Chapter 5:
Parks, Recreation & Open Space Element

CHAPTER 5: PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT

A VISION FOR PARKS

The city of Lake Stevens will create diverse recreational opportunities for all ages to enjoy parks, trails and activities and local events throughout the community and with expanded access to Lake Stevens.

INTRODUCTION

Public parks, recreational facilities and open spaces improve the quality of life for community residents by providing areas for families and friends to socialize. Parks and open spaces create natural buffers between neighborhoods and create functional corridors for humans and wildlife throughout the urban environment.

The Parks, Recreation and Open Space Element of the Comprehensive Plan ("Park Plan") establishes specific goals and policies that will help guide decision-making related to acquisition, development and improvement of facilities and lands. The Park Plan contains an inventory of the city's current parks, recreation facilities and open spaces; analyzes the city's ability to provide adequate parks, open space and recreation services; sets service standards and guidelines; and identifies implementation strategies.

PLANNING CONTEXT

State Planning

The Park Plan conforms to the Growth Management Act (GMA) (Chapter 36.70A RCW) and considers the planning criteria developed by the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO).

The GMA includes several sections relating to parks, recreation, and open spaces:

- RCW 36.70A.020(9) establishes a planning goal to "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." Capital improvements are included within the definition of "Public Facilities."

- RCW 36.70A.030 (Mandatory Element). Cities may impose impact fees for the provision of Public Facilities (including publicly owned parks, open space and recreation facilities) (RCW 36.70A.040, RCW 82.02.050). Impact fees must be based on demands on existing facilities by new development, and additional improvements required to serve new development (RCW 82.02.090).
- RCW 36.70A.070(8) requires a park and recreation element, which is consistent with the capital facilities plan element as it relates to park and recreation facilities. Furthermore, this section states, "The element shall include: (a) Estimates of park and recreation demand for at least a ten-year period; (b) an evaluation of facilities and service needs; and (c) an evaluation of intergovernmental coordination opportunities to provide regional approaches for meeting park and recreational demand."
- RCW 36.70A.150 states jurisdictions shall identify lands useful for public purposes and that includes recreation.
- RCW 36.70A.160 requires jurisdictions to "identify open space corridors within and between urban growth areas. They shall include lands useful for recreation, wildlife habitat, trails and connection of critical areas as defined in RCW 36.70A.030."

Regional Planning

The regional perspective for parks and recreation emphasizes identifying availability of lands and opportunities for parks and co-location of facilities, such as schools and parks, in support of its growth strategy including links between open space and neighborhoods.

Countywide Planning

In its General Policy Plan, Snohomish County sets goals and policies for countywide parks and recreation facilities. The county's plan empasizes the implementation of state and regional standards and gudiance. Some of the primary goals include providing access to diverse, sustainable, effective and efficient services, programs and facilities, maintaining a level of service tied to growth, preserving cultrual and historic resources, and coordination with other agencies.

Lake Stevens Planning

The Park Plan incorporates the state, regional and countywide perspectives and includes the planning elements (listed below) as recommended by the RCO, which ensures continued eligibility for grant funds administered by that agency:

- Inventory,
- Public Involvement,
- Demand & Need Analysis,
- Goals & Objectives,
- Capital Improvement Program (six year plan for acquisition, development, renovation, & restoration projects), and
- Plan Adoption.

FACILITY CLASSIFICATIONS, CHARACTERISTICS AND INVENTORY

There are many reasons for governments to provide parks, open space, recreational opportunities, cultural amenities, and trails for their citizens. Parks offer innumerable physical and psychological benefits by providing safe places for the community to exercise, recreate, meditate, and generally escape daily pressures. The city of Lake Stevens has a variety of parks ranging from small mini-parks serving a block or two to community parks designed to provide recreational opportunities to the city and beyond. In addition, special use and school parks, open spaces, and trails expand the variety of recreation areas available to the community. The inventory of parks, open spaces, and trails includes a mix of city and county facilities. Table 5.1 provides a brief description of the facilities, within or adjacent to the city of Lake Stevens, and describes the various park classifications; provides descriptions for each classification; and lists typical sizes, amenities and community service areas.

Inventory of Facilities

The following section includes an inventory of the parks, open space tracts, recreational facilities, and cultural programs and facilities found within or near the city. The city has approximately 146 acres of public parks, 10 acres devoted to special uses, 122 acres of open space and approximately seven miles of the Centennial trail (adjacent to or within city limits) in addition to approximately five miles of park trails. The numbers include city and county facilities (mini-parks, neighborhood parks and community parks), special use parks, trails and open space (undeveloped property and Native Growth Protection Areas). In addition to the public facilities described, there are approximately 145 acres of private parks and open spaces and an additional three miles of private trails that complement the city's inventory. Different homeowner's associations are responsible for these facilities created during the subdivision process for specific neighborhoods.

Community Parks

Community parks have the largest service area and attract citizens from across the community. A large size and variety of amenities characterize community parks. These parks provide a mix of informal, active, and passive recreation areas with permanent facilities. Community Parks are generally at least 10 acres, but must be large enough to provide room for multiple uses such as sports fields, a recreation center and group-use shelters alongside large open areas and playgrounds.

Table 5.1 – Park, Recreation & Open Space Classifications and Characteristics

TYPE	TYPICAL SIZE	DESCRIPTION & TYPICAL AMENITIES	TYPICAL AREA SERVED
Community Park	> 10 acres	Informal, formal, active, & passive recreation parks that serve a community with a mix of features (e.g., playgrounds, landscaping, picnic areas, trails, sports fields, structures, parking, special features, permanent restrooms, etc.)	Within 2.5 miles of residential areas
Neighborhood Park	≤ 10 acres	Informal, active, & passive recreation areas that serve adjacent residential neighborhoods that provide multi-use areas with a mix of playgrounds, landscaping, picnicking, trails, single or small sports fields, parking, restrooms, etc.	Within 1 mile of residential areas
Mini-Park	≤ 1 acre	Small public/private areas including playgrounds, landscaping, plazas, and picnic benches that serve the needs of the immediate neighborhood or commercial district	Within 1/2 mile of residential or commercial areas
School Parks	Varies	Playfields, playgrounds, sports & recreation facilities located at schools, distributed throughout the City, that may substitute for other park types and compliment the City's inventory	Varies
Special Use Parks & Facilities	Varies	Any public or private park or facility providing a unique experience or specific recreation need and/or commercial purpose distributed throughout the city	Varies
Trails & Pedestrian Facilities	Varies	Soft surface or paved trails, walking paths, sidewalks or multi-use trails for walking, hiking, and bicycling distributed throughout the city	1 multi-use trail w/in 1 mile of residential areas
Open Space	Varies	Low intensity and passive recreation areas such as Native Growth Protection Areas, greenbelts, or undeveloped areas distributed throughout the city	Varies, based on resource availability

Community parks should provide easy vehicular and pedestrian access to park users from the street network, sidewalks and bike lanes with dedicated parking areas. Community parks may benefit from multijurisdictional cooperation for facility planning, development and maintenance.

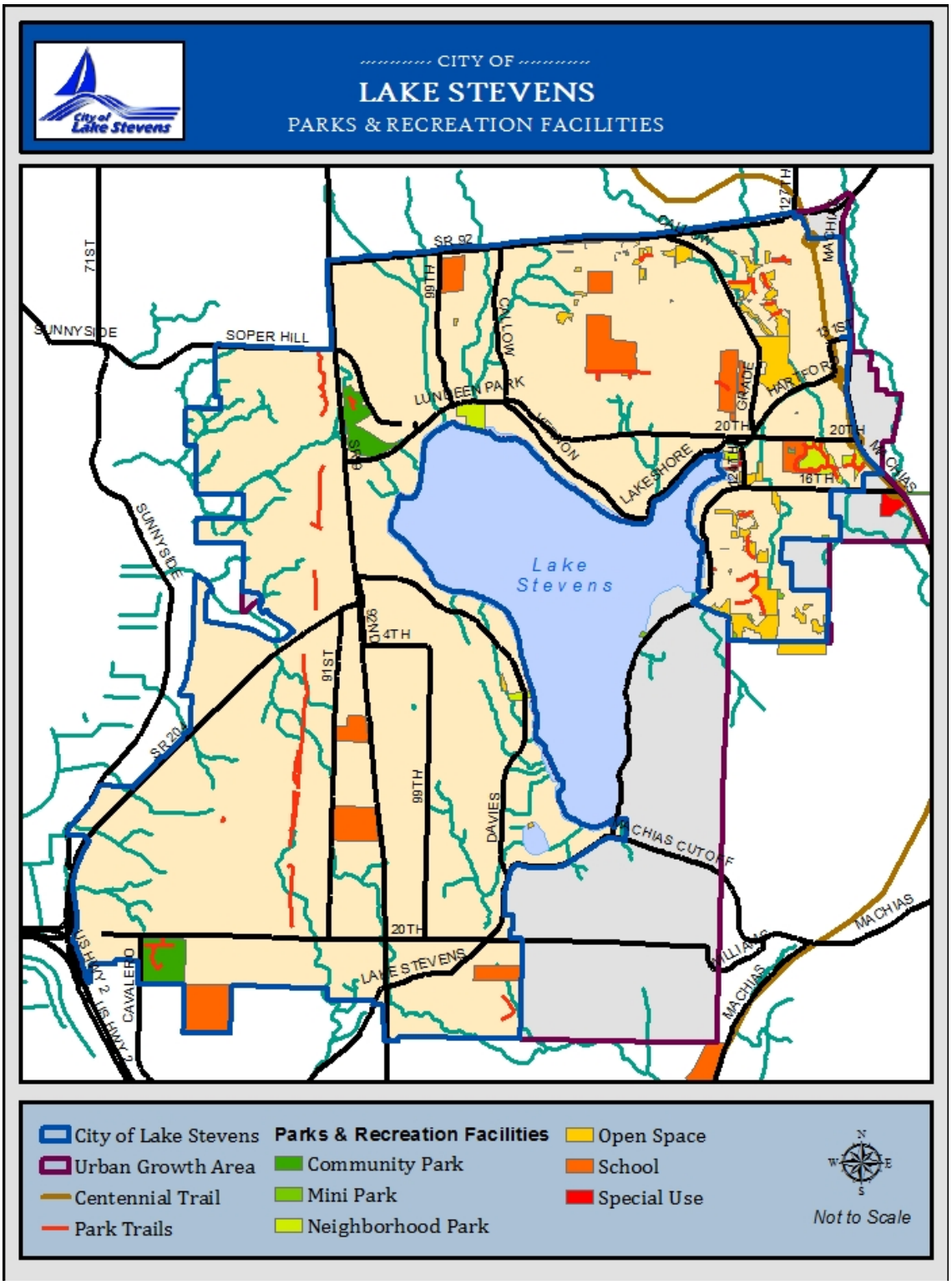

Figure 5.1 – Lake Stevens Parks & Recreation Facilities

Cavalero Community Park – The park is located off 20th Street SE, in the southwestern part of the city. Because the park has a large undeveloped area and is located within the city of Lake Stevens, the city and Snohomish County are preparing to revise the master plan for this facility through a joint planning effort in the near future. Currently Cavalero has an off-leash dog area and undeveloped open space.

Eagle Ridge Park — City Council adopted the Eagle Ridge Park Master Plan in 2010. The plan includes a capital cost estimate and a schedule to implement the Master Plan in three phases over a 10-15 year period. The master plan includes details for park development and proposed amenities and recreational opportunities. The overall vision for the park is that of an 'outdoor classroom' with both passive and active recreational activities that embrace and enhance the natural beauty of this park. Eagle Ridge currently houses the Lake Stevens Senior Center, soft trails, and open spaces. This park is notable for its eagle habitat. The master plan for this park envisions picnic shelters; a community garden; amphitheater; interconnected trails and educational features such as an interpretive center, outdoor classrooms and interpretive signage. The plan promotes the use of Low Impact Development in design and construction.

Lake Stevens Community Athletic Park

LSC Park, east of the city limits, is a 43-acre Snohomish County park. This park provides the largest athletic complex near Lake Stevens with baseball/softball fields, soccer fields and basketball courts. LSC Park also includes a picnic shelter, playground, walking path, permanent restrooms and landscaping.

Table 5.2 – Community Park Inventory

FACILITY	LOCATION	OWNER	ACRES	PICNIC SHELTER/BENCHES	PLAYGROUND	TRAIL/PATHWAY	BASKETBALL	FOOTBALL/SOCCER FIELDS	SOFTBALL/BASEBALL	VIEW CORRIDOR	RESTROOMS	COMMUNITY CENTER	OPEN SPACE	LANDSCAPING	OTHER
Cavalero Community Park	2032 79th Ave SE	Snohomish County	32.93			X				X			X		X
Eagle Ridge	2424 Soper Hill Road	City of Lake Stevens	28.20			X				X		X	X		X
Lake Stevens Community Park	1601 North Machias Rd	Snohomish County	43.24	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X	X	
		Total Acres	*104.37*												

As shown in Table 5.2, Lake Stevens Community Park provides the widest variety of recreational and active amenities. However, once Eagle Ridge and Cavalero parks are completed, each park will diversify the overall profile for community-level parks and contribute a unique set of amenities.

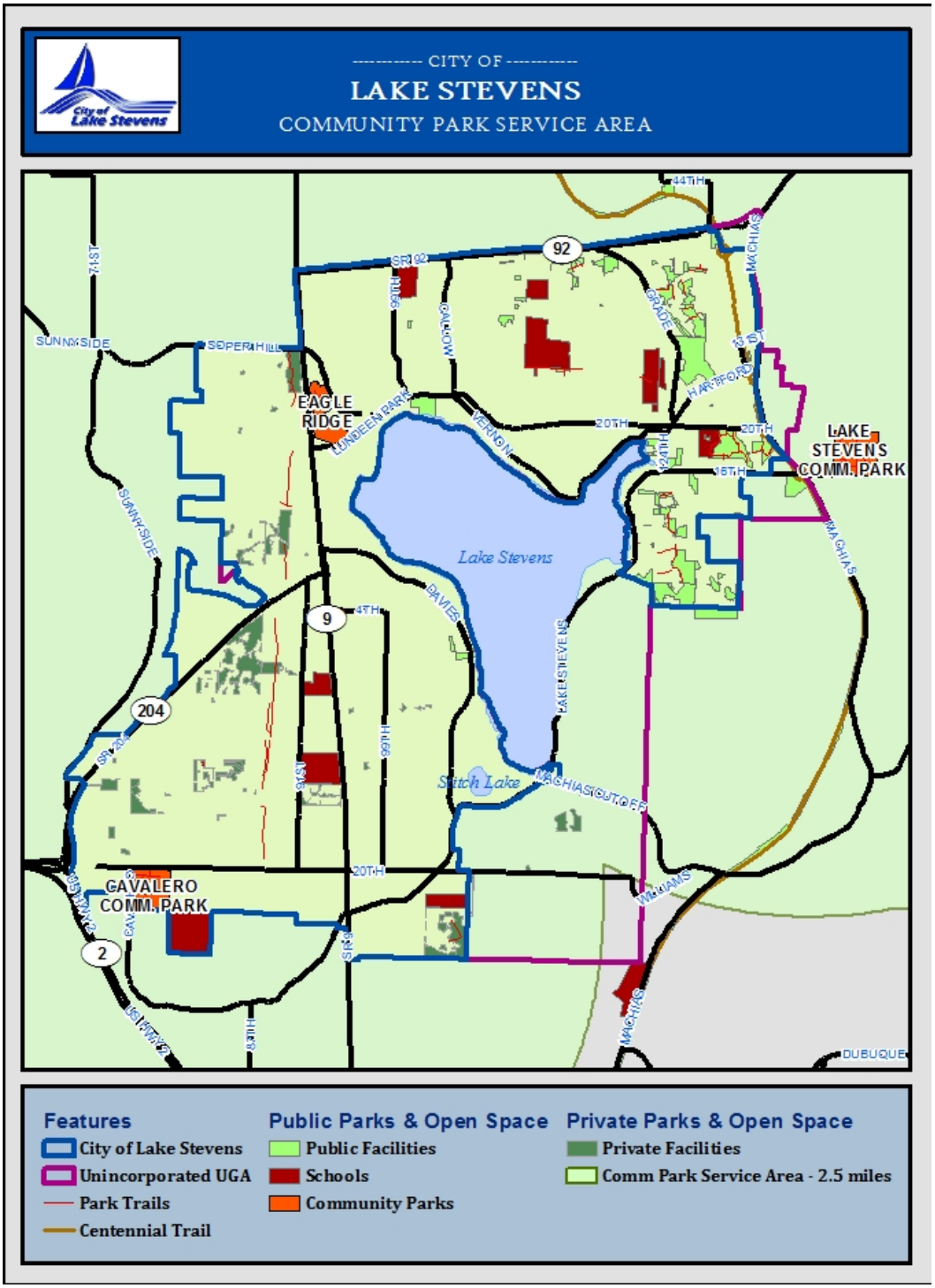

Figure 5.2 – Community Park Distribution

Planning efforts for these parks should build on the unique characteristics of the site and address underrepresented or community preferred recreational uses. Figure 5.2 illustrates the distribution of community parks within and adjacent to Lake Stevens. As shown, there is a small gap, in the service area, located in the southeastern border of the Urban Growth Area. This small gap creates a minor divergence from the service standard for community parks. This gap may need to be addressed in the future if opportunities arise to provide additional meaningful recreation lands in the vicinity. It is more important to assure that Eagle Ridge and Cavalero parks provide a mix of high-quality recreational amenities, as they develop.

Neighborhood parks

Neighborhood parks are the "backbone" of the city's parks inventory. These parks offer common gathering sites for social interaction, physical activity and play to residents from contiguous neighborhoods or a larger service area depending on amenities provided. Neighborhood parks should be located in highly visible and centralized locations that provide convenient and safe access for vehicles, pedestrians and bicyclists.

This park type often incorporates passive and active recreational opportunities as well as providing multi-purpose facilities. Neighborhood parks should include permanent restrooms and parking areas.

Catherine Creek Park – An eight-acre community park, which the city leases from the Lake Stevens School District. This park is located adjacent to Mount Pilchuck Elementary School, between 20th Street NE and 16th Street NE. The park is maintained primarily as a "natural" park with a network of trails, access to Catherine Creek, and picnic facilities. It also includes a unique disc golf course, installed and maintained by the community in 2000.

Centennial Woods Park — A 6.3 acre passive recreation park purchased in 1997 through the Snohomish County Conservation Futures grant program. This park includes trails through the site, which connect the Centennial Trail to Catherine Creek Park (with an eye on an eventual connection to downtown).

Lundeen Park – A nine-acre multi-use park located south of Lundeen Parkway at 99th Avenue NE. Facilities include a public pier, 500 feet of shoreline, swimming area, two basketball courts, a children's playground and a tot lot (Sarita's Playground), interpretive stations along a salmon-spawning creek, a caretaker's residence, public restrooms, a rinse-off shower, a covered picnic area and 98 parking spaces. The Lake Stevens Chamber of Commerce has a Visitor Center at the park.

North Cove Park – A four-acre waterfront park located at the extreme northeast end of the lake. Access is available to downtown Lake Stevens, next to the City Hall complex. The park has a 250-foot municipal boardwalk/pier (interpretation, fishing & picnicking, but no boat access), picnic tables, and two horseshoe pits. Parking facilities are shared with the City Hall complex. The city is currently planning for future expansion and development of the park.

Wyatt County Park – A three-acre regional park, formerly known as Davies Beach, located four miles from downtown, across the lake, on Davies Road. Facilities include a public boat launch, a dock (for boats), a fishing pier, a swimming area, restrooms, picnic tables, and 80 parking spaces. This park is especially busy during summer weekends.

As shown in Table 5.3, Lundeen Park provides the widest variety of amenities, notably beach access, picnic facilities and playgrounds. Both Centennial Woods and Catherine Creek provide good locations to expand nature trails and add permanent restrooms and parking areas. Many people consider North Cove Park the "heart of downtown". This Park should undergo a master planning effort to complement the "Downtown Plan" when completed. All of the neighborhood parks could expand playground facilities and add small athletic components. North Cove and Lundeen parks should continue to promote and develop water-related activities.

Table 5.3 – Neighborhood Park Inventory

FACILITY	LOCATION	OWNER	ACRES	PICNIC SHELTER / BENCHES	PLAYGROUND	TRAIL / PATHWAY	BASKETBALL	BEACH / SWIMMING	DOCK	BOAT LAUNCH	VIEW CORRIDOR	RESTROOMS	OPEN SPACE	LANDSCAPING	OTHER
Catherine Creek	12708 20th St NE	Lake Stevens School District	16.55	X		X							X		X
Centennial Woods	131st Dr NE	City of Lake Stevens	6.02			X							X		
Lundeen Park	10108 Lundeen Parkway	City of Lake Stevens	10.05	X	X		X	X	X		X	X		X	X
North Cove	Main St & North Lane	City of Lake Stevens	2.28	X		X			X		X			X	X
Wyatt Park	20 South Davies Rd	Snohomish County	2.48	X				X	X	X	X	X		X	X
Neighborhood Parks Total Acres			*37.37*												

Figure 5.3 illustrates the distribution of neighborhood-level parks within Lake Stevens. As shown, there are gaps in the services area in the southern and western part of the city. To provide equity of distribution, the city should concentrate on acquiring lands in the southern part of the city for additional neighborhood parks as opportunities arise. The gap in the western part of the city is smaller and not as crucial, as two large private parks and an informal trail network provides some recreational outlets for the neighborhoods west of SR-9.

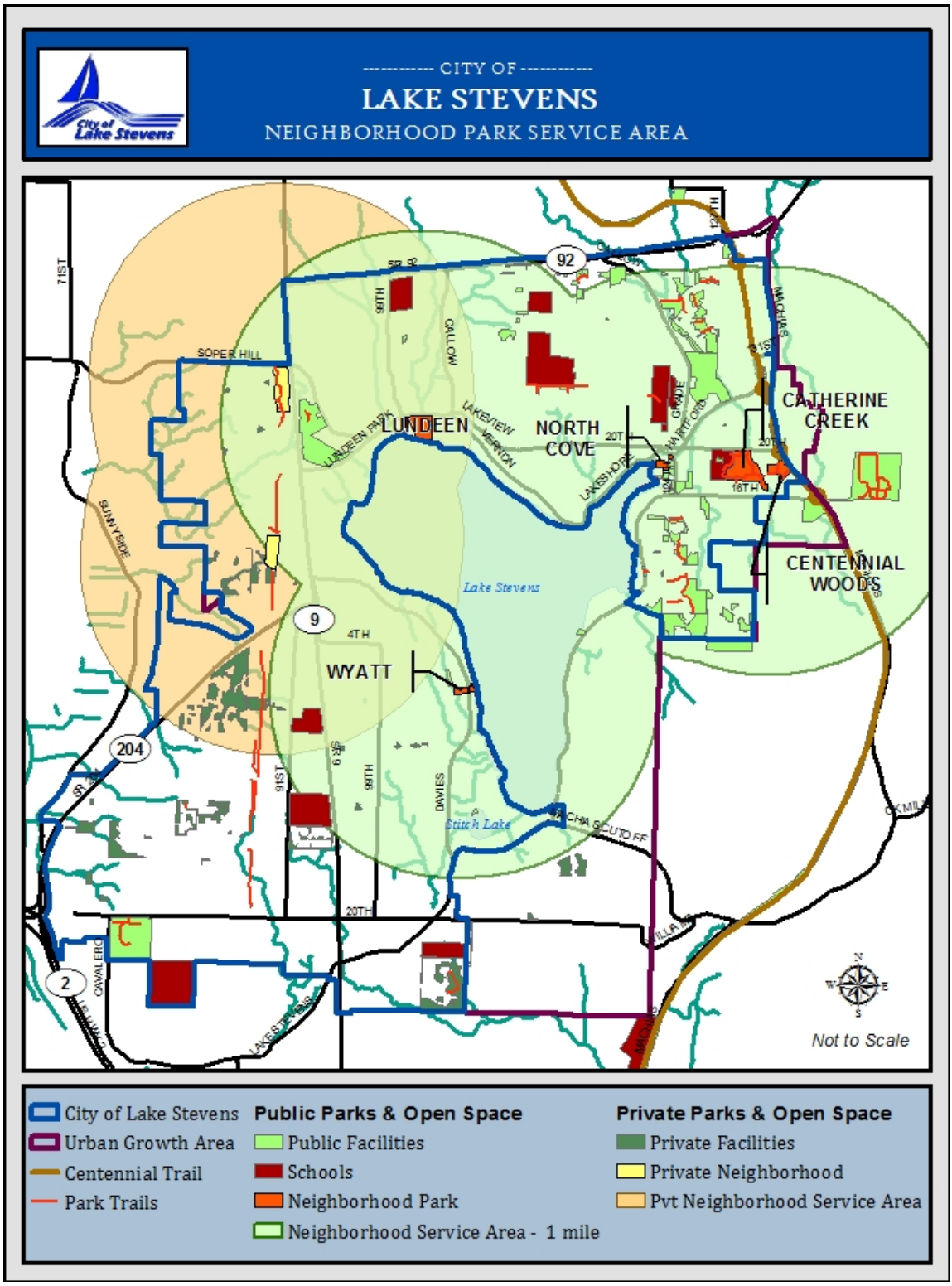

Figure 5.3 – Neighborhood Park Distribution

Mini-Parks

Mini-parks often referred to as "pocket parks" or "tot lots" are the smallest recreation sites within the park inventory. Mini-parks may be public or private. Many were created with neighborhood subdivisions. Mini-parks should be easily accessible to surrounding neighborhoods or within commercial centers. Ideally, mini-parks connect neighborhoods or commercial centers by paths, trails, sidewalks, bikeways or greenways.

Kid's Oasis Playground – A 0.5-acre playground located on the grounds of Mt. Pilchuck Elementary School. This park was built in 1992 as a community volunteer project, with help from individuals, businesses, the city and the Lake Stevens School District. The playground is a "fantasy-style" wooden castle. Parking is available in the school parking lot. Children and parents use the playground throughout the year.

North Lakeshore Swim Beach – A popular 0.5-acre waterfront park providing lake access for summertime swimmers on North Cove. This park is located approximately 0.2 miles west of downtown on North Lakeshore Drive. Facilities include 560 square feet of useable beach, a 600 square foot municipal swimming dock, a portable restroom, and 10 parking spaces.

Sunset Beach – This is a 0.25-acre, County-owned, waterfront park whose primary use is water access and picnicking. It is located 0.3 mile south of downtown on East Lake Stevens Road. Facilities include a public dock, picnic tables, and six parking spaces. This park is especially busy during the summer season.

North Lakeshore Swim Beach and Sunset Park provide parallel amenities, while Kids Oasis provides the largest community playground, as shown in Table 5.4. In addition to the public mini-parks there are approximately 18 acres of private mini-parks.

Table 5.4 – Mini-Park Inventory

FACILITY	LOCATION	OWNER	ACRES	PICNIC SHELTER/BENCHES	PLAYGROUND	TRAIL/PATHWAY	BEACH/SWIMMING	SOFTBALL/BASEBALL	DOCK	VIEW CORRIDOR	OPEN SPACE	LANDSCAPING
Mini-Park – Public												
Kids Oasis	12708 20th St NE	Lake Stevens School District	0.36		X							
North Lakeshore Swim Beach	North Lakeshore Dr	City of Lake Stevens	0.71				X		X	X		
Sunset Park	410 E Lake Stevens Rd	Snohomish County	0.60	X			X		X	X		X
Mini-Park – Created w/ Subdivisions Dedicated to the Public												
Semi-Public Mini-Parks			3.26		X	X					X	X
Mini-Park Parks Total Acres			***4.93***									

The city will continue to promote mini-parks in new neighborhoods and commercial areas as they develop, especially where gaps exist in the city, as shown in Figure 5.4.

School Parks

School parks constitute ancillary facilities, complementing the community's inventory. School parks often provide recreational needs not available at other parks, or provide similar functions as other park types. For example, elementary playgrounds provide a similar benefit to residential areas commonly met by mini-parks or neighborhood parks; whereas, middle schools and high schools may provide community-level or special-use park functions depending on available amenities. Because schools are typically located within residential neighborhoods, they are easily accessible and evenly distributed throughout the community. Additionally, school campuses provide areas for sports activities, informal recreation uses, and potentially special activities.

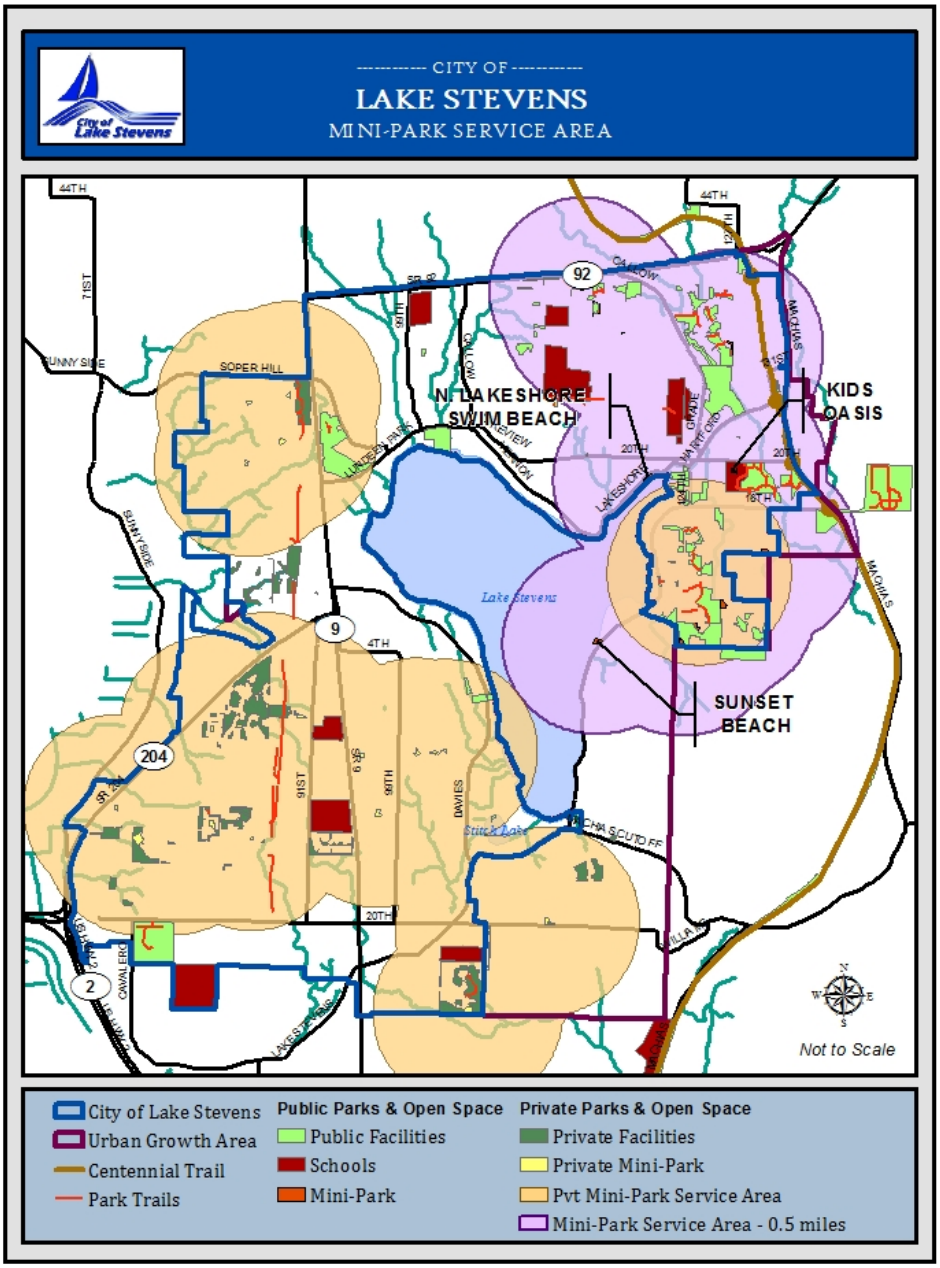

Figure 5.4 – Mini-Park Distribution

The Lake Stevens School District (LSSD) owns the largest percentage of formal recreational/athletic facilities in the city. Many of the facilities are open to the public on a regular basis. The Park Plan promotes policies, which will allow the city to participate in jointly developing and managing parks and recreational facilities with the LSSD and other providers of leisure services to ensure efficient and effective use of the community's resources, avoiding redundant services and facilities.

As described in Table 5.5, the LSSD has six elementary schools – each has playground facilities and a mix of other amenities. There are three middle schools, one mid-high school and a single high school. Each school contains a different mix of athletic fields and play courts. The high school also houses a swimming pool, open to the public, which functions as a special use site.

Table 5.5 – School Parks Inventory (LSSD)

FACILITY	LOCATION	PLAYGROUND	TRAIL/PATHWAY	BASKETBALL	TRACK	TENNIS	FOOTBALL/SOCCER FIELDS	SOFTBALL/BASEBALL	SWIMMING POOL	GYMNASIUM	OPEN SPACE
Cavelero Mid-High	8220 24th St SE		X		X	X	X	X		X	X
Centennial Middle	3000 S Machias Rd			X	X	X		X		X	X
Glenwood Elementary	2221 103rd Ave SE	X					X	X		X	X
Highland Elementary	3220 113th Ave NE	X					X	X		X	X
Hillcrest Elementary	9315 4th St SE	X		X	X			X		X	X
Lake Stevens High	2602 115th Ave NE				X	X	X	X	X	X	
Lake Stevens Middle/ Skyline Elementary	1031 91st Ave SE	X	X	X	X			X		X	X
North Lake Middle	2226 123rd Ave NE		X		X		X	X		X	X
Pilchuck Elementary	12708 20th St NE	X	X				X	X		X	X
Sunnycrest Elementary	3411 99th Ave NE	X	X	X						X	X

Open Spaces and Natural Resources

Open spaces consist of undeveloped lands, passive recreation areas or Native Growth Protection Areas, both public and private. Open spaces allow residents to engage in low-intensity and passive recreation activities such as hiking and bird/wildlife watching, while protecting natural areas and resources. Typical amenities include soft trails, boardwalks, interpretive signage and scenic views. Open space may provide habitat corridors for wildlife and links between neighborhoods for humans. Open spaces frequently buffer potentially incompatible land uses. Open space should be distributed throughout the city.

Currently, the land use code requires dedication of Native Growth Protection Areas on lands with critical areas such as wetlands, streams, and steep slopes during development. The city also requires the dedication or creation of open space as a condition of approval for some subdivisions and attached housing developments. These set asides form a large portion of the open space inventory for the city that must be managed cooperatively between the city, homeowners, homeowners' associations, other agencies and even non-profit land trusts.

The city has many natural resources with the primary resource being Lake Stevens, a 1,040-acre lake and its tributaries, which provide migration, spawning, and rearing habitat for resident and anadromous fish species. The city provides a variety of habitat niches for terrestrial and aquatic wildlife and birds; notably there are many Bald Eagles that live around the lake. Public agencies own many of these open spaces; others are dedicated through the development process or as gifts from property owners. Generally, open spaces are located in critical areas and are retained in a natural state to protect the resource. In total, the city of Lake Stevens includes nearly 124 acres of public and semi-public open space and an additional 111 acres of privately held open space. Together these areas equal approximately four percent of the city. As previously noted, much of this property is within dedicated Native Growth Protection Areas. Open spaces with the potential for passive recreation uses are listed below.

Downtown Open Spaces – Approximately five acres of open space exist between 16th Street NE and 18th Street NE, in downtown Lake Stevens. This area could be developed into a natural classroom with interpretive information, and connected by trails, sidewalks, and boardwalks.

Mill Cove Reserve Park – A one-acre passive recreation park purchased in 1997 though the Snohomish County Conservation Futures grant program. The wooded site is at the location of the historic Rucker Mill and contains wetlands and shore lands. From the site, one can see the pilings that supported the old mill over the lake. The city will continue to seek grant opportunities to finance trails, signage and other passive recreation amenities.

Grade Road/Hartford Open Space – A 25-acre open space originally purchased as a potential municipal campus site located between Grade Road and Hartford Drive. The city has not officially incorporated this site into the open space inventory. However, this site has the potential for an additional natural area for fish and wildlife habitat protection and passive recreation. Appropriate development could include boardwalks and interpretive signage. Additionally, this site could be linked to other natural sites near downtown Lake Stevens.

Trails and Pedestrian Facilities

Soft surface and paved trails, walking paths, sidewalks and multi-use trails for walking, hiking and bicycling make up the category of trails and pedestrian facilities. Paths and trails enhance connectivity between neighborhoods, parks, schools, transit facilities and commercial areas throughout the community and provide opportunities for alternative transportation. Recreational paths and trails can meander away from the road network, creating a focus on interacting with the natural or built environment. Sidewalks provide safe, direct routes between points along a road network.

Approximately five miles of public or semi-public trails exist in the city. Many of the shorter trails link road segments. Some of the newer subdivisions include soft trails within the outer portions of critical area buffers or as paths between different areas. One trail circumscribes the western and southern borders of the high school property. Two miles of trails meander through Catherine Creek Park. Gravel trails leading through Centennial Woods Park connect Catherine Creek Park to the Centennial Trail. There is also a network of informal trails in the power line corridor, located in the western portion of the city. Over time, the city should look for opportunities to enhance and connect these trails into an organized network throughout the city.

The Snohomish County Centennial Trail skirts the eastern city limits, 1.7 miles of which are within the city. Nearly seven miles of the Centennial Trails is adjacent to the city between Centennial Middle School and the Rhododendron Trail Head.

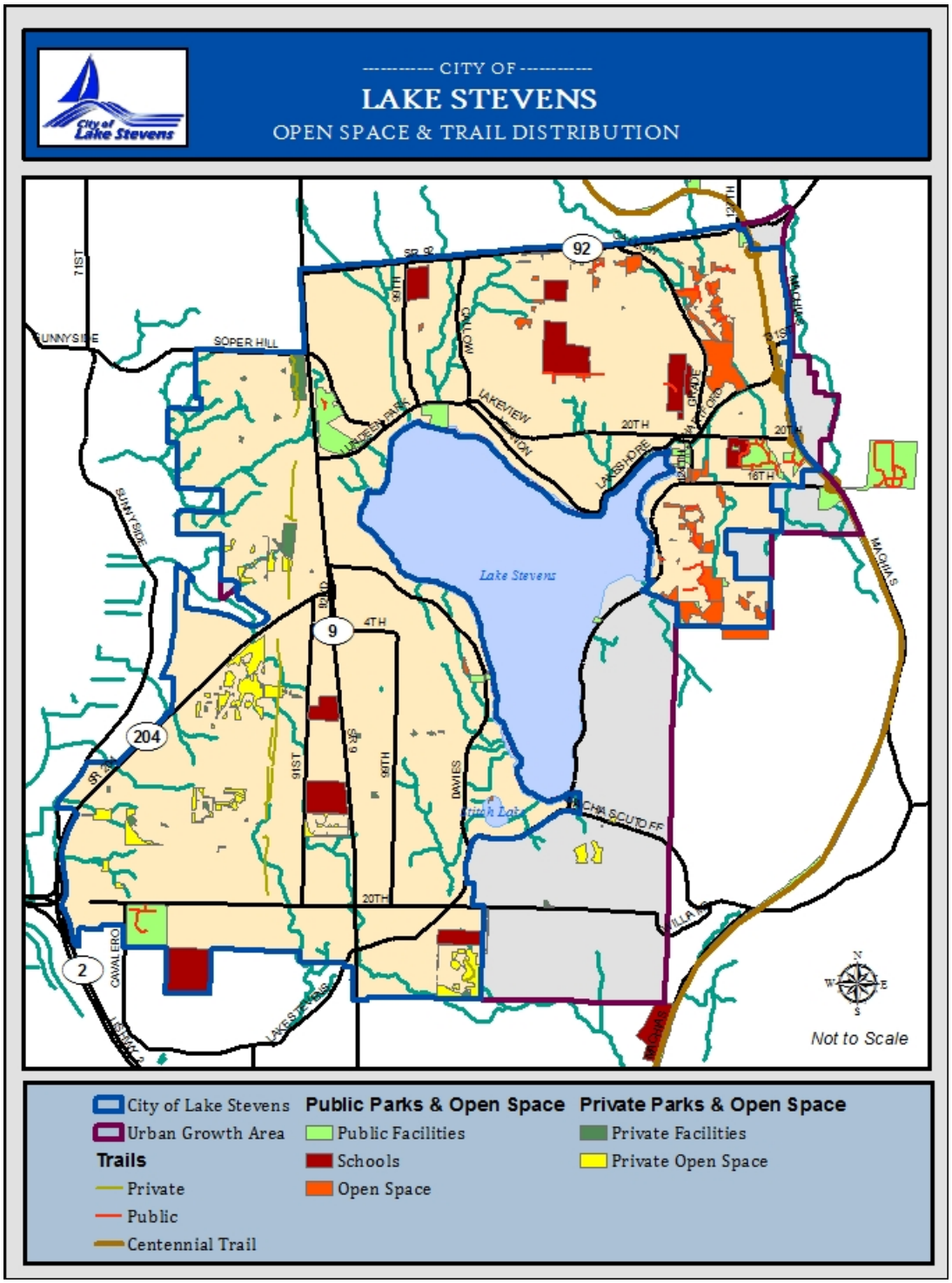

Figure 5.5 – Open Space and Trail Distribution

The trail stretches between the city of Arlington to the north and the city of Snohomish to the south. The trail is planned to extend from the southern Snohomish/King County line to the northern Snohomish/ Skagit County line. The trail serves pedestrians, bicyclists, skaters, and equestrians.

Figure 5.5 provides an overview of public and private open spaces and trail locations within or near the city.

Special Use Parks & Facilities

Special use parks may be any park type or facility (private or public) with a specialized amenity that provides a unique experience, a particular sport or activity, and may provide a revenue income. Special use parks may include boat launches, cultural facilities, community centers, recreation centers/facilities or public art. Commercial enterprises geared toward the lake such as non-motorized uses or the Centennial Trail could compliment the city's inventory of special use facilities. The size of these facilities varies depending on the proposed use and available amenities. Special use parks should be distributed throughout the city. Because demand for special use facilities is generated from within and outside the city limits, the city, county, and other recreation providers should cooperate on locating special use sites.

Bonneville Field Ball Park – A three-acre baseball field, which also provides informal trailhead parking for the Centennial Trail, is located at the intersection of 16th Street NE and Hartford-Machias Road. The Lake Stevens Junior Athletic Association operates this site. Facilities include a baseball diamond and approximately 35 parking spaces. The park is used primarily by organized little league teams during the summer.

City Boat Launch – A one-acre public boat launch and parking lot, with 30 spaces, is located on the eastern shore of North Cove. Access is from 17th Place NE, off Main Street. The Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife owns this site and leases it to the city. Most users are boaters, anglers, and jet-skiers launching their watercraft. Use is heaviest on summer weekends.

Community Center – Within the City Hall complex is a 1,800 square foot meeting/activity hall with a small (<150 square foot) kitchen. The Center is used for public meetings, activities and classes. The Center is available for rent by the public for specific activities.

Grimm House – The historic Grimm House, associated with the Rucker Mill, is located next to the Historical Museum and serves as an adjunct to the museum. Through volunteer efforts, the house has been relocated and renovated.

Historic Sites – The potential for historic sites in Lake Stevens is excellent because of the city's rich past linked to logging and railroads, evident in remains around the lake. For example, the concrete footing of the water tower serving the Rucker Brothers' Saw Mill is still located in North Cove Park. There are also trestle remains from the mill operations, in the lake, dating back to the turn of the century.

Lake Stevens Historical Museum – Adjacent to the Lake Stevens branch of the Sno-Isle Regional Library is the 1,600 square foot Lake Stevens Historical museum. The museum houses permanent and rotating exhibits illuminating the town's history, the Society's office, and a 1,000-piece historical photograph collection. The Lake Stevens Historical Society, formed in 1982, operates this museum. The Lake Stevens Historical Society is a group of about 150 individuals dedicated to preserving community history through the collecting of information and artifacts and educating the public.

Lake Stevens Senior Center – The Lake Stevens Senior Center, located at Eagle Ridge Park, welcomes all older adults to share in fellowship, classes and social events in the Lake Stevens area. The Senior Center is in a 2,800 square feet building with a commercial kitchen, dining/multi-purpose room, barrier-free bathrooms, office space and additional class and meeting rooms.

Lochsloy Field – The Lake Stevens School District owns this 15-acre site, located north of SR-92, between Lake Stevens and Granite Falls. Facilities include a baseball diamond, numerous soccer fields and a large parking area. Organized league teams use the park primarily during the summer.

Sno-Isle Regional Library, Lake Stevens Branch – The city owns a 2,500 square foot building at 1804 Main Street that serves as a library. The Sno-Isle Libraries provide library services to the community here. The building's size limits the possibility of increasing the collection, adding computer access and increasing programming. Based on current activity levels and 2025 population projections for the Lake Stevens area, Sno-Isle Libraries estimates a need for a 15,000 square foot facility.

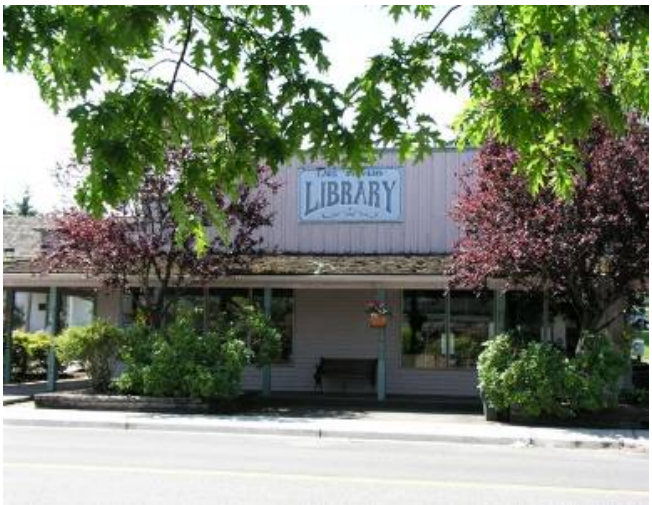

Table 5.6 lists some well-known and popular special use sites and facilities.

Table 5.6 – Special Use Inventory

FACILITY	LOCATION	OWNER	ACRES	FOOTBALL/SOCCER FIELDS	SOFTBALL/BASEBALL	DOCK	BOAT LAUNCH	SWIMMING POOL	VIEW CORRIDOR	OTHER
Bonneville Field	1530 N Machias Road	Snohomish County	7.32		X					X
City Boat Launch	North Drive	WA Dept of Fish & Wildlife	0.89			X	X		X	X
Community Center/City Hall	1805 Main Street	City of Lake Stevens	0.58							X
Grimm House	1804 Main Street	City of Lake Stevens	0.60							X
Library / Historic Society	1804 Main Street	City of Lake Stevens	0.25							X
Lochsloy Field	6710 147th Ave NE	Lake Stevens School District	15.17	X	X					
Special Use Parks Total Acres			*24.81*							

Recreation Programs, Events and Special Providers

Aquafest – Lake Stevens' annual city celebration is usually held in July. It includes an aqua-run, children's activities, fireworks, vendor booths and several parades.

Ironman Triathlon – Lake Stevens hosts an annual World Qualifying Triathlon event with competitors swimming, running and bicycling through Lake Stevens.

Lake Stevens Boys and Girls Club – A one-acre property located at the intersection of 16th Street NE and Main streets. Clubs, Inc., a non-profit organization composed of representatives of the Lake Stevens Lions Club and the Lake Stevens Junior Athletic Association (LSJAA), owns this property. The Boys and Girls Club includes a recently remodeled building, gymnasium and a small meeting room (50-60 person occupancy) available for rent. This room is available at no cost to service clubs and scout troops. The

property also includes a baseball diamond (Bond field), used for youth team sports, and storage/concession area, operated and maintained by LSJAA, behind the gymnasium. Approximately 75 parking spaces are available on the property.

Lake Stevens Junior Athletic Association (LSJAA) – A non-profit youth organization, the LSJAA organizes seasonal teams for baseball, softball, soccer, football, and basketball. User fees fund LSJAA programs.

Lake Stevens School District – The LSSD offers evening and weekend classes in sports, hobbies, job skills, continuing education and other recreational classes. The LSSD operates the indoor swimming pool. The LSSD Community Education program currently provides recreation and leisure service programming, such as summer youth recreation programs and adult programs, in the fall, winter and spring.

Rowing Clubs – Different rowing clubs use Lake Stevens frequently, hosting several large regattas on the lake, including the Washington State Games, as well as offering competitive rowing opportunities for juniors and adults.

Scouting, 4-H, Church Youth Programs, Other Special Interest Groups – All the scouting organizations are represented in Lake Stevens, as well as 4-H. Additionally, many of the churches have youth programs.

FUTURE NEEDS AND LEVELS OF SERVICE

Methodology and Public Process

The city has traditionally based its level of service for parks and recreation facilities on an overall population ratio. Under this model, using the 2012 population estimate of 29,104, the city provides approximately five acres of developed or planned parkland per 1,000 residents. Comparatively, this is within the level of service ranges provided by neighboring communities. As a first step to providing an adequate land supply, setting a broad population-based goal is acceptable. However, there are inherent problems with this method. The city and its UGA have a limited amount of large usable lands remaining. As the city's population grows, it is not likely that it can continue to acquire a larger inventory of new parkland. Secondly, a population-based model ignores access to different types of parks, special features and an equitable distribution throughout the community. Finally, this older method does not inform a jurisdiction on the city's satisfaction with individual facilities, the inventory as a whole or identify preferences for specific types of amenities.

The current needs assessment and proposed service standards seek to address the deficiencies of the previous model. First, the city developed a park classification system previously described in Table 5.1. Second, the city completed an updated inventory of public and private facilities. The inventory categorized the facility by its classification, included

current acreage and identified specific amenities available at each location. Third, the city proposed new level of service standards and mapped the distribution of different park facilities throughout the community based on the defined levels of service. The maps include an overall park distribution and individual distribution of different park types to determine access to residential areas. Fourth, the city developed and distributed a parks and recreation survey. The survey contained questions related to demographics, access to facilities, facility use and preferences, community desires, satisfaction and potential funding sources. Staff distributed the survey by direct mailing to a random sample population, posted it on the city's website and circulated it at city events and meetings during the summer of 2013. Fifth, the Park and Recreation Planning Board held several regular meetings throughout the year and hosted two open houses, at different venues, to reach different city residents. The first open house included a presentation focusing on the current facility inventory and proposed changes to the level of service. The second open house was an informal "meet and greet" allowing Park Board members and staff to discuss parks and recreation issues directly with the public. Staff also briefed the Planning Commission and City Council about the project throughout 2013 at open public meetings. Finally, staff refined the earlier elements based on survey responses and comments from the community and city officials to develop the proposed model.

Level of Service Standards and Goals

The level of service standard (LOS) for park facilities are based on residential access and equitable distribution of facilities to different park types and trails community wide. The LOS standard for community parks is one park within 2.5 miles of residential areas. The LOS standard for neighborhood parks is one park within one mile of residential areas. The service goal for mini-parks (public and private) is one mini-park within 0.5 miles of residential areas. The LOS standard for multi-use trails is one trail within one mile of residential areas. The LOS standard for open space is five percent of the community. Within each facility, the city will strive to maintain a mix of amenities that reflect community use preferences as defined in the most current Lake Stevens Parks and Recreation Survey.

Needs Assessment

Survey respondents suggested that community and neighborhood level parks should receive the highest priorities. Some of the most popular uses included walking/hiking, picnicking, beach/dock use, and swimming. Some of the most desired improvements include walking, hiking and multi-use trails, picnic areas, public docks, a community garden, playgrounds, a skate park, and improved restrooms. Overall respondents claim to be somewhat satisfied with the facilities and amenities. The most common complaint was a perceived lack of amenities. Respondents identified the cost of park maintenance and land for additional access as major issues to be resolved. Popular funding sources include public and private partnerships and user fees.

Through a process of applying the adopted parks and open space LOS standards, reviewing the current inventory and analyzing the 2013 Community Survey, a clear picture of the city's needs for public park and recreation facilities emerges. Four main categories comprise the current needs assessment: Planning, Acquisition, Site Development and Improvements & Maintenance. Each element provides the basis for developing a capital improvement plan. Decision-makers should prioritize the selection of capital projects based on gaps in the service for different park types, distribution of amenities throughout the park network, community preferences, opportunities, and likelihood of partnerships with other jurisdictions or private groups.

Park Planning

To improve existing recreational facilities and design new facilities, the city needs to develop master plans for specific uses in existing parks, in addition to new facilities added to the inventory. Master plans should consider the distribution of existing inventoried facilities and identify locations for improving and developing preferred uses and amenities from the community survey. Specifically, new master plans should consider opportunities to add playgrounds, picnic areas, permanent restrooms and active recreation areas including the location of a permanent skate/BMX park. Additionally master plans should identify potential locations for additional trails and shoreline acquisition and development.

The following list includes a series of proposed planning efforts, based on responses from the community survey, to implement the Park Plan.

1. Coordinate with Snohomish County to plan park facilities jointly within or adjacent to the city. A specific example for a capital project would be developing a coordinated master plan for Cavalero Community Park. This project would meet the identified preference for development of community level parks. This site should include a more formal trail network and could continue to include an off-leash dog area. A master plan for Cavalero should provide a formal parking area, restrooms, playgrounds, scenic views, picnic areas, and consider the inclusion of some type of active recreation amenity.
2. Craft a master plan for trails emphasizing formalizing the power line trail system into a multi-use trail, developing a lakefront path within the public right-of-way along Lake Stevens that provides pedestrian access to the waterfront at various locations and creating trail links between the western and eastern portions of the city, ultimately linking to downtown and the Centennial trail. Survey respondents identified walking paths and multi-use trails as preferred uses consistently throughout the community survey.
3. Develop a master plan to improve North Cove Park that addresses the need for additional beach access, playgrounds, picnicking, restrooms, etc. – all of which are community-preferred improvements. A master plan for North Cove Park should parallel downtown planning efforts.

4. Develop a master plan for non-motorized uses of the waterfront including swimming areas, beach use, rowing/paddling and public docks/piers. Improved shoreline access and a variety of water-related activities are important identified issues by residents. This project should be coordinated with a variety of user groups and stakeholders.
5. Prepare an open space plan for the various downtown shorelines, wetlands and riparian open spaces (e.g., Mill Cove Reserve, 16th and 18th Street wetlands and Grade Road open space) with an emphasis on low impact development, interpretative education and linkages. The community identified habitat protection and development of interpretive sites as an important goal for the community parks, recreation and open space system.
6. Produce a park wayfinding program, to identify the locations of parks and recreational facilities throughout the community. A wayfinding program would be crucial to providing a uniform image and highlighting existing and proposed site improvements.

Acquisition

Based on the distribution of park facilities and survey responses, the city should identify opportunities to acquire the following lands to meet the recreational needs of city residents. Decision-makers should include one or more of these potential acquisitions as placeholders on the capital program list to act on as opportunities are identified.

1. The city should identify locations for two new public neighborhood level parks in the southern part of the city, near 20th Street SE. Acquisitions should include one park on each side of SR-9 to ensure equity of distribution. It is advisable to provide one park on the northern side of 20th Street SE that can be accessed on foot from the numerous developments occurring in this area.
2. The city should identify a location for a public neighborhood level park in the central part of city - west of SR-9. As noted earlier, acquisition of public property in this vicinity is important, but is secondary to acquiring lands in the southern part of the city because of the two large private parks in this area.
3. The city should identify locations for additional shoreline properties on Lake Stevens. Shoreline acquisition should consider expansion of current properties, a balanced distribution of access points on all sides of the lake, lands that can provide a mix of active and passive recreation activities and linear access tracts for trails, paths and view corridors.
4. Rights-of-way/easements for multi-use trails, pedestrian paths and sidewalks throughout the city with an emphasis on lakefront locations, the power line corridor in the western part of the city and east/west connections to the Centennial Trail and downtown.

Site Development

Some projects are ready for immediate implementation and construction. Decision-makers should give these projects a high-priority for inclusion on the capital project list. As the city completes other master plans, Council should consider adding these as future capital projects.

1. Complete construction of Eagle Ridge Master Plan's Phase 1 improvements (e.g., roofing garage and barn, vegetation maintenance, landscaping, community garden, trail development, interpretive signs, interpretation center, etc.) and start construction of Phase 2 improvements (e.g., restroom facilities and trailhead parking area, etc.) and Phase 3 improvements (e.g. playgrounds, parking lot, picnic shelter, amphitheater, etc.
2. After acquisition of right-of-way/easements, the city should begin constructing the power line trail in phases.

Park Improvements / Maintenance

Several projects do not need significant planning, but will help implement community desires and preferences and should be included on the capital project list. Such projects involve maintenance and repairs or improvements to existing facilities. Many of these projects could be completed through cooperative efforts between the city and stakeholder groups. Specific examples for consideration as a capital project follow.

1. Repair existing soft trails at Catherine Creek Park and Centennial Woods. This may include clearing brush and installing new surface materials on trails. The city should endeavor to define trailheads and install location and wayfinding signage between the two sites. As appropriate, city staff could install additional amenities at these sites including formal seating areas and picnic facilities along with restroom facilities.
2. Coordinate with user groups to repair and improve the disc golf course in Catherine Creek Park.
3. Construct a pedestrian pathway between Downtown Lake Stevens and the Centennial Trail along Hartford Drive NE terminating at land dedicated to the city for creating a new trail connection. The project would include improvements along Hartford Drive NE such as directional signage, striping and other safety features. The new trailhead should include landscaping, a paved trail connection, signage and possibly a seating area. If space is available, the site could include parking spaces for one or two cars.
4. Coordinate with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife on necessary repairs and improvements to the city boat launch. Improvements may include repairs to the boat launch, parking area, and the addition of a non-motorized launch.

Capital Projects

An analysis of existing conditions and projected needs in the previous section highlighted the areas of concern and opportunities for Lake Stevens. The Capital Facilities Element contains a strategy for achievement of the city's goals in light of the existing conditions in the city and identified needs. Capital projects will be prioritized based on the survey result preferences, needs assessment, levels of service and relationship to economic development opportunities. The following list of different project types should be considered for inclusion in the Capital Facilities Element.

Planning Project No.1 – Cavalero Community Park Master Plan Joint Planning

Total Cost: $10,000

Start Date: 2014

Description: Coordinate with Snohomish County on its planning efforts for Cavalero Community Park to ensure it provides city preferred recreation amenities. Park master planning to be completed in 2015. Development of initial phases to begin in 2016.

Proposed Funding Sources: State, Local Contributions, Impact fees

Location: 20th Street SE and 79th Ave SE

Justification: This project would meet the identified preference for developing community level parks.

Planning Project No.2 Wayfinding Plan

Total Cost: $20,000

Target Start Date: 2015

Description: Produce a park wayfinding program in conjunction with economic development efforts to create a standard package for locating parks and recreational facilities and identifying amenities throughout the community.

Proposed Funding Sources: Impact fees

Location: Citywide

Justification: A wayfinding program would be crucial to providing a uniform image and highlighting existing and proposed site improvements to support economic development.

Planning Project No.3 Trails, Paths and Pedestrian Facilities Master Plan

Total Cost: $15,000

Target Start Date: 2015

Description: Master plan for trails, paths, and pedestrian facilities identifying appropriate connections and engineered details for various trail types with an emphasis on trail connections, the power line trail, and a path around the lake.

Proposed Funding Sources: Impact fees, Development

Location: Citywide

Justification: This project would meet the identified preference for developing safe walking paths and multi-use trails throughout the community.

Planning Project No.4 Downtown Open Space Master Plan

Total Cost: $30,000

Target Start Date: 2015

Description: Open space plan for various downtown open spaces including shoreline, wetland, and riparian areas. The plan would include environmental analysis, identify appropriate connections between areas, develop interpretive information and provide engineered details for boardwalks, viewing areas and signage.

Proposed Funding Sources: Impact fees, Grants

Location: Mill Cove Reserve, Grade Road Open Space, Wetlands between 16th Ave NE and 18th Ave NE

Justification: This project would meet the identified preference for balanced habitat protection and development of interpretive sites as an important component in the community parks, recreation and open space system.

Acquisition Project No.1 Lakeside Path Right-of-Way/Easement Acquisition

Total Cost: $1,610,066

Phase 1 (Northern Section approximately 3,800 linear feet) – $237,382

Phase 2 (Eastern Section approximately 3,600 linear feet) – $222,684

Phase 3 (Western/Southern approximately 18,000 linear feet) – $1,150,000

Target Start Date: 2015-2034

Description: Purchase rights-of-way/easements for walking paths around the lake.

Proposed Funding Sources: Local Contributions, Impact fees, Grants

Location: Road network around Lake Stevens

Justification: This project would meet the identified preference for developing safe walking paths and multi-use trails throughout the community.

Acquisition Project No.2 Neighborhood Park Acquisition

Total Cost: $317,671

Phase 1 (Southwest Lake Stevens between 5 – 10 acres) – $158,835

Phase 2 (Southeast Lake Stevens between 5 – 10 acres) – $158,835

Target Start Date: 2019 - 2024

Description: Identify locations for and acquire lands for two neighborhood level parks in the southern part of the city. Acquisitions should include one park on each side of SR-9 to ensure equity of distribution.

Proposed Funding Sources: Impact fees

Location: Southern part of the city, near 20th Street SE

Justification: This project would meet the Level of Service standard for access and distribution of neighborhood level parks.

Acquisition Project No.3 Shoreline Acquisition

Total Cost: $1 – 1.5 million

Target Start Date: 2014-2019

Description: Identify locations for and acquire shoreline property that can provide a balance mix of water related activities around Lake Stevens.

Proposed Funding Sources: Impact fees, Grants

Location: Lake Stevens

Justification: This project would meet the identified preference for acquisition and development of additional shoreline properties as an important part of the community parks, recreation and open space system.

Acquisition Project No.4 – Power Line Trail Right-of-Way/Easement Acquisition

Total Cost: $838,200

Phase 1 (Northern Portion approximately 6,350 linear feet) – $419,100

Phase 2 (Southern Portion approximately 6,350 linear feet) – $419,100

Target Start Date: 2020-2025

Description: Purchase rights-of-way/easements for multi-use trails in the power line corridor.

Proposed Funding Sources: Impact fees, Grants

Location: Power line corridor in the western part of Lake Stevens

Justification: This project would meet the identified preference for developing safe walking paths and multi-use trails throughout the community.

Development Project No.1 – Complete Phases 1 and 2 of the Eagle Ridge Master Plan

Total Cost: $911,922

Phase 1 – $80,712

Phase 2 – $271,205

Phase 3 – $560,005

Target Start Date: 2015-2020

Description: Construct remaining improvements identified as Phase 1 improvements and then begin construction of Phase 2 and Phase 3 improvements identified in the Eagle Ridge Master Plan.

Proposed Funding Sources: Impact fees, Development

Location: Eagle Ridge Park

Justification: This project would meet the identified preference for developing community level parks.

Development Project No.2 Power Line Trail Construction

Total Cost: $1,341,660

Phase 1 (Northern Segment construct approximately 6,350 linear feet) – $699,960

Phase 2 (Southern Segment construct approximately 6,350 linear feet) – $641,700

Target Start Date: 2025-2034

Description: Construct multi-use trail along utility corridor.

Proposed Funding Sources: Impact fees

Location: Power line corridor in the western part of Lake Stevens

Justification: This project would meet the identified preference for developing safe walking paths and multi-use trails throughout the community.

Improvement Project No.1 Hartford Road Walking Path/Trail Head

Total Cost: $41,173

Target Start Date: 2014

Description: Improve the pedestrian pathway between Downtown Lake Stevens and the Centennial Trail along Hartford Drive NE and construct a new trailhead at the intersection of Hartford Road and 131st Ave NE.

Proposed Funding Sources: Mitigation, Grants

Location: Hartford Drive NE between 20th Street NE and 131st Ave NE

Justification: This project would meet the identified preference for developing safe walking paths and multi-use trails throughout the community.

Improvement Project No.2 – Catherine Creek and Centennial Woods Trail Improvements

Total Cost: $15,206

Phase 1 (Catherine Creek approximately 4,460 linear feet**)** – $11,097

Phase 2 (Centennial Woods approximately 1,127 linear feet) – $4,110

Target Start Date: 2020

Description: Improve existing soft trails at Catherine Creek and Centennial Woods.

Proposed Funding Sources: Impact fees, Local Contribution

Location: Catherine Creek and Centennial Woods Parks

Justification: This project would meet the identified preference for developing safe walking paths and multi-use trails throughout the community.

Improvement Project No.3 – City Boat Launch Improvement

Total Cost: $527,000

Target Start Date: 2016

Description: Construction of a fully renovated boat launch along with development of associated amenities to modernize the site, improve public safety and enhance access for all users.

Proposed Funding Sources: Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office Grant and park mitigation

Location: Lake Stevens Town Center on the lake's North Cove off 17th Place NE

Justification: This project would meet the identified preference for improved boat launching facilities and increased site usability and safety for all boaters.

Financing

Parks and recreation facilities users do not necessarily recognize political boundaries; therefore, it is imperative that jurisdictions plan for and provide recreation facilities to meet the needs of the community jointly. Recognizing this fact also allows a more efficient system to be established using scarce tax dollars to provide for the recreational needs of regional populations. For example, it is more efficient to build a swimming pool between two jurisdictions where demand exists than to build two separate pools three blocks from each other simply because each city feels that tax dollars should be spent in individual communities. The city should continue to place emphasis on a balanced, cooperative approach to parks and recreation planning.

In accordance with the Revised Code of Washington Sections 82.02.050 and 82.02.060, the city is to provide a balance between impact fees and other sources of public funds to meet its capital project needs. Revenues from property taxes, user fees (if imposed), sales taxes, real estate taxes, grants and other revenue sources need to be used to pay the proportionate

share of the growth-generated capital facilities costs. Therefore, the city's commitment to improving the parks system is not solely reliant on impact fees.

Impact Fees

Once a LOS is adopted, impact fees may be assessed under GMA to ensure that levels of services are maintained as the population grows. It is required that impact fees be based on the LOS in place at the time of development. It is in the city's interest to ensure impact fees are current as allowed under GMA based upon the level of service established in this element. The amount that could be charged new development would be determined through a separate fee study.

General Revenues

Unlimited general obligation bonds may be submitted to voters for park and recreation purposes. These bonds require approval by at least 60% of the resident voters during an election that has a turnout of at least 40% of those who voted in the last state general election. The bond must be repaid from a special levy which is not governed by the six percent statutory limitation on the property tax growth rate.

Grants

While the city has been successful in obtaining grants for parks, the lack of match has proved to be a constraint on obtaining even more grants. With a larger community, it is anticipated that the city's resources could be better leveraged with more and larger grants.

Special Revenue Funds

Conservation Futures: By state law, counties can elect to levy up to $0.065 per $1,000 of assessed valuation for all county properties to acquire shoreline or other open space lands. In 1997, the city obtained conservation future funds to purchase about 21 acres of open space lands contained in three parks.

Real Estate Excise Tax (REET): State law allows counties the option of imposing excise taxes on the sale of real estate. The tax may be imposed up to $0.25 per $1,000 in sale value to be used to finance capital facility developments, including the acquisition and development of park and recreational facilities.

Foundations

As another source of revenue the Parks Board and Arts Commission have established a non-profit 501C Foundation that provides the ability for people to make tax-exempt contributions that directly support parks and art activities.

GOALS AND POLICIES

An analysis of existing park, recreation and open space facilities along with community input provide the basis for establishing goals and policies within the Park Plan. The goals and policies provide guidelines and actions for achieving that Plan. Goals are broad intent statements that describe a desired outcome. Policies provide the framework for developing specific measurable actions.

GOAL 5.1 PROVIDE A HIGH-QUALITY, DIVERSIFIED PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE SYSTEM THAT PROVIDES RECREATIONAL AND CULTURAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL AGES AND INTEREST GROUPS.

Policies

5.1.1 Provide a system of multi-purpose neighborhood and community parks, throughout the community, accessible to all residents that meet the following levels of service:

a. Neighborhood Parks – one park within a one-mile radius of all residential areas and
b. Community Parks – one park within a 2.5-mile radius of all residential areas.

5.1.2 Provide a park, recreation and open space system with activities for all age groups and abilities, equally distributed throughout the community, with an emphasis on youth-oriented activities.

5.1.3 Provide a balanced mix of active recreational facilities including but not limited to court and field activities, skateboard/BMX areas, and multi-use trails and passive recreation facilities, including but not limited to, hiking/walking, shoreline access and picnicking accessible to the largest number of participants.

5.1.4 Promote balanced lake access for pedestrians and motorized and non-motorized watercraft so all segments of the population can enjoy the lake and have access to its recreational opportunities.

5.1.5 Encourage the inclusion of performing arts facilities in public parks and recreation areas and incorporate visual arts into the design of park features, such as railings, benches, buildings and other amenities.

5.1.6 Support the use of indoor community spaces for arts and crafts, music, video, classroom instruction, meeting facilities and other spaces for all age groups on a year-round basis.

5.1.7 When appropriate and economically feasible, participate in the development of special interest recreational facilities.

5.1.8 Continue to participate in the annual Aquafest community celebration.

5.1.9 Identify recreational and cultural needs opportunities for special needs populations.

5.1.10 Support the Lake Stevens Historical Society in their efforts to inventory significant historical and archaeological resources and to provide information to the community on its history.

GOAL 5.2 PROVIDE AN INTERCONNECTED SYSTEM OF HIGH-QUALITY, ACCESSIBLE TRAILS AND GREENWAY CORRIDORS THAT OFFER DIVERSE, HEALTHY OUTDOOR EXPERIENCES WITHIN A VARIETY OF LANDSCAPES AND NATURAL HABITATS, PUBLIC FACILITIES, LOCAL NEIGHBORHOODS, BUSINESS DISTRICTS AND REGIONAL TRAILS.

Policies

5.2.1 Provide a comprehensive network of multi-use trails for pedestrians, bicycles and skating using alignments along the public rights-of-way, through public landholdings as well as across cooperating private properties, which link residential neighborhoods to community facilities, parks, special use areas, commercial areas and the waterfront that meets the following level of service: one trail within one mile of residential areas.

5.2.2 Provide for a comprehensive city trail system linking the downtown area, schools, parks, and the Centennial Trail.

5.2.3 Establish a multi-use trail around the lake, choosing a route that best provides lake access and/or views.

5.2.4 Establish a north/south trail under the power lines as identified in the Lake Stevens Center and 20th Street SE Corridor subarea plans.

5.2.5 Establish an east/west sidewalk trail along 24th Street SE and South Lake Stevens Road that will eventually connect to the Centennial Trail as identified in the 20th Street SE Corridor subarea plan.

5.2.6 Establish, expand and/or improve nature trails and boardwalks through open spaces with an emphasis on Eagle Ridge Park, Catherine Creek Park, Centennial Woods, Mill Cove Reserve, and the Grade Road Open Space.

GOAL 5.3 PRESERVE AND ENHANCE OPEN SPACE AND NATURAL RESOURCES AREAS INCLUDING FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT, MIGRATION CORRIDORS, NATURAL MEADOWS AND WATER RESOURCES.

Policies

5.3.1 Preserve open space corridors and buffers to provide separation between natural areas and urban land uses with a goal of maintaining five percent of city as open space.

5.3.2 Plan, locate and manage park and recreation facilities so that they enhance wildlife habitat, minimize erosion, complement natural site features and create linkages within the developed area.

5.3.3 Balance the desire for public access and interpretive education with preservation of environmentally sensitive areas and other natural sites

5.3.4 Maintain and enforce leash laws and animal at-large laws to stem wildlife predation.

5.3.5 Preserve lake and other scenic views for the public when considering land use decisions and when siting park and recreation facilities.

5.3.6 Plan for an open space system that may include:

a. Natural or scenic areas,
b. Water bodies and drainage easements,
c. Public/private passive park and recreation sites,
d. Cultural, archaeological, geological and historical sites,
e. Large reserve tracts, private parks, common ground, and buffer areas from residential development,
f. Utility corridors, and
g. Trail corridors that may function as wildlife corridors.

GOAL 5.4 MAXIMIZE PARK FACILITIES BY LEVERAGING, SHARING AND EFFICIENTLY USING RESOURCES.

Policies

5.4.1 Cooperatively plan for joint-use facilities, meeting and classrooms, athletic fields, and other facilities with the Lake Stevens School District, Lake Stevens Junior Athletic Association, Snohomish County Parks Department and other public or private providers of recreation services and facilities that are of mutual benefit to each agency and the users/participants in the city and its Urban Growth Area.

5.4.2 Create a comprehensive, balanced park, recreation and open space system that integrates city facilities and services with resources available from the Lake Stevens School District, Snohomish County and other state, federal and private park and recreational lands and facilities in a manner that will best serve and provide for area residents' interests.

5.4.3 Support continued cooperation between the city, non-profit organizations, the Lake Stevens School District and other agencies for continuation and development of recreation programming for youths, senior citizens and other segments of the population to avoid duplication, improve facility quality and availability, which reduces costs and represents area residents' interests through joint planning and development efforts.

5.4.4 Establish inter-local agreements between the city, county, school district and private non-profit organizations and other agencies to provide for athletic facilities to serve the needs of the city and the Urban Growth Area.

GOAL 5.5 MAINTAIN PARK FACILITIES TO MAXIMIZE LIFE OF THE FACILITIES AND TO PROVIDE AN ATTRACTIVE AND PLEASING ENVIRONMENT FOR USERS.

Policies

5.5.1 Design and develop facilities, which reduce overall facility maintenance and operations requirements and costs. Where appropriate, use low maintenance materials, settings or other value engineering considerations that reduce care and security requirements and retain natural conditions and experiences.

5.5.2 Develop a maintenance management system to estimate and plan for life cycle maintenance in addition to replacement costs.

5.53 Provide operation and maintenance to insure safe, serviceable, and functional parks and facilities. Provide adequate funding to operate and maintain existing and new special use sites.

5.5.4 The city shall establish creative methods to efficiently expand park and trail maintenance services such as encouraging volunteer efforts, continued use of the State Department of Corrections crews and mutual coordination with other local agencies.

5.5.5 Where appropriate, the city should initiate joint planning and operating programs with other public and private agencies to provide for special activities like shoreline access, aquatic facilities, marinas and community festivals.

5.5.6 In the design of parks, encourage the use of materials and designs to reduce the occurrence and impacts of vandalism. Parks design which provides for easy surveillance of facilities by residents and by police can reduce vandalism. Use of materials such as graffiti resistant coatings can reduce these impacts.

5.5.7 Repair acts of vandalism immediately to discourage park property and city recreation facilities from becoming targets for further such acts.

5.5.8 Ensure that all park and recreation facilities owned and operated by the city comply with ADA accessibility requirements.

5.5.9 Establish a formal volunteer network as volunteerism is a significant source of energy and ideas. The city must continue to tap and improve existing opportunities to involve the community in its own programs. The city shall formalize a volunteer program that includes "adopt a park," and "adopt a trail," and similar programs.

GOAL 5.6 THE CITY RECOGNIZES THAT LAND IS IN HIGH DEMAND AND THAT ACQUISITIONS MUST BE PURSUED AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE TO IMPLEMENT THE COMMUNITY'S VISION CONCURRENTLY WITH DEVELOPING AND IMPROVING EXISTING FACILITES TO ACHIEVE A HIGH-QUALITY AND BALANCED PARK AND RECREATION SYSTEM.

Policies

5.6.1 Add capacity at existing parks by expanding or improving facilities to accommodate current and future populations and desired uses including walking/hiking trails, active recreation and passive recreation.

5.6.2 Acquire additional shoreline lands for trails, public docks, waterfront fishing, wading, swimming, boating and other water related recreational activities.

5.6.3 Cooperate with public and private agencies and with private landowners to set aside land and resources necessary to provide high-quality, convenient park and recreation facilities before the most suitable sites are lost to development.

5.6.4 Work with developers to identify additional parks, recreation and open space opportunities in redeveloping areas.

5.6.5 Prioritization for new park and recreation facilities shall take into consideration areas within the community that are under-represented by parks, types of desired facilities not presently available, availability of properties appropriate for a particular type of park and availability and opportunities for grants and other funding sources.

5.6.6 With a developer requirement of paying GMA-based park mitigation fees, developers are still encouraged to install mini-parks voluntarily for the benefit of their developments; however, such mini-parks shall not be credited against meeting the developer's mitigation obligation. The city has not defined a LOS for mini-parks, but encourages one park within a half-mile radius of all residential areas

GOAL 5.7 DEVELOP PARK AND TRAIL DESIGN STANDARDS.

Policies

5.7.1 Standardize facility design to ensure consistency and quality in the Lake Stevens park system, and establish a standard for trail signage including interpretive, safety and regulatory signs.

5.7.2 Develop trail improvements to a design and development standard that facilitates maintenance, security and other appropriate personnel, equipment and vehicles and includes:

a. Trail systems with appropriate supporting trailhead improvements that include interpretive, directory and mileage signage as well as rules and regulations for trail use.

b. Provide site furnishings such as benches, bike racks, dog waste stations and trash containers.

c. Locate trails in conjunction with park sites, schools, and other community facilities to increase local area access to the trail system and to take advantage of access to existing restrooms and drinking water, thereby reducing duplication of supporting improvements.

d. Design outdoor picnic areas, trails, playgrounds, courts, fields, parking lots, restrooms, and other active and supporting facilities to be accessible to individuals and organized groups of all physical capabilities, skill levels, age groups, income and activity interests.

5.7.4 Implement the provisions and requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and other design and development standards that will improve park facility safety and security features for park users, department personnel, and the public-at-large.

5.7.5 Promote sustainable landscapes to increase the ecological functions of natural areas and utilize native vegetation in planted areas, where possible.

5.7.6 Choose durable products to promote human health in a safe environment and consider life-cycle analysis of materials options. Incorporate green building technology including nontoxic materials and sustainable development practices. Select local products where feasible. Consider environmental as well as economic impacts

GOAL 5.8 INCREASE AWARENESS OF PARK AND RECREATION ACTIVITIES.

Policies

5.8.1 Promote the use of local parks through the media, Aquafest, other festivals and by providing information as to their availability such as publishing maps showing park locations and their available facilities.

5.8.2 Promote and provide volunteer opportunities.

5.8.3 Facilitate community involvement and stewardship.

a. Continue and expand the volunteer work party program.

b. Continue and expand the Adopt-a-Trail program.

c. Develop interlocal management agreements.

d. Encourage participation in community trail events.

e. Expand on existing relationships with schools, business and non-profit organizations.

5.8.4 Promote environmental protection as part of providing a successful park and recreation program by establishing a permanent celebration promoting Earth Day activities

5.8.5 Where appropriate, use adopt-a-park programs, neighborhood park watches, park police patrols and other innovative programs that will increase safety and security awareness and visibility.

5.8.6 Provide historic and natural interpretation opportunities throughout the city's park system.

5.8.7 Promote commercial recreation opportunities along the Centennial Trail and on and near the lake.

5.8.8 Utilize interpretive materials to highlight features such as native flora and historic points of interest

GOAL 5.9 CREATE EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT METHODS OF ACQUIRING, DEVELOPING, OPERATING AND MAINTAINING FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS THAT ACCURATELY DISTRIBUTE COSTS AND BENEFITS TO PUBLIC AND PRIVATE INTERESTS.

Policies

5.9.1 Establish financing mechanisms to ensure that adequate parks, open space and recreation facilities are available to the community.

5.9.2 Investigate innovative available methods or the financing of maintenance and operating needs in order to reduce costs, retain financial flexibility, match user benefits and interests and increase facility services.

5.9.3 The city shall explore, and where appropriate, adopt a creative funding strategy which takes advantage of traditional sources such as capital budgeting, grants, and developer contributions, but also non-traditional sources including, but not limited to, volunteers, interlocal agreements, donations, foundations, interjurisdictional partnerships and other appropriate mechanisms.

5.9.4 In developing the park system, encourage donations and dedications, conservation easements, innovative land use contractual agreements and other methods involving foundations, organizations, associations, trusts, developers, landowners, others from the private sector and neighboring and regional governments.

5.9.5 Allow fee stewardship programs to be established in conjunction with recognized land conservancies to maintain dedicated natural areas in lieu of permitting homeowner associations to assume such responsibilities (assuming the city does not wish to assume such responsibility).

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