Shelter Rentals

Registration Information

Services For Senior Adults

Special Events

Staff

Teen Programs

Youth Programs

Online Guide for...
Residents

Online Guide for...
Businesses

Online Guide for...
Visitors

City of Fife Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan

Please take a survey on the future of Fife's Parks

Take the [Fife Parks Survey](#).

How can Fife Parks & Recreation meet your family's recreation needs? You can help us forge a plan for the next 20 years!

The city has started an update of its Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Plan previously adopted in 2008. The PROS Plan will guide the City's efforts and establish a road map for providing high quality, community-driven parks, trails, open spaces and recreational opportunities throughout Fife. The Plan will include a vision for the City's park and recreation system, goals and objectives, and implementation strategies for parks, recreation, open spaces and trails.

Citizen input is absolutely crucial to make sure program goals and priorities are consistent with community needs and desires. There will be several opportunities for residents to participate, including an online survey, public meetings and community stakeholder discussions. This process gives us an excellent opportunity to identify ways in which to best serve the recreational needs of our growing community over the next 6 to 10 years.

Fife has experienced significant growth since the 2008 adoption of the last PROS plan, and it needs to be revised to address community demands and opportunities for local recreation experiences. View the current [City of Fife Parks & Recreation Open Space Plan \(2008\)](#).

Final review and adoption of the PROS Plan update tentatively is scheduled for February 2014.

Community Open House Summary

Community members were invited to an open house on Saturday, August 17, 2013 at 7 p.m. at Dacca Park to offer direct comments and feedback about the future of parks, trails and recreation services. The project team prepared informational displays covering four major themes for parks and recreation. These display stations included Indoor Recreation, Parks & Recreation Priorities, Trails, and Parks & Natural Areas. Attendees were encouraged to complete the online community survey, which is accessible from the link at the top of this page.

Preliminary Concepts of Senn Park:

- [Summary Notes](#)
- [Informational Display Boards](#)
- [Draft Citywide Parks, Trails and Natural Area Maps](#)

Check back soon for more information about public meetings and progress updates

For questions or more information about the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan, please contact Kurt Reuter at kreuter@cityoffife.org or (253) 896-8641.

As available, additional information will be added to include:

- *Posting of meeting notes from public meetings*
- *Link to online community survey*
- *Posting of draft and final documents, including survey results*

Fife Community Center



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Appendix E: Design Considerations

Park and Trail Design Considerations for Private Facilities

The following is informational only and does not constitute specific requirements of the city on private developers. It is intended to offer direction and guidance toward the future design, development, re-development and maintenance of publicly-accessible, privately-constructed and/or privately-maintained park and trail facilities.

The following are consistent with the park development standards outlined in the Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan and can provide guidance for negotiating facility development opportunities in situations when private entities propose development in-lieu of payment of Park Impact Fees and/or for other, alternative arrangements.

All newly developed parks and trails shall adhere to the Final Guidelines for Outdoor Developed Areas as set forth by the United States Access Board.

Neighborhood Park Design Considerations

Minimum Suggested Amenities

Amenity	Considerations
Playground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum of 4,000 sq.ft. play area Equipment should be suitable for and developmentally-appropriate for toddlers and elementary school-aged children Playground should be ADA Accessible and play equipment should be ADA Compliant
Loop Walking Path	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum 8' wide ADA-compliant surface to accessible elements (benches, tables, play area) Pathway slope not to exceed 5% grade or no more than 8% for more than 30 lineal feet without switchbacks or railings
Picnic Tables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum of 2, with 1 meeting ADA-compliance as outlined by ADAAG for access, height, type, etc.
Benches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum of 2, with 1 meeting ADA-compliance as outlined by ADAAG for access, height, type, etc.
Open turf area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide at least 15% of total lawn area with irrigation, preferably adjacent to the play area
Landscaping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide at least 4 shade trees near play area New trees and shrubs should be irrigated for a minimum of 2 years until established
Bicycle Racks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum of 2
Trash Receptacles & Dog Waste Disposal Stations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum of 2 each

Additional, Acceptable Amenities

Amenity	Considerations
Picnic shelter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum of 400 sq.ft.
Sport field	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Practice level for youth soccer, T-ball, baseball and/or softball (sized to each sport's standard)
Sport court	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ½ court basketball court
Tennis court	
Alternative recreation court	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Such as bocce ball, horseshoes, lawn bowling, pickleball
Skate spot	
Disc golf course	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum 9 baskets
Sprayground	
Natural area	
Water feature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Such as a passive water-based amenity that provides a visual focal point, i.e. fountains, ponds, or waterfalls
Restroom	
Drinking fountain	
Utilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Automatic Irrigation, Electricity, Water
Parking	

Trail Development Standards

Trails should be constructed according to City Specifications. It is recommended that trail layout and surfacing materials be approved by the City and meet the following requirements:

- Trail width should be a minimum of 8 feet wide
- Surfacing should be appropriate to the location; paved asphalt or concrete is recommended for upland areas, and crusher waste or boardwalks are appropriate in lowland, wet or sensitive areas (City codes shall apply)
- Hard-surfaced trails should comply with ADAAG guidelines for slope and cross-slope; soft-surfaced trails should include properly placed and designed water bars or other surface water management techniques to minimize run-off and erosion.
- Entry signage should be provided at trailheads or access points, and boundary signage should be placed, as appropriate, to demarcate sensitive edges or private property boundaries.
- Trash receptacles and dog waste disposal stations should be provided at trailheads

Maintenance and Operations Standards

General Standards

Grounds

- Grounds are mowed and trimmed.
- Park is free of litter, debris and hazards.

Pathways

- Pathways have a uniform surface and are level with the ground and free of trip hazards.
- Pathways are free of litter and debris.
- Pathways have unobstructed accessibility, i.e. free from low and protruding limbs, guide wires, etc.
- Pathways are neatly edged.
- Pathways are clear of weeds and grass growth in cracks and expansion joints.

Signage

- Park identification signs are secure and properly installed in a noticeable location.
- Handicap parking signs (as applicable) are secure, visible and to city code.
- Signs are clean, painted and free of protrusions.

Ornamental Plants & Landscaping

- Plants are healthy.
- Plant beds are free of litter, debris, and weeds.
- Plant selection is appropriate for season and area usage.

Playgrounds

Play Equipment

- Play equipment and surrounding play areas meet ASTM and National Playground Safety Institute standards.
- Play equipment and hardware is intact.
- Play equipment is free of graffiti.
- Age appropriateness for the play equipment is noted with proper signage.
- Shade structure is secure and free from tears, if applicable.
- Play equipment manuals and model numbers are to be retained by the owner.

Surfacing

- Fall surface is clean, level and free of litter and debris.

- Fall surface meets ASTM and National Playground Safety Institute standards.
- Fall surface is well drained.
- Rubber cushion surfaces are free of holes and tears.
- Rubber cushion surfaces are secure to the base material and curbing.
- Fall surface is in compliance with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Borders

- Playground borders are well defined and intact.
- Playground borders meet ASTM and National Playground Safety Institute standards.
- Decks
- Planks are intact, smooth, structurally sound, free of splinters and have no cracks greater than ¼ inch.
- Nails, bolts or screws are flush with the surface.
- Planks are level with no excessive warping.

Fixtures

Benches

- Slats are smooth and structurally sound.
- Hardware is intact and structurally sound.
- Nails, bolts or screws are flush with the surface.
- Seats and backing are smooth with no protrusions and have no exposed sharp edges or pointed corners.

Tables

- Tables are clean, free of rust, mildew and graffiti.
- Table hardware is intact.
- Table frames are intact and slats are properly secured.
- Table seats and tops are smooth with no protrusions and have no exposed sharp edges or pointed corners.

Trash Receptacles

- Receptacles are clean; Area around trash receptacles is clean and free of trash and debris.
- Wood receptacles are painted and free of damage or missing parts; hardware for wood receptacles is intact.
- Concrete receptacles are intact and free of cracks or damage.

Sport Courts

Surfacing

- Surface is smooth, level and well drained with no standing water.
- Surface is free of large cracks, holes and trip hazards.
- Surface is painted and striped as per court specifications.
- Worn painted surfaces do not exceed 20% of total court surface.
- Surface is free of litter, debris, gravel and graffiti.

Goals and Backboards

- Goals and backboards are level with hardware intact and painted as appropriate.
- Nylon nets are properly hung and are not torn or tattered.
- Support poles are secure in the ground and straight.

Restrooms

- Restrooms are clean, sanitary and properly stocked with paper products.
- Lights and ventilation systems are operational.
- Toilets, water faucets, stall doors and hand air dryers are operational.
- Restrooms are free of graffiti.
- Restroom doors are properly marked according to gender.
- Restrooms have clean trash receptacles.
- Restroom doors and locks are operational.
- Restrooms are in compliance with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Additional Resources

Consultant's Guide to Park Design and Development; Park and Recreation Department, City of San Diego, CA.
<http://www.sandiego.gov/park-and-recreation/pdf/consultantguide.pdf>

Design Standards for Park and Trail Development (Specifications); Park and Recreation Department, City of Bellingham, WA.
<http://www.cob.org/government/rules/guidelines/park-design-standards.aspx>

Final Guidelines for Outdoor Developed Areas – United States Access Board <http://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/recreation-facilities/outdoor-developed-areas>

Handbook for Public Playground Safety - National Product Safety Commission. <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/pubs/325.pdf>

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Appendix F: Funding Options

Federal & State Funding & Conservation Programs

Recreation and Conservation Office Grant Programs

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office

www.rco.wa.gov

The Recreation and Conservation Office (formerly the Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation (IAC)) was created in 1964 as part of the Marine Recreation Land Act (Initiative 215). 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 and 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. Certain state agencies may also apply for funding in natural areas, critical habitat, and state parks categories. Funds for local agencies are awarded on a matching basis. Grant applications are evaluated once each year. However, in 1999, the RCO limited project review in odd-numbered years to local park acquisition. 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 outdoor facilities, including parks, trails, and wildlife lands, for the public. 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.

Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

www.nrcs.usda.gov/PROGRAMS/wrp/

The WRP provides landowners the opportunity to preserve, enhance, and restore wetlands and associated uplands. The program is voluntary and provides three enrollment options: permanent easements, 30-year easements, and 10-year restoration cost-share agreements. In all cases, landowners retain the underlying ownership in the property and management responsibility. Land uses may be allowed that are compatible with the program goal of protecting and restoring the wetlands and associated uplands. The NRCS manages the program and may provide technical assistance.

Washington State Ecosystems Conservation Program (WSECP)

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

This WSCEP was established in 1990 and is divided into federal- and state-managed components. The federal program focuses funds on projects that help restore habitat for threatened, endangered and sensitive species and, secondarily, for species of concern. In addition, the program attempts to concentrate funds within a limited number of watersheds to maximize program benefits. The program provides funds to cooperating agencies or organizations. These grants, in turn, can be distributed among project sites. The program requires a 50% cost-share from cooperating agencies, and individual landowners at project sites must enter into maintenance/management agreements that have a 10-year minimum duration.

Community Development Block Grants

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

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.

Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21)

Pierce County Regional Council

Federal transportation funding for trail projects is available from the Surface Transportation Program (STP) of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21), which provides increased spending “flexibility” to state and local governments to meet each state’s transportation needs provides. STP funding is available for eligible projects in the following categories: regional competition, statewide competition, transportation enhancements and safety. The purpose of the Enhancements program is to address non-traditional transportation investments such as bicycle and pedestrian facilities, scenic and historic highway programs and rehabilitation/operation of historic transportation facilities. The Pierce County Regional Council serves as the countywide board in the allocation of some federal transportation grant funds to projects within Pierce County, through the Puget Sound Regional Council. The source of funds for TEA-21 is the Highway Trust Fund, whose major source of income is the federal motor fuel taxes of 18.4 cents per gallon of gasoline.

Local Funding Options

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 legislature has set a maximum debt limit for councilmanic bonds of one and one-half percent of the value of taxable property in the city.

Revenue Bonds

Revenue bonds are sold with the intent of paying principal and interest from revenue generated by the improvement, such as fees and charges. For example, revenue bonds might be sold to fund a public water system that will generate revenue through utility charges to customers. Other funds may be dedicated to assist with repayment; however, it is desirable to have the improvements generate adequate revenue to pay all bond costs. Limits on the use and amount of revenue bonds are generally market-driven through investor faith in the adequacy of the revenue stream to support bond payments.

Excess Levy

Washington law allows cities and counties, along with other specified junior taxing districts, to levy property taxes in excess of limitations imposed by statute when authorized by the voters. Levy approval requires 60 percent majority vote at a general or special election. Excess levies by school districts are the most common use of this authority.

General Obligation Bonds

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.

Impact Fees

<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=82.02.050>

Impact fees are charges placed on new development as a condition of development approval to help pay for various public facilities the need for which is directly created by that new growth and development. Counties, cities, and towns 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.

Sales Tax

<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=82.14>

Washington law authorizes the governing bodies of cities and counties to impose sales and use taxes at a rate set by the statute to help “carry out essential county and municipal purposes.” The authority is divided into two parts.

Cities may impose by resolution or ordinance a sales and use tax at a rate of five-tenths of one percent on any “taxable event” within their jurisdictions. Cities may also impose an additional sales tax at a rate “up to” five-tenths of one percent on any taxable event within the city or county. In this case, the statute provides an electoral process for repealing the tax or altering the rate.

Real Estate Excise Tax

<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=82.46.010>

Washington law authorizes the governing bodies of counties and cities to impose excise taxes on the sale of real property within limits set by the statute. The authority of cities and counties may be divided into three parts relevant to park systems.

A city or county may impose a real estate excise tax on the sale of all real property in the city or unincorporated parts of the county, respectively, at a rate not to exceed 1/4 of 1% of the selling price to fund “local capital improvements,” including parks, playgrounds, swimming pools, water systems, bridges, sewers, etc. Also, the funds must be used “primarily for financing capital projects specified in a capital facilities plan element of a comprehensive plan”

A city or county may impose a real estate excise tax on the sale of all real property in the city or unincorporated parts of the county, respectively, at a rate not to exceed 1/2 of 1%, in lieu of a five-tenths of one percent sales tax option authorized under state law. These funds are not restricted to capital projects. The statute provides for a repeal mechanism.

A city or county – in counties that are required to prepare comprehensive plans under the new Growth Management Act – are authorized to impose an additional real estate excise tax on all real property sales in the city or unincorporated parts of the county, respectively, at a rate not to exceed 1/4 of 1%. These funds must be used “solely for financing capital projects specified in a capital facilities plan element of a comprehensive plan.” Pierce County offers incorporated cities access to county REET funds on a 1:1 match basis.

Real Estate Excise Tax - Local Conservation Areas

Pierce County

<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=82.46.070>

Boards of County Commissioners may impose – with majority voter approval – an excise tax on each sale of real property in the county at rate not to exceed 1% of the selling price for the purpose of acquiring and maintaining conservation areas. The authorizing legislation defines conservation areas as “land and water that has environmental, agricultural, aesthetic, cultural, scientific, historic, scenic, or low-intensity recreational value for existing and future generations...” These areas include “open spaces, wetlands, marshes, aquifer recharge areas, shoreline areas, natural areas, and other lands and waters that are important to preserve flora and fauna.”

Regular Property Tax - Lid Lift

<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=84.55.050>

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. Other limits on taxing authority remain in effect, such as the aggregate levy rate limits of \$5.90 per \$1,000 of assessed value and 1% of true and fair market value.

Conservation Futures

Pierce County

<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=84.34>

The Conservation Futures levy is provided for in Chapter 84.34 of the Revised Code of Washington. In 1991, Pierce County authorized the use of the Conservation Futures levy at a rate of \$0.0625 per \$1,000 assessed value for the purpose of acquiring rights and interest in open space, wetlands, farm, and timber lands (PCC 4.14). Conservation Futures funds are limited to acquisition purposes only.

Incentive Measures

Current Use Taxation

Pierce County's current use taxation program (PCC 18A.35.050) applies to lands in both incorporated and unincorporated areas and provides tax relief to land holders in return for maintaining their land in an undeveloped condition. Lands approved for this reduction must be so designated by an approved comprehensive plan map and processed under the comprehensive open space map and policies plan. The program derives its authority in the 1970 Washington Open Space Taxation Act (RCW 84.34), which establishes procedures for tax deferments for agricultural, timber, and open space lands. Owners of such lands may apply to be taxed according to current use, rather than true market value. When the property is removed from the program, the tax savings realized by the land owners for a period dating back up to seven years, plus interest, are collected. Tax savings dating back further than seven years may not be collected. If the removal of classification or change of use occurs in less than ten years or if the owner fails to provide two years advance notification of withdrawal, an additional 20% penalty is imposed.

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. 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.

Regulatory Measures

A variety of regulatory measures are available to local agencies and jurisdictions. Available programs and regulations include: Critical Areas Ordinance, City of Fife; State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA); Shorelines Management Program; and Hydraulic Code, Washington State Department of Fisheries and Department of Wildlife.

Other Methods & Funding Sources

Metropolitan Park District

<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=35.61>

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 voter approval (50% + 1) for creation.

Land Trusts

Land trusts are private non-profit organizations that acquire and protect special open spaces and are traditionally not associated with any government agency. Land trusts serving the region include the Cascade Land Conservancy, the Nature Conservancy and the Trust for Public Land.

Fundraising

Fundraising projects are used to support special projects and programs. Recycling drives, golf tournaments and candy sales are three examples of successful fundraising efforts.

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 fund-raising efforts can also support park, recreation or open space facilities and projects.

Business Sponsorships/Donations

Business sponsorships for youth, teen, adult and senior programs may be available throughout the year. In-kind contributions are often received, including food, door prizes and computer equipment.

Interagency Agreements

State law provides for interagency cooperative efforts between units of government. Joint acquisition, development and use of park, recreation and open space facilities has been successfully used within the city of Fife between Parks and the Fife School District.

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. Historically, some utility companies have cooperated with local governments for development of public programs such as parks and trails within utility corridors.

