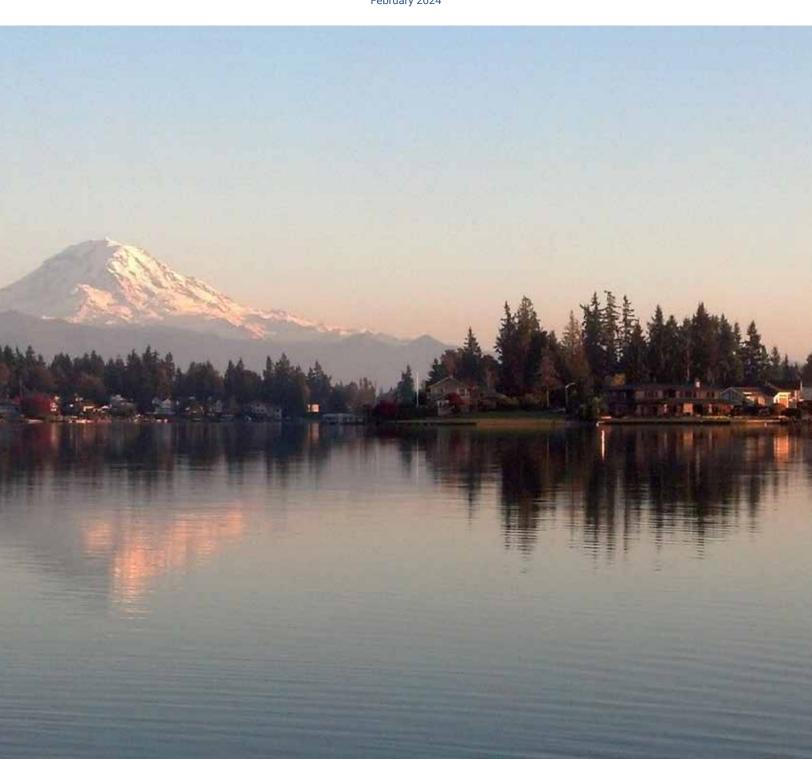


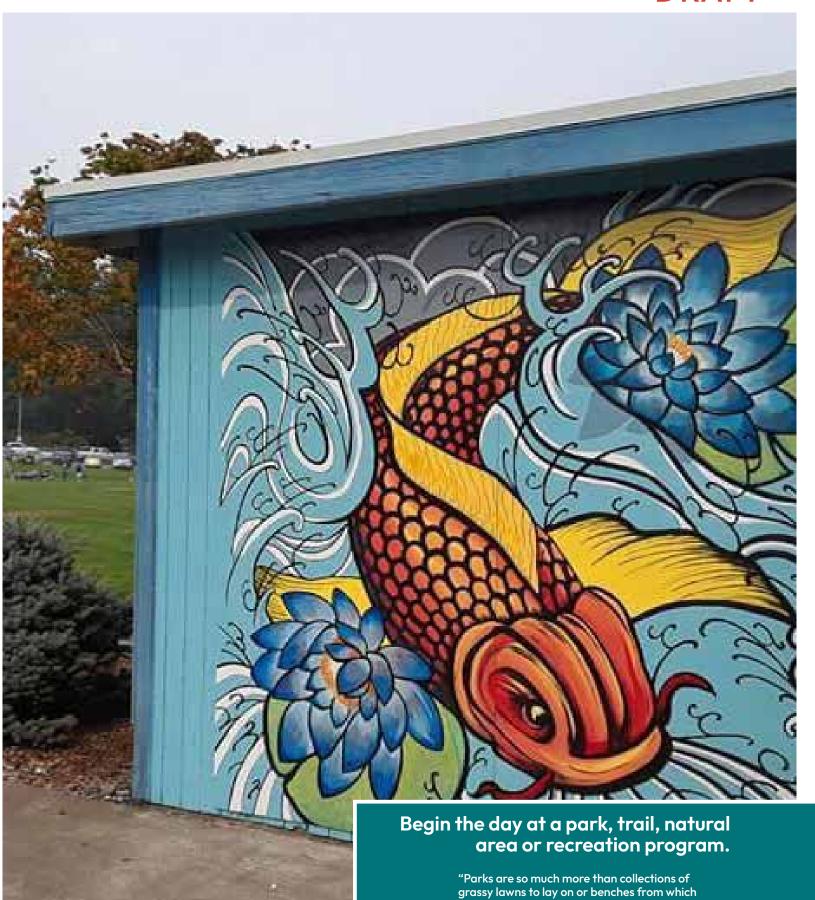
# PARKS, RECREATION, TRAILS & OPEN SPACE PLAN

City of Bonney Lake

February 2024



### **DRAFT**



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to people-watch. Parks serve an irreplaceable role in developing and preserving our sense of community and pride in where we live. They bring...

#### **Acknowledgements**

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Councilmember 1 Gwendolyn Fullerton Councilmember 2 Kerri Hubler Councilmember 3 Dan Swatman Councilmember 5 Angela Baldwin Councilmember 6 Terry Carter Councilmember 7 Dan Roach

#### **Planning Commission**

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...people together, inspire commerce, and spread an appreciation for the splendor of nature."

~ Jerah Smith, Communications Fellow for American Planning Association's Great Places in America program

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Adopted by Bonney Lake City Council on, 2024 via Resolution

#### Chapter 1

# A Thriving BONNEY LAKE





#### **Plan Purpose**

he City of Bonney Lake 2024 Parks, Trails, Recreation and Open Space (PTRO) Plan is an update to the 2015 Parks and Recreation Element of the City's Comprehensive Plan and incorporates the feedback from an extensive community engagement process conducted in 2023.

This Plan creates a vision for an innovative, inclusive and interconnected system of



parks, trails and open space that promotes recreation, health and environmental conservation as integral elements of a thriving, livable Bonney Lake.

The PTRO Plan serves as a blueprint for the management, enhancement and growth of Bonney Lake's park and recreation system. It assists in guiding decisions related to planning, developing and maintaining parks, open space and

recreational facilities. This Plan also identifies priorities for recreation programs, community events and cultural activities.

The 2024 PTRO Plan provides updated system inventories, community profile, needs analyses and a comprehensive capital project list. The Plan identifies parks and recreation goals and establishes a long-range plan for the Bonney Lake parks and recreation system,

including action items and strategies for implementation over the next 20 years. The recommendations in this Plan are based on community input, evaluations of the existing park system, operating conditions and fiscal considerations.

The PTRO Plan is part of the City's broader Comprehensive Plan and is consistent with the guidelines established by the Growth Management Act. The PTRO Plan, updated

approximately every six years, allows Bonney Lake to remain current with community interests and retain eligibility for state grants through the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO), which administers various grant programs for outdoor recreation and conservation efforts.

#### **Planning Process**

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

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

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

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

# Park System Overview & Organization

Bonney Lake's recreational system includes over 250 acres of parks and open space, five miles of trail, a senior center and various recreational programs. With Allan Yorke Park as the city's centerpiece community park and several smaller neighborhood parks, the park system strives to provide a variety of outdoor recreation amenities and facilities. As demand for park and recreation services changes and grows, the City is planning for the future of our parks, recreation facilities and open space.

The administration, management and operations of Bonney Lake's parks, facilities, programs and events are organized under three City departments: Public Services, Executive & Administrative Services

Within the Pubic Services Department, the Public Works division includes park maintenance and operations, as well as community forestry. In 2011, the City moved the responsibility for maintenance and operation of park facilities into Public Works. Also, in 2020, park planning was moved from Administration to the Development Services division of the Public Services Department.

The City has invested substantial funding to acquire park land and improve park facilities the last eight years, and Public Works parks staff steward these investments. Staff works year-round to maintain grounds and facilities in a very high state of readiness to serve park users. Facilities that are maintained by the parks staff include City-owned parks, City-owned trails, as well as grounds maintenance around the Justice & Municipal Center, Public Works Center, Public Safety Building, Public Services Center and Senior Center.

Housed within the Executive Department, the Recreation division provides recreational experiences for families within the Sumner & Bonney Lake School District. These experiences



include Action Day Camp during the summer, before/after school program sites, and multiple sports programs and summer sports camps.

The Office of Senior Services is a division within the Administrative Services Department and facilitates senior services and programs. The Bonney Lake Senior Center provides services, programs and activities that encourage the active involvement of seniors, including serving hot meals, providing van transportation, organizing trips and coordinating a large number of social, health and wellness activities for those age 55 and over. The Senior Center offers lunch five days per week, service referrals, recreation and educational programs with transportation available.

Additionally, the Executive and Public Services Departments play a vital role in many aspects of community life, with staff support to two commissions related to parks and public art.

#### **Planning Commission**

The Planning Commission acts as the land use advisory body for the City Council and reviews and makes recommendations to the City Council on the City's Comprehensive Plan, Shoreline Plan, amendments to the SEPA and environmentally sensitive area codes. The Commission also advises the City Council on the development of City parks and recreation facilities.

#### **Arts Commission**

Established in 2014, the City of Bonney Lake Arts Commission advises the Mayor and City Council on matters of the arts and community culture of Bonney Lake, provides community leadership and assistance in advocating for, developing and promoting the arts in Bonney Lake, and aims to improve the quality of life and enhance the aesthetic environment of Bonney Lake through art.



#### Accomplishments Since the 2015 Plan

The 2015 Parks and Recreation Element from the Comprehensive Plan guided City officials, management and staff in making decisions about planning, operating and implementing various parks and recreation services. The following represents a short list of the major accomplishments realized following the adoption of the previous Plan:

#### Cedarview Park

- Installed ADA accessible picnic tables and barbecue at shelter.
- Installed memorial bench.
- Striped parking lot.
- Removed hazardous trees.

#### Allan Yorke Park

- Installed ADA accessible picnic tables and barbecue at shelter.
- Installed two covered picnic tables and barbecue in beach area.
- Installed new buoy line in swim area.
- Chip sealed, fog coated and striped Field #4 parking for boat launch parking.
- Striped parking lots.
- Installed Pay Kiosk for boat launch.

#### ■ Victor Falls Park

- Installed picnic tables and benches along with clearing of invasive vegetation for more open space.
- Installed security cameras and fence.

#### Midtown Park

- Trimmed trees and mowed vegetation up open site lines into park.
- Volunteers installed a 10-station exercise course along existing trail.
- Planted trees for Arbor Day.

#### ■ Fennel Creek Trial

- Removed invasive vegetation and replanted of native vegetation (annually).
- Developed parking lot as part of phase 1.
- Terrace Art park (Fisherman Park)
  - Installed glass panel art work and two memorial plaques.
- Ken Simmons Park
  - Installed security cameras.

## Current Challenges & Future Considerations

As with any citywide strategic planning effort, current community challenges provide a context for developing and assessing strategies for the future. The following macrotrends are anticipated to be important priorities over the next decade.

#### **Growth, Development & Density**

The City of Bonney Lake has witnessed tremendous growth in recent years, and the City's population has risen over 130% between 2000 and 2020. By 2049, Bonney Lake is projected to be home to 27,529 residents. More residents and new development will increase the use of existing parks and facilities and increase the need for recreational spaces and experiences across the city. Rapid growth also will intensify existing community needs for safe and accessible walking and biking routes, as well as the preservation of open space and natural resources. In response, this Plan outlines several policies and projects to improve recreation facilities and parks to adapt to emerging needs, complete important



connections in the City's burgeoning trail network, and acquire or preserve open space in strategic areas.

#### **Equity, Inclusivity & Accessibility**

Maintaining and enhancing social equity across recreational opportunities and facilities should be a core function of municipal park and recreation systems. Through this Plan, the City of Bonney Lake made a concerted effort to reach out to, connect with, and engage the diversity of local communities, and the City also committed to outreach in English and Spanish. Through direct engagement during various community events, a dual-language community survey, dual-language online open houses, and live interpretation during an open house meeting, the City endeavored to make all voices welcome during the PTRO process. A focus on diversity, equity and inclusion also carries into adaptive recreation programs and ongoing accessibility upgrades of parks and amenities. The City must continue to find ways to provide safe and equitable access to parks, trails, facilities, recreation programs and other services.

### Continued Investments in Park and Recreation System

From accessible playgrounds to splash pads to connected trails to natural areas, the range of play experiences offered by the City will need to change and diversify over time. Also, the diversity of the Bonney Lake community will influence the needs for different or expanded recreational experiences, such as extended family gatherings, community events and social activities, and cultural arts, among others. The demand for new amenities also must be balanced against preserving and maintaining existing parks and natural areas. The development of new amenities may require the use or re-use of existing parkland or more parkland may be required to support the community's evolving, future needs.

Research on recreation also provides information on how park distribution, park proximity, park facilities and conditions have an impact on people's desire to engage in physical activity. It will be valuable to reevaluate current park designs and maintenance policies to ensure barrier-free, engaging park environments and operational efficiencies.







The City will continue to play a major role in enabling healthy lifestyles for Bonney Lake citizens and should continue to adapt the park and trail system and recreation offerings.

#### **Active Older Adults**

Although older adults, ages 55 years plus, make up only one-quarter of City's population, this age group is growing in Bonney Lake. Between 2010 and 2021, the City's population of 55+ adults grew by eight percentage points, from 16% of the City population to 24% of the population in 2021. This indicates a potential local need for active recreation opportunities for active older adults. Nationwide, active seniors are often looking at retirement age differently, and many are transitioning to new careers, finding ways to engage with their community, and focusing on their health and fitness. To meet the needs of active older residents, Bonney Lake will need to consider how the City's park and recreation facilities, programming and support for the Senior Center can meet the needs of this growing group.

#### **Obesity Epidemic**

The nation is facing an obesity epidemic that has prompted the U.S. Surgeon General to issue a call to action to recreation planning professionals. His call is to "reclaim the culture of physical activity" in our country. Scientific research now indicates that walking a minimum of 22 minutes a day can greatly decrease one's chances of acquiring diabetes or heart disease. These two health issues cause 70% of deaths in the U.S. and account for over \$1 trillion in costs. According to 2016-2020 data from the Tacoma Pierce Health Department, approximately one-third (36.5%) of Bonney Lake's population struggles with obesity, which is a nine percentage point increase from the data from ten years prior.

This call to action is now re-emphasizing the preventative side of health where the costs are much lower. Despite the existing recreation opportunities, the system of parks in Bonney Lake includes some barriers that prevent residents from potentially reaching these goals. This Plan makes specific recommendations on how the City can reduce barriers within its recreation infrastructure and support improved access to safe and accessible places to walk, bike and play.





#### Stewardship & Asset Management

Established park systems require ongoing maintenance in order to safely and effectively serve the community. Public recreation providers across the country consider maintaining existing park facilities to be a key management issue. Poorly maintained assets – from benches to playgrounds to sport fields – can fail, either structurally or operationally, posing safety risks and reducing their recreational value. Aging infrastructure also may fail to meet community expectations or need capital upgrades to adapt to changing community interests. However, recreation providers often struggle to establish adequate funding mechanisms for routine and preventative maintenance and repair of facilities, as well as the major rehabilitation of existing outdoor recreation facilities at the end of their useful life.

This Plan includes a condition assessments of City parks to provide a baseline of current conditions to inform facility, maintenance and operations policies and improvements. Proper maintenance of recreation assets will prevent deterioration, thereby reducing long-term capital and operating costs, maintaining safety, improving public perception and facilitating extended community use.

#### Climate Vulnerability, Adaptation & Resilience

Regional climate change models project that the Puget Sound area will see warmer temperatures, shifts in seasonal precipitation patterns with a decrease in summer precipitation, increases in extreme storm events and increases in the exposure to droughts and wildfires. Enhancing native vegetation, planting more trees, reducing energy and water use, and finding more sustainable materials to use in construction of park amenities will play a role in the City's overall efforts. Also, coordinated efforts to link multimodal transportation options to an expanding trail network and linking parks to transit and other community destinations will improve livability and reduce vehicular trips. Additionally, adapting to the impacts of climate change could include a review of tree species mix for increased diversity and resilience, as well as community health services in the form of providing heating/cooling stations during extreme weather events.

#### **Guiding Documents**

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

- Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Plan (2008)
- Comprehensive Plan (2015)
- Bonney Lake Centers Plan (2017)
- Eastown Subarea Plan (2017)
- Fennel Creek Trail Plan (2007)
- Multiple park conceptual design plans and reports
- Pierce County Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan (2020)



#### Contents of the Plan

The remainder of this Parks, Trails, Recreation and Open Space (PTRO) Plan is organized as follows:

- Chapter 2: Community Profile provides an overview of the City of Bonney Lake and its demographics.
- Chapter 3: Community Engagement –
  highlights the methods used to engage the
  Bonney Lake community in the development
  of the Plan.
- Chapter 4: Classifications & Inventory describes the inventory and classifications for existing park system.
- Chapters 5: Parks & Open Space describes community feedback, trends, local needs and potential improvements for parks and open space.
- Chapter 6: Trails describes community feedback, local interests and potential improvements for the recreational trail network.
- Chapter 7: Recreation describes community feedback, trends, local needs and potential improvements for recreation services, facilities and events.
- Chapter 8: Operations & Maintenance describes current and projected operational demands related to the maintenance and care of parks and open space.
- Chapter 9: Goals & Policies provides a policy framework for the park and recreation system grouped by major program area.
- Chapter 10: Projects & Implementation Strategies – describes a range of strategies to consider in the implementation of the Plan and details a 6-year and 25-year program for addressing park and facility enhancement or expansion projects.
- Appendices: Provides technical or supporting information to the planning effort and includes a summary of the community survey, stakeholder notes, funding options, among others.

# BENEFITS OF PARKS, RECREATION & OPEN SPACE

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

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



#### **Physical Activity Benefits**

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



#### **Community Benefits**

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



#### **Economic Benefits**

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

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

#### **Chapter 2**

# Community **PROFILE**

ocated in the scenic shadow of majestic Mt.
Rainier, Bonney Lake has become a premier
city for families and community in the
Western Washington, Puget Sound, and eastern
Pierce County region. Located just a short drive
from Seattle and Tacoma, Bonney Lake offers
living in a country community setting with easy
access to city amenities. This is a town where
Dreams Can Soar!

Source: thechambercollective.com



Bonney Lake is a city of approximately 23,000 residents in Pierce County, Washington. The city is located between the Port of Tacoma and Mount Rainier, on the southeastern outskirts of the Seattle-Tacoma metropolitan region. Bonney Lake's location along State Route 410, less than 15 miles from Tacoma and about a 40-minute drive to Seattle, its proximity to the farms and forests of the Puyallup Valley, its neighborhoods of single-family homes, and its well-rated schools make the city attractive to both families and retirees. Bonney Lake is bordered by Lake Tapps, the unincorporated communities of Alderton and Prairie Ridge, and other unincorporated lands within Pierce County.

The City of Bonney Lake includes a downtown district centered on Main Street East which includes mixed use and higher density residential zones, as well as multiple commercial districts along State Route 410. Most of the remainder of the City is developed with single-family residential homes.

The Puget Sound region, including and surrounding the City of Bonney Lake, was inhabited for millennia by numerous Coast



Salish Native American Tribes prior to the arrival of European settlers in the early 1800s. The area that became the City of Bonney Lake was once the western terminus of the Naches Trail, a route used by Native American peoples to travel from Puget Sound, over the Cascades, to the Yakima River Valley. Early European trappers and settlers came to the region for its proximity to Puget Sound, fertile farmland, and wealth of natural resources, then claimed land under the Donation Land Claim Act of 1850. Settlers then developed the Naches Trail into a wagon road, allowing easier access to the area and spurring land settlement and growth.

The area that was to become Bonney Lake developed slowly over the following century and did not have an electrical or water system. Then, in 1946, the Simmons family moved to the Bonney Lake area and initiated the creation of an electrical cooperative and then municipal incorporation to allow the development of a water system and other governmental services. The availability of services allowed rapid development of the area, which led residents to try, unsuccessfully, to reverse the incorporation. After incorporation, the City of Bonney Lake grew rapidly – generally through construction of large residential developments, reaching nearly 10,000 residents by 2000 and nearly 23,000 residents by 2020.

#### **Demographic Profile**

Today, the City of Bonney Lake is home to many adults aged 30 to 49 and many families with children, who enjoy the recreational opportunities provided by the City's parks and open spaces. Bonney Lake is an increasingly diverse community, where one in ten residents identifies as Hispanic or Latino. The City's residents are well educated and have high rates of employment and income. The City's population nearly doubled between 2000 and 2010 and has continued to grow, though at a more moderate rate, since.

#### **Population & Anticipated Growth**

After incorporation in 1949, the City of Bonney Lake began a three-decade period of rapid growth, reaching 5,328 residents by 1980 (equivalent to over 60% annual growth). Growth was supported by the provision of multiple municipal services, including drinking water, telephone, waste disposal, and newly expanded road and electrical systems. The City's rapid growth led to multiple unsuccessful local attempts to reverse the incorporation, the last of which occurred in 1972.

Bonney Lake continued to grow at a rapid, albeit slower, pace over the next forty years (about 8% annually). This growth exceeded the growth rate for the greater Seattle-Tacoma metropolitan statistical area (MSA), which was only 2% annually during this same period. By 2020, the City had reached a population of 22,798, making it the 60th largest city in the state.

The City of Bonney Lake will grow to a population of 26,327 by 2044 and 27,529 by 2049, equivalent to about a 0.7% annual growth rate.

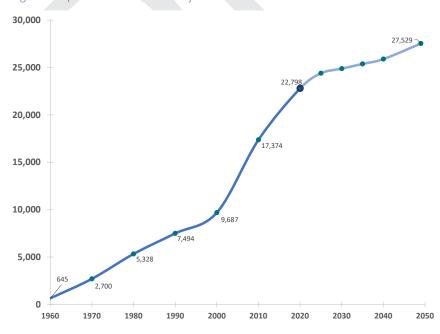
The size of a community and its anticipated growth over time are key indicators of whether existing park and recreation facilities will be sufficient to meet future needs. Population growth can also result in increased residential density and/or the development of currently vacant land within a city, potentially increasing the need for away-from-home recreation opportunities while simultaneously reducing potential locations for park and open space acquisition. Planning for parks and recreation facilities can help ensure residents can enjoy sufficient, conveniently located parks, open space, and recreation facilities while the community grows and evolves.

Figure 1. Population Characteristics: Bonney Lake, Pierce County and Washington

Demographics	Bonney Lake	Pierce County	Washington
Population Characteristics			
Population (2022) <sup>1</sup>	22,990	937,400	7,656,200
Population (2010) <sup>2</sup>	17,374	795,393	6,724,540
Population (2000) <sup>3</sup>	9,687	704,182	5,894,121
Percent Change (2000-20)	137.3%	33.1%	29.9%
Persons w/ Disabilities (%) 4	8.1%	13.1%	12.7%
Household Characteristics 4			
Households	7,920	335,969	2,931,841
Percent with children	43.5%	33.0%	30.4%
Median Household Income	\$108,705	\$82,574	\$82,400
Average Household Size	2.8	2.65	2.55
Average Family Size	3.17	3.17	3.1
Owner Occupancy Rate	80.9%	64.4%	63.6%
Age Groups <sup>4</sup>			
Median Age	36.7	36.4	37.9
Population < 5 years of age	6.4%	6.5%	5.9%
Population < 18 years of age	26.1%	23.5%	22.1%
Population 18 - 64 years of age	62.9%	62.7%	62.4%
Population > 65 years of age	11.0%	13.8%	15.5%

#### Sources:

Figure 2. Population – Actual and Projected: 1970-2049







<sup>\*1:</sup> Washington State Office of Financial Management, April 1, 2022 Population of Cities, Towns and Counties.

<sup>\*2:</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Decennial Census.

<sup>\*3:</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Decennial Census.

<sup>\*4:</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

#### **Age Group Distribution**

Bonney Lake's population has a median age of 36.7 (2021), on par with Pierce County as a whole (36.4) and lower than statewide averages (37.9). Adults between 30 to 49 years old make up the City's largest 20-year population group, comprising 28.6% of the overall population in 2021. This has important implications for park and recreation needs.

- Adults ages 25 to 34 years are users of adult programs. About 14% of residents are in this age category, see Figure 3. These residents may be entering long-term relationships and establishing families. More than 43% of households in the City are families with children.
- Adults between 35 and 54 years of age represent users of a wide range of adult programs and park facilities. Their characteristics extend from having children using preschool and youth programs to becoming empty nesters. This age group makes up 28% of Bonney Lake's population.
- Older adults, ages 55 years plus, make up 24% of Bonney Lake's population.
   This group represents users of adult and senior programs. These residents may

be approaching retirement or already retired and may be spending time with grandchildren. This group also ranges from very healthy, active seniors to more physically inactive seniors.

While most of Bonney Lake's residents (67%) are adults over 25 years of age, approximately one in three are youth and young adults.

- Youth under 5 years of age make up 6.4% of Bonney Lake's population. This group represents users of preschool and tot programs and facilities, and as trails and open space users, are often in strollers. These individuals are the future participants in youth activities.
- Children 5 to 14 years make up current youth program participants. Approximately 14% of the city's population falls into this age range.
- Teens and young adults, age 15 to 24 years, are in transition from youth program to adult programs and participate in teen/young adult programs where available. Members of this age group are often seasonal employment seekers. About 13% percent of Bonney Lake's residents are teens and young adults.

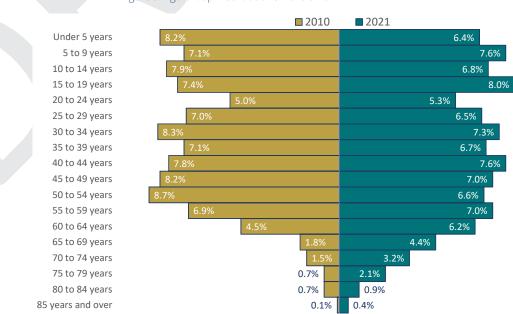


Figure 3. Age Group Distributions: 2010 & 2021 5

#### **Race and Ethnicity**

In 2021, just under 84% of the population of Bonney Lake identified as White, about 4% less than did so in 2011. Approximately 4% of residents identified as Asian, 1.3% as American Indian or Alaskan Native, 1% as Black or African American, and less than 1% as Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander. Approximately 7% of residents identified as two or more races and 2% identified as a race not listed in the American Community Survey options. About one in every nine residents (11%) identified as Hispanic or Latino of any race, with 6% identifying as Mexican, see Figure 4.

According to the 2021 American Community Survey, most Bonney Lake residents were born in the United States and speak English very well. However, approximately 10% of residents speak a language other than English at home and 2% speak English less than very well. Bonney Lake has a smaller percentage of people who speak a language other than English at home than compared to Pierce County as a whole (15%).

Members of the black, Indigenous and people of color (BIPOC) community have faced greater barriers accessing parks and recreation programs as compared to white residents, in part because they tend to have access to fewer and lower quality park and recreational opportunities. Nationally, the design and marketing of municipal recreation programs have also historically been biased against serving these communities. In addition, residents who speak languages other than English may face barriers in finding, accessing, and participating in park and recreation facilities and programs. As it plans for future park and recreational opportunities, the City should consider how to best meet the recreational needs of all community members.

#### Sources

- 5 U.S. Census Bureau, 2021.
- 6 U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 American Community Survey, 5-year estimates.
- 7 Puget Sound Regional Council. "Covered Employment by City Major Sector". Available at https://psrc-psregcncl.hub.arcgis.com/maps/covered-employment-by-city-major-sector. Accessed December 2022

Figure 4. Changes in Racial Composition - 2010 to 2021

Racial Identification	2010 <sup>5</sup>	2021 <sup>6</sup>
White	87.9%	84.3%
Two or more races	3.7%	4.0%
Asian	6.4%	7.0%
Black or African American	0.4%	1.3%
American Indian and Alaska Native	0.2%	1.0%
Native Hawaiian & Other Pacific Islander	0.0%	0.2%
Some other race	1.4%	2.2%
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	3.6%	10.8%

#### Persons with Disabilities 5

The 2021 American Community Survey reported 9% (1,795 persons) of Bonney Lake's population as having a disability that interferes with life activities. This is much lower than county and state averages (approximately 13% each). Approximately 26% residents over age 65 live with a disability, signaling a potential need to design inclusive parks, recreational facilities, and programs for these users.

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



<sup>8</sup> Data on the health status of Pierce County and Washington State residents taken from: University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute. "Washington Rankings Data". County Health Rankings. Available at https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/app/washington/2022/rankings/ pierce/county/outcomes/overall/snapshot. Accessed December 2022.

#### Household Characteristics 5

In 2021, the average household in Bonney Lake was 2.80 people, higher than the state average (2.55). The average family is larger, at 3.17 people. Of the 7,920 households in the city, 44% included children under 18, and 17% were individuals living alone.

Most city households own their home (81%), significantly higher than the average throughout Pierce County (64.4%). This high level of owner-occupied units reflects the predominantly single-family housing stock available in Bonney Lake.

#### **Employment & Education 5**

The 2021 work force population (16 years and over) of Bonney Lake was 17,212 (77%). Of this population, 68% is employed, 1% is unemployed, and 32% is not in the labor force. In 2021, the City's unemployment rate was 2%, significantly lower than the county (5%) and statewide (5.1%) rates.

Residents work in a wide variety of industries. In 2021, about 17% of the City's employed residents worked in the education and health care sector while 14% worked in retail trade. Several other industries – the professional and management, manufacturing, and construction sectors – each employ between 9 and 12 percent of workers and contribute significantly to the local economy.

The Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) estimates that in 2018 there were 5,095 covered employment positions in Bonney Lake. Nearly half of these positions (46%) are in the service sector and just over one quarter (27%) were in retail trade. Other sectors, including education (9%), construction (6%), government (5%), made up the majority of remaining local jobs.<sup>7</sup>

The vast majority (95%) of residents over 25 years of age have a high school degree or higher, higher than the statewide average

(92%). About 28% of Bonney Lake residents have a Bachelor's degree or higher, lower than statewide rates (37%).

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

#### Income & Poverty 5

A community's level of household income can impact the types of recreational services prioritized by community members as well as their willingness and ability to pay for recreational services. In 2021, the median household income in Bonney Lake was \$108,705. This income level was about \$26,000 (32%) higher than the median income for Pierce County households.

Higher income households have an increased ability and willingness to pay for recreation and leisure services and often face fewer barriers to participation. Approximately 55 percent of Bonney Lake households have household incomes in the higher income brackets (\$100,000 and greater), significantly more than the county average (40%).

Lower-income residents can face barriers to physical activity including reduced access to parks and recreational facilities, a lack of transportation options, a lack of time, and poor health. Lower-income residents may also be less able financially able to afford recreational service fees or to pay for services, like childcare, that can make physical activity possible. In Bonney Lake, 6.6% of households earn less than \$25,000 annually and 3% of local families live below the poverty level (\$26,500 for a family of four), lower than county rates. Poverty affects 6% of youth under 18 and 7% of those 65 and older.



#### **Health Status**

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

The Tacoma Pierce Health Department compiled regional data between 2006-2011 and 2016-2020, which included a statistics on health risks across the county and for Bonney Lake. For the prevalence of asthma, diabetes, and coronary heart disease, the population of Bonney Lake is comparable to that of Pierce County, and an increased prevalence in asthma and diabetes exists in both populations in the newer 2016-2020 data. Also, the population of Bonney Lake has a slightly higher rate of obesity compared to the countywide population.

Also, according to the 2022 County Health Rankings, Pierce County ranks in the highermiddle range compared to all Washington counties for health outcomes, including length and quality of life. But, it ranks in the lower-middle tier for health factors like health behaviors, clinical care, social and economic factors, and the physical environment.8 Approximately 20% of Pierce County adults aged 20 and older report getting no leisure-time physical activity - a slightly higher rate than the statewide average of 19%. In Pierce County, 75% of residents have access to adequate physical activity opportunities, which is lower than the average for all Washington and U.S. residents (79% and 80%, respectively). This suggests that the County may benefit from an increased number of places where residents can participate in physical activity, including parks, trails, and public or private community centers, gyms or other recreational facilities. Approximately 32% of Pierce County adults are overweight or obese, slightly higher than the average among all Washington adults (28%).

#### **Chapter 3**

# Community **ENGAGEMENT**





Over 1,800 participants provided insights on current community preferences and priorities.

ommunity engagement played an essential role in developing the 2024 PTRO Plan. Several outreach methods were used to connect with the community, seek their input and provide information about the Plan through convenient online and in-person activities. Public outreach methods were varied and extensive, including:

- Random-sample mail survey and online community-wide survey in English and Spanish
- Two online open houses in English and Spanish
- One in-person public meeting
- Tabling and outreach at 10 community events and including coordination with other on-going City planning efforts
- Stakeholder group discussions and one-on-one interviews
- Meetings with a project-specific Steering Committee and City Council
- Bonney Lake city website with plan information and feedback opportunities
- Multiple social media postings, email blasts, and city newsletter articles

#### **Community Survey**

A community-wide, statistically-valid survey was conducted to assess the recreational needs and priorities of Bonney Lake residents. The survey was available in English and Spanish, and the cover letter accompanying the printed mail survey was written in both languages and included unique QR codes to access each in-language survey online. The City mailed 2,500 surveys to randomly chosen households in Bonney Lake on March 27, 2023, of which 398 surveys were completed and returned (15.9% response rate, 4.5% margin of error). Online versions of the survey in English and Spanish were posted to the City's website on March 28th. An additional 442 surveys in English were completed from the general, community-wide online surveys. In addition, three Spanish surveys were completed. In all, 843 surveys were collected.

66

More playgrounds with new equipment for different age ranges. Young kids and toddlers vs. older larger play areas. Picnic areas would be also great for families."

- Survey respondent



Information about the survey was promoted in English and Spanish through several channels, including on the City's website, through multiple social media postings, in the April utility billing, and through direct outreach to partner organizations and recreation program participants. The survey was closed on May 12, 2023.

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

- Performance and quality of programs and parks
- Usage of City parks and recreation facilities
- Overall satisfaction with the value of services being delivered by the City
- Opinions about the need for various park, recreation, and trail improvements
- Priorities for future park and recreation services and facilities

Significant survey findings are noted below, and a more detailed discussion of results can be found in the needs assessment chapters covering parks and open space, trails, and recreation (Chapters 5 - 7).

#### **Major Survey Findings:**

- Livability: Nearly all respondents (95%) feel that public parks and recreation opportunities are important or essential to the quality of life on Bonney Lake.
- Usage: Park visitation is high, with 66% of respondents visiting parks or recreation facilities at least once a month. Respondents visit local parks and recreation facilities for a variety of reasons, but the most popular reason is to walk or run (65%). More than one-third of respondents visit to use a playground (49%), attend community events or concerts (45%), for fitness or exercise (44%), relaxation (41%), visit the lakefront (38%), or walk a dog (37%).

- Park Amenity Priorities: Respondents indicated that the highest unmet need is for walking and biking trails. Nearly all respondents are either very or somewhat supportive of additional walking and biking trails (96%), developed parks with playgrounds (91%), picnic areas and shelters (89%). When asked to rank specific types of improvements, respondents would like to see the City expand the trail network (1st), improve existing parks (2nd), and add new recreational amenities (3rd).
- Recreation Programming: More than half of respondents (57%), or members of their household, have participated in a community event within the past two years. More than half of respondents expressed interest in seeing more family programs (63%), community events (53%), and youth activities (50%) in Bonney Lake. A plurality of respondents feel the City needs more teen activities, youth sports, adult classes, and programs for adults over 55.

The complete survey summary is provided in Appendix A.

#### Online Open House #1

On June 14, 2023, the City published an online open house in English and Spanish that stayed open for over two weeks to allow community members to participate at their convenience. The online open house provided residents an opportunity to respond to a series of questions about Bonney Lake's recreational opportunities and solicit input about which park and recreation amenities, services and facilities are important to them. The online open house also included information and questions about three individual parks, Allan Yorke Park, Midtown Park and Victor Falls Park, to guide the design of future improvements. In all, 207 responses were collected.

#### Major Online Open House Findings:

Most respondents identified walking and biking trails, followed by playgrounds, as top priorities in a forced rank question.

- Youth sports was noted as a priority for recreation programs.
- Regarding potential trail corridor alignments, respondents listed Fennel Creek trail (Sumner- Buckley Hwy E to Allan Yorke Park) as their top priority.

A summary of responses to the online open house is provided in Appendix B.

#### Online Open House #2

The City hosted a second online open house from October 12 through 22, 2023. The open house was structured in a manner similar to the first online open house and included refreshed design concepts for four parks. The online open house was offered and promoted in English and Spanish via social media posts, email blasts and public meeting announcements. The online open house was designed to mirror the information presented at the in-person open house and was offered to expand participation and improve convenience for local participants. Online open house attendees submitted 192 survey responses between all pages. The meeting summary was combined with the feedback from the in-person session.

#### **In-Person Open House**

The City hosted an in-person public meeting on October 18, 2023 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at the Bonney Lake Public Services Center. The public meeting was structured in a manner similar to the second online open house and was intended to complement and supplement community feedback from the online open house. The meeting included a presentation with an overview of the PTRO Plan, preliminary recommendations and a walk through of design concepts for multiple parks. The meeting was promoted in concert with the overlapping second online open house.

Attendees were encouraged to talk to project team members and record their comments on the displays. City staff and project team staff engaged with participants to identify project recommendations and ideas for park and recreation in Bonney Lake. Approximately 25 people attended the meeting to review materials and provide comment.

#### **Major Public Meeting Findings:**

- When asked to pick one park system improvement, most respondents answered walking and biking trails, followed by splash pads and sports field.
- Multi-sport courts and play equipment were noted as the top two priority improvements from a list of seven amenities.
- Respondents listed Fennel Creek Trail (Old Sumner-Buckley Hwy E to Allan Yorke Park) and Fennel Creek Trail (Victor Falls Park to Foothills Trail) as their top priority trail corridors for future investment.

A summary of responses to the second online open house and the online open house is provided in Appendix C.

#### **Stakeholder Discussions**

Online group discussions with external and internal stakeholders were conducted to assess local needs and opportunities for enhancements and coordination. The group-based discussion sessions occurred between April and October 2023. One session occurred with internal City staff to discuss recreation programs, events and facility needs. Two group sessions focused on local sport interests and needs and included participation from the following groups:

- NW Disc Golf Association
- Bonney Lake Little League
- Wolfpack Football & Cheer
- Mt Rainier Football Club
- Raptors Youth Football & Cheer
- Rainier Jr Rugby Club
- Lake Tapps Lacrosse Club



#### **Community Event Tabling**

City staff and Planning Commission members conducted a series of tabling activities at community events and festivals. Tabling occurred between July and August to build awareness of the PTRO Plan and solicit input on recreation programming and the design and development ideas for multiple park sites. Tabling was held at the following venues:

- Tunes at Tapps concert series (weekly for ten weeks), and
- Bonney Lake Days.

Approximately 500 people were engaged during these events. Community comments included interest in an expanded trail network, playground upgrades, installation of a splash pad, restrooms and pickleball courts and classes.

#### **Steering Committee Meetings**

A project-specific Steering Committee provided feedback on the development of the PTRO Plan during three meetings during 2023. The first session occurred on March 8, 2023, immediately after the planning project was initiated. The committee was provided an overview of the planning process and provided their perspectives on specific challenges, opportunities and ideas about City parks, trails and recreation programs. The committee spent significant effort reviewing and commenting on the public process and feedback, project priorities, and system-wide goals and improvement projects. Subsequent sessions occurred in June and October. The committee also reviewed and commented on strategies and recommendations of the draft Plan.

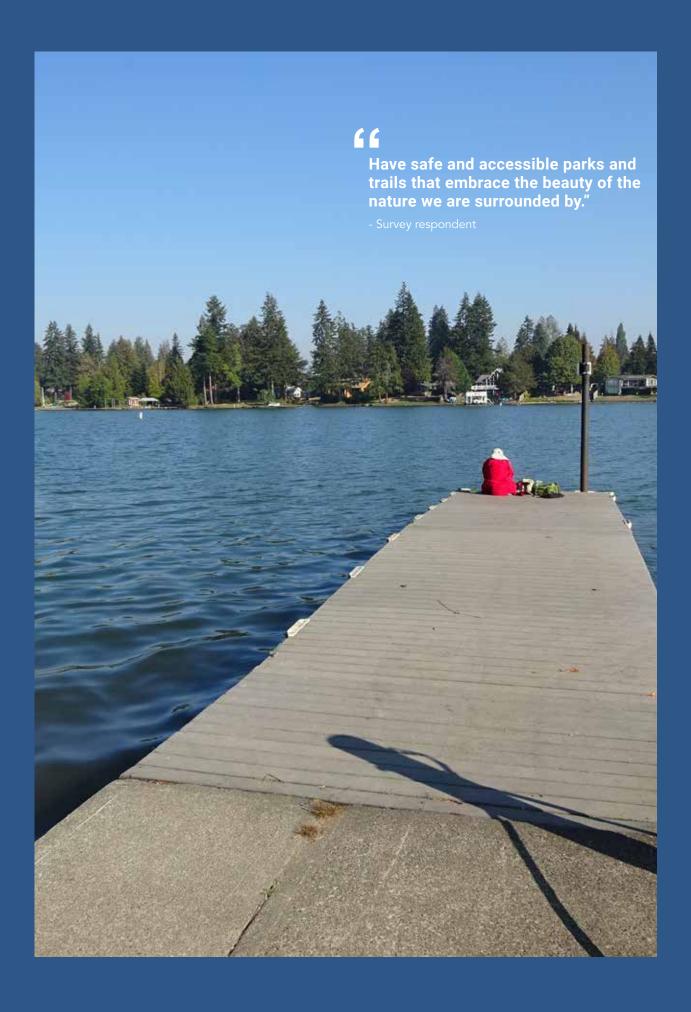
#### Other Outreach

In addition to the direct outreach opportunities described above, the Bonney Lake community was informed about the planning process through a variety of media platforms. The following methods were used to share



information about the project and provide opportunities to participate and offer their comments:

- City website home page
- PTRO Plan project page
- Email outreach through the City's distribution list and through partner organizations
- Social media via Twitter and Facebook
- Media releases and utility billings
- Announcements at Council and Planning Commission public meetings



#### **Chapter 4**

# Classifications & INVENTORY



his chapter describes the park classification system and provides an overview of the parks and open spaces in and near Bonney Lake.

#### Parkland Classifications

Parkland is classified to assist in planning for the community's recreational needs. The classifications also reflect standards that inform development decisions during site planning, in addition to operations and maintenance expectations for the level of developed facilities or natural lands. The Bonney

Lake park system is composed of a hierarchy of various park types, each offering recreational opportunities and natural environmental functions. Collectively, the park system is intended to serve the full range of community needs.

Classifying parkland by function allows the City to evaluate its needs and to plan for an efficient, cost effective, and usable park system that minimizes conflicts between park users and adjacent uses. Several factors are considered when classifying parks:

- Specific needs in neighborhood, service area, or community;
- Suitability of a site for a particular use;
- Cost and effort of development;
- Possibility for public-private partnerships; and
- Operating and maintenance costs.

Each park classification defines the site's function, expected amenities, and recreational uses. The classification characteristics serve as general guidelines addressing the size and use of each park type. The following six classifications are used in Bonney Lake's park system:

- Community Parks
- Neighborhood Parks
- Mini Parks
- Open Space
- Special Use Areas
- Trails / Linear Parks







#### **Community Parks**



#### Size

10 to 30 acres

#### **Developed Parks**

Allan Yorke Park

#### **Future Parks**

- Midtown Park
- Reed property

Community parks are larger parks, typically between 10 and 30 acres, providing a wide variety of recreation opportunities that appeal to the entire community. These parks serve larger geographic areas, typically within a two- to three-mile travel distance from the park, and many visitors drive to these parks. In areas without neighborhood parks, community parks also can serve as local neighborhood parks. Community parks offer programmed activities, as well as passive, unstructured recreation. Amenities may include athletic fields, skateparks, sport courts, splash pads, swimming beaches, fishing piers, children's play areas, off-leash dog areas, individual and group picnic shelters, trails, natural areas, and community gardens. Athletic fields may be natural, synthetic turf, or a combination of surfaces, with or without field lighting. Because of the variety of recreation opportunities and the large number of people served, community parks require support facilities such as restrooms, parking lots, and maintenance facilities. Allan Yorke Park, the City's primary community park, provides public access to Lake Tapps for swimming, fishing, and recreational watercraft activities.

#### **Typical Amenities**

#### **Passive Recreation**

- **✓** Seating
- ☑ Casual Use Spaces
- **☑** Community Gardens
- ✓ Internal Walking Trails
- **☑** Beach / Water Access
- ☑ Unique Landscape Features
- ✓ Natural Spaces

#### **Active Recreation**

- **☑** Biking Trails
- ✓ Outdoor Fitness / Exercise Facilities
- ☑ Creative Play Attractions
- **✓** Playgrounds
- ✓ Rectangular Fields
- ☑ Diamond Fields
- **✓** Basketball Courts
- ☑ Tennis / Pickleball Courts
- ✓ Volleyball Courts
- ☑ Water Play

#### **Facilities**

- ☑ Individual Picnic / Sitting Areas
- ☑ Group Picnic Areas
- ✓ Park Shelters
- ✓ Skateparks / Bike Skills
- ☑ Splash Pads / Spray Parks
- ☑ Watercraft Launch / Docks
- **☑** Outdoor Event Spaces
- ✓ Off-leash Areas
- **☑** Restrooms
- ✓ Parking

#### **Neighborhood Parks**



#### Size

1 to 5 acres

#### **Developed Parks**

- Cedarview Park
- Ken Simmons Park

#### **Future Parks**

☐ Parking

- Downtown Park
- Elhi Hill Park

Neighborhood parks provide close-to-home recreation opportunities. These parks provide both active and passive recreation opportunities for people living within approximately one-half mile of the park. Topography and population density can influence the location of a neighborhood park. 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. Connecting and frontage streets should include sidewalks or other safe pedestrian access. Neighborhood parks should be located along road frontages to improve visual access and community awareness of the sites. Additionally, street plans should encourage maximum connectivity and public access to park sites. Typical amenities in a neighborhood park include playground equipment, picnic areas, open grass areas for passive use, outdoor basketball courts, and multi-use open grass areas for field sport practice and informal games. Support facilities may include restrooms and off-street parking. The provision of future neighborhood and mini parks in Bonney Lake primarily will be through homeowner associations, as the City's municipal code requires a minimum 193 square feet of park space per residential unit for localized playgrounds.

#### **Typical Amenities**

#### **Passive Recreation Active Recreation Facilities** ✓ Seating ☐ Biking Trails ✓ Individual Picnic / Sitting Areas ☑ Casual Use Spaces ✓ Outdoor Fitness / Exercise Facilities ☑ Group Picnic Areas ☑ Community Gardens ☑ Creative Play Attractions ✓ Park Shelters ✓ Internal Walking Trails **✓** Playgrounds ✓ Skateparks / Bike Skills ☐ Beach / Water Access ✓ Rectangular Fields ✓ Splash Pads / Spray Parks ☑ Diamond Fields ☐ Unique Landscape Features ☐ Watercraft Launch / Docks ☐ Natural Spaces **☑** Basketball Courts ☐ Outdoor Event Spaces ✓ Tennis / Pickleball Courts Off-leash Areas ✓ Volleyball Courts Restrooms

✓ Water Play



#### Mini Parks



#### Size

< 1 acre

#### **Developed Parks**

Madrona Park

☐ Parking

Also called 'pocket' parks, mini parks are small parks on public or private land that offer greenspace, outdoor seating areas, and small playgrounds (such as a tot lot). Currently, the City's only mini park is Madrona Park. Due to their small size, limited recreational opportunities and higher maintenance costs per acre, mini parks generally are discouraged for the City. However, many private subdivisions have developed and maintain private mini parks, tot lots, and small recreational spaces, typically ranging from 0.1 to 2 acres in size, which provide recreational resources to residents of specific homeowner associations.

#### **Typical Amenities**

#### **Passive Recreation Facilities Active Recreation** ✓ Seating ☑ Individual Picnic / Sitting Areas ☐ Biking Trails ☑ Casual Use Spaces Outdoor Fitness / Exercise Facilities ☐ Group Picnic Areas ☐ Community Gardens ☐ Creative Play Attractions ☐ Park Shelters ☐ Internal Walking Trails ✓ Playgrounds ☐ Skateparks / Bike Skills ☐ Beach / Water Access ☐ Rectangular Fields ☐ Splash Pads / Spray Parks ☐ Unique Landscape Features ☐ Diamond Fields ☐ Watercraft Launch / Docks **✓** Basketball Courts ☐ Outdoor Event Spaces ☐ Natural Spaces ☑ Tennis / Pickleball Courts Off-leash Areas Restrooms ✓ Volleyball Courts

☐ Water Play

#### **Open Space**



Size

Varies

#### **Existing Sites**

- Church Lake Wetlands
- Brookside Wetlands
- Milotte Springs (Grainger Springs)Open Space
- Other miscellaneous parcels

Open spaces are undeveloped lands primarily left in a natural state and typically places that are geographically or geologically unique, with passive recreation use as a secondary objective, such as trails. This type of land often includes wetlands, steep hillsides, or other similar undevelopable spaces. In some cases, environmentally sensitive areas are considered as open space and may include wildlife habitats, stream and creek corridors, or unique and/or endangered plant species. Open spaces can provide for connected or linked corridors that can support broader ecological functions than standalone properties. Open spaces may serve as trail corridors, and lowimpact or passive activities, such as walking and nature observation may be allowed, where appropriate.

#### **Typical Amenities**

#### **Passive Recreation Active Recreation** ✓ Seating **☑** Biking Trails ☑ Casual Use Spaces ✓ Outdoor Fitness / Exercise Facilities ☐ Community Gardens ☐ Creative Play Attractions ✓ Internal Walking Trails ☐ Playgrounds **☑** Beach / Water Access ☐ Rectangular Fields ☐ Diamond Fields ☑ Unique Landscape Features ✓ Natural Spaces ☐ Basketball Courts ☐ Tennis / Pickleball Courts

☐ Volleyball Courts

☐ Water Play

Facilities

✓ Individual Picnic / Sitting Areas

☐ Group Picnic Areas

☐ Park Shelters

☐ Skateparks / Bike Skills

☐ Splash Pads / Spray Parks

☐ Watercraft Launch / Docks

☐ Outdoor Event Spaces

☐ Off-leash Areas

☐ Restrooms

☐ Parking



#### **Special Use Areas**



Special use areas are sites that are occupied by a specialized facility or that fulfill a specialized purpose. Some uses that fall into this park type include sites of historical or cultural significance (e.g., museums, historical landmarks and structures), public plazas, city gateways, community gardens, single purpose sites used for a particular field sport or sites that offer indoor recreation opportunities. Ascent Park, Viking Park and the Senior Center are examples of special use areas in Bonney Lake.

#### Size

Varies

#### **Existing Sites**

- Ascent Park
- Terrace Art Park (Fisherman Park)
- Public Safety Memorial Park
- Viking Park

#### **Future Sites**

- Veteran's Memorial Park
- Victor Falls Park

#### **Typical Amenities**

#### **Passive Recreation**

- **✓** Seating
- ☑ Casual Use Spaces
- ✓ Community Gardens
- ✓ Internal Walking Trails
- ☑ Beach / Water Access
- ☑ Unique Landscape Features
- ✓ Natural Spaces

#### **Active Recreation**

- **☑** Biking Trails
- ✓ Outdoor Fitness / Exercise Facilities
- ☑ Creative Play Attractions
- ☐ Playgrounds
- ☐ Rectangular Fields
- ☐ Diamond Fields
- ☐ Basketball Courts
- ☐ Tennis / Pickleball Courts
- ☐ Volleyball Courts
- ☐ Water Play

#### **Facilities**

- ☑ Individual Picnic / Sitting Areas
- ☑ Group Picnic Areas
- ✓ Park Shelters
- ☐ Skateparks / Bike Skills
- ☐ Splash Pads / Spray Parks
- ☐ Watercraft Launch / Docks
- ☐ Outdoor Event Spaces
- ✓ Off-leash Areas
- ✓ Restrooms
- ✓ Parking

#### **Trails / Linear Parks**



#### Size

Varies

#### **Existing Sites**

■ Fennel Creek Open Space

The purpose of trails and linear parks is to provide safe and readily accessible connections between neighborhoods, City parks, and centers of local importance to encourage walking, jogging, bicycling, and other forms of non-motorized recreational travel. Trail development may coincide with the installation of sidewalks in some locations where there is a logical connection between activity centers or there is a need to place pedestrian walkways adjacent to City streets. Trails and linear parks help people of all ages incorporate exercise into their daily routines by connecting them with places they want or need to go. The Fennel Creek Trail has some segments completed and will eventually connect to the Flume Trail and the Puyallup River. The City has also been active in creating safe routes to school by connecting the Fennel Creek Trail to Victor Falls Elementary and a safe route through the high school and middle school. This PTRO Plan details recreational trail connections (see Chapter 6). Trail corridors that include sidewalks and bicycle lanes or those within the right-of-way are addressed separately in the Transportation Element of the Comprehensive Plan.

#### **Typical Amenities**

### Passive Recreation ✓ Seating

- ☑ Casual Use Spaces
- ☐ Community Gardens
- ☑ Internal Walking Trails
- ☑ Beach / Water Access
- ☑ Unique Landscape Features
- ✓ Natural Spaces

#### **Active Recreation**

- ☑ Biking Trails
- ☑ Outdoor Fitness / Exercise Facilities
- ☑ Creative Play Attractions
- ☐ Playgrounds
- ☐ Rectangular Fields
- ☐ Diamond Fields
- ☐ Basketball Courts
  ☐ Tennis / Pickleball Courts
- ☐ Volleyball Courts
- ☐ Water Play

#### **Facilities**

- ☑ Individual Picnic / Sitting Areas
- ☐ Group Picnic Areas
- ☐ Park Shelters
- ☐ Skateparks / Bike Skills
- ☐ Splash Pads / Spray Parks
- ☐ Watercraft Launch / Docks
- Outdoor Event Spaces
- Off-leash Areas
- **✓** Restrooms
- ✓ Parking



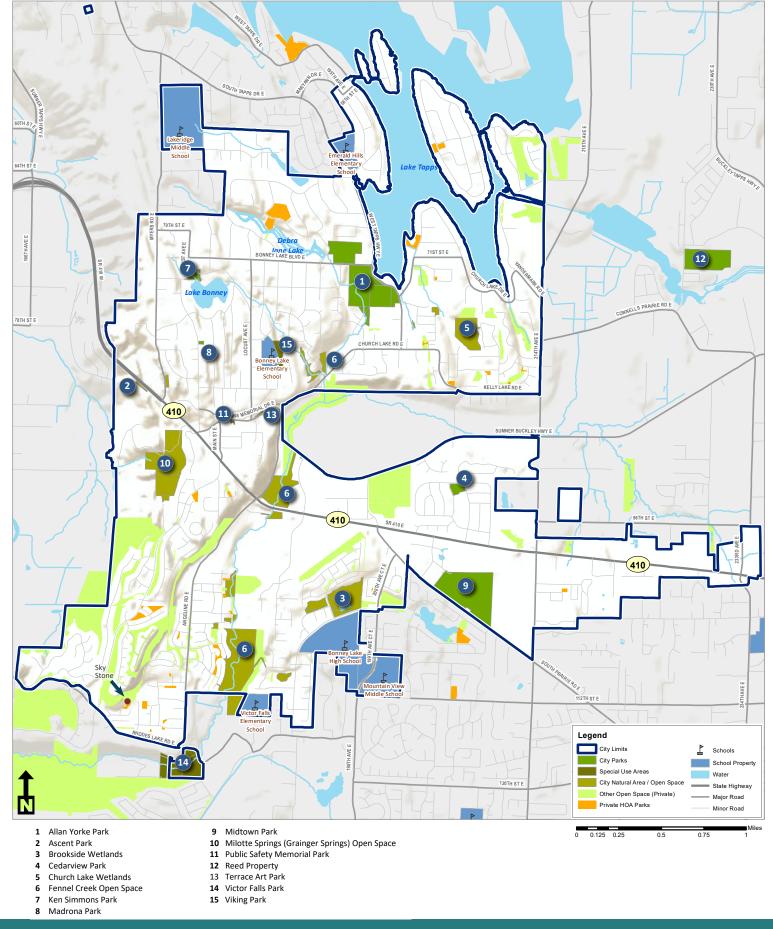
#### **Park System Inventory**

The City of Bonney Lake provides a variety of park and outdoor recreation facilities featuring six developed parks and approximately 310 acres of parks and open space. The primary community park is the Allan Yorke Park. The other community parks are either undeveloped or partially developed, Reed Farm and Midtown Park, respectively. Two neighborhood parks and a mini park provide local recreational amenities accessible to nearby residents.

Figure 5. Bonney Lake Park System Inventory

Park Type / Name	Classification	Status	Acreage
Community Parks			
Allan Yorke Park	Community	Developed	49.6
Reed Property	Community	Undeveloped	20.1
Midtown Park	Community	Undeveloped	45.5
Neighborhood & Mini Parks			
Cedarview Park	Neighborhood	Developed	2.9
Ken Simmons Park	Neighborhood	Developed	2.0
Madrona Park	Mini	Developed	0.4
Special Use Parks			
Ascent Park	Special Use / Gateway		0.5
Public Safety Memorial Park	Special Use	Developed	0.2
Terrace Art Park	Special Use	Developed	0.5
Victor Falls Park	Special Use	Partially Developed	22.2
Viking Park	Special Use	Developed	3.7
Open Space			
Fennel Creek Open Space	Open Space / Linea	r Park	84.9
Church Lake Wetlands	Open Space		14.1
Brookside Wetlands	Open Space		23.0
Milotte Springs (Grainger Springs) Open Space	Open Space		36.4
Miscellaneous open space parcels	Open Space		4.0

Total City-Owned Park Acres 309.9



# Other Nearby Outdoor Recreational Opportunities

#### **Sumner-Bonney Lake School District**

In addition to City-owned and operated parks, there are a number of Sumner-Bonney Lake School District facilities with amenities, such as tracks and play equipment, that provide neighborhood recreation opportunities for Bonney Lake residents during non-school use hours. The City also has an Interlocal agreement with the Sumner-Bonney Lake School District to provide recreational services for the residents of the area. As part of this Interlocal agreement, school buildings are used for organized after-school recreation programs, sports leagues, and various recreation activities primarily for youth.

#### Private Facilities & Points of Interest

In addition to City parkland and the Sumner School District recreation resources, the following privately operated recreation facilities are accessible to Bonney Lake residents:

■ Swiss Sportsman's Club: The Swiss Sportsman's Club is a 40-acre, private park with multiple buildings on site, including one equipped with a full kitchen. It also has a shooting range (recreational and competition shooting), children's play area, horseshoe pits, and overnight camping. The Swiss Sportsman's Club has become a year-around event center for Bonney Lake over the past few years.

- Kelley Farm & Fields: Located adjacent to city limits along the north side of the Sumner-Buckley Highway, the 164-acre Kelley Farm offers a renovated barn available for rent for weddings, private gatherings and other events. During the annual soccer season, field space is donated to the Mt. Rainier Futbol Club and hosts practices, games and tournaments.
- Homeowner Associations Parks: Private homeowner associations (HOAs) parks contribute to the City's total park acreage, providing small-scale recreation opportunities for certain subdivisions. Private HOA parks provide another 29 mini parks across the city, totaling 23.7 acres. Private HOAs also provide over 548 acres of additional open space tracts. Although these private parks typically are not open to the general public, they still are considered an important element of the Bonney Lake park system. The City should remain committed to providing larger parks, especially for those residents not affiliated with private homeowner association amenities and resources.
- Sky Stone: Located within Naches Terrace subdivision and Skystone HOA Park, the stone was deposited by a retreating glacier as much as 13,000 years ago and has cultural significance to Indigenous Tribes. The Sky Stone is believed to be a prehistoric astronomical observatory and seasonal calendar.¹

Figure 6. Sumner-Bonney Lake School District Recreational Amenities

School Site	Ball Fields	Tennis Courts	Basketball Hoops	Football Soccer	Gyms	Other Rec
Bonney Lake Elementary	3		6	1	1	Play area with climbing & games
Emerald Hills Elementary	2		6	1	1	Play area with climbing & games
Liberty Ridge Elementary	2		6	1	1	Playground equipment
Victor Falls Elementary	2		6	1	1	Play area with climbing, swings & tetherball
Lake Ridge Middle School	2	2	10	2	2	
Mountain View Middle School	2	4	8	2	2	
Bonney Lake High School	3	4	12	1	2	
Total Recreation Amenities	16	10	54	9	10	

#### Sources

<sup>(1)</sup> Jacobsen, Winona. Bonney Lake's Plateau. 2011

#### **Pierce County**

Pierce County provides more than 5,271 acres at 44 sites throughout Pierce County, including three recreation centers, a sports complex, an ice rink, a skateboard park, two boat launch sites, two golf courses, trail corridors, a disc golf course, and a large number of passive open space sites through Pierce County's Conservation Futures system. The closest county parks and trails to Bonney Lake are Riverside Park, the Foothills Trail East Puyallup Trailhead and Foothills Trail South Prairie

#### **Mount Rainier National Park**

Covering much of the eastern portion of Pierce County, Mount Rainier National Park is within a reasonable drive from Bonney Lake. Mount Rainier National Park, managed by the Department of the Interior, is a 236,380-acre park is situated 60 miles southeast of Seattle, in the southern Cascade Mountains. Established in 1899. Mount Rainier is the fifth oldest national park with over two million visitors annually. Visitors can travel the park's historic roads to view the tallest volcano in the continental United States and explore the park's old-growth forests, subalpine wildflower meadows, and dynamic landscape carved by glaciers and powerful rivers. Bonney Lake residents can drive to the Park's Mowich Lake campground in 1.5 hours or trailheads along SR 410 on the eastside of the mountain within a one-hour drive.

#### **Gifford Pinchot National Forest**

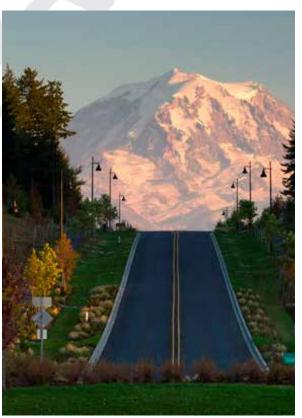
The northern reaches of the expansive Gifford Pinchot National Forest is within easy reach of Bonney Lake residents. In addition to a variety of trailheads leading into the forested lands, the National Forest hosts Big Creek campground with its a single-loop campground located near the Nisqually entrance of Mt. Rainier National Park.

#### **Other Urban Park Systems**

Adjacent cities provide recreation opportunities that should be considered relevant components of the overall Bonney Lake park system.

Some facilities, such as regional trails, will require partnerships and coordination that extend beyond city boundaries. Two adjacent municipalities operate and maintain park and recreation facilities, including:

- City of Sumner: Sumner manages five urban parks, one skatepark, Bill Heath Sports Complex, the historical Ryan House and 5.5 miles 5.5 miles of paved trail along and across the White River.
- City of Puyallup: The Parks and Recreation Department manages numerous park sites, two off-leash dog parks, a sports complex, skatepark and a riverfront trail along the Puyallup River. In addition, Puyallup operates the Puyallup Recreation Center and the Puyallup Activity Center for seniors.



Source: tehaleh.com



"Please consider developing Midtown Park into a beautiful park that supports the growing community of families and safe, recreational activities for people of all ages."

- Survey respondent





Source: Tacoma News Tribune

#### **Chapter 5**

# Parks & OPEN SPACE

he PTRO planning process assesses recreational needs and priorities for park facilities, active use areas, and trails in Bonney Lake. The park assessment included a discussion of specific local needs with consideration given to the City's broader park system. Public input and information on park inventory conditions were also heavily relied upon in the planning process.

By considering the location, size, and the number of park facilities by type and use, along with community interests and priorities, the PTRO Plan evaluates the existing and future demand for park and recreation amenities and provides recommendations for future initiatives. The Capital Improvements Plan, which identifies and prioritizes crucial upgrades, improvements, and expansions, is based on the needs

assessment and the recreational interests expressed by residents. The recreational interests of Bonney Lake residents were captured in the community survey and compared to regional, state and national trend data.

#### **Park & Recreation Trends**

A review of several recognized park and recreation resources provide a background on national, state, and regional trends, market demands, and agency comparisons. These outdoor recreation trends, combined with community interests in parks, trails, and open space and an assessment of current conditions and levels of service, help identify and shape recommendations for park system improvements. Examining current recreation trends can help inform potential park and recreation improvements and opportunities that may enhance the community and create a more vibrant parks system as it moves into the future.

The following national and state data highlights some of the current park usage trends and may frame future considerations for Bonney Lake's park system. Additional trend data and summaries are provided in Appendix J.

- 90% of U.S. adults believe that parks and recreation is an important service provided by their local governments. (1)
- 84% of U.S. adults seek high-quality parks and recreation when choosing a place to live. (1)
- Running, jogging, and trail running are the most popular outdoor activities across the nation, based on levels of participation, followed by hiking, fishing, biking, and camping. (2)

- The outdoor activity categories with the highest growth rates among kids included backpacking, snowshoeing, canoeing, climbing, and off-road triathlon. (2)
- A significantly higher percentage of seniors (ages 55+) are participating in outdoor recreation. In 2022, the senior participation rate hit a record high of 35% and is rising. (2)
- Walking ranked as the top activity by participation rate (94%) in Washington State.
- Participation nearly doubled for pickleball in 2022, increasing by 85.7% year-over-year. In 2022 for the first time in over seven years, every racquet sport increased its total participation number compared to the previous year. (4)
- Wildlife viewing and paddle sport participation increased statewide by 28% since 2017. (5)
- Nationally, outdoor recreation economic activity increased 19% from 2020 to 2022, while the overall U.S. economy only saw a 5.9% increase. (6)

The 2023 Washington State Recreation and Conservation Plan (SCORP) is a five-year statewide recreation plan published by the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO). The SCORP is designed to determine outdoor recreation issues and opportunities and helps explore local park and recreation planning strategies. It includes valuable data on current trends in recreation participation and demand in Washington.

Since the 2018 SCORP, the Recreation and Conservation Office has implemented strategies to improve grant equity over the past years by revising grant evaluation criteria and incorporating new tools to lower barriers to accessing funding. Equitable access to

#### Sources

- (1) 2022 American Engagement with Parks Report, National Recreation and Park Association
- (2) 2023 Outdoor Participation Trends Report, Outdoor Foundation
- (3) 2018-2022 Recreation and Conservation Plan for Washington State
- (4) 2023 Sports, Fitness, and Leisure Activities Topline Participation Report, Sports and Fitness Industry Association
- (5) 2022 Assessment of Resident Demand, Washington State 2023 Recreation & Conservation Plan (draft)
- (6) 2022 Outdoor Recreation Satellite Account data, U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

meaningful outdoor recreation experiences is now a central pillar of the outdoor recreation community. In the last five years, RCO completed several studies that highlight the multiple benefits and linkages between outdoor recreation, public lands conservation, and these critical determinants of equity. These studies document the physical and mental health, environmental and economic returns on investing in outdoor recreation opportunities, and public lands conservation and serve to guide grant evaluations for funding park and recreation improvements.

In addition to other SCORP planning elements, RCO conducted a Recreation Provider Survey in early 2022 and compiled responses of typical issues, challenges, and priorities facing Washington State cities, counties, and districts providing park and recreation services. The following list offers a snapshot of management priorities impacting local agencies and guided by local public demands for outdoor recreation facilities.

- Expanding community trail systems
- Connecting regional trail systems
- Renovating aging infrastructure
- Expanding the amount of public lands
- Developing nature-based parks

95%

of survey respondents feel that parks and recreation are important or essential to quality of life in Bonney Lake.

#### **Community Feedback**

#### **Community Survey Results**

The community survey confirmed that Bonney Lake residents strongly value their local parks, recreation options and open space opportunities. Virtually all survey respondents (96%) feel that local parks and recreation opportunities are important or essential to the quality of life in Bonney Lake. Residents of all ages value parks and recreation similarly – there were no significant differences between age groups.

Respondents were asked how often they visit a City park or open space in a typical year.
Roughly one-third of respondents (33%) visit at least once a week, if not every day. Another 33% visit one to three times per month.
Survey respondents showed a high use of parks regardless of age. However, younger respondents (below 55) were significantly more likely to visit everyday or at least once per week as compared to older respondents.

Figure 7. Frequency of Visitation



Respondents visit local parks and recreation facilities for a variety of reasons, but the most popular reason is to walk or run (65%). More than one-third of respondents visit to use a playground (49%), attend community events or concerts (45%), for fitness or exercise (44%), relaxation (41%), visit the lakefront (38%), or walk a dog (37%), see Figure 8. In general, facilities built for a single purpose (e.g., a sport) tended to rank lower on respondents' priorities.

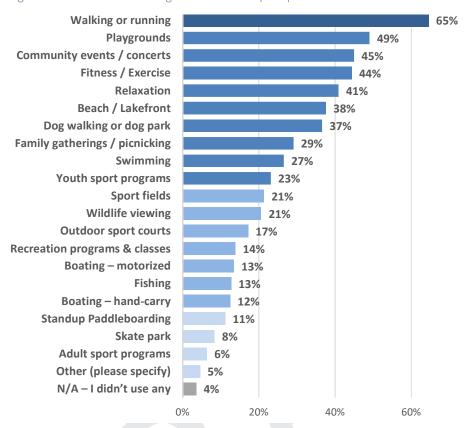


Figure 8. Main Reasons for Visiting Local Parks and Open Space

Respondents between the ages of 20 and 44 years of age are more likely than other groups to visit to use playgrounds, use sports fields and courts, take part in recreation programs or league activities for youth or adults, or to have a family picnic. Many activities, including running and walking, relaxation, dog walking, community events, visiting the lakefront, watersports and paddling, swimming, and wildlife viewing are similarly popular with all age groups.

The survey asked residents about their support for a variety of potential additions to the park system. More than two-thirds of residents were either very supportive or somewhat supportive of adding all listed amenities. Nearly all residents are either very or somewhat supportive of additional walking and biking trails (96%), developed parks with playgrounds (91%), picnic areas and shelters (89%). Large

majorities are also supportive of the City adding more sports fields and courts (84% each), outdoor splash pads (82%) and an amphitheater (80%), see Figure 9.

More than half of respondents rated the condition of the Fennel Creek Trail (78%), Cedarview Park (64%), and Viking Dog Park (55%), as 'excellent' or 'good'. Conversely, between 50% and 75% of respondents who had an opinion rated the condition of Ken Simmons (58%), Victor Falls (63%), Madrona (72%), and Midtown (74%) parks as 'fair' or 'poor'. This may reflect relatively infrequent use of these parks by respondents.

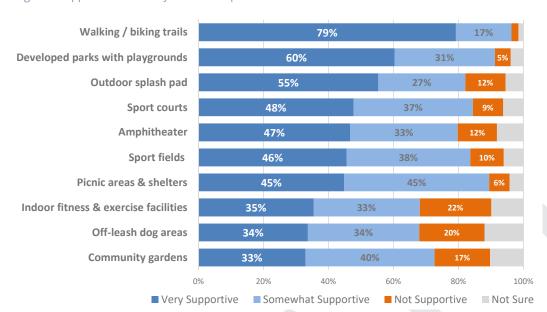


Figure 9. Support for Future Citywide Park Improvements

Most respondents (59%) are somewhat to very satisfied with the City of Bonney Lake's parks and open space. However, a more than a third of respondents (36%) are either somewhat or very dissatisfied.

When asked why they do not visit Bonney Lake's parks or recreation facilities more often, nearly one in three responded that a lack of parking kept them away. Approximately one quarter of respondents do not visit more frequently because they feel parks are too crowded (28%), do not know what is offered (25%), there are not enough restrooms (24%), or because they do not feel safe (22%).

Additional open-ended comments provided more insight on community interests.

Community members have a strong desire for additional diverse recreational facilities in Bonney Lake. Numerous respondents would like to see the City expand specific recreational options, for example by developing a disc golf course, pickleball courts, additional sports fields, splash pads, off-leash dog areas, and improved playgrounds. Other respondents would like to see the City place a stronger emphasis on maintaining park and trail facilities, ensuring they are clean, well-kept, and accessible for all visitors.



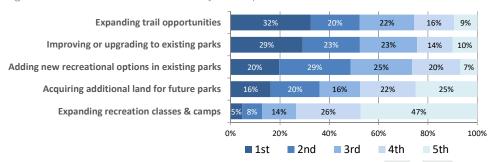
EXPAND SPORT COURT

OPTIONS

84% Support



Figure 10. Forced Rank Priorities for Park System Improvements



Respondents were asked to rank, in order (forced ranking), a list of potential recreation, park and open space investment priorities. In aggregated survey data, respondents identified expanding trail opportunities as the first priority, see Figure 10. Respondents to the mail and online surveys offered the same top three but differed in their selection of ranked priorities, with mail survey respondents more strongly supportive of expanding trail opportunities and online respondents more supportive of adding new recreational options or otherwise improving or upgrading existing parks.



#### **Public Meetings & Event Tabling**

The City hosted two public meetings and conducted event tabling throughout summer 2023 to gather community feedback and identify gaps or deficiencies in the park system. Through this outreach, participants identified specific park enhancements and connecting trails as primary interests, consistent with survey responses.

- When asked to identify park system improvement priorities, respondents identified walking and biking trails, followed by splash pads, sport courts and playground upgrades.
- Participants in both open houses listed the Fennel Creek Trail (Old Sumner-Buckley Hwy E to Allan Yorke Park segment) as their top priority trail corridor for future investment, followed by other links expanding the Fennel Creek Trail (e.g., Victor Falls to Foothills Trail and Naches Memorial Trail).
- Youth sports was noted as a priority for recreation programs.
- Respondents would like to see more community events in general and indicated interest in more large park events, such as Tunes at Tapps and Bonney Lake Days.

Participants of the public meetings and tabling events offered feedback on conceptual site plans to inform the park layouts that appear later in this chapter for Allan Yorke Park, Midtown Park, Victor Falls and Cedarview Park.

#### **Park Conditions Assessment**

The overall condition of park infrastructure and amenities is one measure of park adequacy and assurance of public safety. Proper stewardship of park infrastructure requires developing a long-term maintenance and capital plan that ensures the safety of park users, aligns with community needs, and allocates limited funding resources properly. General park infrastructure includes walkways, parking lots, restrooms, drainage and irrigation, lighting systems, and vegetation. Amenities include picnic shelters, play equipment, site furnishings, sports courts, sports fields, and other recreational assets. Deferred maintenance over a long time period can result in unusable amenities when perceived as unsafe or undesirable by park patrons. Compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines also provide a measure of acceptable condition.

The current conditions of the Bonney Lake park system were assessed to identify existing site maintenance issues and opportunities for future capital improvements. The assessment included a review of general park infrastructure and amenities. The following conditions assessment matrix (Figure 11) summarizes the results of these assessments. These assessments inform developing project prioritization strategy for park improvements and updating the six-year Capital Improvements Plan.

The matrix on the following page indicates the types of amenities within each park facility, and park infrastructure and amenities are rated based on the following scale:

1 – Good Condition: Generally, amenities in 'good' condition offer full functionality and do not need repairs. Good facilities have playable sports surfaces and equipment, working fixtures, and fully intact safety features (railings, fences, etc.). Good facilities encourage area residents to use the park but may have minor cosmetic defects.

- 2 Fair: In general, amenities in 'fair' condition are mainly functional, but need minor or moderate repairs. Fair facilities have play surfaces, equipment, fixtures, and safety features that are operational and allow play, but have deficiencies or periods where they are unusable. Fair facilities remain essential amenities for the community but may slightly discourage the use of the park by residents given the current condition.
- **3 Poor:** In general, amenities in 'poor' condition are largely or completely unusable. They need significant repairs to be functional. Some examples include athletic fields that are too uneven for ball games, irreparably broken features, buildings that need structural retrofitting, etc. Poor facilities may present safety issues if left open or operational and discourage residents from using the park.

Good conditions should be the goal for the management and stewardship of park facilities. Where infrastructure or amenities are rated as 'fair,' strategies should be developed for repair or restoration. Park features, structures, amenities, or landscapes rated as 'poor' should receive immediate attention and be prioritized for near-term maintenance, capital repairs, or a new capital project. Facilities in poor condition should also be evaluated and taken out of operation if they are deemed unsafe. In general, the amenities in Bonney Lake parks are in good condition. Some improvements in providing universal access, removing architectural barriers, and ensuring compliance with ADA guidelines should be considered, as upgrades and capital repairs are scheduled in older parks and facilities.

Detailed information for each park site and enhancement recommendations are noted in the Classifications & Inventory chapter (Chapter 4) for the parks visited.

Highlights from park conditions observations follow the conditions matrix and include suggestions for improvements that also informed the preparation of the six-year Capital Improvements Plan.



Figure 11A. Park Condition Assessment Matrix

_														
ADA	Compliance		3	-	2	1	3	3	3	3	3	-	1	2.4
	Natural Areas		1	ı	ı	1	ı	1	1	1	1	ı	1	1.0
ation	randscaped Beds		2	1	2	1	ı	1	1	1	1	1	-	1.7
Vegetation	Park Trees		1	1	1	1	ı	1	1	3	1	1	-	1.7
	Natural Turfgrass		2	1	1	1	1	ı	1	2	1	1		1.5
	Concession Building		2	1	1	1	1	ı	1	1	1	1		2.0
S	Pier	Ī	1	-	1	1	1	1	-	1	1	1	-	1.0
ucture	gmeA feod	ľ	1	ı	1	ı	ı		ı	ı	ı	ı	-	1.0
Park Structures	Kiosks		2	1	2	- 1	2	2	2	ı	ı	1	-	2.0
Pa	Picnic Shelters	ľ	1	1	1	1	- 1		1	1	1	1		1.0
	Restrooms	ľ	2	1	2	1	1	ı	1	2	1	1		2.0
	Parking Areas	ľ	2	1	1	1	3	ı	1	2	1	ı		1.7
Site Amenities	9gengi2	ľ	1	1	1	- 1	3	2	1	1	1	1		1.4
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iS	Sgnidsinru = 51i2	Ī	1	1	1	1	1	ı	1	1	1	1		1.0
	Skate Park	ľ	2	1	1	1	1			- 1	1	1	1	2.0
ties	Lakefront/Swimming Beach	ľ	2	1		1	1		1	1	1	1		2.0
Recreation Amenities	sliarT \ zyawdfa9	ľ	2	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1.5
ation	Baseball / Softball Fields	ľ	2	1	1	-	1		1	1	1	1	1	1.5
Recre	Sports Courts	ľ	2		2	1	1		1	1	1	1		1.7
	Playgrounds	ľ	1	1	2	1	2	1	2	ı	ı	1		1.8
	Park Site Average	ľ	1.7	1.0	1.4	1.0	2.1	2.0	1.4	1.9	1.6		1.0	1.5
		ľ	49.6	0.5	2.9	38.0	0.4	45.5	2.0	22.2	3.7	20.1	47.0	Average:
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Site Name			Allan Yorke Park	Ascent Park	Cedarview Park	Fennel Creek Park (undeveloped)	Madrona Park	Midtown Park (undeveloped)	Ken Simmons Park	Victor Falls Park	Viking Dog Park (OLA)	Reed Farm (undeveloped)	Fennel Creek Open Space	
Site N			All	Asc	Cer	Fer	Σ	Ξ̈́	Kei	Vic	\ \ \ \ \ \ \	Re	Fer	

#### **RATING SCALE**

#### Playgrounds:

1	In good condition: no drainage issues; 0-10% material deterioration safety surfacing with a border at the site. $ \\$		
7	In fair condition: drainage issues; 10-25% material deterioration; some small compliance issues that could be spot fixed.		
3	In poor condition: drainage issues; 25% or greater material deterioration; needs repair or replacement (but workable).		

#### Paved Courts:

1	In good condition: no cracks in surfacing; fencing is functional, free of protrusions, and free of holes/passages; painting and striping are appropriately located, whole, and uniform in color.			
2	In fair condition: hairline cracks to ¼", surfacing required; fencing has minor protrusions, or holes/passages that do not affect game play; painting and striping have flaking or color fading.			
3	In poor condition: horizontal cracks more than ½" wide, surfacing required; fencing has large protrusions, holes/passages or defects; painting and striping are patchy and color has faded dramatically.			

#### Signage:

l	1	In good condition: a signage system for the site, appropriate signs, no damaged signs.
	2	In fair condition; multiple signage system within one site, a few damaged signs (0-10%), need maintenance.
		In poor condition; multiple signage systems within one site, signs that are not legible from a reasonable distance, some damaged signs (10-25%), old logos, deteriorated materials, no signage.

#### Public Art:

1	In good condition: no vandalism; no signs of weathering.
2	In fair condition: minor signs of weathering or wear.
	In poor condition: metal leaching/concrete efflorescence/paint peeling/wood chipped or carved into or warping; vandalized.

#### Park Structures (Restrooms, Picnic Shelters, Etc.):

	In good condition: roof has no leaks; floor shows little sign of wear; finishes are fresh with no graffiti or vandalism; all elements are in working order.
2	In fair condition: roof shows signs of wear but is structurally sound; floor shows some wear; finishes show some wear with some marks or blemishes.
3	In poor condition: roof leaks or otherwise needs repair; floor show significant wear and is difficult to maintain; finishes are dull or discolored, have graffiti, or are not easily maintained; some elements not working or in need of repair (e.g., non-functioning sink).

#### Park Trees:

	In good condition: trees overall have good form and spacing; no topping; free of disease or pest infestation; no vandalism; no hazard trees.
	In fair condition; some crowding may exist but overall health is good; less than 5% of trees show signs of topping, disease or pest infestation; vandalism has not impacted tree health (graffiti, not girdling).
3	In poor condition; Form or spacing issues may exist; evidence of disease or pests; vandalism affecting tree health; some hazard trees or trees in danger of becoming hazard trees.

#### ADA Compliance:

1	Appears to comply with ADA standards.
2	Some items appear to not comply, but could be fixed by replacing with relative ease.
3	A number of park assets appear not to comply, including large-scale items like regrading.

Sport	Sport Fields:		
1	In good condition: thick grass with few bare spots; few depressions; no noticeable drainage issues, proper slope and layout; fencing if present is functional, free of protrusions, and free of holes.		
2	In fair condition: grass with bare turf areas in high-use locations, some drainage issues in overuse areas, slope is within one percent of proper field slope, infields have grading problems (bump) at transition to grass and have no additive, may not have proper layout and/or orientation, fencing if present has minor protrusions, or holes/passages that do not affect game play.		
3	In poor condition: bare areas throughout the year, uneven playing surface that holds water in certain places, drainage issues, slopes not uniform and/or more than one percent from proper field slope, improper layout and/or orientation; fencing has large protrusions, holes/passages or defects.		

#### Pathways / Trails:

1	In good condition: surface generally smooth and even; proper width and material for type of pathway; proper clearances; minimal drainage issues.
2	In fair condition: uneven surfaces in places; some drainage issues; some cracking; narrow widths in some places.
3	In poor condition: uneven surfaces; inadequate width; significant cracking or heaving; clearance issues.

#### Turf:

i ui i .				
1	In good condition: lush and full, few weeds, no drainage problems.			
2	In fair condition: some bare spots, some drainage problems.			
3	In poor condition: irrigation problems, bare spots, weeds, soil compacted.			

#### Site Furnishings:

JILC I	diffishings.				
1	In good condition; not damaged; free of peeling or chipped paint; consistent throughout park. Trash receptacles, drinking fountain, picnic tables, benches on paved surface.				
2	In fair condition; 0-20% furnishings are damaged and require replacing parts; some peeling or chipped paint; furnishings are not consistent, but are operational.				
3	In poor condition; 20% or more are damaged and require replacing parts; significant peeling or chi paint; multiple styles within park site require different maintenance.				

#### Parking Areas:

1	In good condition: paving and drainage do not need repair; pavement markings clear; pathway connection provided to facility; proper layout.					
2	In fair condition: paving needs patching or has some drainage problems; has wheel stops and curbs.					
3	In poor condition: surfaces (gravel, asphalt, or concrete) needs repair; uneven grading; limited signage; no delineation for vehicles.					

#### Natural Areas:

	1	In good condition: barely noticeable invasives, high species diversity, healthy plants.			
	2	In fair conditions: Noticeable invasives, fewer species but still healthy.			
Ī	3	In poor condition: Invasives have taken over, low diversity, unhealthy plants.			

#### Amphitheater/Stage:

1	in good condition. paying, stege and stain materials have note to no cracking or peemig, vegetation that is present is healthy; seating and other furnishings show modest signs of wear; views to stage from all seating vantage points.
2	In fair condition: paving, stage and stair materials have some cracking or peeling; vegetation that is present is healthy, but some soil compaction might be present; seating and other furnishings show signs of wear, but are still usable; stage orientation not be ideal for all viewers.
3	In poor condition: paving, stage and stair materials have significant cracking or peeling; vegetation is unhealthy (pests, disease, topped trees), compacted soil; seating and other furnishings need repair or replacement; redesign of space is needed for proper viewing and access.

#### Landscaped Beds:

	1	In good condition: few weeds; no bare or worn areas; plants appear healthy with no signs of pest or disease infestation.
	2	In fair condition: some weeds present; some bare or worn spots; plants are still generally healthy.
ĺ	3	In poor condition: many weeds present; large bare or worn areas; plants show signs of pests or disease; compacted soils.



#### **Park Conditions Summary**

#### **Park Structures**

Picnic shelters, restrooms, docks, observation decks, storage structures, and other park structures are highly varied in their ages, styles, function, appearance and condition. This planning process does not include architectural or engineering integrity for park structures. Rather, this Plan recommends separate and ongoing inspections of park structures, particularly as these elements get older. For example, the concession building in Allan Yorke Park appears to be aging significantly and may need to be evaluated for renovation, removal, or replacement.

In all parks, restrooms and shelters should be individually assessed for ADA compliance in their interior spaces, as well as any provided picnic tables, water fountains, or BBQ grills. In parks where restrooms are closed seasonally, the replacement portable toilets should be handicapped accessible.

#### **Parking & Entrances**

Some parks and facilities that provided parking included designated spaces for universal access; other parks with gravel parking areas did not have designated handicapped spaces. At Allan Yorke Park, one of the designated handicapped spaces was lacking a sign – a more stringent requirement than pavement markings. Parking pavements at Cedarview and Allan Yorke Park (except the newly paved boat trailer parking) are in need of fresh line painting to clearly mark parking stalls. Additionally, the grades of these accessible stalls may be out of compliance with ADA grading standards given ground settling over time and/or surfacing deterioration.

Entries into the skate park and tennis courts at Allan Yorke Park are very restrictive, as well as non-ADA compliant. Suggesting that ADA access is available by phoning the City (as indicated by a sign at the tennis court locked gate) is not an acceptable alternative to providing barrier-free

public access to park facilities. These restrictive entries are difficult to squeeze through and uncomfortable for the park user. They also do not prevent BMX bikes from getting into the facility (the original intent according to a few skate park users). The City should consider different approaches to managing these outdoor recreation facilities without creating undo or unacceptable barriers.

The larger parking lot at Allan Yorke Park includes a few shade trees between the parking lot and the street and is also in close proximity to baseball fields with only a modest fence protecting visitors and vehicles from foul balls. Lighting for the parking lot is partially blocked by some tree branching into the direction of at least one lamp fixture. Strategic pruning should clear that light-pole lamp, so it functions more effectively. Additional shade trees for the parking lot would reduce heat during the summer months.

Similarly, the parking lot at Victors Falls Park, which offers access to one of the premiere natural attractions within Bonney Lake's parks and recreation system, is paved with gravel and does not meet current accessibility standards.

#### Paved Pathways & Natural Trails

A mixture of paved paths and natural trails exist in the Bonney Lake park system. The newer Fennel Creek Trail offers a smooth ADAcompliant, paved pathway from the trailhead at 185th Avenue East up to the most recent segment ending at Sumner-Buckley Hwy East near 192nd Avenue East.

A natural trail connection stretches from Field #3 at Allan Yorke Park to the cul-de-sac at 195 Avenue CT E. While this trail through the woods is not ADA-complaint, this natural trail allows for walking and biking access from that residential neighborhood into Allan Yorke Park. However the lack of maps and dark cedar trees can make this trail entrance feel slightly foreboding in the grayer months. The City should consider maps and/or additional vegetation management to improve sight lines

and understanding for park visitors.

Cedarview Park provides a paved pathway connecting is recreational amenities that mostly meets outdoor recreational access guidelines, though railings for retaining walls and stairs should be evaluated.

Allan Yorke Park, however, generally lacks paved pathway connections along its waterfront and to its ballfields. Accessible pathways are limited and constricting entrances into sports courts create added challenges to park user access. Victor Falls Park also lacked paved pathways. Wood chip trails lead from the parking area to a few picnic tables, grills and benches but no paved ADA access is provide at the parking lot, to the portable toilet, viewing overlook or any site furnishings.

#### **Bridges & Boardwalks**

Edges of bridges and boardwalks along the Fennel Creek Trail should be checked every season to ensure smooth transitions between changes in surface types. The paved trail currently has smooth connections that are universally accessible. One dog walker expressed dismay at the type of grated decking used for the boardwalks and bridges, stating that his dogs were at risk of snagged and tearing off their toenails if they get caught in the gaps. Otherwise, the coated metal grating was very walkable and will likely endure much better than the wood decking of the bridge and boardwalk on the trail to the Victor Falls Elementary School. All bridges and boardwalks should be inspected on an annual basis to ensure continued safe use and to be able to anticipate any future repairs or renovations.

In other locations, bridges and boardwalks should be considered for future improvements. Providing public access to Lake Bonney and creating walking trails at Victor Falls Park may well require bridges and boardwalks similar to those that the City has recently installed.

#### **Park Amenities**

#### **Sport Courts & Athletic Fields**

The four ballfields at Allan Yorke are natural turf with limited improvements beyond backstop, foul ball fencing, team benches and spectator seating. Based on the natural grass turf conditions observed during the mid-October site visit, the irrigation system has not been able to provide adequate coverage for maintaining a consistent grass outfield. As this park is examined for potential redevelopment or renovation, some intentional direction should assess the number of fields needed and how much more those fields should be improved, i.e. dugouts added, irrigation upgraded, batting cages added, etc.

Bleachers at Allan York Park Fields #1 and #4 have 5-tiers without any safety railing. The International Building Code requires safety railing on any bleachers with 2 or more tiers. Safety railing should be added to these larger bleachers.

Paved surfaces on the tennis courts and basketball courts are showing cracking and should be scheduled for repair, renovation or complete resurfacing. The tennis courts' cracking is enough to affect the integrity of play. Basketball courts' cracking is early and should not yet limit the function of the courts; however, basketball courts in both Allan Yorke Park and Cedarview Park should have courts lines repainted. When repairing or replacing the courts, the City should consider adding striping for pickleball.

#### Playgrounds

The City's parks provide play areas at Allan Yorke Park, Cedarview Park, Ken Simmons Park and Madrona Park. Playground areas are surfaced with engineered wood fiber, and the methods for containing the safety surfacing often create barriers to ADA access. Madrona Park and Ken Simmons Park are very small playgrounds and have only a few pieces of play equipment. The overall distribution of





playgrounds and degree of engaging play structures should be evaluated to determine the needed locations and additional features for more equitable and comprehensive playground provision across the city. Similarly, the City should evaluate how the needs of Bonney Lake's disabled and/or neurodivergent children and their caregivers are being met within their parks and recreation system. The types of play experiences available has expanded over the past two decades away from standard "post-and-platform" structures to spray parks, net climbers, embankment slides, and new, exciting swing elements, along with a greater appreciation for one-of-a-kind play experiences like curated nature play, loose parts play, and adventure playgrounds. The City should consider the diversity of play types within its system as play structures are replaced.

Existing play structures have predictable useful life spans before parts may become too worn or unsafe to remain in a park. Planning for play equipment replacement can use the installation dates and projected lifespan to predict replacement timing for capital planning. Many play structures have a lifespan of 20 to 25 years of active use in year-round weather



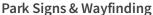
exposure. Bonney Lake should consider the ages of existing play equipment to plan for future replacement, and set these replacements within a predictable capital improvement budgeting plan.

The City should continue to require having staff trained as Certified Playground Safety Inspectors (CPSI) to stay abreast of the current rules and guidelines around playground design operations and maintenance and to mitigate potential risks.

#### **Site Furnishings**

There is great diversity in the range of site furnishings across the park system without a clear standard for site furnishings such as picnic tables, benches, bike racks, lighting, signage, bollards. Establishing a palette of standard site furnishings from reputable, trusted manufacturers with long-track records of durable performance will, in the long-term, help the City have consistent operations and maintenance. Additionally, care should be taken to think about complementary color palettes, replacement part availability, paint/powder-coating, number of moving parts, compliance with ADA, variety, etc.





Most parks, natural areas and trail facilities were identified at their main entrances with a standard park identification sign, constructed of muted greys and browns. While these signs bring consistency, during the darker winter months, they can blend into their surroundings bringing a level of uncertainty about the "publicness" of certain spaces (e.g. Victor Falls Park).

Madrona Park had only a very small identification sign at the public road or sign within the pocket park assuring the visitor that the space is a public park. The driveways and parked cars belonging to neighboring houses appear to encroach on any perceived public access to the pocket park. Entrance or identification signs could help provide this park with a more welcoming entrance and access.

The public information kiosks in most of the parks were not in use. Graffiti covered some of the glass (or plastic) fronts, and no messaging is being provided. The City should determine the messaging to be displayed in these kiosks or whether they should be removed and replaced with other park features. The City may also consider whether integrating a digital



messaging system (e.g. links to park specific QR codes with maps, upcoming activities, etc.) might be a better long-term tool for some of the information in certain parks, as it offers a more nimble and dynamic way to get information to the public.

Wayfinding signage could benefit the park system by providing navigation and location information along trails and paved pathways. The trail linking Allan Yorke Park to the neighborhood to the south should have identifying signs at either end indicating destination and distance. The Fennel Creek Trail and Elhi Hill Trail should provide signage that locates positions along the way and informs the trail user of distances to certain benchmarks, crossroads or destinations. As the Fennel Creek Trail expands to provide greater connections, an emergency response locator system could be integrated. A complete wayfinding system could also provide City logo and contact information to assign responsibility for trail provision.



#### Landscape/Environment

#### Park Trees & Landscapes

Much of the park system appears to be either managed or unmanaged native forest. The matrix of native ecologies at Allan Yorke Park, Fennel Creek Park, Fennel Creek Open Space, Viking Dog Park, Midtown Park, Victor Falls Park, and—to a lesser extent—Ken Simmons Park, provide a strong contrast to the developed areas of these parks, and provide an opportunity for residents to touch and enjoy native ecologies. These native plant spaces also provide tremendous benefits for the animals within Bonney Lake, helping to sustain populations of bugs, fish, and mammals, which City residents are then able to see and enjoy. These resources do require investment, however. Invasive plant management, monitoring the declining health of certain forest keystone species (e.g. sword fern and western red cedar), and restoration activities are all regular, necessary vegetation management practices to ensure the urban forest remains an intergenerational gift for Bonney Lake residents.

Within the developed areas of a park, there are smaller, non-native, ornamental plantings for example in landscape beds around Allan Yorke Park, Madrona Park and Cedarview Park. These are more modestly sized, and the plantings within them should be calibrated to meet the City's operations and maintenance capacity. As new planting areas are considered, the City should also think about the resource draw of fertilizers, pesticides and irrigation. In general, native planting landscapes are less intensive to manage (i.e. less expensive) than ornamental plantings and lawns when it comes to these coverage types.

#### Mown Grass Lawn Areas

Most parks and natural areas with mown grass lawn areas have adequate grass quality to support general park use and erosion control. This past summer was unusually hot and dry, so the expectation for dry, burned-out lawn

areas has become the norm. The patterns of browned out grass in sports fields and other park areas help illustrate the gaps in irrigation coverage. An evaluation of irrigation coverage and intentional decisions about if or where irrigation can be reduced would be beneficial. From the site visits on wet weather days, the lawns also appear to be reasonably well draining, with some locations having localized ponding.

#### **Stormwater Management Basins**

Within the City's park system, there are several stormwater management basins including at the proposed Midtown Park, Fennel Creek Park and Fennel Creek Open Space. Contrary to their presence in many communities, these features are often organically-shaped, softened with adjacent planting and quite diverse in the number of flora and fauna using them. Integrating this stormwater features seamlessly into the surrounding landscape adds aesthetic value to the public spaces.

# Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Compliance

Public parks are required to provide reasonable universal access to avoid discrimination of persons with disabilities. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) provides guidelines for compliance in places of public accommodation. While this Plan does not investigate ADA noncompliance in detail, some highlights are noted. Access to parks, playgrounds and restrooms are the highest priority for parks to provide use to all residents and visitors.

Bonney Lake's park system provides limited universal access and in some instances portrays intentional barriers to recreation users. Unusually restrictive fencing at entries to the skate park and tennis courts create barriers for other park users. Containment structures for playground safety surfacing form barriers for handicapped access to play equipment for both disabled children and their caregivers. Since 2010, the Americans with Disabilities

Act has required public facilities to provide access to facilities and their amenities without discrimination for people of all abilities. Existing facilities should be planned for upgrades to reduce and eliminate barriers and any new facilities designed to provide universal access to be in compliance with federal ADA regulations.

The US Access Board released guidelines in 2014 for Outdoor Developed Recreation Areas including amenities such as those included in the City's park and recreation system. Picnic facilities, trailheads, trails and beach access routes should be evaluated for their conformance with these guidelines if not already completed via the City's ADA Transition Plan.

# Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)

Principles of design to foster safe public spaces known as Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) include maintaining good visibility across different active use areas to allow park users to see movement and occupancy and be able to anticipate encounters with other park users. Thick hedges, blind corners, hiding spots, and other landscape or structural elements that limit clear visibility should be avoided where feasible. The evergreen hedge between the playground and parking lot at Allan Yorke Park limits the views of people in the playground or about to enter the playground. Open visibility will create the perception of a safer environment. Collaboration between design professionals, maintenance staff, and CPTED trained law enforcement officers can help create a safe, maintainable, welcoming environment.

#### Public / Private Property Interfaces

Some encroachment issues were observed along the Fennel Creek Trail where adjacent homeowners were placing personal outdoor

amenities in the public space. The City should determine the level of tolerance for this activity as it may interfere with open space mowing and vegetation management and become an obstructive nuisance. If homeowners' activities indicate a strong need for more amenities in the open space, features such as picnic tables, small shelters, benches, etc. should be carefully planned for to ensure proper location, sustainable maintenance and compliance with ADA guidelines.

Park boundaries in natural areas may need clearer delineation to protect public natural areas from the encroachment of private and unauthorized uses. The City can develop a gate agreement policy for planned access points (e.g., gates at Fennel Creek Park; trails at Midtown Park with future residential development; formal connections with commercial/retail at Midtown Park) where residential properties abut public parks and open spaces, and private access points would be acceptable without hampering public park uses and functions.

#### Park Design & Development

# Master Planning/Site Development & Enhancements

As a component of this PTRO Plan process, site master planning was conducted to guide future investments and improvements to Allan Yorke Park, Midtown Park, Victor Falls Park and Cedarview Park. Phased park development and master plan implementation should be completed at the earliest possible time, so that community momentum and support for these projects is not lost. Additionally, the City has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Mount Rainer Athletic Club to develop a master plan for the Reed property to accommodate additional sport fields and other recreation elements.

In addition to and in support of city-wide park system planning, the summaries of the



four park master plans highlight proposed improvements to each park and identify expanded recreation opportunities for the Bonney Lake community for the future.

#### Allan Yorke Park

The PTRO Plan gives the City a chance to rethink long-term needs and opportunities for Allan Yorke Park, resolving known concerns such as the constrained beach access created by the presence of W Lake Tapps Highway E, in addition to considering how adjacent sites like the old City Hall site might be integrated into the park's programming.

The community expressed strong interest in improved access to the waterfront, calling for enhanced waterplay and the addition of a spray park. A covered performance stage that could facilitate outdoor performances and special activities like movies in the park was also supported. Existing facilities like the concession stand, picnic area, and restroom were all seen as ready for upgrading.

The concept plan for Allan Yorke Park builds on the strengths of this distinct public space to

offer the community a new range of improved amenities. Significantly, W Lake Tapps Highway E is re-routed to the interior of the site, allowing for a safe and welcoming connection between the waterfront and the heart of the park. This waterfront edge features a new boat launch, improved lake access and picnic shelters, all adjacent to a new spray park plus an improved playground that is served by a new structure holding restrooms, concessions, and storage areas. This cluster of amenities transitions to a more expansive lawn area to be used for concerts and other events taking place on the new covered performance stage.

To the north, the existing baseball field has been converted to a multi-sport turf field that will accommodate a wider range of sports throughout the year. Boat trailer parking has been added to the northwest area of the park, while to the south, new visitor parking has been added that is adjacent to the tennis courts that are to be restriped to accommodate pickleball.



Figure 12. Allan Yorke Park Site Master Plan





#### Midtown Park

Midtown Park is located behind the Fred Meyer store and S Prairie Road. No previous plan had been developed for this site, which currently features a large stormwater pond and extensive tree coverage. As part of the PTRO Plan, this concept plan for the park has been prepared based on the feedback provided by the public.

The community expressed a clear desire to make full use of this site, transforming it from what now is perceived to be a somewhat neglected and uninviting place into a park that feels safe, supports a rich array of activities, and allows the community to gather. There also was interest in maintaining many of the trees and having some of the amenities make use of this forest condition.

The concept plan for Midtown Park provides visitor access from the site's northern edge, with a new community / senior center anchoring the northeast corner and acting

as a gateway to a public plaza, spray park, playgrounds, and restroom. A primary pathway stretching east-west across the site links recreation amenities including tennis and pickleball courts, a covered multi-sport court that allows for basketball and pickleball, in addition to two new sports fields. Further west, mountain / dirt bike trails make use of the hilly and forested terrain, while a pump track is tucked into the northwest corner and offers an active welcome to visitors entering the park. Meanwhile, the existing stormwater pond is ringed by a wide path that makes for an inviting circuit used by walkers and runners. A disc golf course weaves through the eastern portion of the site, with additional holes available during dry months within the stormwater basin.

These amenities are offered within Midtown Park all while preserving 22.6 acres of the site's existing tree canopy consistent with the mitigation requirements of the 2009 WSU Project Site Environmental Impact Statement.

Figure 13. Midtown Park Site Master Plan



66

Make Midtown Park the crown jewel of our city's parks. Have the amenities (splash pad, walking circuit, outdoor fitness stations, multi sport playing field (including lights), playground. Just park sure to have adequate parking and keep some of those trees!"

- Survey respondent

#### Victor Falls Park

Victor Falls Park is located along Rhodes Lake Road near Victor Falls Elementary School. It offers views of 70-foot high Victor Falls. The City has considered a variety of improvements to enhance the park experience so that visitors can better enjoy this site. When reaching out for community feedback, safety was identified as a high priority both in viewing the falls and also gaining access to the site itself.

The concept plan for Victor Falls Park includes improvements to existing conditions, while adding new site-specific features. The entrance to the site is formalized with a paved parking lot and small entry plaza. An ADA accessible path winds toward the bluff edge, with a view deck reaching out to provide visitors a direct vista of the falls. A trail running east-west provides additional lookout opportunities, while picnic areas between the main view deck and parking welcome visitors to stay and enjoy the park setting a bit longer.

"

At Victor Falls Park, there is no place to look at waterfall, feels unsafe with no walking trails and has bad fencing. Victor Falls Park could be great and be a good way to attract people to Bonney Lake."

- Survey respondent

"

Add shelter and benches near playground at Cedarview park and add bathrooms."

- Survey respondent

#### **Cedarview Park**

Cedarview Park is located between 206th and 208th Avenue E, where they intersect at 93rd Street E. This is a small, but valued, neighborhood park that the community expressed interest in having maintain its current uses but with improved facilities. The main program addition requested was a spray park that could provide cooling play opportunities during hot summer months.

The concept plan for Cedarview Park upgrades existing features to improve the quality and capacity of use at this neighborhood park. Access is better accommodated with parallel parking along the west and north edges, in addition to existing parking at the east. A new playground is paired with a small spray park, while the existing pit latrine is replaced by a fully functional restroom. Small new picnic shelters allow for additional groups to gather beyond the one large existing structure. A covered multi-sport court replaces the existing basketball court, supporting a range of play options throughout the year. The existing baseball backstop is upgraded at the informal playfield, while all of these features are better accessed with improved pathways.



Figure 14. Victor Falls Park Site Master Plan

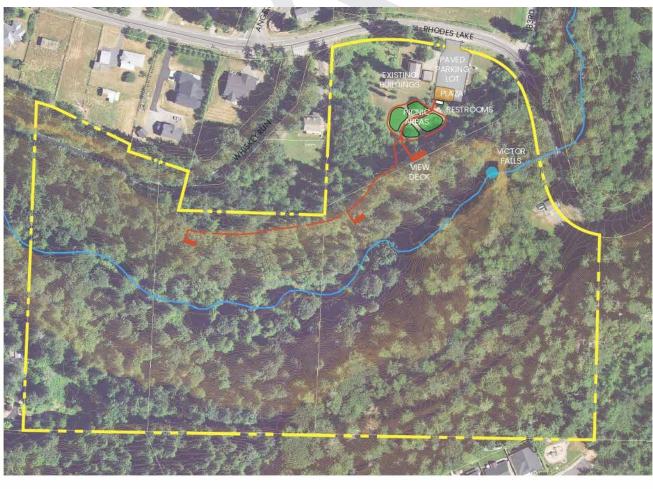








Figure 15. Cedarview Park Site Master Plan





# Park Distribution – Gap Analysis

Understanding the known gaps in the park system and evaluating the City's existing levels of service for parks will provide a foundation for strategic planning to ensure that tomorrow's residents have equitable access to a balanced distribution of parks, trails, and recreation amenities to stay healthy and active.

To better understand the distribution of existing recreation amenities and where acquisition efforts should be considered, a gap analysis of the park system was conducted to examine and assess the community's current access to various recreation opportunities across the City.

The gap analysis used travelsheds for each park classification and calculated travel distances along the road network starting from known and accessible access points at each park:

- For neighborhood parks, travelsheds were derived using a ¼-mile primary and ½-mile secondary service area with travel distances calculated along the road network starting from known and accessible access points at each park.
- For community parks, travelsheds were derived using ¼-mile, ½-mile, 1-mile and 2-mile travel distances to acknowledge that these park types (including athletic fields) serve a wider array of users and driving to such sites is typical.
- For homeowner association (HOA) parks, travelsheds were derived using ¼-mile and ½-mile distances, and then these travelsheds were trimmed to the boundaries of the subdivision to reflect a more accurate catchment area for these private parks.
- Composite maps of all of the park classifications illustrate the entirety of active-use parks to the ½-mile travelshed.

Maps 2 through 6 illustrate the application of the distribution criteria from existing parks. Areas in white do not have a public park within reasonable distance of their home (½-mile).

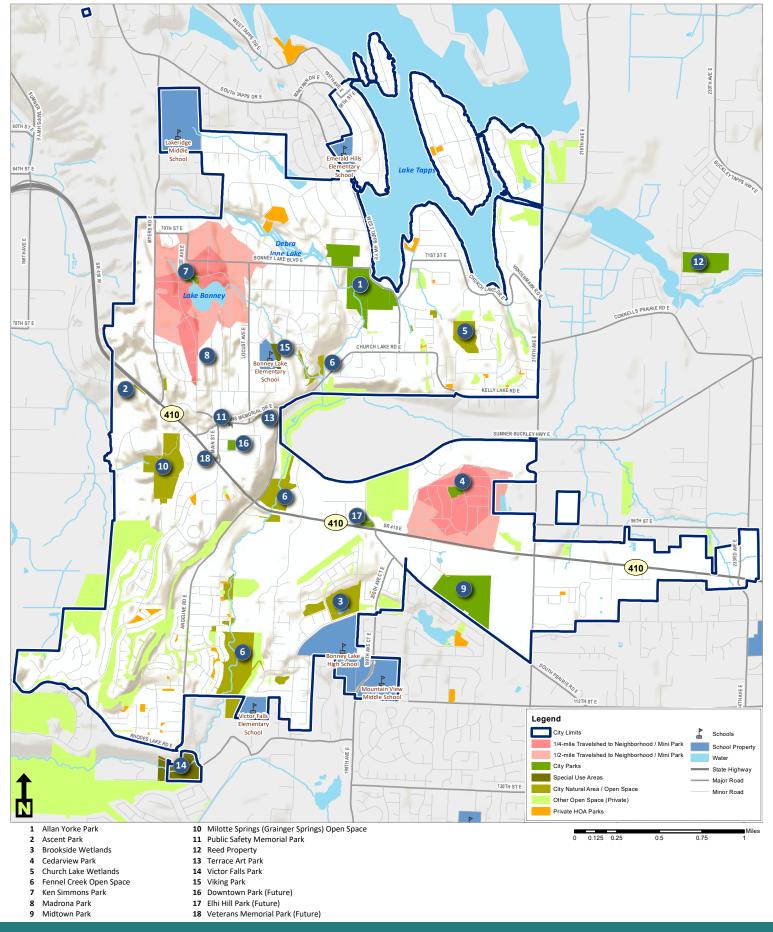
The illustrated 'travelshed' for each existing Bonney Lake park highlights that certain areas within the City do not have the desired proximity to a local park. Gaps between these service areas constitute "unserved" neighborhoods.

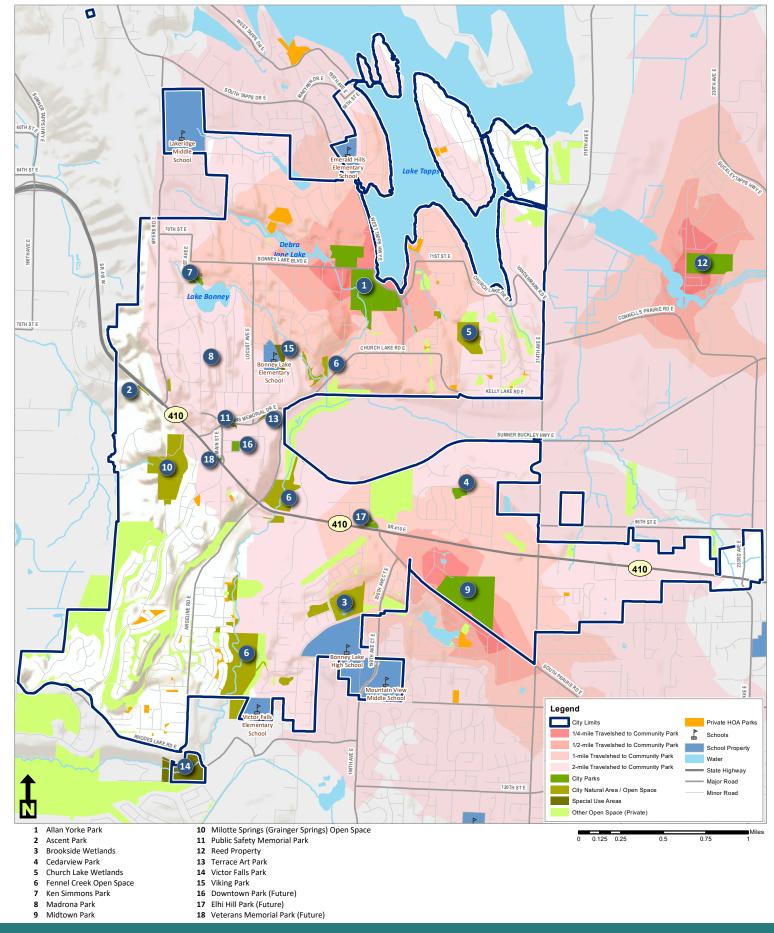
Striving to provide access to a park within a reasonable distance (e.g., ½-mile) may require acquiring new park properties in currently under-served locations or improving multimodal transportation connections to allow residents to safely and conveniently reach their local park.

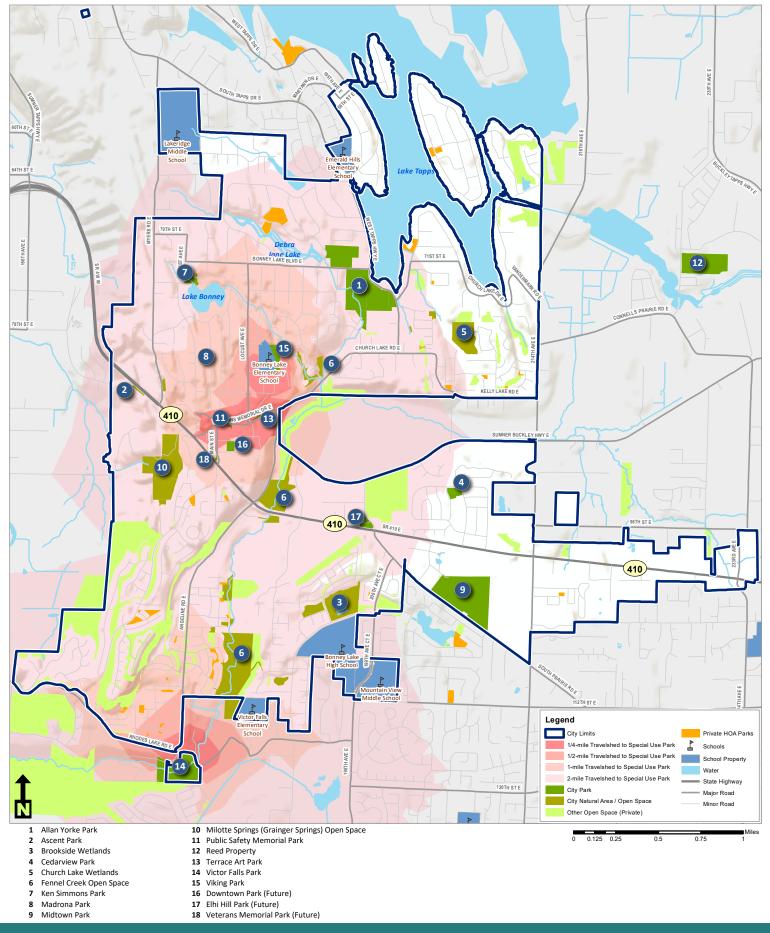
The mapping of park distribution and 'travelsheds' helps to illustrate the underserved parts of Bonney Lake. Areas of north and south-central Bonney Lake have limited access to public parks or open space as indicated by white areas on Map 6. These areas of the City should be targeted for future acquisitions to help create more equitable access for all residents. While these generalized 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. Additionally, Madrona Park is undersized, has challenging access and offers limited amenities, as noted in the site assessment summary. The City should consider divesting this property and reallocating resources to a larger neighborhood park in the same general vicinity. Also, the City should explore adding amenities to a small upland portion of the Brookside Wetlands site to serve as a mini park for that immediate area.

Gap analysis modeling also assessed the distribution of various recreation amenities, including playgrounds, sport fields, and sport courts. Maps 7 through 14 illustrate the geographic distribution of these amenities, and this information is helpful in future park planning to improve access to the variety of recreation options desired by the community.

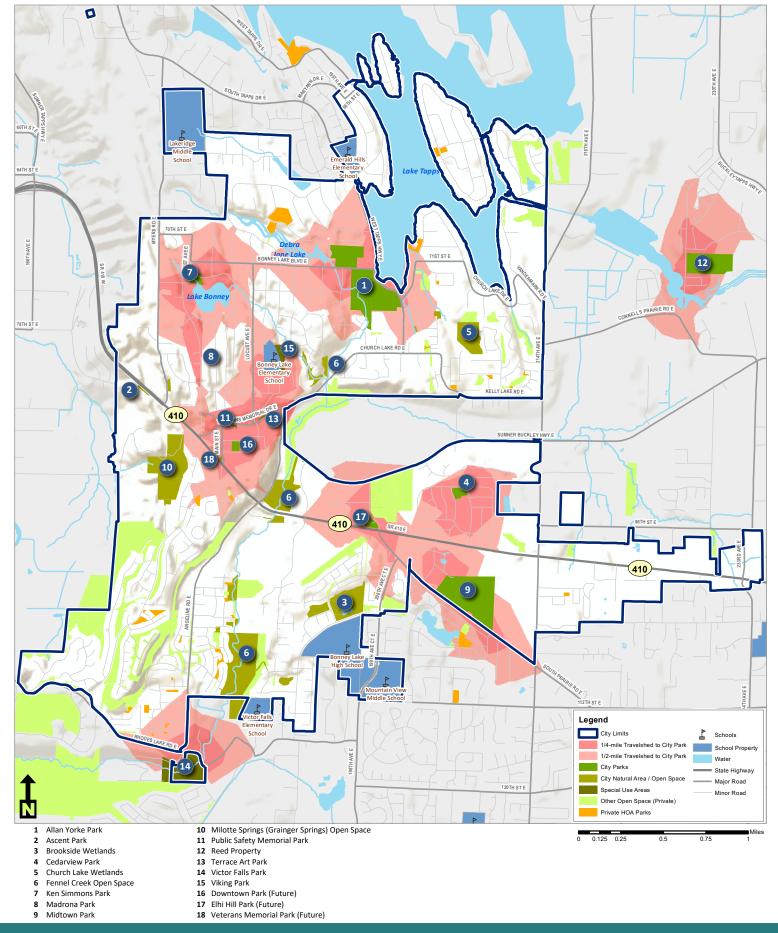


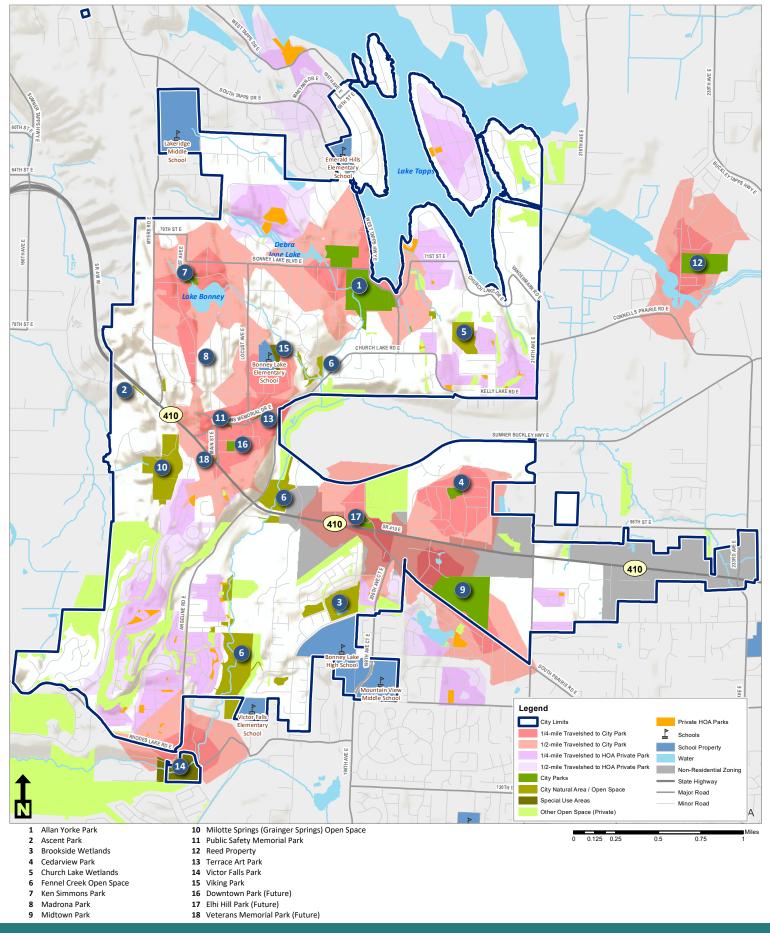


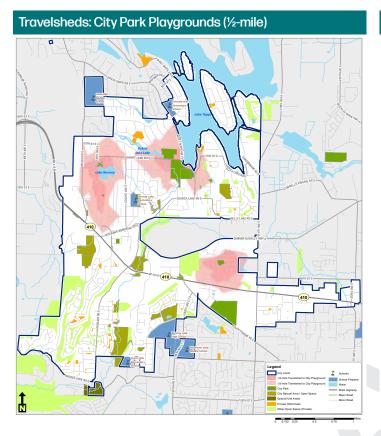


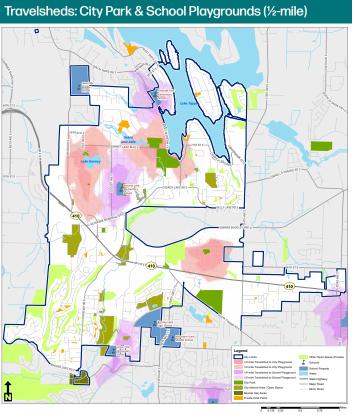


Map 4: Travelsheds for Special Use Parks (1/4-, 1/2-, 1- & 2-mile)

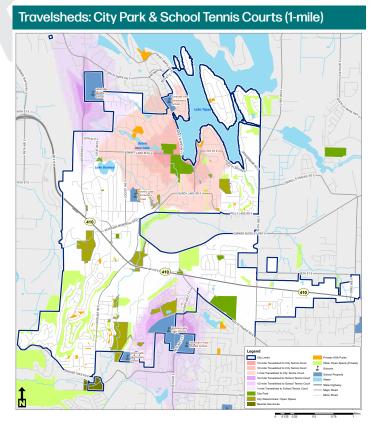


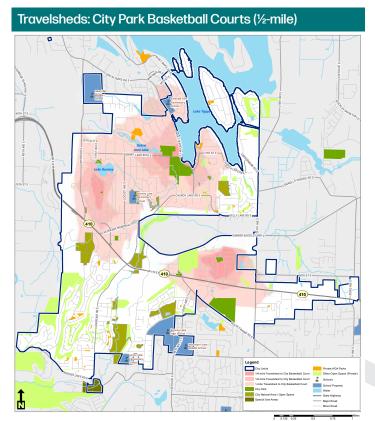


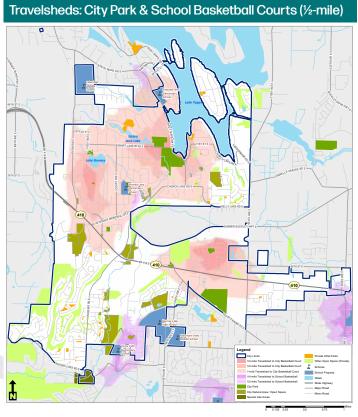


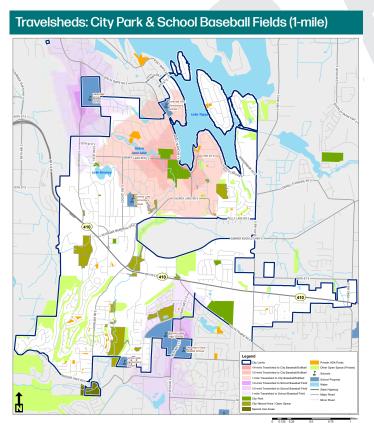


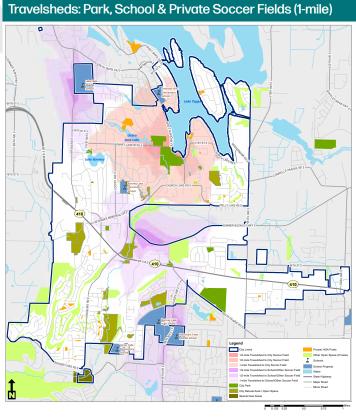
# Travelsheds: City Park Tennis Courts (1-mile)











#### **Systemwide Levels of Service**

Service standards offer a benchmark for measuring how well the City is meeting the expectations for the provisions of parks, open space and outdoor recreation facilities for the community. As guidance for assessing current quantities and qualities of parklands and facilities, the level of service (LOS) in Bonney Lake can be compared to other agencies across the country. The traditional measurement focuses on acres of parkland for the population. While this standard should not be used exclusively, it can offer a starting point for examining a number of more customized and diverse approaches to evaluating the City's current service levels through a variety of metrics.

#### National Recreation & Parks Association Agency Performance Review

The 2023 National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) Agency Performance Review and accompanying Park Metrics provide comprehensive park and recreation-related data to inform park and recreation professionals and key stakeholders about the state of the industry. The 2023 NRPA Agency Performance Review presents data from more than 1,000 unique park and recreation agencies across the United States, as reported between 2020 and 2022. This data provides guidance

to inform decisions and demonstrate the full breadth of service offerings and responsibilities of park and recreation agencies across the United States. This comparison of nationwide data with the City of Bonney Lake can provide guiding insights rather than target benchmarks.

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

Figure 16 provides the nationwide comparison coupled with aggregate data of jurisdictions with a similar population size to Bonney Lake. In most of the listed categories, the City's provision of parks and open space is within the range of other agencies in terms of residents per park, parkland acres per 1,000 residents and miles of trail.

However, the number of full-time equivalent (FTEs) employees and the FTE ratio to population is much lower than comparable agencies, which affects the ratio of operating expenses per FTE. In this category, the degree of seasonal employees, contracted recreation programmers, and outside contracted work

Figure 16. 2023 NRPA Agency Performance Comparison

NRPA Metric	All Agencies	Jurisdictions 20,000 to 49,999	Bonney Lake
Residents per Park (by jurisdiction size)	2,287	2,014	3,321
Acres of Parkland per 1,000 Residents	10.8	11.3	13.3
Miles of Trails	15	8	8.9
Park & Recreation Staffing (FTEs)*	51.5	32.3	13.3
FTEs per 10,000 Residents	8.9	10.7	5.7
Annual Operating Expenses	\$5,500,000	\$3,255,771	\$2,061,283
Operating Expenses per Capita	\$94.77	\$103.95	\$88.66
Operating Expenses per Parkland Acre	\$7,388	\$8,106	\$2,047
Operating Expenses per FTE	\$105,484	\$99,944	\$106,802
Five-year Capital Budget Spending	\$10,000,000	\$5,000,000	\$14,242,109

<sup>\*</sup> excludes seasonals



may cause some data variability between the comparables and Bonney Lake. Separately, the Agency Performance Report indicated recent increases in staffing and volunteers for park and recreation agencies showing that numbers of authorized full-time positions have steadily rebounded since 2011. The higher, five year capital budget spending for Bonney Lake is reflective of the City's park system investments - a clear sign of an expanding park system.

#### **Acreage-based Approach**

The NRPA Agency Performance Review provides a comparative of parkland acreage metrics across a range of jurisdiction population sizes. Parkland refers to both maintained parks and open space areas. The current population of Bonney Lake fits within the category of communities between 20,000 to 49,999 people. For that population category, the median is 11.3 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents.

sized communities, but it also includes 77 acres of undeveloped natural area. Consideration of only City parkland in reviewing overall service levels across Bonney Lake offers a limited perspective. Over 23 acres of parkland exists in the form of private

The current parkland acreage per 1,000

residents in Bonney Lake is 13.3, which is slightly higher than the median for comparably-

homeowners' association (HOA) park sites. Although these facilities are only available to members of the HOA, they provide some basic, close-to-home, outdoor recreation amenities for those residents. The comparison in Figure 18 accounts for those acres to show a more complete picture of the broader community park system. The comparison also segments active-use park acreage (community, neighborhood and mini parks) and developed active-use park acreage to view service levels in more fine resolution.

Figure 17. NRPA Park Acreage Metrics by Jurisdiction Size

	All Agenices	Less than 20,000	20,000 to 49,999	50,000 to 99,999	100,000 to 250,000	More than 250,000
Median	10.8	13.0	11.3	11.2	8.9	10.1
Lower Quartile	5.3	6.0	5.9	5.0	4.5	5.2
Upper Quartile	18.4	21.1	17.9	17.3	17.1	17.7

Figure 18 Current Levels of Service by Acreage

LOS Metric	Measurement				
Current Population (2023)	lation (2023) 23,				
Parkland Acreage	City only	City + HOA			
Total Parkland Acreage	309.9	881.6			
Active Parks* Acreage	120.4	144.1			
Developed Active Parks Acreage	58.5	82.2			
Level of Service	City only	City + HOA			
Acres of Parkland per 1,000 Population	13.3	37.9			
Acres of Active Parks* per 1,000	5.2	6.2			
Acres of Developed Active Parks per 1,000	2.5	3.5			

<sup>\*</sup> Community, Neighborhood & Mini Parks

Please add a playground or park near panorama heights. There are so many children here and there are no parks within reasonable walking distance. It takes me and my daughter 30 minutes to walk to to the park on sky island and I have to carry her part of the way. So many children would benefit from a closer park."

- Survey respondent

As noted above, Bonney Lake currently provides a service level of 13.3 acres per 1,000 population for City-owned parks and open space, and the community-wide service level increases to 37.9 acres per 1,000 when HOA parks and open space are included. Considering the public, City-owned active-use parks, the current service level for Bonney Lake is 5.2 acres per 1,000 residents. Also, approximately 19% of the current inventory is developed parkland, resulting in a current level of service for developed parks as 2.5 acres per 1,000 population. The recently completed park site master plans for several undeveloped parks will significantly enhance the City's level of service in the coming years as those sites are developed.

**Investment-based Approach** 

Another method for assessing park level of service examines the investment in parks and facilities using population and budget allocations. The NRPA data provides a

comparison of annual operating expenses with other agencies and jurisdictions with similar population sizes. Applying the City's 2023 budget data, the operating expense per capita is \$88.66 per resident, which falls below the \$94.77 median for all agencies and the \$103.95 median for park providers in cities with 20,000 to 49,999 residents, see Figure 19. With 310 acres of parkland (developed and undeveloped sites), Bonney Lake's operating expenses per parkland acre equates to \$2,052, below the median expenditures of all agencies in aggregate and similarly sized jurisdictions; however, this figure includes the substantial acreage of natural area open space that requires little direct maintenance from park operations staff.

Looking at the provision of recreation amenities within the park system provides another perspective on the adequacy of park service delivery. From the NRPA Park Metrics data, ten amenities were compared with the median values from an aggregate of all

Figure 19. NRPA & Bonney Lake Operating Expense Metrics

NRPA Metrics	All Agencies	Jurisdictions 20,000 to 49,999	Bonney L:ake
Annual Operating Expenses (Parks & Facilities)	\$5,500,000	\$3,255,771	\$2,061,283
Operating Expenses per Capita	\$94.77	\$103.95	\$88.66
Operating Expenses per Parkland Acre	\$7,388	\$8,106	\$2,047

Figure 20. NRPA & Bonney Lake Metrics by Amenity Type

	20,000 to			
Amenities	All Agencies	49,999	Bonney Lake	
Median Acres per 1,000	10.8	11.3	13.3	
Median Trail Miles	15	8	8.9	
Amenity	Number o	f Residents pe	r Amenity	
Playgrounds	3,759	3,028	7,750	
Baseball (youth)	6,863	5,033	5,813	
Soccer (youth)	7,228	4,947	0	
Rectangular Field (multi-use)	9,177	7,674	23,250	
Dog Parks	43,532	28,000	23,250	
Skate Parks	53,144	32,000	23,250	
Tennis Courts (outdoor)	5,860	5,815	11,625	
Pickleball Courts (outdoor)	13,922	9,257	0	
Multi-Use Courts (outdoor)	15,948	9,667	0	
Basketball Courts (outdoor)	7,404	7,117	9,300	

66

More adult activities for seniors, community events, amphitheater, outdoor performance area, pickleball, parking & soccer fields."

- Survey respondent



agencies across the country, as well as from similarly sized jurisdictions to that of Bonney Lake, see Figure 20. The comparisons indicate that Bonney Lake is not significantly deficient in baseball fields, basketball courts, dog parks, or skate parks. However, the City provides fewer playgrounds, soccer fields and various sport courts than the median of agencies reporting. Also, based on the mapping analysis provided earlier in this chapter, several areas of Bonney Lake do not have easy access to existing recreational amenities, and residents must drive to access various activities.

#### **Recreation & Conservation Office** Metrics

The City's park system also was assessed using the Washington Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) level of service metrics provided in their planning manual. In reviewing the park system as a whole, Figure 21 illustrates the current levels of service across different performance measurements. From the community survey results, the frequency of park and trail visitation ranked as the strongest indicator for the park system.

The RCO level of service metrics include distribution criteria to reflect the percent

Figure 21. Levels of Service with RCO Metrics (System-wide)

Qua	lity Criteria	
	Community Life	
	Importance of parks & recreation (Essential or important)	95%
	LOS Grade	Α
	Satisfaction (very or somewhat) with City parks & open space	59%
	LOS Grade	D
	Agency-based Assessment	
	Condition Assessment Rating of Existing Parks (3-point scale)	1.5
	LOS Grade	В
Dist	ribution Criteria *	
	Developed Community Park Access (within 2-mile travelshed)	
	Percent Service Area with Access to Developed Community Park	41.7%
	LOS Grade	D
	City Parkland Access (within 1-mile travelshed)	
ity Scale	Percent Service Area with Access to Community, Neighborhood & Mini Parks	41.4%
= >90%	LOS Grade	D
= 80 - 89.9%	City Parkland Access (within 1/2-mile travelshed)	
= 70 – 79.9%	Percent Service Area with Access to Community, Neighborhood & Mini Parks	18.0%
= 50 - 69.9% = <50%	LOS Grade	F
- <50%	Trail System Access (within 1-mile travelshed)	
lition Assessment Scale	Percent Service Area with Access to Recreational Trails	69.0%
= <1.2	LOS Grade	D
= 1.2 - 1.74 = 1.75 - 2.24	Trail System Access (within 1/2-mile travelshed)	
= 2.25 - 2.79	Percent Service Area with Access to Recreational Trails	30.0%
= >2.8	LOS Grade	F
e / Distribution Scale	ge / Visitation Criteria	
= >85%	Frequency of Park or Trail Use	
= 75 – 84.9%	Percent Visiting Parks at least Multiple Times per Month	66%
= 50 - 74.9%	LOS Grade	С
= <30%	e: The percentage of land area covered by service area walksheds is a proxy for the ation within the residential portion of the city.	
SCA	LE: Excellent Good Fair Limited Poor	
50A	Excellent Good Fair Limited Poor	

of travelshed coverage for various park classifications in the community. Based on the gap assessment mapping, the City's developed community parks within a 2-mile travelshed cover approximately 42% of Bonney Lake versus 41% for a combination of community, neighborhood and mini parks to a 1-mile travelshed. Areas outside these park travelsheds mostly are located in the southwestern portion of the City. Coverage measured as a ½-mile travel distance for community, neighborhood and mini parks was considerably lower, providing access to existing parks for only 18% of the City. With the recent expansion of the Fennel Creek Trail, approximately 69% of the city is within a 1-mile travelshed to a trail access point. The gap analysis conducted for this PTRO Plan reinforces the findings from the 2015 Comprehensive Plan regarding existing parkland deficits and the need for new park locations and trail corridors to fill known gaps.

#### 66

Renovate Midtown Park!
Add sports fields, courts for basketball and pickleball, bleachers and possibly concessions. It's a central location to a lot of people who live in Bonney Lake.."

- Survey respondent

#### **Beyond "Metrics" to Uniqueness**

Examining the quantity of parklands and developed park acreage and the level of investment in the park system are merely two approaches for evaluating the current service levels for park and recreation facilities. As the Bonney Lake park system matures through the development of new sites, the City must strive toward a more diverse, unique, and universally accessible suite of outdoor recreation amenities, network of trail connections, and support facilities that provide an enhanced sense of place and quality of life for the community.

Through this PTRO Plan process, the City of Bonney Lake has conducted public design processes for Allan Yorke Park, Midtown Park, Victor Falls Park and Cedarview Park have highlighted the community's interest in a more varied assortment of recreation experiences. Elevating and highlighting the special landscapes of these park properties will include expanding options for nature experiences, sports, walking, and accessible play. In meeting these local interests, the City also should ensure an equitable distribution and quantity of the most common amenities, such as playgrounds, picnic shelters, restrooms, sport courts, sport fields and trails, to help distribute the visitation across many parks and acknowledge that many park users, particularly families, look for a variety of amenities in a park to provide a range of recreational activities for every visit.





#### **Open Space & Natural Areas**

Open space and greenways are a major component of Bonney Lake's green infrastructure and play critical roles in supporting healthy, well-functioning ecosystems. These many benefits include maintaining air and water quality, mitigating impacts of climate change, capturing stormwater runoff, and providing recreational and scenic opportunities to connect with nature that promote physical and mental well-being.

The Bonney Lake community is fortunate to have retained several natural areas across the city. Over 160 acres of open space properties and natural lands are owned by the City, in addition to the acreage of the developed park areas. These open space properties include forested lands, riparian corridors, wetlands, and steep slopes across multiple sites. Together, the open space properties around Fennel Creek comprise a contiguous public open space, allowing for the implementation of the Fennel

Creek Trail. Several other natural open space areas that range in size from 0.75 to 36 acres, also provide valuable forested areas. The future Midtown Park, currently underdeveloped, provides approximately 42 acres to include the existing and proposed stormwater facility, and approximately half of the site is required to retain tree canopy coverage as per an acquisition agreement.

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

modest support amenities such as parking or restrooms. Additionally, some properties that are acquired and held as future, active-use parks are managed as open space until they are developed as parks, which may last five to ten years or even longer from the time of purchase.

Figure 22. City-owned Open Space Areas

Open Space Site	Acreage
Fennel Creek Open Space	84.9
Church Lake Wetlands	14.1
Brookside Wetlands	23.0
Midtown Park (preserved tree canopy - est.)	23.0
Milotte Springs (Grainger Springs) Open Space	36.4
Miscellaneous open space parcels	4.0

Total City-Owned Open Space Acres 185.4



Reserve more open natural spaces and improve maintenance on the parks we have."

- Survey respondent

# System-wide Open Space Management Planning

Since 2000, the City's park and open space system has grown significantly through acquisitions and development set-asides. Today, the City owns and manages 310 acres of parks and open space, and undeveloped parkland and protected natural areas represent 80% (approximately 250 acres) of the total inventory.

To inform effective resource management decisions, the City should prepare a more specific and science-oriented open space management and urban forest management plan to better guide City staff in the care, maintenance and stewardship of open space and forested lands. In particular, the new plan should reflect the realities of limited program funding and the challenges presented by climate change to include the following considerations:

- 1. Maintain the functional benefits of open space vegetation.
- Foster resilient plant communities that can recover from disturbances and adapt to climate change and its impacts, such as forest fires.

- 3. Implement work based on the value of these functional benefits, the community's priorities for the open space properties and the condition of the vegetation found there.
- 4. Maximize the return on available funding through volunteers, matching grants, and donations.

#### **Land Conservation**

Bonney Lake is committed to conserving its natural resources within the context of a growing community with pressure for more developed lands. The preservation of the Fennel Creek corridor, the area downstream of Victor Falls and the requirements for private open space during the site development process indicate the recognition of the importance of sensitive land conservation, particularly regarding steep slopes, wetlands and riparian corridors.

The City code also protects and regulates wetlands, riparian zones, and steep slopes in Bonney Lake. The City's natural open space areas include several wetland areas, including riparian wetlands. Steep slopes exist throughout the drainage basins. These areas continue to be a high priority for protection and



restoration efforts. Generally, they represent fragile ecosystems that host unique plant communities and serve as a valuable habitat for many animals, including bird and amphibian populations. These areas should be included in future open space management planning.

Healthy and resilient forest lands are crucial for the preservation of Bonney Lake's functioning ecosystems. The City is fortunate to have acquired some of the forested open space areas scattered across the city. Ongoing monitoring and management of these forest lands will be necessary to control invasive vegetation, maintain native plant communities and accommodate appropriate recreational access and usage.

#### **Land Acquisition**

Conservation may also take the form of acquiring important lands that contribute to the ecological health of Bonney Lake's forests, wetlands, and watercourses. Active implementation of a conservation futures program could help fund direct acquisition of important forested sites before their loss to future development.

Some undeveloped lands or sections of existing properties are often restricted in their potential development by steep slopes, wetlands, or critical areas. These features are often highly valued for habitat conservation. These areas may extend existing natural areas or serve as essential habitat corridors between larger open space lands. Conservation easements and public access easements are tools that could be applied to increase habitat benefits and access across the parks and open space system. Retaining these forested resources using conservation easements and without engaging city-ownership is also an effective conservation tool.

#### Natural Green Infrastructure

Bonney Lake's natural resources are a critical component of the City's green infrastructure, which provides important ecosystem service functions. The City's urban forest, streams, wetlands, and vegetated natural areas help manage stormwater, protect air and water quality, and prevent erosion. Wetland restoration, visible stormwater features that collect the nitrogen and detain it prior to reaching the wetlands, and educational signage and design elements could improve watershed health and inform visitors about the impacts of pollutants (e.g., dog waste, pesticides, and herbicides) and encourage more environmentally friendly choices. Through interdepartmental coordination, the City should explore opportunities to enhance existing and future sites to serve multiple public purposes, as appropriate. This may reduce the City's demand for built infrastructure, such as stormwater conveyance and detention capacity, reduce risks from natural hazards like landslides and floods, and protect the quality of Lake Bonney, Lake Tapps, and Fennel Creek for generations to come.

#### Stewardship

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

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

sustainable landscape maintenance practices, reducing potential impacts on the surrounding environment and its inhabitants.

#### **Water Conservation**

Despite the rainy winters, water is not an unlimited resource in western Washington, and summers are expected to get even hotter and drier as climate change intensifies. As the climate changes, it is increasingly likely that not just voluntary, but mandatory, water conservation measures will become necessary on occasion to preserve supplies for the most critical uses, such as domestic consumption.

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

#### **Plant Selection**

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

mature landscapes that can better transition to warmer, drier conditions.

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

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

#### **Invasive Species Management**

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

#### **Stormwater Management**

The Pacific Northwest region is experiencing more severe rainstorms due to climate change, and more of that rain is falling on impervious



surfaces: roads, parking lots, and rooftops. This untreated surface water runoff can be a source of contamination for Lake Tapps, Fennel Creek and in other riparian areas, impacting both people and wildlife.

#### Forests & Fire Management

The evacuation of Bonney Lake triggered by the 2020 Washington Labor Day wildfires reinforce the need to manage forested areas and have emergency preparation plans in effect. The Labor Day fires that began on September 7, 2020, driven by high winds and some of which were sparked by downed power lines, burned more than 330,000 acres across the state of Washington. By September 9th, the Sumner Grade Fire grew to 400 acres, forced the closure of SR 410 and partial evacuation of both Sumner and Bonney Lake. With a changing climate, the continual challenge of wildfires should be expected.

Trees provide the major structure to park landscapes and help "green" urban areas as extensions of public park and green spaces. As essential contributors to water quality, heat island reduction, and habitat value, a community's tree canopy and its continual management continues to build value into the future. As more park systems take a proactive approach to urban or community forestry programs, the value of canopy trees as capital assets will continue to grow.

The City of Bonney Lake recognizes the value of trees and is a proud Tree City USA community; recognized nationally for its citizen based effort to sustain the urban forest for the past 18 years. In recognition of Arbor Day, the City engages volunteers to help plant trees along the trails and clean up local parks. Tree City USA provides materials for use in promoting the value of trees to the community and for use in special tree planting events. The program helps communities communicate the value of urban forests for cooling temperatures, shading buildings to reduce energy costs, boosting property values, improving mental and physical health, and improving air and water quality.

#### **Interpretive Signage**

The City's parkland and open space include a diverse array of habitat and are home to a variety of urban wildlife. Opportunities exist for interpretive education and signage throughout the City's park system. The installation and integration of interpretive signage that reflects Bonney Lake's history, culture, natural assets, and wildlife populations can enable programmed or self-guided outdoor learning and support other types of passive recreation, such as viewpoints and wildlife viewing areas.



## Natural Resource Management Trends

The future of parks in their stewardship roles as natural resources continues to demand attention to the values of urban green spaces, healthy outdoor places, green infrastructure, flood mitigation, wildlife habitat, climate resilience and more. As the NRPA states: "Parks and public lands serve an essential role in preserving natural resources and wildlife habitats, protecting clean water and clean air, and providing open space for current and future generations." As key contributors to ensuring the health of our environment, park providers should consider how the following trends, in addition to community trees and forest resources, can be proactively integrated into their management and practices.

- Green Infrastructure: Parks will continue to serve important roles in addressing stormwater management and serving as natural water-quality treatment for runoff. Sustainable landscapes can cleanse air and water, replenish aquifers and reduce surplus runoff while providing wildlife habitat.
- Microclimate Modification: Urban heat islands created through buildings and pavement can be mitigated with extending shade tree canopy. Use of trees and native plantings can help cool surfaces and their rain water runoff. Tree canopies have long been valued for helping save energy use in buildings and moderate summer temperatures for outdoor activities. Comfortable spaces result in more use of park places. Parks and green spaces are proving to be among the most effective tools to combat the effects of urban heat islands. Cities are looking to maximize the benefits of their park systems to combat urban heat island effects.
- Native Wildlife: Recent studies in conservation news have been revealing an ongoing global biodiversity crisis. This news occurs in tandem with the climate change emergency that also threatens biodiversity and increased rates of species extinction. Parks play an important role in preserving and restoring native plant species and native wildlife communities by intentionally focusing on planting and

- replanting their green landscapes with native plant species that provide critical roles in the rest of the local ecosystem and its biodiversity.
- "Rewilding": An ecological strategy that helps rebuild wildlife populations by restoring wildlife habitats goes beyond planting native plant species in park landscapes. Rewilding, with tactics such as pollinator gardens, urges a new kind of urban ethic to conserve and protect nature, while reducing the urban ecological footprint. Parks can host significant rewilding areas within their footprints by converting more traditional landscapes of mown lawn and trees into more natural plant communities without losing outdoor recreational values and function.
- Climate Resiliency: Canopy trees, native landscapes, green infrastructure and other applications of ecological landscape tactics can contribute to mitigating to some degree for the negative impacts of climate changes. Parks play a role in promoting climate resiliency if planned to accommodate for the future with limited disruption to the park system's functions.
- Conservation Staffing: Conservation organizations, national, state and local park agencies are struggling to fill their staffing needs for stewardship and restoration. This trend is particularly evident with the recruitment and retention of a seasonal work force. Market forces are pushing up wages, and many park and recreation agencies cannot keep up.
- Technology: Drones are being used for tasks beyond surveillance including horticultural and arboricultural practices such as pesticides applications, invasive weed monitoring, seeding operations and even building inspections. Drones economically can reach areas in parks that are inaccessible to other vehicles. Mowing operations may be shifting to newer technologies that include fully automated mowers, fully electric mowers and zero emission mowers that are projected to require less maintenance and operating costs.



#### **Chapter 6**

# Recreational **TRAILS**

rails are critical links in Bonney Lake's active transportation network – connecting people to parks, schools and other key destinations and creating opportunities for active lifestyles. Recreational trails are critical infrastructure for a healthy and livable community, promoting alternatives to vehicle use. Completing and expanding trail system connections was identified as one of the highest capital project priorities during the community engagement process, and walking was the top activity for Bonney Lake residents.



This chapter describes the recreational trail system and provides an overview of trail classifications and existing and conceptual trail corridors.

#### **Trail Trends**

Walking and hiking continue to be the most popular recreational activities nationally and regionally. Furthermore, national recreation studies have consistently ranked walking and hiking as the most popular forms of outdoor recreation over the last ten years, and summaries of recreation trends are provided in Appendix H.

The COVID-19 pandemic significantly impacted outdoor recreation activities, including trail use. Local and regional park and recreation agencies that managed trail systems were pressed to adapt to heavy usage and crowded trailhead parking, as many people shifted their daily exercise routines to outdoor activities, such as walking and bicycling.



The 2023 Outdoor Participation Trends report from the Outdoor Foundation found that hiking is the most popular outdoor activity. There were 881,000 new hikers in 2022. Hiking is considered one of the "gateway activities" that serve to initiate participation on other outdoor recreation activities. Running has the highest average outings per runner (54 per year). The annual growth for biking (all categories: road, BMX, mountain) was surveyed at 22.9% or 54.7 million cyclists. Notably, the 2022 version of this report shared that the number of seniors, ages 65 and older, participating in outdoor activities grew by 16.8% between 2019 and 2021. Trails are essential infrastructure for these and other outdoor recreation activities.

The 2023 Washington State Recreation and Conservation Plan has adopted statewide priorities and goals to guide conservation and outdoor recreation development. Top priorities include providing meaningful access to outdoor recreation for a broad diversity of users and supporting healthy, adaptable and connected communities where outdoor recreation users are connected to recreation destinations with a safe, accessible spectrum of multi-modal transportation options.

In the Washington Recreation and Conservation Office's 2022 Recreation Provider Survey, park and recreation agencies across the state reported that their top five trail-related management priorities were:

- Managing existing trails
- Planning and coordination with partners
- Providing connections between existing trails
- Re-routing or improving trails to modern, sustainable design
- Creating new opportunities for non-motorized trail users

Other trail and trail-related priorities facing park and recreation providers for the next five years included

- Improving parking capacity at trailheads
- Expanding capacity and connecting trail systems

- Acquiring additional trail corridors
- Improving safety and security at trailheads
- Completing ongoing planning and permitting processes

Additionally, with the rapid increase in electricassist mobility and the potential for user conflicts due to increased speeds, Bonney Lake will want to stay abreast of best management approaches for ensuring safety for all trail users and how best to promote trail etiquette on shared-use trails.

#### **Community Insights**

As noted in previous chapters, feedback from the community survey, event tabling, and public meetings provided a wealth of local insights on current usage and interests in various recreation amenities, including trails. The most popular reason for visiting Bonney Lake parks is to walk or run (65%). While residents prioritize maintaining existing parks and facilities, they are generally supportive of improving the City's park and recreation system as well. Nearly all (96%) of community survey respondents are supportive of the City expanding trails and walking/biking opportunities. Respondents were asked to rank, in order (forced ranking), a list of potential recreation, park and open space investment priorities, and respondents identified expanding trail opportunities as the top priority for the city.

In detailed comments, respondents expressed a desire for continued investment in the expansion, connectivity, and maintenance of the trail system. Several respondents also asked for investments in pedestrian and bicyclist access and safety improvements (sidewalks, crossings, bike lanes, etc.) that would allow easy access to parks and other destinations without relying on vehicles or extensive parking. Respondents also offered ideas to improve and expand trails and falls viewing locations in Victor Falls Park.

Community feedback from both open house meetings identified trail system improvements as a top priority for Bonney Lake, with strong support for expanding the Fennel Creek Trail to Allan Yorke Park. When asked which is most important in a recreational trail system, respondents chose to add more trails in natural areas. Respondents also chose purchasing new land and building new trail connections as their top trail system priority.

#### **Trail Classifications**

The Bonney Lake recreational trail classification system is based on a tiered network and includes four primary trail categories: Regional, Connector, Park/Local, and Water Trails. The differences between trail classifications are based on the purpose and intensity of use, which influences the trail width, material, and recommended support facilities.

#### **Regional Trails**

Regional trails act as the spine of the trail network and provide major connections to adjacent communities and significant natural features, such as rivers and streams, public facilities, and areas of interest. These trails extend beyond city limits and serve as extended recreational corridors and may be identified as regional trails in the Pierce County trail network. Regional trails are paved, multi-use routes that accommodate pedestrians, cyclists, and skaters and are typically separated from the public road right-of-way (ROW) for exclusive use. In cases where there is not sufficient ROW for a separated trail, sidewalks may be widened to function as segments of regional trails. Regional trails are typically between 12' and 18' wide, and these corridors should provide the highest level of trail amenities, including trailheads, parking, signage, and restrooms. Trail width may be reduced depending on specific site conditions, such as environmental constraints or slopes. The Fennel Creek Trail will become a regional trail as it connects to the Flume Trail and the Foothills Trail.

#### **Connector Trails**

Connector trails provide recreational benefits by linking regional trails, as well as important land uses and areas of interest, such as schools, often within a neighborhood and typically along a street right-of-way. They also create recreation loops to parks, natural areas, and other environmental destinations. These trails support regional trail corridors and serve smaller residential, commercial, and employment areas. Connector trails are typically between 8' and 12' wide and are often paved, multi-use corridors that can be located on- or off-street.

#### Park / Local Trails

Park trails are interior loops or point-to-point routes within parks or natural areas and include paved or unpaved walking paths, rustic hiking trails, or equestrian trails. Local trails are used as neighborhood linking trails. These multi-use trails can be paved or soft surface and located within a public easement or public right-of-way. Depending on use, location, and underlying conditions, the trail surface material may be concrete, asphalt, gravel or crushed rock, native soil, forest duff, or wood chips. Examples of park and local trails include Allan Yorke Park and Midtown Park.

#### **Water Trails**

A water trail is a network of access points, resting places, and attractions for users of human-powered watercraft on lakes and rivers. Water trails enable people to personally explore the City's natural and cultural heritage from a distinctly unique vantage point - one of "sitting on" the water – and bring the user into contact with the ecology of the trail corridor. The design of launch facilities should provide adequate parking and other support amenities, including pedestrian access, protected sand beach, and functional elements such as signing, seating, and waste receptacles. Currently, public access to Lake Tapps within city limits is from Allan Yorke Park. Pierce County provides North Lake Tapps Park at the north end of the lake, which



is within unincorporated Pierce County. While mostly undeveloped, the Park does provide some water access, and the 2017 North Lake Tapps Master Plan proposed improvements to increase waterfront access. With these two public waterfronts at either end of Lake Tapps, the feasibility of a water trail could be studied.



Provide biking and walking trails around town that lead to SR410 from the outer developments for easy and safe access."

- Survey respondent

Figure 23. Bonney Lake Trail Classifications

Classification	Function	Use Type	Users	Surfacing	Width
Regional Trail	Major connections through community and beyond	Multi-use	Pedestrians, cyclists, skaters. Equestrians (where feasible)	Asphalt, concrete, boardwalk.	12-18'
Connector Trail	Connects parks, trails, neighborhoods and destinations	Multi-use	Pedestrians, cyclists, skaters.	Asphalt, concrete, boardwalk. Gravel, possible.	10-12'
Park / Local Trail	Interior loops or point- to-point routes in public spaces.	Multi- or single use	Pedestrians, cyclists, skaters.	Asphalt, concrete, boardwalk; gravel, native soil, forest duff, wood chips also possible.	2-10'
Water Trail	Water-based recreation & travel	Watercraft	Boaters, sailors & paddlers	Water bodies	N/A

#### **Existing Trail Inventory**

The City of Bonney Lake, Pierce County, and neighboring communities have created a growing system of regional and connector trails with linkages to each other. Clear recognition by the County and cities that trails provide valuable infrastructure is demonstrated by the commitment to continue to connect communities and destinations with trails. A more fully-developed network of trails and pathways to connect important destinations will help create a more walkable Bonney Lake.

In addition to its own trail network, Bonney Lake has several County-owned trails within or near to Bonney Lake city limits, including the Foothills Trail and the Flume Trail. In total, Bonney Lake has approximately 8.8 miles of recreational walking or biking trails dispersed across the community.

#### **Internal Park Trails**

Developed City parks provide paved and softsurface trails to connect the outdoor recreation amenities within Allan Yorke Park and Midtown Park and offer walking through natural areas. These park trails can also provide access points into adjacent neighborhoods.

#### **Fennel Creek Trail**

The Fennel Creek Trail runs through Fennel Creek open space with a connector trail to Victor Falls Elementary. It is the first segment of the planned corridor trail intended to connect to the Foothills Trail south of city limits and to the Flume Trail to the east. Fennel Creek Trail connections would link Allan Yorke Park, the Viking Dog Park, and Victor Falls Park. The future Fennel Creek Trail network within the city limits will provide about 5.2 miles of paved pathway, including the spur to Allan Yorke Park. In collaboration with Pierce County, the City plans to connect the Fennel Creek Trail and the Foothills Trail from Victor Falls Park through the Falling Water and Tehaleh communities.

#### **Regional Trails**

#### **Foothills Trail**

The Foothills National Recreation Trail sits atop a historic railroad bed and winds through the river valley southeast of Tacoma. This 21-mile-long trail is a popular commuter route and recreational destination for bicyclists. Walkers and runners typically use shorter, more manageable segments of the trail. The Foothills Trail is a 12-foot wide, non-motorized, asphalt trail / linear park suitable for bicycles, walking, in-line skates, and wheelchairs. The trail begins in the City of Puyallup at 13810 80th Street and continues through the Puyallup Valley terminating at the White River in Buckley. Eventually, the Foothills Trail will continue into Puyallup and connect to the Riverwalk Trail. From Buckley, future trail extensions will continue east into King County and Enumclaw.

#### White River Flume Trail

The White River Flume is a Cascade Water Alliance municipal corporation's facility that brings water from the White River, north of Buckley, westward into Lake Tapps. A gated, unpaved maintenance road extends the length of the flume and provides access for periodic maintenance and operations. Public access is currently prohibited. In 2021, Pierce County Parks commissioned a feasibility study to identify the design enhancements that would be necessary to create a public use, non-motorized trail facility using the currently closed maintenance road. The Flume Trail would begin in Bonney Lake at Barkubein Road and 73rd Street and continue southeast to Buckley connecting to the Foothills Trail.

#### Naches Memorial Trail

The Naches Memorial Trail is planned as an east-west connection through Bonney Lake connecting the Puyallup River Trail and the White River Flume Trail. The trail would cross the Fennel Creek Trail near downtown Bonney Lake. The trail would represent a segment of the historic Naches Pass trail used by native peoples and early settlers.

Figure 24. Bonney Lake Trail Inventory

Trail Segment	Length (mi.)
1 - Allan Yorke Park	1.18
2 - Cedarview Park	0.21
3 - Fennel Creek Trail (FCT)	2.66
4 - FCT - Downtown Spur	0.43
5 - Midtown Park	1.34
6 - Victor Falls Trail	0.24
7 - Viking Park	0.61
Other City Trail Segments	1.00
ROW / Safe Routes to School	1.16
HOA Trail Segments	1.21
Total Mileage	9.84
Total Mileage (Public Access)	8.84

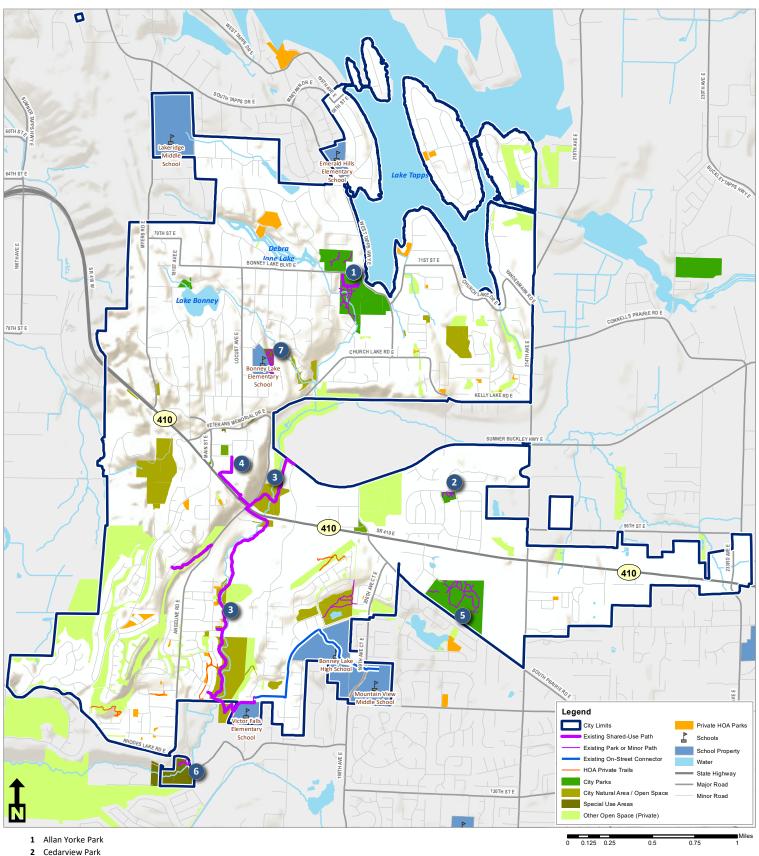


More sidewalks or trails connecting you to parks and the town. A lot of sidewalks end with no shoulder to run/walk/ride on."

- Survey respondent



# **DRAFT**



- 3 Fennel Creek Trail (FCT)
- 4 FCT Downtown Spur
- 5 Midtown Park
- 6 Victor Falls Trail
- 7 Viking Park

# Trail System Planning & Assessment

#### **Citywide Trail Planning**

Expanding Bonney Lake's network of trails will enhance access for all community members and support sustainability goals around reducing vehicle dependence. Citywide planning for the trail network relies on coordination between transportation engineering and park planning functions within the city organization. This PTRO Plan, the Transportation Master Plan, and the Bonney Lake Comprehensive Plan work together to identify local needs and recommendations to expand and improve on-street and offstreet trails, pathways, and connections. The Bonney Lake 2035 Community Mobility Element recognizes the need to make Bonney Lake a community where it is easier to walk and bicycle in the city. The second goal in the Community Mobility Element is to "increase mobility and transportation options by constructing a network of non-motorized transportation facilities to provide convenient and affordable transportation alternatives for individuals of all ages and abilities to support healthy lifestyle choices." The Bonney Lake 2035 Community Services Element, which includes parks and recreation, references the 2010 survey where 500 respondents ranked 'trails' as the top park priority.

#### **Regional Trail Planning**

The Pierce County Regional Trails Plan (RTP) was adopted in 2020 as an update to the Regional Trails Plan included in the 2014 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan. The RTP reinforced its goals to provide a connected system of trails that link communities to parks, pen spaces, public facilities, and areas of interest and provide non-motorized transportation and recreation opportunities. Pierce County Parks manages about 40 miles of trails and walking paths intended to provide connectivity to important county and regional

66

Walkable and safe connections between trails and parks. Being able to safely get from Allan Yorke/Viking Dog park to the Fennel Creek trail and then Victor Falls would be nice."

- Survey respondent

destinations, between multiple jurisdictions, and to neighboring counties. The Foothills Trail is currently 21 miles long and situated to the west of Bonney Lake. The RTP provides guidance for developing Pierce County's overall regional trail network. Continued long term planning seeks to coordinate planning, design, implementation, and maintenance of the regional trail network and ensure connections with other local trails.

The Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust continues to work toward a dedicated trail and greenway system extending from the Cascades to Puget Sound. Bonney Lake is within the Greenway, although the actual trail alignment is south of city limits.

The Leafline Trails Coalition envisions an interconnected network of shared use trails across the Central Puget Sound region to improve health, community, quality of life, mobility, and access for all. The Coalition is made up of more than 50 members, including businesses, community organizations, and government agencies across King, Kitsap, Pierce, and Snohomish counties. Leafline members maximize their collective impact by creating a shared map vision for trails, enhancing the trail visitor experience, promoting awareness of the Leafline's trails, and advocating to fill gaps in the trails network. The City of Bonney Lake could consider joining the Coalition to help foster partnerships and leveraging for advancing their connections to regional trails.



#### **Trail System Gap Analysis**

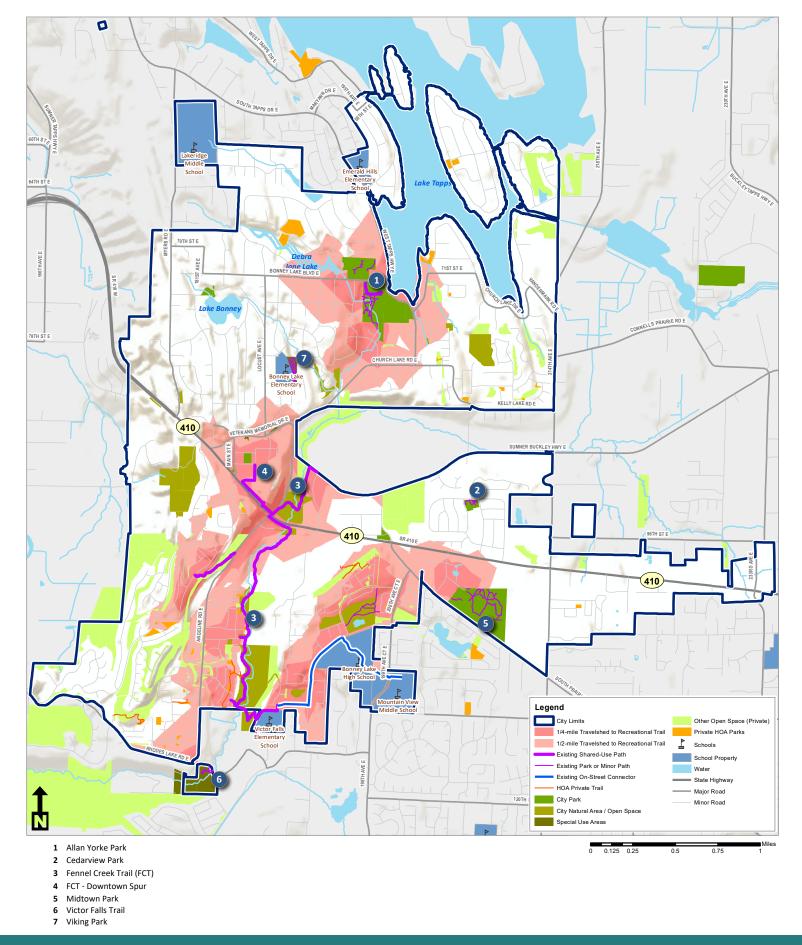
A gap analysis was conducted to examine and assess the accessibility of existing recreational trails. As with the parkland analysis, travel distances were calculated along the road network starting from each existing trail segment's known access points. Local trails within parks also were depicted. "Travelsheds" were calculated with 1/4-mile, 1/2-mile and 1-mile distances for major trails (e.g., Fennel Creek Trail) and ¼-mile and ½-mile "travelsheds" for the remainder. Maps 16 and 17 illustrate the citywide distribution of recreational trails and the relative access to these corridors within reasonable travel walksheds. Approximately 70% of the city has access to recreational trails, including park trails and the Fennel Creek Trail, within a 1-mile travelshed, and approximately 31% of the city is within a ½-mile travelshed.

Similar to transportation planning, recreational trail planning should be geared toward connectivity as a system performance metric, rather than mileage. Only considering a mileage standard for paths within the Bonney Lake park system will result in an isolated and inadequate assessment of community needs with little consideration for better trail connectivity. This Plan recommends a connectivity goal that re-states and reinforces the desire to improve overall connections across the City to enhance off-street linkages between parks, schools, and major destinations, as feasible. The use of policies and objectives is more appropriate for the expansion of the trails network with a focus on connectivity, than the use of a per capita distance metric (e.g., miles per 1,000 population). Therefore, this Plan does not propose a mileage-based trail facility standard. The proposed exclusion of a mileage-based standard for trails does not diminish or reduce the importance of or value in continuing to expand and grow the trail network; the intent is merely to orient the City's efforts toward a policy-based approach to trail connectivity.

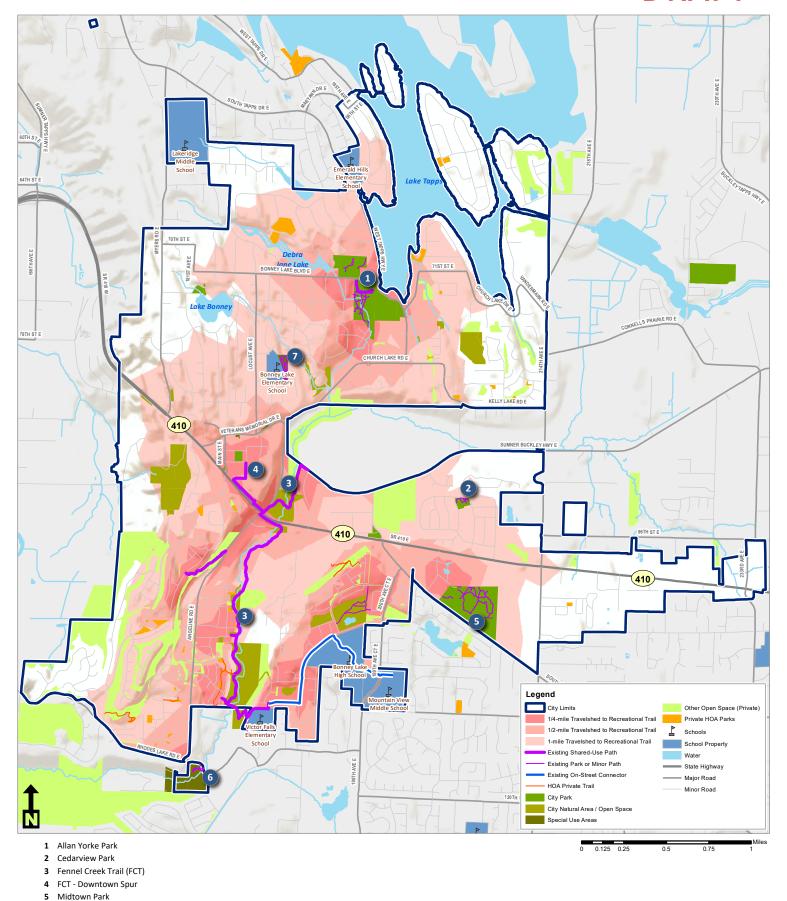
69%
Residential areas within 1 mile of recreational trail



According to The National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) 2022 report on Engagement with Parks, more than 25% of survey respondents - over 86 million people - are unable to walk to a park or recreation facility. Access to outdoor recreation is a key value to trails and trail connectivity.



## **DRAFT**



6 Victor Falls Trail7 Viking Park

# Trail System Design Considerations

Trail systems may include different types of trails for different conditions and needs. Guidelines for trail planning and developing trail design standards can help create a unified trail system that directs appropriate establishment of new trails and guides maintenance and upgrades for existing trails. Establishing and reinforcing a recreational trail classification enables a framework for trail design and facilitates the prioritization of proposed trail enhancements and development.

#### **Access & Alignments**

The future growth of the trail network will need to balance between alignments that are optimal from trail user, trail experience, and connectivity perspectives and those that are practical from cost, regulatory, and availability perspectives. Future consideration should be given toward finding alignment options that can accommodate different trail use types (i.e., commuter vs. recreational/ destination oriented), as well as potentially interim solutions that rely on wider sidewalks to serve trail users or routes that utilizes existing or planned sewer, stormwater, or utility corridors. Accommodating alignments for local, neighborhood link trails as connections to regional, shared-used trails or major park trails is important for providing access and reducing the sole reliance on trailheads for providing access to the trail network. The Conceptual Recreational Trail System map (Map 18) indicates potential alignments that can vary depending upon landowner willingness, along with environmental constraints and design considerations.

#### **Access & Trailheads**

Safe, convenient entryways to the trail network expand access for users and are a necessary component of a strong, successful system. A trailhead typically includes parking, kiosks,

and signage and may include site furnishings such as trash receptacles, benches, restrooms, drinking fountains, bike repair stations, and bike racks. Regionally, more recent trailhead installations have added electric bike charging stations to support expanding alternative modes of transportation. Trailheads may be within public parks and open space or provided via interagency agreements with partner organizations (e.g., county, school district, etc.) to increase use and reduce unnecessary duplication of support facilities. Specific trailhead designs and layouts should be created as part of planning and design development for individual projects and take into account the intended user groups and unique site conditions.

#### **Areas of Respite**

Beyond trailheads that can provide access to the trail with support amenities, rest areas along trail segments can enhance the trail user's experience to enjoy the natural settings and/or urban dynamics of the trail's environment. Areas of respite are usually available within developed parks connected to the trail system, but longer sections of trails between trailheads and parks could offer places to rest, stop and chat, enjoy wildlife viewing, or meet-up with fellow trail users. Differentiated from trailheads, these 'rest stops' can simply offer pull-offs with benches or picnic tables, observation or viewing platforms, or interpretive signs. These sites also should be included in the emergency response system with an identifying code to provide locator information.

#### **Trail Development Limitations**

One underlying principle of the recreational trail system is to enable the placement of trails within or close to natural features to provide access to the City's unique landscapes, as well as accommodate outdoor recreational access to creeks, hillsides, and woodlands. The future planning and design of trail routes through natural areas should be based on sensitive



and low-impact design solutions that offer appropriate levels of access that also protect the natural resource and provide for a positive experience for trail users. The determination of future trail alignments should carefully balance public recreational access with natural resource and natural hazards planning and protections, in part to meet local land use policies, as well as Washington State requirements.

#### **Trail System Design**

The primary purpose of recreation trails is to provide a recreational experience. Whenever feasible, recreational trails should be located off-street; however, streets should be used in order to complete connections wherever necessary. The following are sound tenets of recreational trail system design compiled from numerous national, state, and regional sustainable trail guidelines.

- Develop a high-quality system of multi-use trails that connect significant local landscapes, public facilities, neighborhoods, and the Downtown.
- Create a network of single- and multi-use trails for walking, running, and cycling to promote connectivity between parks, neighborhoods, and public amenities or destinations.
- Provide a comprehensive trail system that will interconnect the recreational trail systems and nonmotorized transportation systems, including sidewalks and bike lanes.
- Increase connectivity between parks and trails and prioritize the creation or completion of loops that provide a range of recreation options and experiences.
- Integrate the siting of proposed trail segments into the land development review process.
- Require development projects along designated trail routes to be designed to incorporate the trail as part of the project. Sensitive area buffers within proposed subdivisions and short-subdivisions shall be widened to accommodate additional open space and a public easement for future trails.
- Require the installation of safe, convenient, and dedicated pedestrian paths by new development where minimizing travel distance has the potential for increasing pedestrian use.
- When possible, trails should be constructed prior to or concurrent with development or with the improvement of public facilities.
- Work with state, county and local agencies, utilities and private landholders to secure trail corridors and access to complete the recreational trail system through



#### **Trails for Walkable Communities**

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



#### **Trails for Aging Populations**

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

methods including land dedication, purchase, use of vacated rights-of-way, land donations, public easements, or use agreements.

#### **Trail Signs & Wayfinding**

Enhanced signage and consistency in brand identification could increase awareness for residents and visitors of nearby recreational opportunities, and coordinated signage plays a crucial role in facilitating a successful trail system. A comprehensive and consistent signage system is necessary to inform, orient, and educate users about the trail system itself, as well as appropriate trail etiquette. Such a system of signs should include trail identification information, orientation markers, safety and regulatory messages, and a unifying design identity or element for branding. The following signage types should be consistently implemented throughout the network:

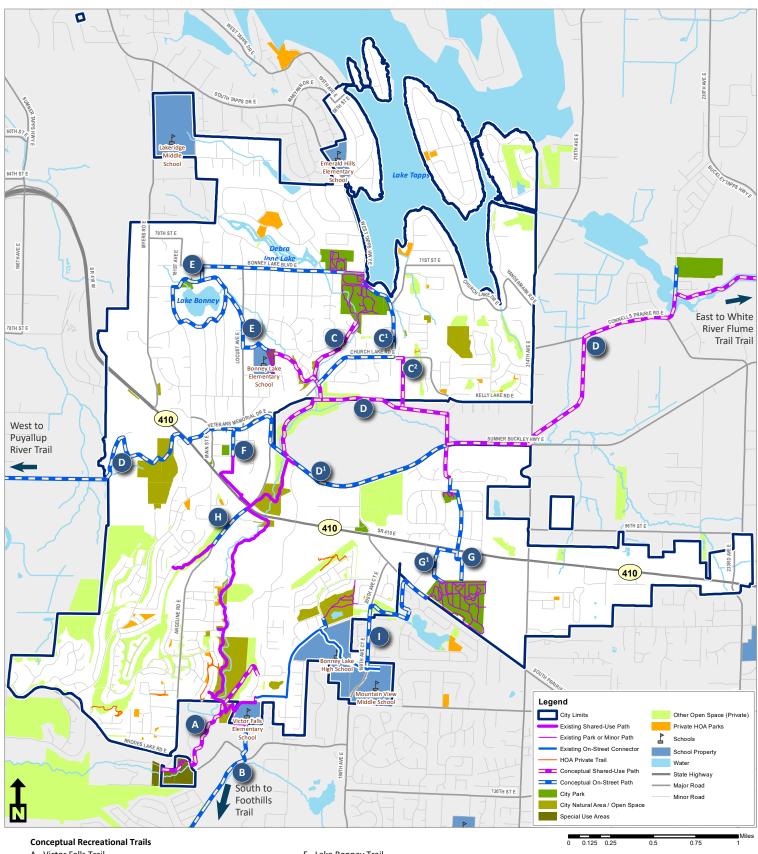
- Directional and regulatory signs
- Trail user etiquette and hierarchy signs
- Continuous route signage for route identification and wayfinding
- Mileage markers or periodic information regarding distance to areas of interest
- Warning signs to caution users of upcoming trail transitions or potential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

Also, the installation of kiosks at trailheads is a best practice that should continue and provides important trail information, while reinforcing the visual brand of the Bonney Lake trail experience.

#### **Ongoing Maintenance**

Following trail construction, ongoing trail monitoring and maintenance will keep the trails functioning as designed, while working to protect capital investments throughout the trail network. Future trail renovation projects should be included in the Capital Improvement Plan as a means to identify and secure appropriate resources for needed enhancement. Additionally, the City should maintain and expand their connection to and communications with the robust network of local volunteers to provide support, as appropriate.

### **DRAFT**



- A Victor Falls Trail
- B Fennel Creek Trail (to Foothills Trail)
- C Fennel Creek Trail (Old Sumner Buckley Hwy to Allan Yorke Park) (C<sup>1</sup> & C<sup>2</sup>: alternative alignments)
- D Naches Memorial Trail (D1: alternative alignment)
- E Lake Bonney Trail
- F Downtown Connector Trail
- G Midtown to Fennel Creek Trail (G1: alternative alignment)
- H Sky Island Connector
- I Bonney Lake High School to Midtown Park Connector

The map is intended for planning and for informational purposes only and may not be suitable for legal, engineering or surveying purposes.

The proposed trail routes are intended to illustrate general alignments, which will be contingent upon future design studies. The map does not represent the intention of the City of Bonney Lake or anyone else to construct any trail over the opposition of property owners.

# Trail System Recommendations

## Acquisitions and Development for Trail Connections

Additional trail connections are needed, as well as sidewalk and bike lanes improvements, to help link destinations across the community and park system to offer more walkability and promote healthier outdoor lifestyles. Acquisitions of easements, corridors, and parcels will be needed to create the comprehensive linkages for Bonney Lake's future recreational trail system. The City will need to coordinate between parks and transportation funding sources for project planning to ensure the most appropriate links that improve the park and trail system. The City also should implement proposed amendments to its development policies and codes to require future development to provide bike and pedestrian access across proposed developments to contribute to a city-wide network of non-motorized transportation options.

#### **Local Park Access**

Local trails that provide access through parks should connect smoothly with sidewalks and include information on how to connect to additional trail segments that may be located nearby. The online open house survey revealed support for acquiring more open space that also could offer trail development and walking opportunities. The park system gap analysis identified generalized areas where access to local parks was missing or insufficient, and future acquisitions should target those gap areas to also accommodate bike and pedestrian options.

#### **Planning Coordination**

It is recognized that significant challenges exist to bring many of these recreational trail connections to fruition, and coordination with transportation improvements and community development will be crucial. This Plan recommends a connectivity goal that re-states and reinforces the desire to improve overall connections across the City and enhance off-street linkages between parks and major destinations, as feasible. The City should aim to accommodate ADA guidelines for trails where it is reasonable.

#### **Trail System Signage**

As the trail network grows, this Plan recommends the implementation of detailed trail signage standards, route, and wayfinding signage for trails and associated facilities and informational maps and materials identifying existing and planned trail facilities.

#### **Integrating Design Elements**

The Monon Trail, a rail trail heading north almost 17 miles from downtown Indianapolis, illustrates some tools for helping visitors find the trail and find their way along the trail. The combination of a signature color, unified logos and icons, matching site furnishing, and signage styles help identify the location and direction of the trail and its support facilities, as part of a unified navigation system.

At crossroads and trailheads, the bright red colors used consistently in signs and furnishings mark the trail's presence. Kiosks and information signs help orient the trail user. Rule signs alert the user to trail behavior expectations and reinforce trail identity. The signage system helps identify place, provide information about trail distances and amenities, locate connections and interpret history and culture.



#### **Chapter 7**

# Recreation & **EVENTS**

More indoor recreational facilities for adults and children to be able to take classes. It rains here all the time; it would be great to have more indoor facilities for community time, taking classes, explore interests for all ages."

- Survey respondent



he recreation facilities and services available within Bonney Lake are a major community asset and support the physical, mental and social health of community members.

Various recreation options are available through a range of public and private recreation, health and fitness providers and facilities. The City currently provides programing through a mix of City-run programs and through partnerships and program contractors.

#### **Recreation Trends**

The following national and state data highlights some of the current trends in recreation and may frame future considerations in Bonney Lake's recreation offerings, events and partnerships. Additional trend data are provided in Appendix J.

- Nationwide, 82% of U.S. adults believe that parks and recreation are essential. (1)
- 72% of survey respondents indicate that having a high-quality park, playground, public open space or recreation center nearby is an important factor in deciding where they want to live. (1)

- Nearly all (93%) park and recreation agencies provide recreation programs and services. The top five most commonly offered programs include holiday or other special events (65%), educational programs (59%), group exercise (59%), fitness programs (58%), and day or summer camps (57%). (2)
- More than eight in ten agencies provide themed special events (90% of agencies), team sports (87%), social recreation events (88%), youth summer camps (83%), fitness enhancement classes (82%), and health and wellness education (80%). (3)
- America's children are spending more time outdoors over the past decade, and the COVID pandemic accelerated that trend. Overall, the percentage of children participating in outdoor recreation was high in 2021, at just over 70%. (4)
- Over the past two years, participation rates are up across the board for America's youth, with strong growth in participation by girls (4.9% higher for girls ages 6 to 12, and 5.3% higher for girls 13 to 17). (4)
- Yoga continued to have one of the largest gains in fitness activities. <sup>(5)</sup>
- Activities with the highest 5-year increase in participation include indoor climbing (13%) and pickleball (12%).
- Nearly all park and recreation providers in the U.S. experienced a decline in revenue in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As early as May 2020, most providers had to close facilities temporarily in accordance with health and safety directives. Nearly half also furloughed or laid off staff due to the funding and facility impacts of the pandemic. <sup>(6)</sup>
- Research from the US Bureau of Economic Analysis shows that arts and culture drive
   4.2% of the US gross domestic product (GDP), generating \$ 876.7 billion in 2020.

People who say their neighborhood has easy access to quality arts and cultural activities tend to be more satisfied, identify more with local lifestyle and culture, and invest more time and resources in their communities. (8)

Recreation Management magazine's 2022
Report on the State of the Managed Recreation
Industry summarizes information provided
by a wide range of professionals working in
the recreation, sports, and fitness industry.
Regarding program options, respondents from
community centers, park departments, and
health clubs reported that they plan to add
programs over the next few years. The ten most
commonly planned program additions were:

- Mind-body balance programs
- Fitness programs
- Group exercise programs
- Educational programs
- Arts and crafts programs
- Teen programs
- Functional fitness programs
- Performing arts programs
- Environmental education
- Holidays and other special events

According to the 2022 Outdoor Participation Report, published by the Outdoor Foundation, just over half (54%) of Americans ages 6 and older participated in outdoor recreation at least once in 2021. The outdoor participant base has increased 6.9% since the COVID pandemic began in early 2020.

Addressing the COVID-19 pandemic required many respondents to either put programs or services on hold (82%) or cut programs

#### Sources

- (1) American Engagement with Parks Survey
- (2) 2020 NRPA Agency Performance Review
- (3) 2022 NRPA Agency Performance Review
- (4) 2022 Outdoor Participation Report
- (5) 2022 Sport & Fitness Industry Association Sports, Fitness, And Leisure Activities Topline Participation Report
- (6) 2020 State of the Industry Report
- (7) US Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2022
- (8) Knight Foundation Community Ties survey Community-Ties-Final-pg.pdf (knightfoundation.org). Builds off Soul of Community Longitudinal Study (2008-2010) conducted by the Knight Foundation found key drivers of community attachment to be social offerings, openness, and aesthetics. https://knightfoundation.org/sotc/overall-findings/



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

#### **Community Feedback**

Participants of both open houses, the community survey and stakeholder group discussions offered feedback on recreation programs, facilities, and community activities.

Currently, the City of Bonney Lake offers youth sports, camps, community events, and other activities in partnership with Sumner-Bonney Lake School District. Survey respondents were asked which of these programs and events they had participated in within the past two years, as well as whether they feel Bonney Lake needs more or fewer of each program offering. More than half of respondents (57%), or members of their household, have participated in a community event within the past two years,

see Figure 25. Just over one-third (36%) have participated in youth sports. Fewer than 10% have participated in adult classes, adult sports, teen activities, programs for adults over 55 years of age, or in e-sport leagues.

More than half of respondents expressed interest in seeing more family programs (63%), community events (53%), and youth activities (50%) in Bonney Lake. A plurality of respondents feel the City needs more teen activities, youth sports, adult classes, and programs for adults over 55. Only 36% of respondents would like to see more adult sports and only 12% are interested in more e-sports leagues. Survey respondents with children at home were more likely than those without to feel the City lacks sufficient in youth, teen, and family activities.

Many respondents feel that Bonney Lake residents would benefit from additional youth, teen, and family-oriented recreational programs and activities. Additionally, a number of respondents mentioned the need for a community swimming pool or year-round aquatic center that could offer swimming lessons and other water-based activities for all ages.

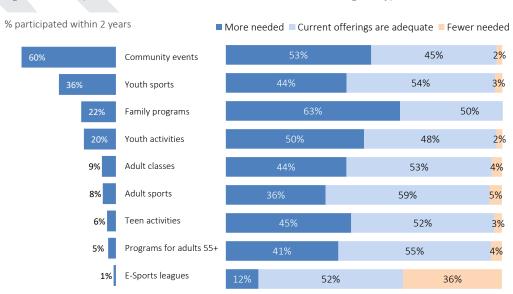


Figure 25. Participation in and Perceived Need for Various Recreation Program Types

Participants in the open house meetings shared similar feedback to survey respondents, and participants identified youth sports as their priority for recreation programs. Open house participants also voiced interest in additional youth, teen, senior and family recreation programs. When asked the types of programs community members would like to see the City offer, the following were noted:

- Youth mentorship programs
- Affordable recreation program options
- Cultural events
- Sports camps
- After school programs for youth and children
- Indoor pool for swimming lesson and water activities

Also, survey respondents commented positively on Bonney Lake's existing community events and encouraged the City to explore additional community gatherings to bring residents together and foster community vitality. Ideas included street fairs, concerts, outdoor movies, Battle of the Bands, and other family-friendly activities to appeal to a wide range of interests and ages. Open house participants indicated they would like to see more large park events, such as Tunes at Tapps and Bonney Lake Days.





#### **Recreation Programs**

The Recreation Department provides recreational experiences for families within the Sumner-Bonney Lake School District. The Department has an interlocal agreement with the school district for facility usage, and the Bonney Lake City Council unanimously voted in August 2023 to enter into a new interlocal agreement with the District to continue operating recreation programs. The City of Bonney Lake offers a variety of sports, camps, classes and clinics for both children and adults with the goal to serve the greater community to become lifelong participants and learners through a variety of activities.





#### **Program Area Categories**

The categories below represent the major areas of focus for current Bonney Lake recreation programs. Program lists are based on a review of program offerings between 2019 and 2023.

Figure 26. Existing City Programs by Classification

Area	Focus	Programs
Sports	Youth	Pee Wee Soccer, Kidz Love Soccer, Skyhawks Youth Sports Clinics, Pee Wee Basketball, Youth Basketball, Youth Baseball, Youth Flag Football, Afterschool Basketball Camp, Afterschool Soccer Camp, Basketball Academy, BLHS Fastpitch Camp, Volleyball, Co-Ed Tennis, Junior Wrestling
	Teen+	Spring Co-Ed Adult Soccer, Women's Spring Slowpitch Softball, Co-Ed Volleyball
Fitness	Youth & Teen	Winter Break Skills, Gymnastics, Kids Karate, Strength & Endurance, Weight Room, Panther Dance, Cheer Clinic & Camp, Home School PE
	Teen & Adult	Beginner Tai Chi, Qigong, Stress Reduction Yoga, Vinyasa Flow Yoga, Karate
Arts & Culture	Youth	Off Broadway Drama
	Adult	Drawing, Watercolor
Aquatics		N/A
Education	Youth & Teen	Miss Robin's Preschool, Safe at Home, Babysitting
Specialty / General Interest	Youth & Teen	Bricks 4 Kids, Indoor Play Park, Spring Break Day Camp, Winter Break Activities Camp, ZGirls
	Teen+	Dog Obedience Training, Women's Self-Defense, Eliminating Christmas Chaos
Adaptive / Special Needs		N/A
Special Events		15+ annual events; see list in Figure 29
Outdoor Education		N/A
Self-Directed		N/A
Senior / Human Services	Adult	Senior-specific programs including holiday luncheons, workshops, Bingo, Foot Care, Special Events

#### Program Area Definitions (generalized):

- Sports Team and individual sports including camps, clinics, and tournaments. Also includes adventure/non-traditional sports.
- Fitness Group fitness classes, personal training, education, and nutrition.
- Arts & Culture Performing arts classes, painting, pottery, drawing, visual arts classes, literary arts, music/video production and arts events.
- Aquatics Swim lessons, aqua exercise classes, swim team, and other programs.
- Education Language programs, tutoring,

- science (STEM) classes, computer, and financial planning. Also included is CPR/AED/ First Aid.
- Specialty / General Interest Personal development classes and activities.
- Adaptive / Special Needs Inclusive and adaptive programs for the physically and mentally impaired.
- Special Events City wide special events that are conducted throughout the year.
- Outdoor Education Environmental education, hiking, camping, kayaking, farm activities, and other activities.

- Individual / Self-Directed This includes the opportunities for individuals to recreate on their own. This can include activities such as drop-ins, open gym, use of weight/cardio space, and lap/recreational swimming. Although not an organized program, time and space must be allocated for this purpose.
- Senior / Human Services This can include senior nutrition and meal programs, social service support, job training, life skills training, childcare, and other activities such as health screenings.

#### Programs Available by Age Groups

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

Figure 27. Segmentation of City Programs by Age Group

Program Category	Preschool	Youth	Teen	Adult
Sports				
Fitness				
Arts & Culture				
Aquatics				
Education	•			
Specialty / General Interest				
Adaptive / Special Needs				
Special Events	•			
Outdoor Education				
Self-Directed				
Senior / Human Services				

The City, through its partnership with the school district and other providers, offers a strong suite of fitness and sport programs, with an emphasis on youth sports, throughout the year. Adult sport programs are offered for softball, volleyball and soccer, but they are limited by sport field and gymnasium capacity. Long-standing specialty programs include babysitting and dog obedience classes. Summer programming includes the Action Day Camp that offers weekly theme-based activities, arts, crafts and games for children in grades Kindergarten through 5th.

Senior services and programs are another core focus for the City. Operated as a drop-in facility, the Senior Center offers a range of activities, including holiday luncheons, workshops, 66

Keep the recreation programs the are joined with the schools!! The child care programs. The youth sports programs!"

- Survey respondent

Bingo, Tai Chi, games, crafts, music, foot care, and special events. The City provides free van service and meal deliveries. At this time, the City does not have indoor space to support year-round aquatics, self-directed fitness (e.g., cardio, cycling, weights) or additional gymnasium-based offerings (e.g., basketball, volleyball or pickleball classes or leagues). Traditional recreation or aquatic centers exist in the nearby communities of Sumner, Puyallup, Fife and Enumclaw.

Also, the City does not offer specialized recreation programs for individuals with special needs. The Recreation Department encourages local residents to fulfill these needs through other service agencies operating in the greater, north Pierce County region.



One change in program offerings relates to a long-standing childcare program. As part of the recently approved, new interlocal agreement between the City and the Sumner-Bonney Lake School District, the Recreation Department will no longer be offering Before & After School Activity Club. The school district has partnered with Right At School, a for-profit organization, to provide those services.

#### **Program Classifications**

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

#### **Classification Definitions**

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

The following chart identifies and summarizes recommended future core programs, secondary programs and support program areas for the Department.

Figure 28. Future Program Types by Focus Area

# Core ProgramsSecondary ProgramsSupport ProgramsAdult SportsArts & CultureAdaptive / Special NeedsFitnessEducationSenior / Human ServicesGeneral InterestSpecial EventsOutdoor EducationYouth Sports

#### **Recreation Facilities**

The City of Bonney Lake provides access to recreation programs and events in its parks and in several school district facilities. The City's only dedicated recreation venue is the Bonney Lake Senior Center, which is a drop-in facility that provides a space for local seniors to visit and participate in organized activities, including bingo, luncheons and field trips. The Senior Center also can be rented for group or private events.

In addition to City parks, there are a number of Sumner-Bonney Lake School District facilities with amenities, such as tracks and play equipment, that provide neighborhood recreation opportunities for Bonney Lake residents during non-school use hours. Through the City's interlocal agreement with the school district, school buildings are used for organized after-school recreation programs, sport leagues and various recreation activities. Local youth soccer programs also have access to seasonal fields at Kelley Farm, which is located adjacent to city limits along the north side of the Sumner-Buckley Highway.



Keep the programs you have. I have a grandson I am looking forward to taking to toddler indoor play time and Kids Club."

- Survey respondent

#### **Special Events**

The Executive Department is responsible for the coordination of several community and special events throughout the year. These public events provide gathering opportunities, celebrations and activation of the downtown and City parks. While not every event is hosted or run by the City, these special events draw the community together, attract tourists and visitors from across northern Pierce County and are popular with residents. A selection of recent community events include the following.

66

I would love to see more events like street fairs, etc. The only time we went to a park in Bonney Lake last year was to see our son's band plat at Taste@Tapps! Another fun idea is to do a Battle of the Bands."

- Survey respondent

Figure 29. Special Events throughout the Year

Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall
Mayor's Annual Food Drive	Easter Egg Hunt	Tunes at Tapps	Beautify Bonney Lake *
Tree Lighting Festival	Haulin' Eggs Fun Run	Summer Outdoor Market	Haulin' Gourds Fun Run
Gingerbread House Contest	Shred Event & Spring Clean Up *	Bonney Lake Days	
Father / Daughter Dance	Parks Appreciation Day	Taste at Tapps	
	Arbor Day	Kids Club	
	Mom / Son Mother's Day Dance	Movie in the Park	
		National Night Out	

<sup>\*</sup> Note: Hosted by partner organization

Opportunities to connect are clearly crucial to Bonney Lake's residents. Survey and public meeting responses showed strong interest for additional community events. Additionally, the City could explore ideas for events that draw from the diversity of the community, such as festivals or activities celebrating Latin American, Asian or Native American traditions. City parks and facilities also could be promoted for quinceañeras and other family celebrations. Also, if a new senior center or community center is constructed, each can provide another venue to promote cultural gatherings and other family celebrations.

Community gathering and special events should continue to be an area of emphasis; however, the overall number and breadth of City-sponsored special events should be carefully managed to align with the availability of resources and impacts to general park and facility use. This will ensure the City can adequately invest in its overall recreational offerings and maintain high-quality special

events. Other community groups should be encouraged to be the primary funders and organizers of as many community-wide events as possible. A structured approach will help the City manage the growth of these popular offerings; ensure high-quality, adequately resourced events; and enlist community sponsorships, partnerships and support.

In addition to maintaining the various events and program offerings, the City should continue to coordinate with local artists and art organizations to periodically refresh the major events and explore other options to engage the community with the arts and attract visitors. Small-scale projects can take the form of electrical box coverings, building murals or temporary art, and larger-scale endeavors can include drone shows or studio or maker space at a new senior center or future community center.



# Program & Facility Considerations

The City's current programming philosophy is to coordinate with and utilize the facilities of the Sumner-Bonney Lake School District as the primary means of offering recreation programs and activities. The City has taken a strong role in coordinating with the school district and other providers and with promoting recreation offerings. To assist with future program planning, staff periodically should request feedback from the providers and review participant data to stay abreast of class and program utilization and consider the available program mix. Staff should periodically review data from the following sources to determine community needs for programs and services:

- Historical registration trends/success of current programs and services
- Surveys and questionnaires
- Washington Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan
- Suggestions provided by current or prospective instructors and current employees

Regarding programming, the City should consider incremental growth in recreation programs and continue to focus on facilitating programs via contract vendors and/or focusing on those programs that are not currently offered by local or regional providers. With the planned development of Allan Yorke Park, Midtown Park and the Reed property, the City should continue to work with the school district, community partners, sports organizations and other recreation providers to plan for and consider how to offer additional drop-in and structured programs in adult sports; art, music and dance; and educational and environmental activities for Bonney Lake youth.

Additional, expanded or new program options are currently limited today by the lack of indoor facility capacity, staffing, and available instructors. With the potential to replace the

existing Senior Center with a new facility and to establish a new community center, the City will be poised to expand recreation program offerings for seniors and the full Bonney Lake community. Doing so will require advance program planning to determine the range of potential programs, scheduling, and the needs for full-time and temporary staff for programming and facility operations. Comments from public outreach indicate a latent demand for additional program options for family programs, youth activities (crafts, classes, etc.), and teen activities (game nights, trips, arts & crafts, etc.). Considerations about existing and planned programs should gauge performance and priority offerings based on a mix of criteria that include:

- Community interest or deficiencies
- Potential for increased participation
- Fill rates for programs (registrants compared to program capacity)
- Rate of program cancellations
- Availability of qualified and knowledgeable staff or contractors to provide consistency and reliability for program delivery
- Financial performance of individual programs (operating expenses vs. revenues)
- Program lifecycle assessment to balance the suite of new, mature, and declining programs
- Revenue potential, affordability, and accessibility
- Cost of service policy metrics

#### "

Create a community center and improve communication with the residents so we know what is offered. Not all residents have kids in school or know where to go for information on what is offered in the city for recreation activities."

- Survey respondent

#### **Community Recreation Center**

The City does not have a community recreation center that provides adequate space for indoor recreational activities. The idea of a community center in the area was identified in the City's 1998 and 2008 park system plans and the 2015 Comprehensive Plan. At the present, Bonney Lake residents need to travel 10 to 25 minutes to visit a public or non-profit recreation center.

Interest in the City providing recreation programs appears to be strong; however, the number and types of activities the City can offer is very limited due to the lack of staffing and indoor facility capacity. A full-service community center, including a gymnasium, workout room, multi-purpose rooms and teen center, would provide space for a variety of fitness, educational and community programming. Former guidelines from the National Recreation and Parks Association suggested a service standard of one community center per 20,000-40,000 people, and while that standard is no longer in use, it suggests that a certain population density is required to support such a facility. While public sentiment exists for a community center, a cautious approach should be taken and consideration given to the development of a new facility.

To meet this need, the City should pursue the construction of a multi-use indoor recreation facility to enable comprehensive recreation programs for Bonney Lake residents. Such a facility would allow the City to control facility design, programming, scheduling and fees to more effectively meet community needs. Development of an indoor recreation facility requires extensive planning, including a feasibility analysis and management and operation plans, as well as exploration of potential financial and programming partnerships. The facility should include gymnasiums, classrooms and multifunctional rooms and fitness rooms. The facility analysis also should consider the inclusion of civic space (i.e., city service center/offices, library branch, etc.) or other leasable office space

depending on the potential to secure funding partners with interest in co-locating at the facility. Partnerships may be necessary to offset development and operational costs.

#### **Communications & Marketing**

Feedback from the community survey suggested some limited awareness of the recreation options and park amenities available to Bonney Lake residents. The City should continue to take a strong role in coordinating and promoting recreation services to improve awareness and inclusion for residents. Stronger marketing efforts will be needed to inform and promote the recreation programs that are available and should continue to focus on the following areas:

- Website enhancement to better promote programs and services in addition to the periodic program guide, including searchable program offerings and services offered by other providers;
- Social media, email, flyers, and signage promotions of program registration options;
- Continued cross marketing and/or promotional opportunities with other organizations, such as the school district, local sport leagues and others; and
- Using appropriate communication channels to effectively market to various demographic segments.



I used to getting a mailing about rec programs but have not seen anything for years. I didn't know the city was even still doing programs. Maybe more media either virtual or paper would be helpful."

- Survey respondent



**Chapter 8** 

# Operations & MAINTENANCE



The Public Services Department oversees the Public Works Division. The facilities maintained by Parks staff include City-owned parks, city-owned trails, as well as grounds maintenance around the Justice & Municipal Center, Public Works Center, Public Safety Building, Public Services Center, and the Senior Center. The Parks maintenance budget barely covers the cost of a basic level of park and field maintenance, and the Parks section employs only two full time permanent staff. To complete summer season maintenance tasks, the Parks section employs six seasonal employees to meet its maintenance needs.

To help determine the appropriate level of staffing for Bonney Lake's current and future park system, some benchmarking assessments were conducted to compare number of FTEs, budget allocations, park facilities and acreage, and other variables to national park and recreation agencies, as well as similarly sized cities in western Washington.

# **National Comparisons**

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) 2023 Agency Performance Review provides some park metrics that offer perspectives on the Bonney Lake park system. Selected findings from their benchmarking tool illustrated the comparisons with all agencies and with park and recreation jurisdictions within similar population size.

In the NRPA metrics, comparing the number of dedicated park and recreation staffing with Bonney Lake whether across all surveying agencies (8.9 FTEs) or just similar sized communities (10.7 FTEs), the City employs fewer full-time employees (5.7 FTEs) per 10,000 residents. This comparison only considers Bonney Lake's full-time, combined staffing for parks and recreation to remain comparable to NRPA metrics. This evaluation excludes seasonal labor for park operations. For evaluating park maintenance staffing



assessments, more detailed comparisons are needed (See next section on projecting future park staffing needs).

Figure 30. NRPA Agency Performance Metrics Comparison

NRPA Metric	All Agencies	Jurisdictions 20,000 to 49,999	Bonney Lake
Residents per Park (by jurisdiction size)	2,287	2,014	3,321
Acres of Parkland per 1,000 Residents	10.8	11.3	13.3
Miles of Trails	15	8	8.9
Park & Recreation Staffing (FTEs)*	51.5	32.3	13.3
FTEs per 10,000 Residents	8.9	10.7	5.7
Annual Operating Expenses	\$5,500,000	\$3,255,771	\$2,061,283
Operating Expenses per Capita	\$94.77	\$103.95	\$88.66
Operating Expenses per Parkland Acre	\$7,388	\$8,106	\$2,047
Operating Expenses per FTE	\$105,484	\$99,944	\$106,802
Five-year Capital Budget Spending	\$10,000,000	\$5,000,000	\$14,242,109

<sup>\*</sup> excludes seasonals

The NRPA park performance metrics comparison of full-time equivalent staffing (FTEs) and budget expenditures shows a more fine-tuned view of how Bonney Lake compares with other providers across the country. Of particular note, the City's trail system mileage at 8.9 miles is lower than the nation median of 15 miles and in line with the 8 miles of trail for similarly sized communities.

It should be noted that park and recreation providers can vary greatly across the country in terms of services, infrastructure, and systemwide parklands. Using NRPA metrics provides a "first flush" at examining how Bonney Lake currently is providing for and operating park and recreation facilities.

# Washington State Comparisons

Park and recreation operations can be highly variable, particularly at different population sizes and residential densities. No approach to service provision is an equal match to another jurisdiction. In addition to different organizational approaches to parks maintenance, recreation services also may be co-located with community and neighborhood services, libraries, family services, cultural arts, event planning, golf course, and waterfront management. With this caveat in mind, a more refined comparison of park metrics was prepared using several cities in western Washington with population sizes within range of the population size of Bonney Lake.

Figure 31. Western Washington Cities Park System Metrics Comparison

Metrics	Bonney Lake (2023)	Battle Ground	Port Angeles	Maple Valley	Mountlake Terrace	Covington (2022)
Population (2023)	23,250	21,910	20,240	29,250	23,810	21,600
P&R Total Spending (2023)	\$2,061,283	\$2,021,405	\$3,713,000	\$4,376,612	\$4,573,650	\$3,670,633
Spending per Resident (2023)	\$88.66	\$92.26	\$183	\$150	\$192	\$169.94
Park Operations Budget (2023)	\$634,366	\$1,474,449	\$2,233,600	\$1,177,538	\$1,306,090	\$792,805
Annual Capital Spending (2022/3)	\$2,496,605	\$259,200	\$747,100	\$190,000	\$3,534,560	\$4,271,100
Capital Spending/Resident	\$107.38	\$11.83	\$36.91	\$6.50	\$148.45	\$197.74
Park & Rec FTE (2023)	13.3	5.77	18.5	15.9	38.3	
Seasonal FTE Positions	6	0.77	6.3	(combined)	-	
Park & Rec FTE per 10,000 Population	5.7	2.6	9.1	5.4	16.1	0.00
Total Developed Parks (acres)	55.4	38.81	270	320	271	83.35
Park Acres per 1,000 Population	2.4	1.8	13.5	6.9	11.4	3.9
Total Parks & Natural Areas (acres)	309.9	249.23	270	370.8	293.0	151
Park & Natural Area Acres per 1,000 Population	13.33	11.4	13.5	12.7	12.3	7.0
Total Parkland Acres per FTE	23.3	43.2	8.1	23.3	7.7	-
Population Density (pop/sq mi)	2,780	3,060	1,892	4,875	5,865	3,576
Park Facilities	9	26	23	9	15	12
Trails (miles)	8.9	5.6	8.5	10	-	5.24

Reviewing the differences across these cities with similar population sizes, Bonney Lake had fewer park facilities and developed park acreage than most of the other selected park and recreation providers. Bonney Lake has 58.5 acres of developed park facilities, while most of the other comparable cities provided well over 200 acres of developed parks (with the exception of Battle Ground where both county and state parks also provide hundreds of acres of available public parkland). With the addition of all natural areas (parks and open spaces), Bonney Lake's 309 acres is within the range of the other cities' parkland acreages. Notably, Bonney Lake park and recreation spending levels based on annual budget expenditures (\$88 per resident) were significantly lower than most of the other jurisdictions.

Another consideration focuses on capital investments. Park and recreation agency's capital budgets often vary widely from year to year with some years expending \$0 on capital

projects making comparisons less discernible. Bonney Lake's park system capital budget of \$2,496,605 (FY 2023) sits almost in the middle of the comparable cities' annual capital expenditures.

The available data for park and recreation comparisons does not readily separate parks operating staffing from recreation and administration staffing levels. Bonney Lake is just one example of the jurisdictions that separate recreation services from park operations and maintenance. In order to help predict the maintenance and operations staffing needs for the City's future expansion of park facilities, other data sources have been gathered to help anticipate the needed labor hours for different types of parks, trails, open space and special facilities.



# Projecting Future Park Staffing Needs

With population growth and as Bonney Lake continues to responsively expands its park system, additional operations staffing resources will be needed. The Bonney Lake 2015 Comprehensive Plan Community Facilities and Services Element offers specific planning direction for parks and recreation services. In the Plan's analyses for needs based on future growth, maintenance costs were estimated for operating the completed 2035 park and trail system.





Park Classification	Quantity	Unit Maintenance Cost	Annual Maintenance Cost
Neighborhood Park	7.78 acres	\$11,948	\$92,955
Community Park	214.9 acres	\$3,334	\$716,477
Linear Parks/Trails	11 miles	\$2,000	\$22,000

Annual Maintenance Cost

\$831,432

As the 2015 Comprehensive Plan states "As Bonney Lake's parks become more substantial, maintenance and operations spending will have to increase. New fields will encourage the development of new leagues, with associated operational costs. For example, constructing a sport complex and miles of trails will require adding more maintenance and administrative staff or perhaps out-sourcing certain activities."

To help predict the future staffing need as new parks and additional amenities are developed, an example (Figure 33) from a Pacific Northwest park system offers a look at the labor hours and costs on a per park basis with distinctions made for type of park being maintained. This per acre information can be extrapolated to predict how much staffing might be necessary per new park classification. A new 5-acre neighborhood park would require the time of an additional 0.25 FTE staff. For every four new neighborhood parks, one FTE should be added to cover necessary labor

needs. For a 20-acre community park, one full-time staff would be needed to ensure proper care and maintenance of the new facility. Special facilities, such as sports complexes, often require higher levels of staffing than a community park, which includes mowing time as part of the labor need. The agency in the table below uses in-house labor for mowing services.

Figure 33. Modeling for Predicting Future Labor Needs Based on Park Type

Annual Labor Expenditures/Acre	5-yr Average
Open Space Labor Hours per Acre	21
Neighborhood Parks Labor Hours per Acre	152
Community Parks Labor Hours per Acre	111

Figure 34. Predictive Labor Staffing Needs

Predictive Labor Staffing Needs	Total Park Acres	Labor Hrs/Acre	Total Labor Hours	FTE # (1,820/yr)
Neighborhood Parks	8.9	152	1,352.8	0.7
Community Parks	186.3	111	20,679.3	11.4
Open Space / Natural Areas	160.0	21	3,360.0	1.8

Based on the comparative offered above, Bonney Lake would need 11.4 FTEs for maintaining its community parks once all 186.3 acres (as needed based on 2015 comprehensive plan) were developed.

Figure 35. Current Developed Parks Labor Hours Comparative

Current Developed Parkland Labor	Total Park Acres	Labor Hrs/Acre	Total Labor Hours	FTE # (1,820/yr)
Neighborhood Parks	8.9	152	1,352.8	0.7
Community Parks	55.4	111	6,152.7	3.4

The assessment of current labor needs indicated another two FTEs should be added to park operations to meet current labor needs. When the Midtown Park, Downtown Park, and Elhi Hill Park are developed, the community park acreage would increase by over 69 acres. Additional staffing needs could extend to 4.5 additional FTEs, depending on the intensity of development and the types of provided amenities.

Distinct differences occur across park systems when comparing labor needs for park maintenance. Park acreage in mown grass cannot be the single measurement variable for determining staff hours, since park design, location, and intensity of use add to the time needed for adequate care. Mobilization time, travel, and load/unload of equipment add considerably across systems and can trigger higher time dedication per acre for small pocket parks and in jurisdictions with traffic congestion or great distances between parks. Park systems also may vary considerably in the provision of restrooms versus portable toilets, triggering significantly different time commitments. Natural areas within developed parks traditionally consume much lower labor needs than manicured park areas. In coordination with an asset management program, labor tracking per task can help monitor operations and provide data for future needs.

# **Best Management Practices**

#### **Maintenance Standards**

Developing maintenance standards that define the level of park upkeep and care can help identify and clarify the expectations for both the parks operations and for the public. If maintenance standards are solely defined by the level of budgetary support, a loss in efficiency and a gradual lowering of quality, care, and safety may result. Lower levels of maintenance often lead to higher capital repair needs due, in part, to a growing backlog of deferred maintenance. Park maintenance standards should be developed for Bonney Lake to proactively identify the desired level of care in existing parks.



The conditions assessments conducted at the beginning of the PTRO planning process noted concerns about invasive weed growth, reliance on ornamental (non-native) plant species, gaps in irrigation coverage, parking area restriping needs, sport court pavement cracking, and sport court repainting needs. With an adopted maintenance standard, addressing these conditions could move to the forefront or at least be monitored regularly for scheduled repairs and attention.

Park and recreation providers seek to incorporate best management practices into their operations and maintenance to gain efficiencies in expenditures. Adopting a set of standards for park facilities allows an agency to be prepared for future tasks and responsive to the potential for budgetary changes affecting funded levels of care. Park standards can provide specifications for in-house expectations, as well as outside contracted performance. The degree of public tolerance also can inform the level of acceptable care for each park facility. The activities listed below offer a sample palette of the types of work tasks that can be defined to specifically guide the degree of attention and length of time that is typical of each activity. Typical operations and maintenance activities include:

- Mowing
- Edging
- Rough mow
- Weed eating
- Aeration
- Fertilization
- Litter control
- Weed control
- Tree pruning
- Vegetation management
- Invasive plant control
- Power washing pavements
- Power washing site fixtures
- Painting / rust control
- Playground safety inspection
- Pavement monitoring
- Pest control

- Graffiti removal
- Vandalism repairs
- Janitorial services

Some tasks require daily attention, while others can be performed annually or based on monitoring or inspection results. Different levels of care (time and attention) can be established for park landscape areas coordinated with their landscape type based on past practices that provided satisfactory results. For example, an irrigated grass sport field will require more mowing and turf management than a nonirrigated shrub bed. These specific maintenance activities can be tracked and assigned typical labor hours. When funding levels affect labor resources, the impact to park landscapes' level of care can be predicted (i.e., Will grass grow too long and impact turf quality? Will restrooms be open for limited time periods?). Resource allocation based on funding support becomes a more informed process.

### **Park Design Standards**

As Bonney Lake adds to its park system with the development of Midtown Park, Elhi Hill Park, Allan Yorke Park, and other undeveloped parklands, standardizing basic park features can be a valuable tool for both cost and labor efficiencies. Establishing design standards for park furnishings can accommodate economies in the purchase of amenities like park benches, picnic tables, bike racks, drinking fountains, signs, bollards, lighting, and more.

Design standards should always include universal access characteristics to ensure ADA compliance. As older furnishings in existing parks need replacement, the new design standard should be used to gradually shift all furnishings into an accessible, signature style and identity. The condition assessments conducted in the fall of 2022 (see Appendix E) indicated a wide range of site furnishings without a clear standard for items like picnic tables, benches, bike racks, lighting, signage, or bollards. Adopting a standard style for park furnishings could help streamline the process for replacement of these amenities

and address some of the ADA non-compliance issues. When new subdivision developments propose constructing a future park that will be integrated into the City-owned park system, these design standards should be required in the proposed park design and development.

### **Asset Management**

The need to maintain standards of quality to ensure the safety and value of visitor experiences may require Bonney Lake to establish a set of guidelines for maintenance and operation levels of service, which may rely on a variety of techniques to help define their quality of care, ranging from user satisfaction surveys to asset management policies and requests for work activities.

Asset management programs are a best management practice for park operations to help manage current infrastructure and predict future capital repair and replacement needs. Bonney Lake utilizes CityWorks for asset management, which can link to a geographic information systems (GIS) network to help locate the distribution of regular operational activities, unusual work orders, repair demands, and other maintenance responses. However, the City has not fully integrated its existing Park and Trail assets into CityWorks. The City should begin to add existing assets to Cityworks and add new assets as part of the project close-out phase following construction. Some types of public facilities can be approached on a very predictable basis for establishing asset management levels; however, public parks engage the highly sensitive perception of public outdoor recreation use. Therefore, the City should expand the use of CityWorks ability to automatically generate inspections on a reoccurring basis to address safety, cleanliness, and user attraction in a proactive manner. Safety, especially in regard to playgrounds, should be of paramount importance, and at least two parks operations staff should be certified as playground safety inspectors. While the human variable for park care adds an

additional expectation to be met, an active and proactive asset management program can track operations and maintenance needs and predict a more reliable need for future maintenance levels. Fully incorporating the CityWorks asset management program for public parks can help guide Bonney Lake into its future park service provision needs.

## **Staff Training**

Park maintenance tasks can vary greatly in their requirement for certain skills, knowledge, and experience. With adopted maintenance standards, park operations staff can be cognizant of work that needs to be addressed and work tasks can be prioritized. The City requires that the Parks Crew lead be a Tree Risk Assessment Qualified (TRAQ) International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Certified Arborist. This specific arboricultural expertise is essential to ensure that the community forest and individual park trees are managed to protect their value as capital assets and contributors to environmental health. Additional horticultural knowledge can be invaluable in identifying the best timing for certain landscape tasks to ensure effective practices and good results. Training on basic turf management, horticulture, arboriculture, and environmental practices is recommended for all permanent staff. Providing and supporting attendance in workshops and training for optimum approaches to park maintenance can increase productivity and reinforce the value of park workers in their role of providing a safe and viable public park system.



# **Chapter 9**

# Goals & POLICIES

# 66

More playgrounds with new equipment for different age ranges. Young kids and toddlers vs older larger play areas. Picnic areas would be also great for families."

- Survey respondent



he goals and objectives described in this chapter define the recreation and park services that Bonney Lake aims to provide. These goals and objectives were derived from input received throughout the planning process, from City staff, City Council and community members.

The Growth Management Act (GMA) adopted by the Washington State Legislature in 1990 provided a foundation for land use planning in selected cities and counties throughout the state, including Pierce County and the City of Bonney Lake. The GMA's purpose is to help communities manage efficiently with the challenges of growth to ensure their longterm sustainability and high quality of life. It 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.

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



- "Identify and encourage the preservation of lands, sites, and 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 Bonney Lake Comprehensive Plan, the previous park system plan and county-wide planning policies provide a framework for this PTRO Plan.

Goals are stated within functional areas related to the planning, development and administration of the Bonney Lake park and

recreation system. A goal is a general statement that describes the overarching direction for the park and recreation system. Policies are listed under each goal and are more specific and describe an outcome or a means to achieve the stated goals. Near-term recommendations are specific and measurable actions or projects intended to implement and achieve the goals, and are contained within the needs assessment and capital planning chapters of the PTRO Plan.

The goals and policies that follow are organized by topic and are not provided in a particular hierarchy or order of significance.



# **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & COMMUNICATIONS**

# Goal 1: Encourage and support public involvement in park and recreation issues.

- 1.1 Involve residents and stakeholders in park and recreation facility planning, design, and recreation program development to solicit community input, facilitate project understanding and build public support.
- 1.2 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.
- 1.3 Conduct periodic joint sessions between 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.
- 1.4 Identify, encourage, and promote volunteer park beautification and improvement projects from a variety of individuals, service clubs, churches and businesses, as appropriate.
- 1.5 Regularly update the City website and mobile interfaces to provide easy access to information about parks, trail routes, activities, events, and maps along with ensuring the website follows best practices for accessibility and inclusion.
- 1.6 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 Bonney Lake as an active-lifestyles community.
- 1.7 Implement periodic surveys to gauge user satisfaction, program initiatives and statistical use of parks, facilities and programs, including trail counts.



# **DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION**

Goal 2: Provide park and recreation opportunities throughout parklands, facilities and programming that engages all members of the community to the best of their ability.

- 2.1 Develop a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion policy that facilitates the removal of accessibility barriers (socio-economic, language, physical, geographic, transportation) to activities, facilities, parks and trails.
- 2.2 Provide programming and services, as well as accompanying communications and marketing materials, that reflect City goals around Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.
- 2.3 Explore and pursue opportunities for alternative outreach and education to diverse groups, such as group walks and day hikes with minority communities, promotional materials through schools and faith groups, and youth mentorship or ambassador programs.
- 2.4 Have intentional engagement with diverse community groups to create and partner on new diverse events and community celebrations.
- 2.5 Prioritize park and recreation investments in underserved communities to improve equitable access to public amenities.
- 2.6 Design and maintain parks and facilities to offer universal accessibility for residents of all physical abilities, skill levels and age; beyond compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Standards for Accessible Design.
- 2.7 Explore unique and/or specialized recreational amenities that expand the range of outdoor play experiences beyond the traditional options.
- 2.8 Identify appropriate locations within parks and public spaces for the installation of public art, interpretive signs or cultural displays while ensuring that these features are incorporated through a diversity, equity and inclusion lens.
- 2.9 Develop diversity, equity and inclusion metrics for park and facility capital planning and development, recreation and cultural programs, and department.





#### **PARKS**

Goal 3: Provide a diversity of parks, recreation facilities and open space and a balance of opportunities for both passive and active recreation that meet the needs of different age groups, abilities, and interests.

- 3.1 Acquire or secure parkland identified within the PTRO Plan to provide geographically accessible and equitable distribution of active-use parks (e.g., neighborhood or community parks) and open space.
- 3.2 Identify and prioritize lands for inclusion in the park and open space system based on factors such as contribution to level of service, connectivity, preservation and scenic or recreational opportunities for residents.
- 3.3 Coordinate with Pierce County to strategize for the acquisition and development of regional parks and greenways within or in close proximity to Bonney Lake.
- 3.4 If land owned by other public entities is no longer needed for its original purpose, and if said land is suitable for parks, arrange to retain or acquire that land and convert it to park use.
- 3.5 Require new developments to either pay impact fees or provide parks as necessary to maintain the level of service standards, accepting only land that meets the site selection criteria for the applicable facility type.
- 3.6 Encourage homeowner associations, churches, and schools to provide recreational facilities.
- 3.7 Develop park sites based on master plans, management plans, or other adopted strategies to ensure parks reflect local needs, community input, recreational and conservation goals and available financial resources.
- 3.8 Pursue use or development agreements, easements, fee simple purchases or other arrangements to secure suitable locations for new parks and trails to serve existing and future residents.
- 3.9 Prioritize facility development based on demonstrated demand, population served, regional appeal, fiscal opportunity and revenue-generating potential.
- 3.10 Develop a wider variety of recreation opportunities and plan for sport fields, courts and specialized recreational facilities (e.g., pump track, off-leash dog areas, etc.) with consideration of local needs, partner support/capacity, recreational trends, and availability of similar facilities within the city and region.
- 3.11 Consider incorporating alternative sport opportunities for youth and adults in the park system such as disc golf, futsal, parkour, and other non-team physical activities.



#### **TRAILS**

Goal 4: Develop a network of recreational, shared-use trails and bicycle and pedestrian corridors to enable connectivity between parks, neighborhoods, and public amenities.

- 4.1 Support the implementation of the Community Mobility Element for pedestrian and bicycle connections and improvements that safely link parks to other city parks, to city centers and other city destinations.
- 4.2 Continue to pursue the completion of the Fennel Creek Trail Plan.
- 4.3 Continue to integrate the siting of proposed trail segments into the development review process; Require development projects along designated trail routes to dedicate trail right-of-way and develop their portions of the trail.
- 4.4 Connect trails to nearby sidewalk facilities, wherever feasible, to facilitate the use of the off-street trail systems for non-motorized transportation and recreation. Where sidewalks are an integrated component of a trail system, sidewalks may be needed and should be designed to accommodate multiple uses.
- 4.5 Require new subdivisions to provide internal pathways as necessary to connect the subdivision to nearby pedestrian destinations.
- 4.6 Establish a maximum spacing standard for trail linkages within new residential developments, such that multiple entry points to a trail corridor are provided to improve access and convenience for residents.
- 4.7 Connect Bonney Lake's street-based pedestrian and bicycle system with off-street recreational trails through coordinated public works planning.
- 4.8 Prioritize trial, sidewalk, and bicycle facilities improvements based on the City's Mobility Level of Service (MLOS) and Pedestrian Priority Index (PPI) established in the Community Mobility Element of the Comprehensive Plan.
- 4.9 Partner with Pierce County, neighboring jurisdictions, regional trail associations and other public agencies to develop linkages to regional trail systems, to and through the City.
- 4.10 Work with regional agencies, utilities and private landholders to secure trail rights-of-way and easements and access to open space for trail connections.
- 4.11 Furnish trail systems with appropriate supporting trailhead improvements that may include interpretive and directory signage systems, rest stops, drinking fountains, restrooms, parking and loading areas, water, and other services.
- 4.12 Where appropriate, locate trailheads at or in conjunction with park sites, schools, and other community facilities to increase local access to the trail system and reduce duplication of supporting improvements.
- 4.13 Develop and implement a system of signs (e.g., trailhead, etiquette, directional, mile markers, emergency location markers, etc.) to mark trails and non-motorized routes that coordinates with the City's streetscape and furniture standards in accordance with best practices.





## **RECREATION PROGRAMS & FACILITIES**

Goal 5: Provide a varied and inclusive suite of recreation opportunities and experiences to promote health and wellness, year-round activity and social engagement.

- 5.1 Continue to foster and expand partnerships with the Sumner-Bonney Lake School District, White River School District, private non-profit agencies, private recreation oriented clubs and local businesses to deliver recreation services and secure access to existing facilities for community recreation.
- 5.2 Enhance the diversity of recreation programs offered, considering programs that are in high demand, serve a wide range of users and utilize Bonney Lake's unique indoor and outdoor assets.
- 5.3 Strategically expand recreation programs that complement services of other providers as facilities, staffing levels and partner opportunities allow.
- 5.4 Continue to provide and expand opportunities for seniors to engage in social, recreational, educational, nutritional, and health programs designed to encourage independence, in partnership with community agencies.
- 5.5 Pursue the development of and partner for a new senior center and community center to accommodate a range of indoor programs and activities.
- 5.6 Provide and develop additional amenities, multi-purpose facilities and centers that support and accommodate broad recreational usage and facilitates year-round indoor athletic activities.
- 5.7 Monitor local and regional recreation trends to ensure community needs and interests are addressed by available programming.
- 5.8 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.
- 5.9 Establish and support recreation program scholarships and other mechanisms to support recreation access for low-income residents.



# **CULTURE, ARTS & EVENTS**

# Goal 6: Expand and promote opportunities to experience and enjoy local art, culture, and history.

- 6.1 Support and utilize the Bonney Lake Arts Commission as the forum for public discussion of arts and culture issues.
- 6.2 Offer opportunities for the community to participate in the choices and options for incorporating different and varied art forms and projects throughout the City. Develop a clear and day-lighted process to help interested citizens to share opinions and ideas about potential public art projects.
- 6.3 Promote and expand special events and recreation or cultural 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.
- 6.4 Develop and support partnerships with local arts organizations and provide for the promotion and delivery of cultural arts programs, facilities, events, and displays in Bonney Lake.
- 6.5 Encourage accessible and inclusive learning environments for artists at all levels and ages throughout the City and actively fill gaps in public art education through programs and classes.
- 6.6 Engage local artists to the extent feasible to actively contribute their skills and craft as producers of public art and programming within the City.
- 6.7 Expand the collection of public art across Bonney Lake and beyond its civic spaces by promoting art into private development projects through the subdivision/land development review process.
- 6.8 Identify and implement opportunities for integrating arts and culture into parks and open space, including, where feasible and appropriate, through permanent and temporary public art installations, arts performance and events, interpretive strategies, and other dynamic expressions.
- 6.9 Support the temporary re-use of vacant and/or underutilized building facades for art exhibitions and murals.
- 6.10 Support and enhance the historic resources within the park and recreation system, including Historic Landmarks, educational signage, and tribal acknowledgments.
- 6.11 Collaborate with the Sumner-Bonney Lake School District, White River School District, other jurisdictions, and the Bonney Lake Library to present quality arts programs and performances to the community.
- 6.12 Support and partner for the development of cultural infrastructure and venues, such as a community center, visual and performing arts facilities, and plazas that can accommodate diverse cultural activities and anticipated future community growth.
- 6.13 Encourage the Sumner School District to construct a performing arts facility on the grounds that have been set aside for that purpose and to make the facility available for community use.





#### **OPEN SPACE & NATURAL AREA CONSERVATION**

Goal 7: Conserve and provide access to natural resource lands for habitat conservation, recreation, and environmental education.

- 7.1 Preserve and protect areas with critical habitat or unique natural features, including but not limited to wetlands, stream corridors, lakes, and forests.
- 7.2 Actively work to maintain and improve the condition of city-owned open space 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.
- 7.3 Work cooperatively with property owners and developers to preserve habitat and native vegetation, especially when these provide visual or physical linkages to publicly-owned natural resource lands.
- 7.4 Cooperate with the County, neighboring jurisdictions and other organizations to identify and conserve open space of mutual benefit, and pursue funding through grants and the Pierce County Conservation Futures program.
- 7.5 Pursue opportunities to provide appropriate public access (e.g. trails, viewpoints and wildlife viewing areas) within open spaces to support passive recreation and environmental education.
- 7.6 Where land is conserved due to environmental limitations, such as wetlands or riparian corridors, consider extending trails through area without compromising ecosystems functions and values.
- 7.7 Provide environmental education opportunities in open space areas with creative and interactive interpretation strategies, such as hands-on displays, self-guided walks, and other engaging experiences.



### **MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS**

Goal 8: Maintain Bonney Lake parks and recreation facilities to ensure longevity of assets, a positive aesthetic and sensory experience, preservation of habitat and natural systems, and safety for park patrons.

- 8.1 Maintain all parks and facilities in a manner that keeps them in safe and attractive condition; repair or remove damaged components immediately upon identification.
- 8.2 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.
- 8.3 Review and adjust staffing levels to meet adopted maintenance standards and prepare for expanding maintenance demands due to park system growth; Augment service levels with appropriate seasonal and part-time labor.
- 8.4 Standardize the use of graphics and signage to establish a consistent identity at all parks and facilities.
- 8.5 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.
- 8.6 Incorporate sustainable development and low impact design practices into the design, planning, and rehabilitation of new and existing facilities.
- 8.7 Utilize, as appropriate, native and lower resource requiring vegetation for landscaping in parks and city owned properties to minimize maintenance requirements, conserve water, reduce the need for fertilizer, provide native habitat for wildlife, and control invasive vegetation.
- 8.8 Develop tree planting guidelines and protocols to determine planting locations and species selection to foster resilient plant communities that can recover from disturbances and adapt to climate change and its impacts, such as forest fire and drought.
- 8.9 Improve tree management policies and practices and promote tree retention and succession.
- 8.10 Promote environmental learning through interpretive signage programs in City parks and preserves, including native plant identification signs in and around restoration projects in city parks.





#### **ADMINISTRATION & MANAGEMENT**

Goal 9: Provide clear leadership through exceptional management, partnerships, collaborations, and agreements that supports and promotes park, recreation, and open space system.

- 9.1 Provide sufficient financial and staff resources to maintain the overall park and recreation system to high standards.
- 9.2 Actively market the positive attributes of Bonney Lake's park, recreation and open space system by enhancing in community and economic development marketing and business recruitment efforts.
- 9.3 Periodically review and update the fee policy for programs, indoor facility uses and rental rates that support operational requirements and are measured against cost recovery goals and local market comparisons.
- 9.4 Periodically revise the park impact fee methodology and rates to accurately reflect changes in level of service standards and/or the costs of expanding the park infrastructure to accommodate population growth.
- 9.5 Periodically update the capital facilities plan to address facility improvement needs.
- 9.6 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.
- 9.7 Clarify and formalize relationships with community partners, and promote and support volunteerism from a variety of individuals, service clubs, steward groups, faith organizations, and businesses to enhance stewardship of parks, trails and open space.
- 9.8 Promote professional development opportunities that strengthen the core skills and commitment from staff and key volunteers, to include trainings, materials and/or affiliation with relevant national and regional associations.

# **Chapter 10**

# Capital Planning & Implementation

# **Key Project Recommendations**

The following is a summary of key project recommendations which will require commitment from the City and its residents for the continued support of a healthy park and recreation system that preserves and enhances the safety, livability and character of the community.

## Park Development & Enhancements

Through recent park site master plans, the City is poised to implement phased development of multiple parks that will offer residents a more diverse range of recreational experiences, while creating destinations that attract and engage park users. Proposed improvements to Allan Yorke, Midtown, Cedarview and Victor Falls Parks will include the following amenities – expanding recreation options in Bonney Lake:

- Inclusive, all-abilities or creative playgrounds
- New spray parks
- Trails (accessible and soft surface)
- Sport courts, including pickleball
- Disc golf course
- New boat launch and improved lake access and
- New covered performance stage
- Off-leash dog area
- Picnic shelters
- Reserved area for future community center and senior center

The City should upgrade playground experiences with new equipment and safety surfacing at Ken Simmons Park and seek a replacement site for Madrona Park. Implementing the vision









for Downtown Park or civic green will create a gathering space in the central core of Bonney Lake with a nearby connection to the Fennel Creek Trail.

Other projects may include adding amenities to existing parks, such as picnic shelters for small gatherings and paved pathway connections to improve user circulation and ADA-compliant routes. As older benches and tables are replaced, they should be re-installed with ADA-compliant versions that also include accessible routes to at least half of the furnishings per park. A general consideration for the public is to create a park system that provided year-round facilities for all ages and all abilities to gather and recreate in diverse range of safe, clean and well-maintained park facilities that also balance fiscal stability.



Trail connections, including sidewalk and bike lanes improvements, are needed to help link destinations across Bonney Lake. Acquiring additional land, easements, and/or rights-of-way for the expansion of the trail network are necessary and should be coordinated with transportation system planning. Priority trail segments should include the planned additional phases of the Fennel Creek Trail, including extensions to the south to Victor Falls Park and toward the Foothills Trail as well as a northern connection to Allan Yorke Park. Other priority trail segments should include a linkages that create looped routes, such as a trail around the area of Lake Bonney. The east-west trail connection of the Naches Memorial Trail between Puyallup and Buckley that connects to the Fennel Creek Trail should be coordinated with Pierce County. The City also should continue to ensure that local subdivision and site development projects to facilitate the inclusion of pedestrian and bicycle routes that connect to the conceptual trail network.

# **Recreation Facilities & Programs**

Expanded recreational and community programming has been an identified need as the City grows and develops. Continued close coordination with the Sumner-Bonney Lake School District and White River School District will advance the provision of recreation programs and leverage resources for the benefit of the community. Also, coordination with the School Districts and private fitness vendors should be ongoing to assess the range and type of recreation options offered regionally and to maximize use of community facilities, such as fields, gymnasiums and other indoor spaces. The City should update the interagency agreement with the School Districts to advance the potential for shared facility use, and potential development, of sport fields and courts serving













the Bonney Lake community. Additionally, the redevelopment of the Senior Center and development of a community center should be pursued, to include a feasibility study to examine the building program, footprint, potential locations and costing for an indoor recreation facility. The feasibility study would also explore the extent of amenities to be included in a community/recreation center with a potential provision for a phased implementation plan based on financing and capital development resources. New indoor facility space will greatly expand the City's capacity to offer and program indoor recreation for athletics, fitness, classes and community activities for all ages and abilities.

## ADA & Other Accessibility Enhancements

Minor improvements to access, such as providing enhanced access into and fall safety surfacing for playgrounds or stable surface access to site furnishings, are necessary to conform to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and ensure universal accessibility. The CIP includes upgrades and improvements to remove barriers and improve universal access. In general, the City should make improvements to existing parks as needed to ensure proper maintenance, usability, and quality of park features and grounds.

# Planning to Fill Park System Gaps

Although the City requires new subdivisions to set aside and provide playground space as per the Bonney Lake Municipal Code, the City should continue to coordinate with local residential developers to explore options for larger public parks in areas of the City with significant deficiencies and consider tools, such as park impact fee credits, to facilitate the process. Additionally, the City may need to actively search for potential locations to secure future park sites, ahead of or concurrent with anticipated new development, which also includes pursuing a replacement to Madrona Park to serve that general neighborhood vicinity.

# **Wayfinding & Signage**

Parks, trails and other public open spaces are the primary targets for unifying the urban environment into a cohesive, accessible, and connected community through an identifiable wayfinding program. The City currently uses a variety of park identification signs, which lack a unifying identity. To clarify ownership and the managing agency, the City should install additional, graphically-unified signs to help users navigate the outdoor recreation experiences offered by the City. Signage should be installed at key trail nodes and all City parks (primary and secondary entry points) to include directional and mileage information, site and system maps, unique features, and user etiquette information.

# **Implementation Tools**

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

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

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

# **Enhanced Local Funding**

According to the City budget, Bonney Lake maintains reserve debt capacity for local bonds and voter approved debt, and the City currently holds no debt according to the 2023-2024 Budget. The potential to bundle several projects from the Capital Improvements Plan or take advantage of unforeseen opportunities, such as acquisitions for parks or trail corridors,

may warrant a review of debt implications and operating costs for the City, along with the need to conduct polling of voter support for such projects.

# Park Impact Fees & Real Estate Excise Tax

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

The City currently imposes both of the quarter percent excise taxes on real estate transactions, known as REET 1 and REET 2. The REET 1 and 2 must be spent on capital projects listed in the City's capital facilities plan element of their comprehensive plan. Eligible project types include planning, construction, reconstruction, repair, rehabilitation or improvement of parks, recreational facilities and trails. Acquisition of land for parks is not a permitted use of REET 2. Currently, the City dedicates both REET 1 and REET 2 to the Parks Capital Improvements Plan. Through annual budgeting and with discussions with City Council, REET funds should continue to utilized for the Park Capital Improvements Plan projects that are desired by the community to enhance the overall park system.

# **User Fees & Charges**

Recreation activity fees are charged to defray program and operating costs, and these should be re-evaluated periodically to consider market capacity, cost recovery demands, and inclusion goals. The City also should assess and re-establish a recreation activity scholarship assistance program to support access for low-income residents. Usage and/or parking fees for "special" park facilities also are charged to cover facility operations. The City recently instituted paid parking at Allan Yorke Park between May 1st and October 1st, and funds collected should continue to be dedicated to projects on the Park Capital Improvements Plan. Also, sport field usage fees should also be updated periodically – and when significant field improvements are made - to address cost recovery and equity objectives.

### **Business & Occupation (B&O) Tax**

The City also could explore the establishment of a business and occupation (B&O) tax to support the implementation of capital projects and long-term park system operations. A B&O tax is an excise tax on different classes of business, levied as a percentage of the gross receipts. In Washington, cities can impose this tax for the first time or raise rates following referendum procedures, and a maximum tax rate of 0.2% can be imposed by a city's legislative body (or a higher rate if approved by a majority of voters).

#### **Conservation Futures**

Conservation Futures is a land preservation program for the protection of threatened areas of open space, timber lands, wetland, habitat areas, agricultural and farm lands within the boundaries of Pierce County. The County assesses the maximum allowable excise fee of \$0.0625 per \$1,000 assessed value to fund the Conservation Futures program and provides cities a venue to access these funds through a competitive, local grant process. The City should continue to submit grant applications for the purchase of land to support open space projects and improved linkages to expand the trail network.

#### **Metropolitan Park District**

Metropolitan park districts (MPD) may be formed for the purposes of management, control, improvement, maintenance, and acquisition of parks, parkways, and boulevards. Municipalities across Washington have favored the creation of MPDs to meet the recreational needs of residents, while also being sensitive to the set of demands placed on general purpose property tax funds. The City could examine and study the feasibility of establishing an MPD and conduct an assessment of the legal parameters (governance models, boundaries, staffing, tax level authority, prorationing, tax limitation implication, etc.) and political factors affecting the decision to establish a new voter district.

#### **Parkland Donations & Dedications**

Additional parkland donations from private individuals or conservation organizations could occur to complement the acquisition of park and open space lands across the city. Gift deeds or bequests from philanthropic-minded landowners could allow for lands to come into City ownership upon the owner's passing or as a tax-deductible charitable donation. Property dedication for park use by a developer could occur in exchange for Park Impact Fees or as part of a planned development where public open space is a key design for the layout and marketing of a new residential project. The City should vet any potential dedications to ensure that such land is located in an area of need and can be developed with site amenities appropriate for the projected use of the property.

# **Grants & Appropriations**

Several state and federal grant programs are available on a competitive basis, including WWRP, ALEA, and LWCF, all of which are further detailed in Appendix K. Pursuing grants is not a cure-all for park system funding. Grants are both competitive and often require a significant percentage of local funds to match the request to the granting agency. This can be as much as 50% of the total project budget, depending on



the grant program. Bonney Lake should continue to leverage its local resources to the greatest extent feasible by pursuing grants independently and collaborating with other local partners.

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

### **Public-Private Partnerships**

Public-private partnerships are increasingly necessary for local agencies to leverage their limited resources to provide community parks and recreation services. Corporate sponsorships, health organization grants, conservation stewardship programs, and non-profit organizations are just a few examples of partnerships where collaboration provides value to both partners. The City has existing partners and should continue to explore additional and expanded partnerships to help implement capital project and programming recommendations.

### Volunteer & Community-based Action

Volunteers and community groups already contribute to the improvement of park and recreation services in Bonney Lake. Beautify Bonney Lake is a volunteer group that holds an annual event to clean-up, complete beautification projects, and plant trees throughout Bonney Lake. The City currently has an Adopt a Street program, but should explore the development of an Adopt a Trail program to begin the community adoption of segments of the City's trail network. The City should also reach out to other civil groups and local School Districts to identify other volunteer and community based action projects.

While supporting organized groups and community-minded individuals adds value to the Bonney Lake parks and recreation system, volunteer coordination requires a substantial amount of staff time. Additional resources may be necessary to enable a volunteer coordinator to more fully utilize the community's willingness to support park and recreation efforts.

# Other Implementation Tools

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

# **Capital Improvements Plan**

The Park Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) identifies capital park, trail and open space projects considered for the next six years. It assigns proposed time frames and estimated costs for specific projects. The majority of these projects entail the maintenance, acquisition, and development of parks, recreational amenities and trails. Based on survey results and other feedback, Bonney Lake residents have indicated an interest in park facility upgrades and enhanced trail connections as priorities, and the Capital Improvements Plan is reflective of that desire. Figure 36 summarizes the aggregate capital expenditures by project category for the next 25 years.

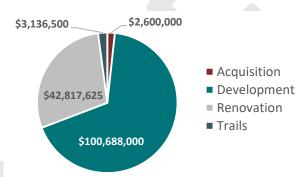


Figure 36.. 25-Year Capital Improvements Plan Expenditures

The Capital Improvements Plan on the following page provides brief project descriptions and sequencing to assist staff in preparing future capital budget requests.

Overall, the current costs for projects identified in the six-year CIP total over \$24 million. As projects are phased over the next six or more years, the planning-level project costs have been inflated at an increase of 3.5% annually. The proposed project list focuses primarily on improving existing facilities through timely repairs, replacements and upgrades to ensure an ongoing, healthy, and safe recreation system for Bonney Lake.



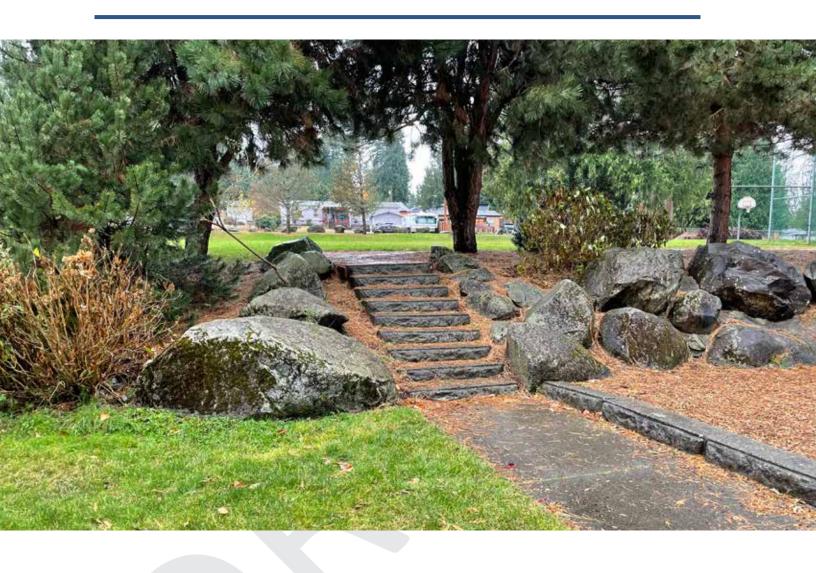
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# Bonney Lake PTRO Plan: Parks Project List

Park	Project	2024 Cost 47 07 Postimate 7	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050
Allan Yorke Park	A. Northwest Parking Lot Upgrades	\$4,479,000																										
	B. Sports Field #4 Conversion	\$9,554,000																										
	C. Boat Queue + Boat Launch Relocation	\$5,806,000																										
	D. Amphitheater, Great Lawn + Parking	\$9,413,000																										
	E. Playgrounds, Spray Park, Concessions, Restroom	\$12,772,000																										
	F. Beachfront Upgrades	\$4,424,000																										
	G. Formalize South Parking Lot	\$2,881,000																										
	H. New Covered BASKETBall Court + Tennis Court Upgrades	\$2,023,000																										
	I. Build Out Multi-use + Soft Surface Trail Network	\$1,078,000																										
	J. Ballfield 5 Playground	\$300,000																										
Cedarview Park	A. Covered Sport Court, Playfield Improvements + 206th Parking	\$1,609,000																										
	B. Restroom, Spray Park + 93rd Parallel Parking	\$3,262,000																										
	C. Playground Improvements + Pathway Upgrades	\$2,402,000																										
	D. Picnic Shelters + Paved 208th Pull-In Parking	\$677,000																										
Midtown Park	A. Sport Field #1, Parking + Pickleball Complex	\$14,433,000																										
	B. Community / Senior Center	\$39,280,000																										
	C. Spray Park + Playgrounds	\$13,661,000																										
	D. Sports Field #2	\$6,144,000																										
	E. Stormwater Loop	\$4,237,000																										
	F. Bike Facilities	\$498,000																										
	G. Disc Golf Facilities, Trails, Forest Mngmt + Picnicking	\$1,431,000																										
	H. Dog Park	\$379,000																										
Victor Falls Park	Parking, Picnic, Viewing + Safety Improvements	\$1,493,000																										
Viking Dog Park	ADA access pathway	\$25,000																										
Ken Simmons Park	Park Upgrades	\$104,625																										
Reed Farm	Site acquisition	\$2,600,000																										
Brookside Wetland	Mini park improvement along Springwood Dr E	\$600,000																										
Trail Connections	Fennel Creek Trail - Naches Trail Link	\$854,800																										
	Fennel Creek Trail - Yorke Park Link	\$1,039,600																										
	Fennel Creek Trail - Bonney Lake Elem. Sch. Link	\$340,200																										
	Fennel Creek Trail - Fennel Ridge Link	\$346,000																										
	Midtown to Fennel Creek (Sumner Buckley Hwy)	\$218,200																										
	Fennel Creek Trail - Connect to Church Lk Rd	\$337,700																										
System-wide	Wayfinding & Interpretive Signage	\$40,000																										
	Minor ADA access & amenity upgrades (e.g., ramps, seating, accessways)	\$500,000																										

Total Projects Costs \$149,242,125





# Appendix A Survey Summary

Page 1

#### City of Bonney Lake

Parks, Trails, Recreation and Open Space Plan

**To:** Jason Sullivan, Bonney Lake Planning and Building Supervisor

**From:** Steve Duh, Conservation Technix, Inc.

**Date:** May 29, 2023

Re: City of Bonney Lake Parks, Trails, Recreation and Open Space Plan

Community Survey Summary Results

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

#### **KEY FINDINGS**

#### Bonney Lake residents strongly value their parks and recreation facilities.

Nearly all respondents (95%) think parks and recreation are important or essential to quality of life in Bonney Lake. Very few, about 4%, feel they are useful, but not necessary, or not important at all.

#### Residents visit frequently and are somewhat satisfied with existing parks and trails.

Residents of Bonney Lake frequently use the City's parks and recreation facilities, with about one-third visiting at least once a week or even daily, and another third visiting one to three times per month. Younger respondents and those with children at home were more likely to visit regularly. The most common reasons for park visits included walking or running, visiting playgrounds, attending community events, fitness or exercise, relaxation, lakefront visits, and dog walking.

Overall, most respondents are satisfied with the City's parks, but about a third of respondents are dissatisfied, particularly younger respondents and those with children. Parks received varying condition ratings, with the Fennel Creek Trail, Cedarview Park, and Allan Yorke Park receiving high ratings, but respondents were often uncertain about the condition of other parks, possibly due to infrequent use.

#### Residents participate in a range of activities and programs in Bonney Lake parks.

Respondents visit local parks and recreation facilities for a variety of reasons, but the most popular reason is to walk or run (65%). More than one-third of respondents visit to use a playground (49%), attend community events or concerts (45%), for fitness or exercise (44%), relaxation (41%), visit the lakefront (38%), or walk a dog (37%). Approximately one in twenty respondents identified an 'other' reason for visiting parks, such as for disc golf, mountain biking, or pickleball.

While residents prioritize maintaining existing parks and facilities, they are generally supportive of improving the City's park and recreation system as well.

Respondents would like to see the City (1) expand the trail network, (2) improve existing parks, and (3) add new recreational amenities.

• Walking and biking opportunities: Nearly all (96%) of respondents are supportive of the City expanding trails and walking/biking opportunities. In detailed comments, respondents

expressed a desire for continued investment in the expansion, connectivity, and maintenance of the trail system. Several respondents also asked for investments in pedestrian and bicyclist access and safety improvements (sidewalks, crossings, bike lanes, etc.) that would allow easy access to parks and other destinations without relying on vehicles or extensive parking.

- Improving existing parks: Respondents are generally supportive of the City adding more amenities to existing parks, such as playgrounds (91%), picnic areas and shelters (89%), sports fields and courts (84%). In open-ended responses, safety emerged a recurring concern among respondents, with requests for improved safety measures in parks and a focus on addressing issues such as cleanliness, garbage collection, and homeless encampments. There were also suggestions for better policing and increased security in certain parks. Other respondents would like to see the City place a stronger emphasis on maintaining park and trail facilities, ensuring they are clean, well-kept, and accessible for all visitors.
- Adding diverse recreational options: A majority of residents are also supportive of adding new
  recreational amenities to Bonney Lake's park system. Most respondents support adding
  amenities like pickleball courts, community gardens, and off-leash dog parks. In write-in
  responses, numerous people would like to see the City expand specific recreational options, for
  example by developing a disc golf course or building a community swimming pool or aquatic
  center.
- Expanding community events and recreational programming: Many respondents commented positively on Bonney Lake's existing community events and encouraged the City to explore additional community gatherings to bring residents together and foster community vitality. Ideas included street fairs, concerts, outdoor movies, Battle of the Bands, and other family-friendly activities to appeal to a wide range of interests and ages. Many respondents also feel that Bonney Lake residents would benefit from additional youth, teen, and family-oriented recreational programs and activities.

Residents have mixed opinions on how to develop the Old City Hall site and where to locate new sports fields.

When asked about their preferred use of the Old City Hall property adjacent to Allan Yorke Park, respondents were nearly evenly divided in their preferences, with approximately one- quarter of respondents preferring that the site be used for each of the listed options: a) additional parking, b) expanded greenspaces, and c) additional sports fields and courts. A similar percentage of respondents wrote in their own ideas for use of the property, such as expanding the Senior Center, building a community or recreation center, or adding disc golf, pickleball courts, a splash pad, or other unique park amenities.

When asked whether they would prefer to see new/renovated sports fields developed at Allan Yorke or Midtown Park, respondents were again split. Approximately 31% preferred Allan Yorke Park, 29% preferred Midtown Park, 32% had no opinion, and 8% preferred another site within the city.

Residents support efforts to more effectively use the City's existing park resources.

Approximately one in four respondents stated that they do not visit parks more often because they don't know what is offered. In open-ended comments, respondents often noted that they were not aware of City park and recreation opportunities. Many want to see the City better promote public parks and recreational opportunities through effective signage, online information, and marketing strategies.



Parks, Trails, Recreation and Open Space Plan

Other respondents expressed a desire for better communication and advertising of community events, programs, and activities.

In other open-ended comments, some respondents expressed concerns about the rising cost of living in Bonney Lake and encouraged the City to cost-effectively and efficiently manage resources when making decisions that impact taxpayers. Some specifically asked the City to avoid imposing additional taxes and instead focus on finding alternative funding sources, such as user fees for certain park and recreation facilities.

#### SURVEY METHODOLOGY

In close collaboration with City of Bonney Lake staff, Conservation Technix developed the 16-question survey that was estimated to take less than ten minutes to complete.

The survey was mailed to a random sample of 2,500 households within the city limits of Bonney Lake on March 27, 2023, and reminder postcards were mailed to the 2,500 households on April 10<sup>th</sup>. An online version of the survey was posted to the city's website on March 28<sup>th</sup>. Residents who did not receive a mail survey were able to complete the survey online. The survey was closed on May 12, 2023, and the full dataset was compiled and reviewed.

The survey is available in English and Spanish, and the cover letter accompanying the printed mail survey was written in both languages and included unique QR codes to access each in-language survey online. Overall, 398 surveys from the random sample mailing have been completed and returned (15.9% response rate, 4.5% margin of error). An additional 445 surveys were completed from the general, community-wide online surveys. In all, 843 surveys were collected, which includes three Spanish surveys.

Information about the survey was promoted in English and Spanish through several channels, including on the City's website, through multiple social media postings, in the April utility billing, and through direct outreach to partner organizations and recreation program participants.

Although households were randomly chosen to receive the mail survey, respondents were not necessarily representative of all city residents. Mail survey responses underrepresent residents under 35 years of age and over-represent residents over the age of 65. See Figure 1 below for age demographics for the mail and online surveys, as well as comparative percentages for Bonney Lake's population. See page 15 for other demographic subgroup data comparisons.

Figure 1. Age demographics of survey respondents

	S	urvey Respond	Bonne	y Lake	
Age group	Mail	Online-only	Combined	All	Over 20
Under 20	1%	1%	1%	28.8%	
20 to 34	12%	15%	13%	19.1%	26.8%
35 to 44	22%	35%	29%	14.4%	20.1%
45 to 54	21%	21%	21%	13.6%	19.1%
55 to 64	17%	16%	17%	13.2%	18.5%
65 to 74	17%	10%	14%	7.6%	10.7%
75 and older	10%	2%	6%	3.4%	4.7%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

This report includes findings of community opinions based on the combined responses from the mail survey and online. Each section also notes key differences between different demographic groups and among responses to the online-only survey, where applicable. Percentages in the report may not add up to 100% due to rounding.





#### **DETAILED FINDINGS**

## Usage and satisfaction of parks and recreation facilities

#### How much do residents value parks and recreation?

Virtually all respondents (95%) feel that local parks, recreation opportunities are important or essential to the quality of life in Bonney Lake. Seventy percent of respondents feel that they are essential; while an additional 25% believe that they are important to quality of life, but not essential, see Figure 2. Only about 4% of

**Figure 2**. When you think about what contributes to the quality of life in Bonney Lake, would you say city parks and recreation opportunities are...

Response options	Ma	il	Online-only				
Essential to the quality of life here	70%	OEW.	79%	000			
Important, but not really necessary	25%	95%	18%	96%			
Useful, but not important	4%		2%				
Not important or don't know	<1%		1%				

respondents believe parks are useful, but not important, or not important. While the sum of responses for 'essential' and 'important' were nearly the same for the mail and online survey respondents, online respondents were more willing to rate parks and recreation opportunities as 'essential' for Bonney Lake's quality of life.

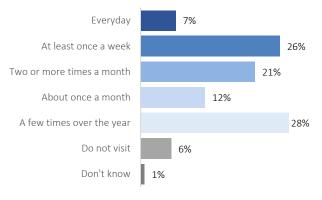
Residents of all ages value parks and recreation similarly – there were no significant differences between age groups. There were also no significant differences based on where respondents live. Online survey respondents were slightly more likely to deem park and recreation opportunities as essential to quality of life than mail survey respondents. Households with children were more likely than those without to think of parks and recreation as essential, with the percentage increasing alongside the number of children.

#### How often do residents use City parks and recreation facilities?

Respondents were asked how often they visit a City park or open space in a typical year. One third of residents (33%) visit at least once a week, if not every day, see Figure 3. Another 33% visit one to three times per month, while about 28% visit a few times per year. Very few residents (6%) do not visit a park at all.

Survey respondents showed a high use of parks regardless of age. However, younger respondents (below 55) were significantly more likely to visit everyday or at least once per week as compared to older respondents. About one quarter of respondents over the age of 65 visit at least weekly. Respondents

**Figure 3.** In a typical year, how often do you visit or use City of Bonney Lake parks or open spaces?



with children in the home visit significantly more often than respondents without children at home. There were no significant differences in visitation based on where respondents live, whether they completed the mail or online survey, or how many children are in the home.

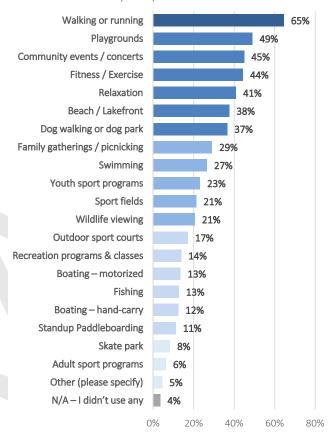
#### Why do residents visit Bonney Lake's parks and recreation facilities?

Respondents visit local parks and recreation facilities for a variety of reasons, but the most popular reason is to walk or run (65%). More than one-third of respondents visit to use a playground (49%), attend community events or concerts (45%), for fitness or exercise (44%), relaxation (41%), visit the lakefront (38%), or walk a dog (37%), see Figure 4. Approximately one in twenty respondents identified an 'other' reason for visiting parks, such as for disc golf, mountain biking, or pickleball.

The reasons for visiting city parks and recreation facilities varied slightly between mail and online respondents, with part of the difference attributable to the age group composition between the two. Online respondents were more inclined to visit city parks for family or youth-oriented activities, including family gatherings/picnicking, playgrounds, sport fields and courts, recreation programs and youth sports programs. Mail respondents were more inclined to visit for more individual activities including fishing, boating, paddleboarding, and wildlife viewing.

Respondents between the ages of 20 and 44 years of age are more likely than other groups to visit to use playgrounds, use sports fields and courts, take part in recreation

**Figure 4.** What would you say are the main reasons your household visits Bonney Lake parks or recreation facilities?



programs or league activities for youth or adults, or to have a family picnic. Many activities, including running and walking, relaxation, dog walking, community events, visiting the lakefront, watersports and paddling, swimming, and wildlife viewing are similarly popular with all age groups.

Respondents with children in their home are more likely to visit parks for youth- and family-oriented activities, including to visit playgrounds, participate in recreation classes or youth sports, use the skate park or sports fields, and for family gatherings, compared to respondents without children in the home.

Residents who live in the northwestern portion of the city (north of SR410 and west of W Tapps / Church Lake) were more likely to visit to use sports fields, for motorized boating, or to attend a community event – likely due to their close proximity to Allan Yorke Park.



#### Are residents satisfied with city parks and open space?

Most respondents (59%) are somewhat to very satisfied with the City of Bonney Lake's parks and open space. However, a more than a third of respondents (36%) are either somewhat or very dissatisfied, see Figure 5.

Overall, mail survey respondents indicated higher satisfaction with the City's parks and open space by 12 percentage points compared to the online-only survey respondents (66% to 54%, respectively). Respondents between the ages of 20 and 44 were significantly more

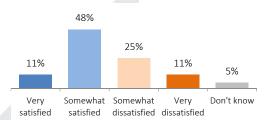


Figure 5. Rate your household's satisfaction with the

City of Bonney Lake's parks or open space.

likely to be dissatisfied with Bonney Lake's parks compared to older residents. Respondents who live in the southwestern part of Bonney Lake (south of SR410 and west of 202<sup>nd</sup> Ave E) were more dissatisfied with parks and recreation than residents of other areas.

#### How do residents rate the condition of Bonney Lake's parks and recreation facilities?

Respondents were asked to rate the condition of each City park and open space. Fifty-seven percent of respondents rated the condition of Allan Yorke Park as 'excellent' or 'good' – the highest condition rating of any park.

Between 41% and 74% of respondents said they were 'not sure' or had 'no opinion' about the condition of other City parks, including Victor Falls (41%), Cedarview (51%), Midtown (67%), Ken Simmons (68%), and Madrona parks (75%), the Fennel Creek Trail (47%), and the Viking Dog Park (63%), see Figure 6. This may reflect relatively infrequent use of these parks by respondents. These 'not sure' responses can be removed to get a better understanding of the perceived condition of these parks from those respondents who have an opinion. When these 'not sure / no opinion' responses are removed, more than half of respondents rated the condition of the Fennel Creek Trail (78%), Cedarview Park (64%), and Viking Dog Park (55%), as 'excellent' or 'good'. Conversely, between 50% and 75% of respondents who had an opinion rated the condition of Ken Simmons (58%), Victor Falls (63%), Madrona (72%), and Midtown (74%) parks as 'fair' or 'poor'.

Respondents to the mail survey and the online-only survey provided generally consistent responses on the condition of park and recreation facility types; though online survey respondents were more likely to select a condition rating rather than 'not sure / no opinion'.

Younger respondents, particularly those under 45, tended to rate the condition of each park more poorly than older respondents. No significant differences were noted in rating the condition of parks by households with or without children.

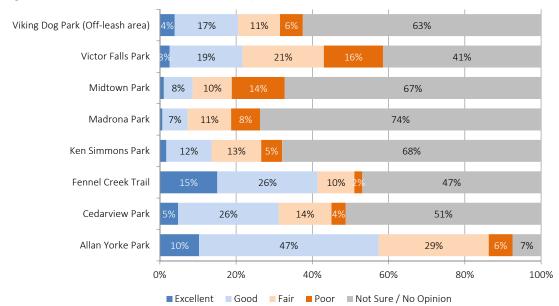


Figure 6. Rate the condition of each of the following parks or recreation facilities. (Check one box in each row).

### Why don't residents visit more often?

When asked why they do not visit Bonney Lake's parks or recreation facilities more often, nearly one in three responded that a lack of parking kept them away. Approximately one quarter of respondents do not visit more frequently because they feel parks are too crowded (28%), do not know what is offered (25%), there are not enough restrooms (24%), or because they do not feel safe (22%), see Figure 7.

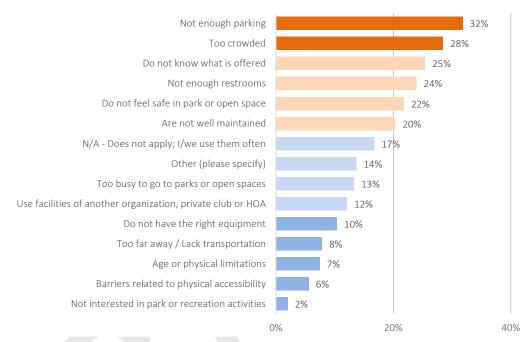
Some residents are too busy (13%), use parks or facilities provided by other cities or organizations (12%), face age or physical limitations (7%), or are generally not interested (2%), suggesting that further improvements may not increase their use of parks.

Small percentages of respondents noted that parks do not have the right equipment (10%), are too far away (8%), or have accessibility barriers (6%) preventing them from visiting local parks more often.

In addition, about one in seven respondents wrote in responses citing crowding, particularly at Allan Yorke Park, a lack of parking, safety concerns or a lack of desired amenities (such as walking trails or playgrounds) in their response.



**Figure 7.** Check ALL the reasons why your household does not use Bonney Lake's recreation facilities, parks or open spaces more often. (Check all that apply)



As with the reasons for visiting parks, the reasons why respondents don't visit more often also varied slightly between mail and online respondents, partly due to the age group composition of respondents. Mail respondents more frequently noted age or physical limitations as a reason for not visiting more often. Online respondents more frequently noted a lack of preferred equipment, the quality of maintenance, or not feeling safe as reasons for not visiting more often.

Respondents between 35 and 44 years of age more frequently noted maintenance as the reason for not visiting more often. Respondents with children at home were more likely than those without to cite maintenance and safety concerns, as well as a lack of preferred equipment, as a reason they do not visit parks more frequently. Respondents who live in south of SR410 and west of 202<sup>nd</sup> Ave E were significantly more likely than residents of other areas to cite distance to parks, maintenance concerns, a lack of information about what's available as reasons they do not visit more often.

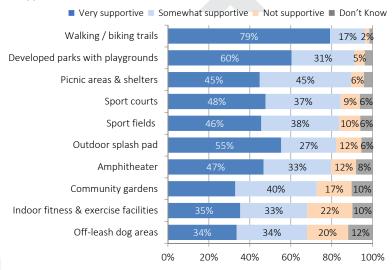
### **Investment Priorities**

### What park and recreation amenities would residents support adding in Bonney Lake?

The survey asked residents about their support for a variety of potential additions to the park system. More than two-thirds of residents were either very supportive or somewhat supportive of adding all listed amenities.

Nearly all residents are either very or somewhat supportive of additional walking and biking trails (96%), developed parks with playgrounds (91%), picnic areas and shelters (89%). Large majorities are also supportive of the City adding more sports fields and courts (84% each), outdoor splash pads (82%) and an

**Figure 8.** The following list includes park amenities that the City of Bonney Lake could consider adding to the park system. Please indicate your level of support of each.



amphitheater (80%), see Figure 8. When it comes to sports fields and courts, over 70% of mail respondents were somewhat or very supportive of adding fields for football/soccer/lacrosse, fields for baseball/softball, basketball courts, and pickleball courts. About two in three residents are also supportive of more community gardens, off-leash dog areas, and indoor fitness and exercise facilities.

This question provided respondents with an opportunity to write-in their own ideas for new or expanded park amenities. Of the 66 write-in responses, many referenced desires for a swimming pool and disc golf course.

Respondents to the online survey were generally more supportive of all listed improvements as compared to mail survey respondents and were particularly more supportive of outdoor splash pads and developed parks with playgrounds. When looking at age groups, respondents tended to be most supportive of adding amenities that support the reasons why they use parks. For example, respondents between the ages of 20 and 44, who are more likely than older residents to visit parks for playgrounds, sports fields, and courts, were also more likely to support adding more of these amenities to the City's park system. Similarly, amenities that enable recreation enjoyed by all age groups – trails and an amphitheater – were supported by all age groups. Respondents with children at home were more likely to support developing more parks with playgrounds, sports fields and courts, and splash pads compared to those without children at home.

### What recreation and park investments would residents prioritize?

Respondents were asked to rank, in order (forced ranking), a list of potential recreation, park and open space investment priorities. In aggregated survey data, respondents identified expanding trail opportunities as the first priority, see Figure 9A. Respondents to the mail and online surveys offered the

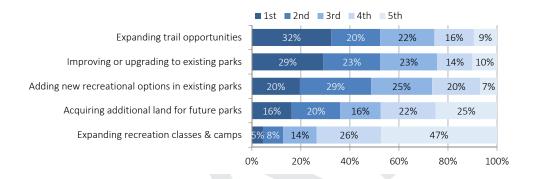


Parks, Trails, Recreation and Open Space Plan

same top three but differed in their selection of ranked priorities, with mail survey respondents more strongly supportive of expanding trail opportunities and online respondents more supportive of adding new recreational options or otherwise improving or upgrading existing parks, see Figure 9B.

There were no significant differences noted by age groups or by households with or without children.

**Figure 9A/B.** For the following list, indicate how you would rank the priority for each (1st priority is highest and 5th priority is lowest).



	Mail	Online	
Highest	Expanding trail opportunities	Adding new recreational options in existing parks	
	Improving or upgrading to existing parks	Improving or upgrading to existing parks	
	Adding new recreational options in existing parks	Expanding trail opportunities	
	Acquiring additional land for future parks	Acquiring additional land for future parks	
Lowest	Expanding recreation classes & camps	Expanding recreation classes & camps	

### Recreation activities

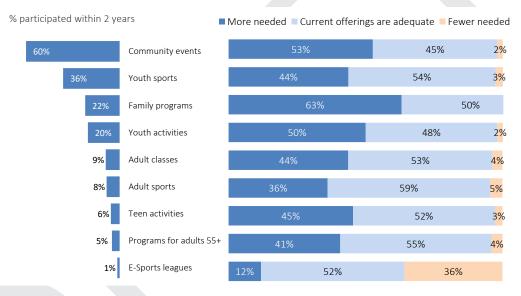
### What recreation options do residents use and have interest in?

Currently, the City of Bonney Lake offers youth sports, camps, community events, and other activities in partnership with Sumner-Bonney Lake School District. Survey respondents were asked which of these programs and events they had participated in within the past two years as well as whether they feel Bonney Lake needs more or fewer of each program offering.

More than half of respondents (57%), or members of their household, have participated in a community event within the past two years, see Figure 10A. Just over one quarter (28%) have participated in youth sports. About one in six respondents have participated in either family programming or youth activities (17% and 15% respectively). Fewer than 10% have participated in adult classes, adult sports, teen activities, programs for adults over 55 years of age, or in e-sport leagues.

In general, respondents to the online survey were more likely than respondents to the mail survey to have used or participated in the listed recreation activities. Respondents between the ages of 35 and 54 were most likely to have participated in the activities listed, except for programs for adults over 55. Those with children at home were more likely to have participated in youth, teen, and family-focused activities than those without.

**Figure 10A/B.** Currently, the City of Bonney Lake offers youth sports, camps, community events, and other activities in partnership with Sumner-Bonney Lake School District. Please indicate if your household has participated or used each of the listed recreation program types in the past two years. (left side of chart) Using the same list of recreation program options again, indicate if there should be more or less of this type of activity or program available. (right side of chart)



More than half of respondents expressed interest in seeing more family programs (63%), community events (53%), and youth activities (50%) in Bonney Lake, see Figure 10B. A plurality of respondents feel the City needs more teen activities, youth sports, adult classes, and programs for adults over 55. Only 36% of respondents would like to see more adult sports and only 12% are interested in more e-sports leagues.

When compared to mail survey respondents, online respondents more frequently expressed a need for all listed recreation programs; they were up to 17 percentage points more likely than mail respondents to feel the City needs more of the various program options listed. Respondents with children at home were more likely than those without to feel the City lacks sufficient in youth, teen, and family activities.



Parks, Trails, Recreation and Open Space Plan

### Do residents have specific improvements they would like to see?

Respondents were asked to describe one thing that they would like to see the City of Bonney Lake do to improve parks, trails, aquatics, and/or recreation programs. While respondents provided over 600 specific comments and ideas, a few themes emerged:

- Walking and biking opportunities: Respondents would like to see continued investment in the
  expansion and maintenance of the trail system. Several respondents also asked for investments
  in pedestrian and bicyclist access and safety improvements (sidewalks, crossings, bike lanes,
  etc.) that would allow easy access to parks and other destinations without relying on vehicles or
  extensive parking. Respondents also offered ideas to improve and expand trails and falls viewing
  locations in Victor Falls Park.
- **Diverse recreational options**: Numerous respondents would like to see the City expand specific recreational options, for example by developing a disc golf course, pickleball courts, additional sports fields, splash pads, off-leash dog areas, and improved playgrounds.
- Community swimming pool: A significant number of respondents mentioned the need for a community swimming pool or year-round aquatic center that could offer swimming lessons and other water-based activities for all ages.
- Community events: Many respondents commented positively on Bonney Lake's existing
  community events and encouraged the City to explore additional community gatherings to bring
  residents together and foster community vitality. Ideas included street fairs, concerts, outdoor
  movies, Battle of the Bands, and other family-friendly activities to appeal to a wide range of
  interests and ages.
- Safety and maintenance: Safety was a recurring concern among respondents, with requests for
  improved safety measures in parks and a focus on addressing issues such as cleanliness, garbage
  collection, and homeless encampments. There were also suggestions for better policing and
  increased security in certain parks. Other respondents would like to see the City place a stronger
  emphasis on maintaining park and trail facilities, ensuring they are clean, well-kept, and
  accessible for all visitors.
- Improved communication and awareness: Respondents often noted that they were not aware of City park and recreation opportunities, in this question and elsewhere in the survey. Many want to see the City better promote public parks and recreational opportunities through effective signage, online information, and marketing strategies. Other respondents expressed a desire for better communication and advertising of community events, programs, and activities.
- **Fiscal responsibility:** Some respondents expressed concerns about the rising cost of living in Bonney Lake and encouraged the City to cost-effectively and efficiently manage resources when making decisions that impact taxpayers. Some specifically asked the City to avoid imposing additional taxes and instead focus on finding alternative funding sources, such as user fees for certain park and recreation facilities.

A compilation of write-in comments is on file with the Bonney Lake Public Services Department.

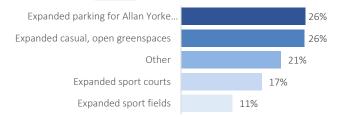
### **Site-specific Preferences**

### What would residents like to see on the Old City Hall property?

The survey asked respondents about their preferred use of the Old City Hall property adjacent to Allan Yorke Park. Respondents were nearly evenly divided in their preferences, with approximately one quarter of respondents preferring that the site be used for each of the listed options: a) additional parking, b) expanded greenspaces, and c) additional sports fields and courts, see Figure 11. A similar percentage of respondents wrote in their own ideas for use of the property. These included:

- Maintaining or expanding the existing Senior Center
- A community or recreation center
- A disc golf course
- An improved playground
- Pickleball courts
- Additional boat trailer parking
- A splash pad
- An off-leash dog area
- Walking trails

Figure 11. The Old City Hall property is located at 19306 Bonney Lake Blvd E, adjacent to Allan Yorke Park. The property is currently used as the Public Works Center and Senior Center. One potential re-use of the Old City Hall property is as an expansion of Allan Yorke Park. If incorporated into an enlarged Allan Yorke Park, which of the following uses do you prefer?



### Respondents to the online and mail

survey provided similar responses. Respondents who live in south of SR410 and west of 202<sup>nd</sup> Ave E were more likely than residents of other areas to support converting the Old City Hall property to parking. Residents with children at home were more likely than those without to prefer converting the property to sports fields.

### Where would residents like to see new sports fields built?

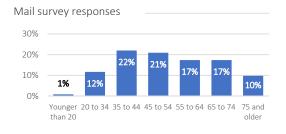
The survey asked residents for their preference on where to site new/renovated active recreation facilities (e.g. sports fields for soccer, baseball and softball, and associated support amenities. Respondents were split on where to best cite these fields, with 31% preferring Allan Yorke Park, 29% preferring Midtown Park, 32% having no opinion, and 8% preferring another site within the city. Respondents who live north of SR410 were more likely that those living to the south to prefer that fields be added to Allan Yorke Park.

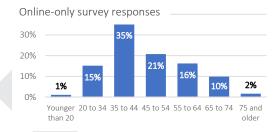


### **Demographics**

### Age groups

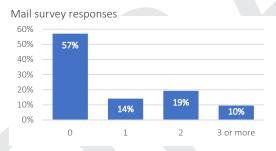
Overall, approximately two-thirds of mail respondents were above 45 years of age (65%). Online-only survey respondents tended to be younger than those who mail respondents with a larger share of middle-age respondents – 56% were between 35 and 55 years and only 12% were over 65.

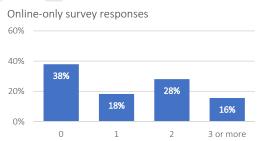




### Number of children in household

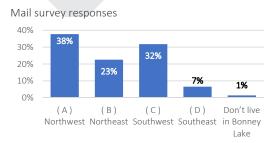
The majority (57%) of respondents to the mail survey live in households with no children under 18, while about forty percent live in a household with either one (14%), two (19%), or three or more (10%) children. Online-only survey respondents were significantly more likely to live in households with children than respondents to the mail survey -62% had children in the home.

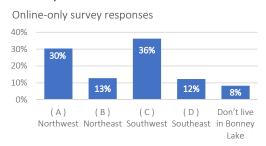




### Location of residence

Over 90% of all survey respondents live within the City of Bonney Lake. Just under forty percent of mail respondents live north of SR410 and west of W Tapps/Church Lake (map area A - northwest) with 32% living south of SR410 and west of 202<sup>nd</sup> Ave. E (map area C - southwest). About one-quarter live north of Kelly Lake and east of W Tapps/Church Lake (map area B - northeast). A smaller portion, about 7%, live north of SR410 and east of 192<sup>nd</sup> Ave. E (map area D - southeast).





### ATTACHMENT 1. SURVEY INSTRUMENT



### Community Survey on Parks and Recreation

### Dear Bonney Lake Resident:

The City of Bonney Lake has started a community-led process to update its citywide Parks, Trails and Open Space (PTO) Plan. We need your help to determine how to prioritize projects and what we should focus on to keep our parks and programs thriving for the next six years. As an initial step, the City is conducting this short survey to assess the community's recreation needs. We ask that you consider your needs for the future as you evaluate recreation amenities. Your opinions are important to the City.

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





Solo son 15 preguntas y requiere unos cuantos minutos de su tiempo. Utilice el código QR para realizarla en línea: <a href="https://es.surveymonkey.com/r/3V38DF5">https://es.surveymonkey.com/r/3V38DF5</a>

When you think about what contributes to the quality of life in Bonney Lake, would you say that city parks
and recreation opportunities are...

	100000	a real carrott opportunities at am		
		Essential to the quality of life here Important, but not really essential Useful, but not necessary	<u></u>	1 NotImportant 1 Don't know
2.	ln a	a typical year, how often do you visit	or t	ise City of Bonney Lake parks or open space?
		Everyday		A few times over the year
		At least once a week	Е	Do not visit facilities / parks / open spaces
		Two or more times a month	Е	l Don'tknow
		About once a month		
3.	Rat	te your household's satisfaction with	the	City of Bonney Lake's parks or open space.
		Very Satisfied	<b>1</b> S	omewhat Dissatisfied 🔲 Don't Knov
		Somewhat Satisfied	) V	'ery Dissatisfied

### How would you rate the condition of each of the following parks or recreation facilities? (Check one box in each row)

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Not Sure / No Opinion
Allan Yorke Park					
Cedarview Park					
Madrona Park					
Ken Simmons Park					
Midtown Park					
Victor Falls Park					
Viking Dog Park (Off-leash area)					
Fennel Creek Trail					



Parks, Trails, Recreation and Open Space Plan

### Save a stamp! Use the QR code and take this survey online:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LHLCMLF







, _	CHECK ALL THAT APPLY )  Fitness / Exercise		Outdoor sport courts
	Playgrounds		Wildlife viewing
	Walking or running		Beach / Lakefront
	Dog walking or dog park		Swimming
	Family gatherings / picnicking		Fishing
	Community events / concerts		Boating - motorized
=	Recreation programs, classes or camps		Boating – hand-carry (canoe/kayak)
	Youth sport programs		Standup Paddleboarding
	Adult sport programs		Relaxation
	Skate park		N/A – I didn't use any Bonney Lake facilities
	Sport fields		Other:
		es no	ot use Bonney Lake's parks or open spaces more often.
( 0	HECK ALL THAT APPLY )	9775	ot use Bonneγ Lake's parks or open spaces more often.
(0	HECK ALL THAT APPLY )  N/A - Does not apply; I/we use them often		ot use Bonney Lake's parks or open spaces more often.  Not enough parking
( 0	CHECK ALL THAT APPLY )  N/A - Does not apply; I/we use them often Age or physical limitations		ot use Bonney Lake's parks or open spaces more often.  Not enough parking  Not enough restrooms
(0	CHECK ALL THAT APPLY )  N/A - Does not apply; I/we use them often Age or physical limitations Are not well maintained		Not enough parking Not enough restrooms Too busy to go to parks or open spaces
(0	CHECK ALL THAT APPLY )  N/A - Does not apply; I/we use them often Age or physical limitations  Are not well maintained  Barriers related to physical accessibility	0000	Not enough parking Not enough restrooms Too busy to go to parks or open spaces Too crowded
(0	CHECK ALL THAT APPLY )  N/A - Does not apply; I/we use them often Age or physical limitations  Are not well maintained  Barriers related to physical accessibility  Too far away / Lack transportation		Not enough parking Not enough restrooms Too busy to go to parks or open spaces Too crowded Not interested in park or recreation activities
(0000	CHECK ALL THAT APPLY )  N/A - Does not apply; I/we use them often Age or physical limitations  Are not well maintained  Barriers related to physical accessibility  Too far away / Lack transportation	00000	Not enough parking Not enough restrooms Too busy to go to parks or open spaces Too crowded

	Very Supportive	Somewhat Supportive	Not Supportive	Not Sure
Developed parks with playgrounds				
Walking / biking trails				
Pionicareas & shelters				
Community gardens				
Sport fields for soccer, football & lacrosse				0
Sport fields for baseball / softball				
Basketball courts				
Tennis courts				
Piddeball courts				
Indoor fitness & exercise facilities				
Outdoor splash pad / water spray park				
Off-leash dog areas (dog parks)				
Amphitheater / Outdoor performance areas				
Other: (write-in)				



### Community Survey on Park & Recreation

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

	Select each priority ONLY ONCE.  Highest priority   Lowest priority				Don't know / No opinion	
	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	
Adding new recreational options in existing parks						
Acquiring additional land for future parks						
Expanding trail opportunities						
Expanding recreation classes & camps						
Improving or upgrading to existing parks						

 Currently, the City of Bonney Lake offers youth sports, camps, community events, and other activities in partnership with Sumner-Bonney Lake School District. Please indicate if your household has participated or used each of the listed recreation program types in the past two years AND indicate if there should be more or less of each available.

Have	or used?			Should be more or less of this type of activity or program available?			
	Yes	No	More Needed	Current Offerings are Adequate	Fewer Needed		
Community Events (Tunes at Tapps, Fun Runs, etc.)	0	0					
Family programs	0						
Youth activities (crafts, classes, etc.)	0	0					
Youth sports (basketball, t-ball, soccer, etc.)	0	0					
E-Sports or electronic gaming leagues	0	0					
Teen activities (game nights, trips, arts & crafts, etc.)	0	0					
Adult classes (fitness, art, etc.)	0	0					
Adult sports (basketball, volleyball, etc.)	0	0					
Programs for adults 55 and over (drop-in activities, trips, etc.)	0	0					

10.	The Old City Hall property is located at 19306 Bonney Lake Blvd E, adjacent to Allan Yorke Park. The
	property is currently used as the Public Works Center and Senior Center. One potential re-use of the Old
	City Hall property is as an expansion of Allan Yorke Park. If incorporated into an enlarged Allan Yorke
	Park, which of the following uses do you prefer?

	Expanded parking for Allan Yorke Park
П	Evnanded sport fields (i.e. sporter hass

☐ Expanded sport courts (i.e. pickleball, basketball)

☐ Expanded casual, open greenspaces

☐ Other (write-in): \_

	As part of the Parks, Trails & Open Space Plan, the City is examining the functions and uses for Allan Yorke Park and Midtown Park to decide where new active recreation facilities should be built. Considering areas for sport fields for soccer, baseball and softball, at which park would you prefer to see renovated/new sport fields and associated support amenities (such as parking, bleachers, concessions)?								
		Allan Yorke Park Midtown Park Neither Not Sure/No Opinion							
12.	lf γ	101 191 1007	Bonne	y Lake to do just one thing to improve parks, tra ld it be?	ils, aquatics, and/or				
com	mu	nity. It's important tha	it γou	erstand whether we have gathered responses fr provide a response to each question. 8 live in your household?	om a broad segment of the				
		51			THE STATE OF THE S				
		1		3 or more	7311W				
14.	Wh	at is your age?			- MAN				
		Younger than 20 20 to 34 35 to 44		55 to 64 65 and 74 75 and older	A B				
		45 to 54			=				
15.			ection	of Bonney Lake do you live?					

### Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey!

Your input will help guide the development of the Bonney Lake Parks, Trails and Open Space Plan.

### Save a stamp! Take this survey online with the QR code or at: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LHLCMLF

Learn more about Bonney Lake parks, trails and programs and stay informed about the Parks, Trails and Open Space Plan process at <u>www..di.bonney-lake.wa.us</u>

The City of Bonney Lake is using the services of a consultant team who specializes in park and recreation planning. Please return your completed survey in the enclosed Return-Reply Envelope addressed to: Conservation Technix Inc. PO Box 12736

Portland, OR 97212







# Appendix B Online Open House #1 Meeting Summary



## City of Bonney Lake Parks, Trails, Recreation and Open Space (PTRO) Plan: Online open house summary

August 1, 2023

### Overview

The City of Bonney Lake hosted an online open house from June 14 to June 30, 2023, at BonneyLakeParks.com, to gather community input for the Parks, Trails, Recreation and Open Space (PTRO) Plan update. The online open house shared information about the PTRO Plan and provided community members the opportunity to share their throughs on what park and recreation programs, services, and facilities are important to them. Community members were also able to provide input on amenities and uses for Allan Yorke Park, Midtown Park, and Victor Falls Park. The website was available in Spanish, making it accessible to a wider audience.

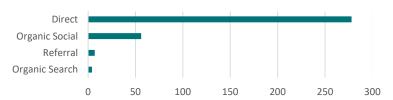
### Online open house website results

The online open house informed a broad of group users about the PTRO Plan update as seen by number of unique visitors and pageviews. Although the Spanish page received minimal engagement, people who use Spanish had the option to read the content in Spanish.

Metric	English language site
Unique visitors	346
Unique pageviews	605
Average time on each page	1m 24s



### How did people find the website?

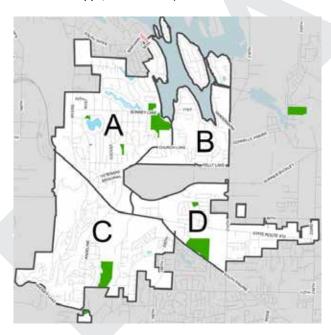


This graphic shows how the public accessed the online open house.

### Survey and comment form results

The online open house received 207 survey responses between all pages. All responses were in English. Questionnaire and raw data are saved in a separate file.

Most survey respondents have between one and three children, and most live in (C) Southwest Bonney Lake (south of SR 410; west of 202nd Ave E), followed by (A) Northwest Bonney Lake (north of SR 410; west of W Tapps/Church Lake).



### PTRO Plan

The online open house included a series of questions on the PTRO Plan to identify specific concepts based on the community survey results from spring 2023.

Questions about the PTRO Plan received 39 responses. Key interests from written comments included:

- A space where youth can spend time and use to play sports.
- Activities for adults to participate in the park.

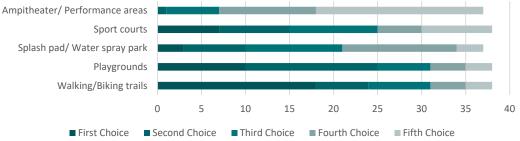




- Connected trails and safe walking path.
- Access to the lake.

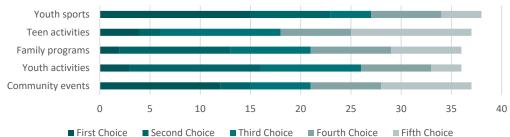
When asked about the top priority for the park system, most respondents answered walking and biking trails, followed by playgrounds, sport courts, splash pads/ water spray park, then amphitheater/ performance areas.





The community identified youth sports as their priority for recreation programs.

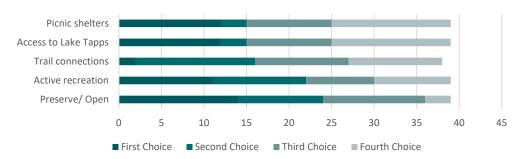
PTRO Plan Recreation Programs



When asked about future land use if the city acquired additional park land, the respondents would like to preserve the habitat and have an open space with walking/jogging trails.

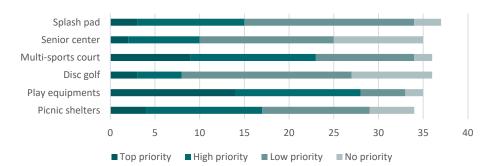


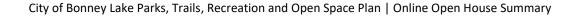




The list of improvements and facilities may be considered in the new PTRO Plan. The respondents identified play equipment as the top priority for improvement.

### PTRO Plan Facility Improvements

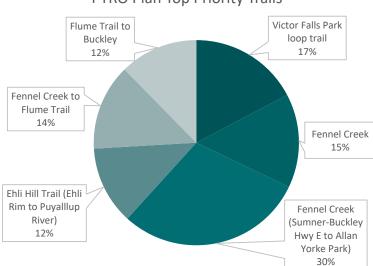






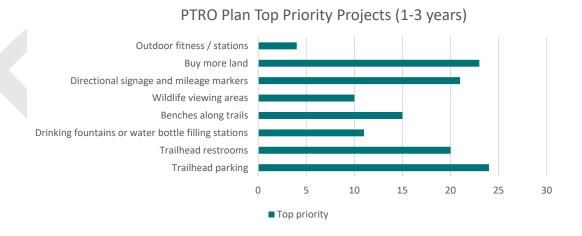


When asked to prioritize potential trail connections for their household, the respondents listed Fennel Creek trail (Sumner- Buckley Hwy E to Allan Yorke Park) as their top priority.



PTRO Plan Top Priority Trails

Identified as a priority for enhancing the Bonney Lake Park system, expanding the City's trail system requires determining which among the various potential types of trail system improvements should be executed in the immediate future (next 1 to 3 years). The respondents listed trailhead parking as their top priority, closely followed by buying more land.

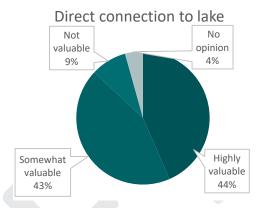




### Allan Yorke Park

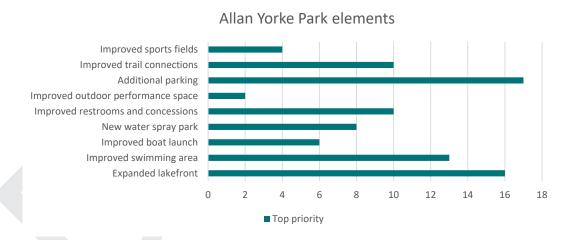
Questions about Allan Yorke Park received 23 responses. Some comments that represent themes from written comments are:

- "The lakefront area is too small for the crowds."
- "The playground is just way too small."
- "Need epic playground."
- "...wish it was bigger so more people could enjoy comfortably."
- "Turf fields for multi-use soccer, baseball, football and lacrosse."



When asked about the value of providing a direct connection between the park and the lakefront, majority of the respondents said it is highly valuable or somewhat valuable.

The chart below show which elements the respondents would like to see included in an improved Allan Yorke Park.



With the converted 1.5 acres of Allan Yorke Park to non-park use, 83% of the respondent would like to add the old City Hall/Public Works Yard as replacement for the converted area.

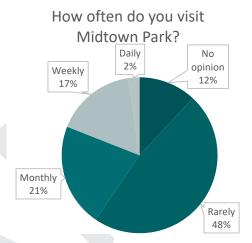




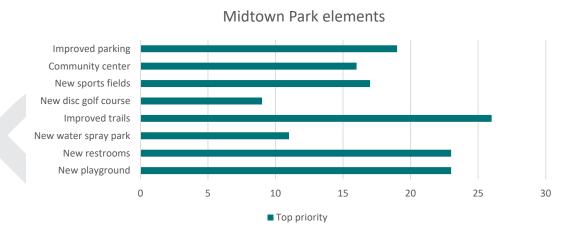
### Midtown Park

Questions about Midtown Park received 42 responses. Written comments included:

- "...should work around keeping as many natural tree areas as possible."
- "Make it look like a park."
- "...should be focused on spoiling the community with trails, fields/meadows and safe walking paths..."
- "...explore alternative resources or opportunities for private partnerships."
- "We need to be able to feel safe using this park."
- "Connect the park to Tehaley trails and to Lake Tapps."
- "This should be the gem of Bonney Lake."



The chart below shows what elements the respondents would like to see included in an improved Midtown Park.

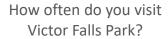


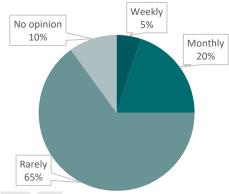


### Victor Falls Park

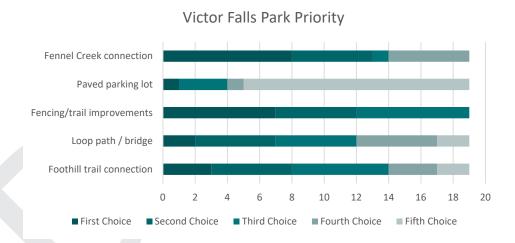
The Victor Falls Park survey received 21 responses. Written comments included:

- "Trails need to be designed with safety in mind."
- "How about sidewalks from neighborhoods in the trail shed area to the park?"
- "...have stop signs to improve ability to help us get out of the lot. Would be great to also have a playground here."
- "Sidewalks along Rhodes Lake for safety."
- "Improvements in fencing etc. would be key before expansion."





The City is considering the following improvements at Victor Falls Park. The chart below summarizes how the respondents prioritized each element.





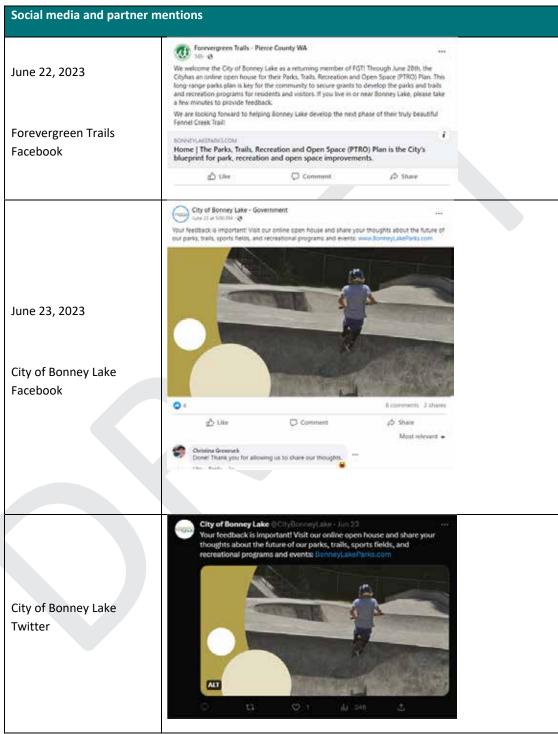


### **Promotion**

The City promoted the online open house through social media, on Facebook and Twitter, and asked community partners to do the same. The City posted content on June 14, 23, and 30. All social media posts were in English.

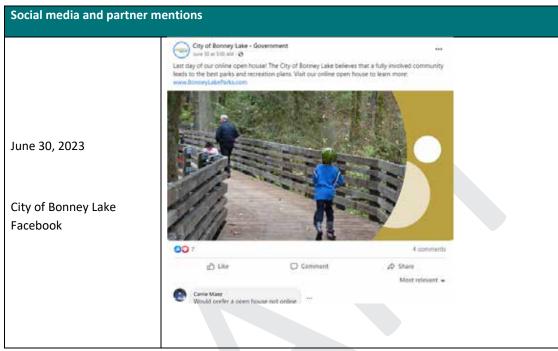




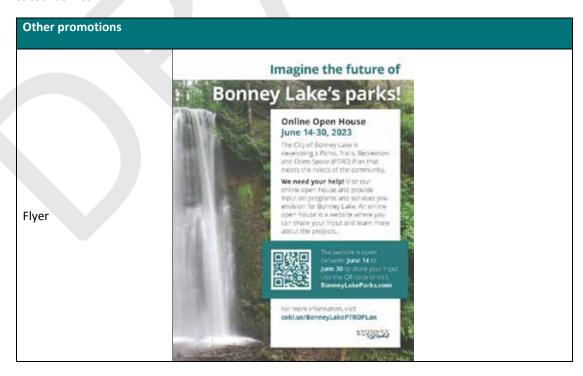




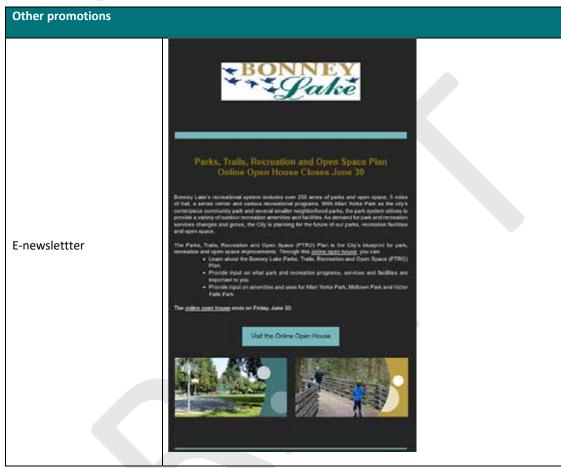




In addition to social media posts, the City also distributed flyers and sent an e-newsletter article to their subscriber list.

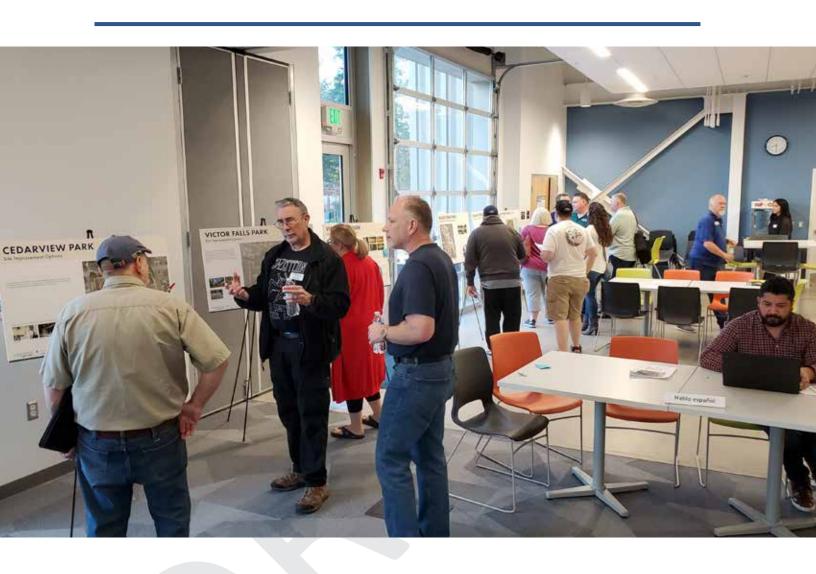








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### Appendix C Open House #2 Meeting Summary



### City of Bonney Lake Parks, Trails, Recreation and Open Space (PTRO) Plan: Online and Inperson open house summary

November 2023

### Overview

The City of Bonney Lake hosted an online open house from October 12 to 22, 2023 at <a href="BonneyLakeParks.com">BonneyLakeParks.com</a>, and an in-person open house on October 18, 2023, at <a href="Public Service Building">Public Service Building</a> from 5:30 to 8 p.m., to inform and gather input from the community about the refreshed design of Bonney Lake's parks. The City collected input during the spring and summer of 2023 about community member thoughts on park and recreation programs, services, and facilities that are important to them. The online and in-person open house shared updates on the Parks, Trails, Recreation and Open Space (PTRO) Plan and the conceptual designs for Allan Yorke Park, Midtown Park, Victor Falls Park and Cedarview Park that incorporated that input. The website was available in English and Spanish, and a bilingual Spanish-English team member was present during the in-person open house to provide interpretation and to engage directly with Spanish speaking attendees.

The goals of these open houses were to:

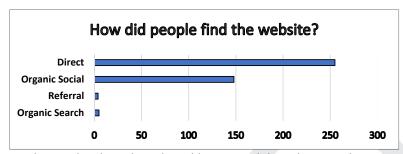
- Share community input gathered during the summer and how it is reflected in the updated park designs
- Share updated parks design and the updated PTRO Plan
- · Gather input on park amenities and uses

### Online and in-person open house participation

The online open house informed a broad of group users about the PTRO Plan update, as seen by number of unique visitors and pageviews. The public accessed the online open house by clicking on a direct link or clicking a link through a social media post. Although the Spanish page received low engagement, having it was a benefit so people who use Spanish had the option to read the content in Spanish and to demonstrate the City's commitment to inclusion.

Metric	English language site	Spanish language site
Unique visitors	412	21
Unique pageviews	683	37
Average engagement time (all pages)		1m 12s





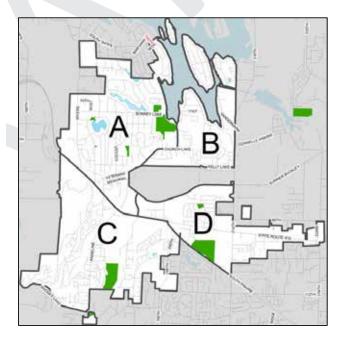
This graphic shows how the public accessed the online open house.

In addition, 37 community members attended the in-person open house on October 18, 2023.

### Survey and comment form results

Online open house attendees submitted 192 survey responses between all pages. Community members provided 37 individual comments across all the parks during the in-person open house. All surveys responses and comments were in English.

Most survey respondents have between one and three children, and most live in (C) Southwest Bonney Lake (south of SR 410; west of 202nd Ave E), followed by (A) Northwest Bonney Lake (north of SR 410; west of W Tapps/Church Lake).







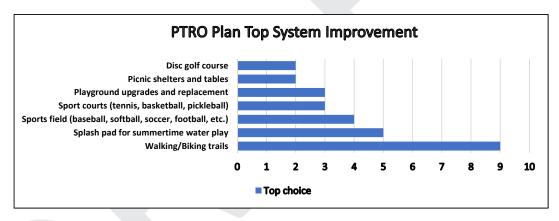
### PTRO Plan

The online open house included a series of questions on the PTRO Plan to identify specific concepts based on the community survey results and first online open house from previous engagement.

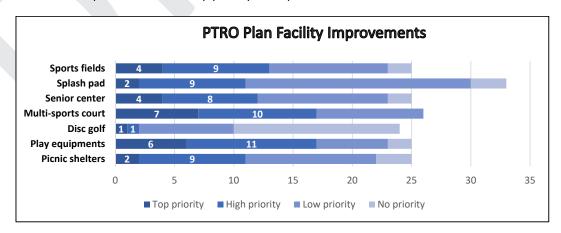
Questions about the PTRO Plan received 28 responses online. Key interests from written comments included:

- A space where youth can spend time and play sports in the summer.
- Activities for adults.
- Connected trails and safe walking path.
- Safe access to the park and lake year-round.
- More parking spaces.

When asked to pick one park system improvement, most respondents answered walking and biking trails, followed by splash pads and sports field.



The list of improvements and facilities may be considered in the new PTRO Plan. The respondents identified multi-sport courts as the top priority for improvement.

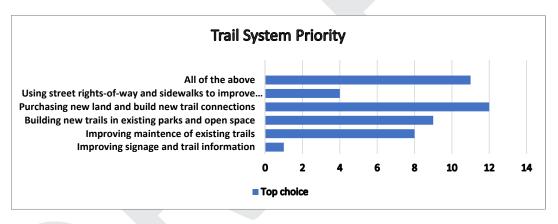




When asked if there were other improvements the community would like to see at existing parks, the respondents highlighted the following ideas:

- Improved safety and security
- Ongoing park maintenance and park improvements
- More paved trails
- Diverse recreation programs for children and youth
- Improved parking
- Additional ADA accessible park equipment

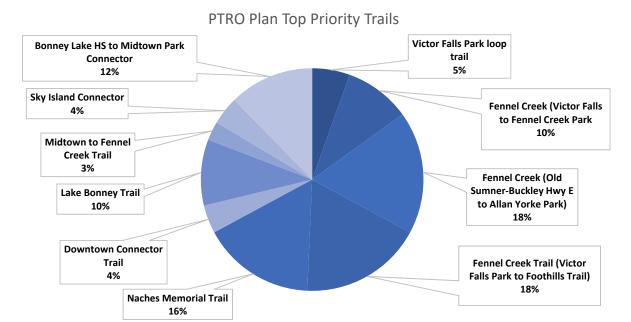
Expanding the City's trail system was identified as the highest priority for improving the overall Bonney Lake park system in the last online open house and summer outreach. When asked which is most important in recreational trail system, respondents chose to add more trails in natural areas. Respondents also chose purchasing new land and building new trail connections as their top trail system priority.







The respondents listed Fennel Creek (Old Sumner-Buckley Hwy E to Allan Yorke Park) and Fennel Creek Trail (Victor Falls Park to Foothills Trail) as their top priority trails for the PTRO Plan.

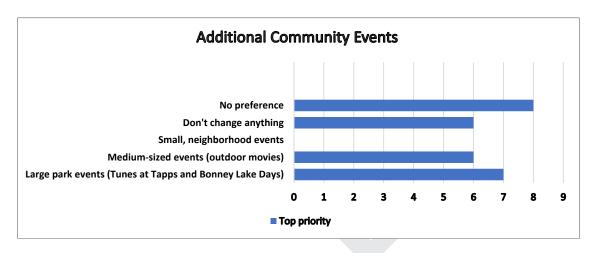


The City heard interest for additional youth, teen, senior and family recreation program from previous community engagement. When asked the types of programs community members would like to see the City offer, respondents named the following:

- · Youth mentorship programs
- Affordable recreation program options
- Cultural events
- Sports camps
- After school programs for youth and children
- Indoor pool for swimming lesson and water activities

Respondents would like to see more community events at parks in general. Most have no preference. Where they did have a preference, community members indicated they would like to see more large park events, such as Tunes at Tapps and Bonney Lake Days.





### Conceptual Designs

The online open house included a series of questions for Allan Yorke Park, Midtown Park, Victor Falls Park and Cedarview Park to identify if the conceptual designs are going in the right direction. The majority of respondents agree that conceptual designs for each park are going in the right direction.

### **Allan Yorke Park**

When asked which recreational opportunities the City should consider for Allan Yorke Park in the online open house, responses included playground and food stand or food truck bays.

Some comments that represent themes from written comments are:

- "Moving the street is safer for the people using the park."
- "If you re-surface tennis court, turn them into pickleball courts."
- "Double-sided amphitheater, move to the other side and have the amphitheater facing the water."
- "Consider smaller scale sports field."
- "Please revisit the option of putting the road midway back, rather than all the way to the west tree line."
- "More common use electrical outlets."
- "Storage for sports groups, seasonal, can be rented near the parking."
- "I love this reimagining of Allan Yorke. I really like the idea of moving the roadway away from the beach."
- "Please consider putting the revised road for Allan Yorke Park midway through the park, rather than following the tree line of the far west (back) part of the park. It is important to have separation to the waterfront as that is not always family friendly. It is important to have safe park access for residents behind the park (not having to cross a road to enter park). Many people purchased their homes specifically for this safe feature for their children, and also use the park year-round."





### Midtown Park

When asked which recreational opportunities the City should consider for Allan Yorke Park in the online open house, a comment was share to "acquire more of the land behind Safeway and include mountain bike trails".

Some comments that represent themes from written comments are:

- "I like the dog park and community center."
- "The planned cut-through road acts as a SR 410 bypass, encouraging high speed traffic where kids and families want to play."
- "Love this plan great use of this space!"
- "Keep as many trees as possible, like to see the pickleball court, great!"
- "Love this walking trails and dog park, but most important is keeping the trees."
- "Thank you for including disc golf in this plan. The closest course is 20+ minutes away. County is undecided on the future of riverside park."
- "Performance stage here too."
- "Community center fitness center, sooner rather than later."
- "Thank you for including disc golf in your future plans (Midtown Park). We have grown as a
  community to a point where we need an investment in parks and rec. I look forward to seeing
  the progress. Don't put a ballfield in Midtown!!"

### **Victor Falls Park**

When asked which recreational opportunities the City should consider for Allan Yorke Park in the online open house, a comment was shared to "include building more trails through the trees".

Some comments that represent themes from written comments are:

- "Is a suspension bridge really safe? People fall down that thing all the time."
- "Dog waste collection."
- "Have security cameras."
- "Safe pedestrian connections."
- "Need for a nice viewing platform."

### **Cedarview Park**

No responses were received for questions about Cedarview Park's conceptual design. The community did indicate an interest in more parking for this park in the future.

Some comments from the public who attended the in-person open house are listed below:

Existing parks & open space

- Add historical and interpretive displays
- Reed property: [sports] fields are good, but concerned about traffic

Recreation program ideas

• Have flag youth rugby program in the summer

Conceptual trail connections

• Connect Fennel Creek Trail to other Pierce County trails



- Identify trailhead locations
- From west Fennel Creek Open Space, take the trail along the creek ('D' alignment) Potential project ideas
  - If you re-surface tennis court (at Allan Yorke Park), turn them into pickleball courts

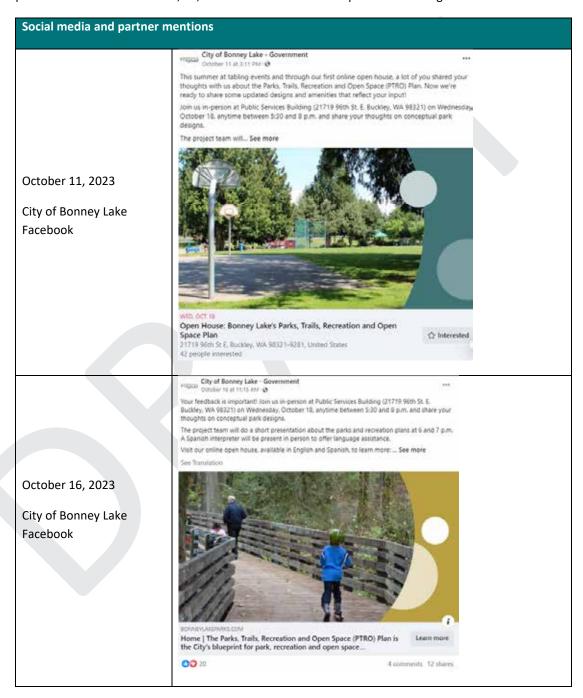






### Promotion

The City promoted the online open house through social media, on Facebook and Twitter. The City posted content on October 11, 16, 18 and 20. All social media posts were in English.



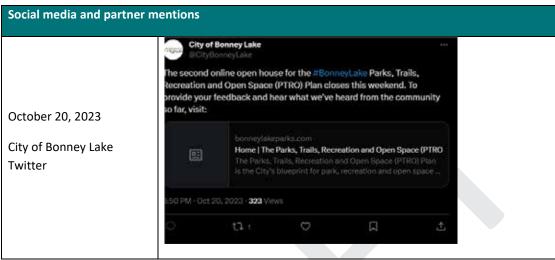




City of Bonney Lake Parks, Trails, Recreation and Open Space Plan | Online and In-person open house summary





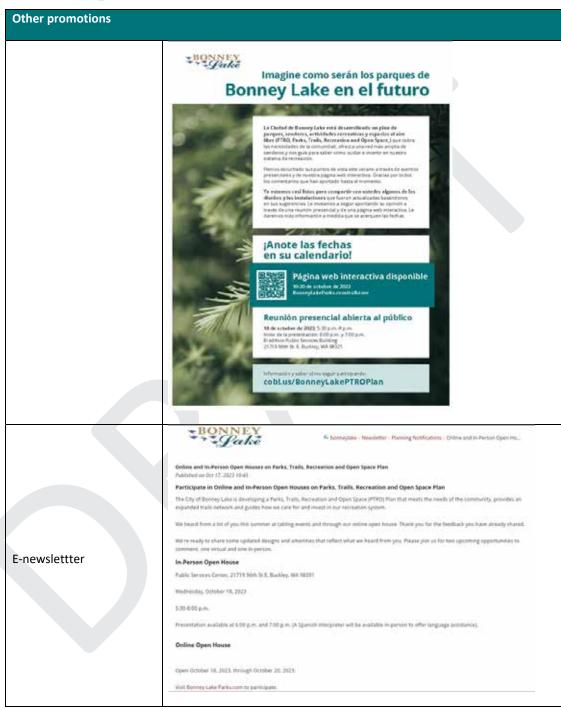


In addition to social media posts, the City distributed flyers, in English and Spanish, and sent an enewsletter article to their subscriber list in English.



City of Bonney Lake Parks, Trails, Recreation and Open Space Plan | Online and In-person open house summary





City of Bonney Lake Parks, Trails, Recreation and Open Space Plan | Online and In-person open house summary



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# Appendix D Sport Stakeholders Discussion Summaries



## STAKEHOLDER GROUP DISCUSSION NOTES

**Project Name:** Bonney Lake RPOS Plan Update Project No.: Proj-#22-146PLN

MS Teams Teleconference April 24, 2023 Location: Interview Date: Time: 12:00 pm

Notes by: Jean Akers, Conservation Technix Participants:

Joel Johnson, Bonney Lake Little

League

Brandon Bradshaw, NW Disc Golf Assoc. Jason Woods, Wolfpack Football & Cheer

Tyson Goodnight, Raptors Youth Football

Andy Ramsey, Rainier Jr Rugby Club

Angelo Del Vecchio, Rainier Jr Rugby Club

Scott Nall, Mt Rainier Football Club

Doug Clevenger, Mt Rainier Football Club

Jason Sullivan, City of Bonney Lake Leslie Harris, City of Bonney Lake

Kennedy Spietz, City of Bonney Lake

Scott Melbourne, MxM Landscape Architecture

Jean Akers, Conservation Technix

Subject: **Sports Group Stakeholder Discussion** 

#### **PURPOSE**

To discuss existing challenges and future demands and needs for sports facilities and programming in Bonney Lake with representatives from a variety of sports leagues, clubs and programs. This meeting took place on April 24, 2023 via a MS Teams teleconference from 12:00-1:10pm.

#### **DISCUSSION**

The discussion began with a brief introduction of participants and an overview of the City's Parks, Trails, Recreation and Open Space (PTRO) Plan process. A set of questions were used to initiate a discussion of each organization's perspective on their current and future status regarding facilities and programming.

#### Recreational League/Sport Trends

- Bonney Lake Little League has grown in last five years from 600 to 936 youth. Limiting factor to further growth is availability of ball fields and some existing fields not being in adequate condition.
- Disc Golf is second fastest growing sport. The region needs more courses to help meet the demand. Local courses are overrun.
- Valley Wolfpack numbers have been climbing. Limited by available field space.
- Rugby slowed somewhat during COVID but now growth is continuing.

**Discussion Notes** 1 April 24, 2023

#### **Discussion Notes (continued)**

- Youth Football has been growing. There were 15 kids signing up for a team in 2019, then post-COVID in 2023 over 31 kids immediately signed up for team & program was filled within first 2 weeks. Field space is the limiting factor for further growth. Program could use baseball fields if they were lighted.
- Mt Rainier Football Club serves ages 3-23, has up to 4,000 kids, and has been growing about 20% per year.
   Includes Tehaleh population and is constrained by field availability.

#### **Current State of Athletic Fields**

- Wolfpack uses fields in Sumner. High School coach was not happy with field conditions caused by wet weather use. Now they use the grass field on the side of Sumner Middle School. Trying to be creative to find needed field spaces.
- Rugby was using Auburn facilities with turf and lighting. Injuries increase for rugby when played on artificial turf, especially for more physical older age groups. They'd prefer grass but that's limited by wet conditions. Only has one field for all teams.
- Raptors Football dates need to be flexible due to limited field availability and weather conditions that delay play time.
- Mt Rainier Football Club mostly uses the School's fields with practice occurring in other cities.
- Little League cites that level of care for field conditions has bigger impact than number of available fields. Schools have not kept up the desired level of care for infields, creating challenge for safe play. LL is looking at Game Farm Park for more field use.

#### Coordination / Opportunities

- All groups cited that coordination across all youth sports would benefit everyone. Integrating dates, field facilities, timing, etc. could help save time of volunteers trying to find facilities
- A coalition group could consolidate the significant volunteer resources associated with each sports group.
- Unified collaboration could help sports groups when undergoing typical cyclical leadership changes.
- Fields with only 50-yard areas are okay for football practices, for example.
- Disc golf courses would need acreage (not just fields) with some trees, parking, portable restrooms & trash
  cans.
- Little League is ready to coordinate with other sports groups and has a strong volunteer resource to help with maintaining facilities.
- If all sports groups work together they can get more traction and be part of a bigger coalition with more manpower available.

#### **Facility Improvements**

- Grass vs artificial turf: grass better for rugby but limited by typical wet conditions where play can destroy
  fields. Turf good for longer seasonal play, and wet weather where play can continue without affecting field
  condition.
- Muddy grass fields don't hold up for practices.
- Dirt ball diamonds have been neglected and maintenance has been lacking on many school facilities. Allan Yorke Park is in better condition. If upkeep were better across all facilities there would be more capacity.
- Challenger Program (Little League) needs to ensure wheelchair access.
- Parking may be in short supply for fields not associated with schools or developed parks, especially where
  younger kids are involved since multiple family members often come to watch.
- Allan Yorke Park is great but during boating season the congestion is a big constraint for sports field activities.





#### **Discussion Notes (continued)**

#### **Future Project Ideas**

- A private/public partnership to create a multi-sport park like The RAC, Marymoor Park or Celebration Park.
- Combine all our resources to accommodate the rapid residential growth and meet the growing demand for youth sports.
- An indoor-outdoor multi-sport facility could support tournaments and be revenue-generating.
- "Stay & Play" is a big deal for sports groups.
- Six new multi-use fields could be enough to meet the current and immediate future demand for sports facilities. With artificial turf and lighting. Ballfield design should support variety of age groups (base spacing).
- Raptors only want one more rugby field.

#### Follow-up

Participants were asked to provide data on their current fields used for practice and games, numbers of players for past 5 years and their age groups. The percentage of Bonney Lake participants in their programs was also requested. This requested data will be combined with the inputs from this discussion.





## STAKEHOLDER GROUP DISCUSSION NOTES

Project Name: Bonney Lake PTRO Plan Update Project No.: Proj-#22-146PLN

Location: MS Teams Teleconference Interview Date: September 20, 2023 Time: 12:00 pm

**Notes by:** Jean Akers, Conservation Technix

Participants: Brandon Bradshaw, NW Disc Golf Assoc. Doug Clevenger, Mt Rainier Football Club

Chelsea Colom, Lake Tapps Lacrosse Club

Jason Sullivan, City of Bonney Lake

Tyson Goodnight, Raptors Youth Football

Leslie Harris, City of Bonney Lake

& Cheer Leslie Harris, City of Bonney Lake

Amanda Bailey, MxM Landscape Architecture
Andy Ramsey, Rainier Jr Rugby Club

Jean Akers, Conservation Technix Scott Nall, Mt Rainier Football Club

Subject: Sports Group Stakeholder Discussion

#### **PURPOSE**

To discuss current progress in the park and recreation system planning process relative to sports facilities and programming in Bonney Lake with representatives from a variety of sports leagues, clubs and programs. This was the second session with these participants. This meeting took place on September 20, 2023 via a MS Teams teleconference from 12:00-1:00pm.

#### DISCUSSION

The discussion began with a brief introduction and a reminder of the City's Parks, Trails, Recreation and Open Space (PTRO) Plan process. A short recap of the take-aways from the previous sports stakeholder meeting in April was shared as well as the key findings of the community survey. MxM presented the current status for concept development for master plan design for the four specific parks (Allan Yorke, Cedarview, Midtown and Victor Falls Parks). For each park, the results of summer tabling and survey of programming options was shared as the general guide for what amenities and facilities should be considered in each park's future development.

General reactions to the concepts were positive. Specific questions and comments relative to each park concept are listed below.

#### Allan Yorke Park Comments

- Allan Yorke Park should be sure to keep sports fields in the mix of amenities since it helps bring in visitors, wanting to stay and spend more time & money.
- Adding new amenities and retaining sports fields at Allan Yorke Park would be good for attracting a wider range of families. Balance limited space with a growing community, and decide how to accommodate everyone.

Discussion Notes 1 September 20, 2023



#### **Discussion Notes (continued)**

 Road capacity, parking capacity, and traffic impacts were listed as challenges to accessing Allan York sports fields.

#### **Midtown Park Comments**

• Brandon was pleased with the 9-hole disc golf proposal at Midtown but shared that an 18-hole course is always preferred to attract more users.

#### **Cedarview Park Comments**

- Practice field variables were discussed with mention of traffic relative to after-school/evening practices and the road capacity limiting their viability as good options for practice fields.
- Restrooms would be good support for practice field.

#### Victor Falls Park Comments

- The status of the existing residential house was questioned.
- Doug offered to share contact information with the City so they could connect with the former property owner to explore the variables of retaining repurposing, or removing the house. This historic information could help inform the programming and layout for the master plan.

#### Other Considerations

- The Reed Farm property was discussed as the location for a future sports field public/private partnership to develop a sports field complex on the 20-acre site.
- Scott questioned the community survey methods and communications. Jason shared the myriad of ways folks were solicited.
- Scott shared that as a group, the sports community finds the need to have 23 fields in payable condition to meet the demands of all youth sports programming. (This number goes beyond the city limits of Bonney Lake.)
- Chelsea inquired about the future rental rates and reservation policies for new field use. Jason responded that it's too early to tell.
- Lacrosse is fighting for space/fields/facilities.
- Could sports leagues have "dedicated" facilities that would allow for focused investment?
- Sports groups want sports facilities and destination parks; how to do everything for everyone...?
- Can Bonney Lake have enough enhanced sports fields to support tournaments to gain more economic value?
- Jason shared that the County was undergoing the master plan for its 80-acre park, and sports groups should weigh-in with that process.

#### Next steps

- Scott offered to help organize the private sports groups into a collaborative entity to help each other, share resources and present a stronger unified voice for advocating for space and opportunity.
- The group was reminded about the upcoming Open House on October 18th.
- The draft plan should be available for review sometime in the late fall.

-- End of Notes --

Discussion Notes 2 September 20, 2023



# Appendix E Park Site Assessment Summaries

## DRAFT





# **ALLAN YORKE PARK**

32.9 acres Community Park

### **Design Opportunities:**

- Redesign options being considered as part of this planning process to explore ways to cope with crowding, carrying capacity, experiential and infrastructure issues.
- Expansion of beach access and space, along with safer crossings of the roadway.
- Clear wayfinding and site maps to help the visitor replacement.
- Consider replacement or consolidation of the existing snack shack.

## **Management Considerations:**

- Landscape beds within the park (particularly in the parking lots) are planted primarily with ornamental plant species, many of which are nonnative. As park agencies become more aware of their role in providing wildlife habitat and adapting to more climate resilience, the shift to predominantly native plant species has become both policy and practice.
- Handicapped parking signs are missing from stall nearest playground. ADA-compliant sign should be added.
- Stormdrain is located in the crosswalk from main parking areas to the beach. Localized ponding here creates a barrier to beach access. Once onto the beach side of the street, there is not an accessible path to the beach.
- Beach does not appear to comply with recently adopted ADA standards for accessible recreation.

- Ballfields (4)
- Band platform
- Basketball
- BBQ grills
- Benches
- Boat ramp shore launch
- Boat trailer parking
- Concession building
- Crosswalk signals
- Dog waste bag dispensers
- Drinking fountains with footwash
- Fee station for boat trailer parking
- Irrigation
- Kiosks
- Lakefront swimming area
- Lifevest loan cabinet
- Lighting
- Memorial to drowning victims
- Natural wooded area
- Parking
- Picnic shelters
- Picnic tables
- Playground



### Amenities (cont.):

- Portable toilets
- Restrooms (seasonally open)
- Sand volleyball
- Skate park
- Storage containers
- Storage yard
- Tennis (2 courts)
- Trail through natural area connects ballfield to 195th Ave Ct E (0.22 miles)
- Trash receptacles
- Watercraft rentals (seasonal)
- Wooded area with shelter

## **Management Considerations (cont.):**

- Consider raising the height of the baseball fences adjacent to the parking lots.
- Parking lot striping (in both parking lots) has faded and needs repainting to create more visible stall markings.
- The restrooms are closed for the season but the replacement portable toilets do not include a handicapped portable as required by ADA guidelines. Replace one of the portables with an ADA-compliant unit.
- The snack shack's rear wall appears to be completely rotted through.
- The hedge between the playground and the adjacent parking lot (south of playground) blocks visibility between the playground and the parking lot not a recommended situation considering CPTED (crime prevention through environmental design) principles. Better visibility should be considered and the hedge (or at least part of it) should be removed.
- Tennis courts are developing cracks which affect playing condition and need to be scheduled for resurfacing. Basketball court has minor hairline cracks and are still playable but need court lines to be painted.
- Benches/bleachers are not ADA compliant (push up bars) around baseball fields.
- Entrances for tennis courts and skate park are not reasonably accessible with very narrow fencing gaps.
- Entrance pathway to shelter in the woods needs to be paved to be universally accessible.
- Entry to pathway through woods is a bit foreboding. Add wayfinding signage and maps so people know where trails go. Vegetation management would also help.



## DRAFT









# **CEDARVIEW PARK**

32.9 acres Regional

### **Design Opportunities:**

 Park has room for a few additional recreational amenities. Future planning for playground equipment replacement should be part of long-term capital facilities planning.

## **Management Considerations:**

- Tot swing needs safety belt replacement.
- Basketball court needs striping to mark court lines and will need resurfacing in a few years.
- Note that the park has several cedar trees, which are experiencing a broad decline in the Pacific Northwest. May want to consider succession plantings.
- Baseball backstops fencing may need to be upsized depending on use.
- Playgrounds need ramps to create barrier -free access for ADA compliance.
- Playgrounds should have equipment signage with age ranges for users.
- Bike rack location is not logical for typical park user patterns.
- BBQ and water fountain at picnic are not ADA accessible.
- Stairs to playground and rock retaining wall are missing handrails/ guardrails.

- Baseball backstop
- Small basketball court
- BBQ grills (non-ADA)
- Benches (non-ADA)
- Bike rack
- Dog waste bag dispensers
- Drinking fountains (1 ADA, 1 non)
- Fencing at paved parking area
- Kiosk
- Open grass lawn
- Park sign
- Park trees (pines and cedars)
- Parking (2 locations: one paved, semi-ADA; one gravel)
- Paved pathways
- Picnic shelter
- Picnic tables
- Playgrounds (2) with swing sets (non ADA)
- Portable toilet (non-ADA compliant)
- Stump carvings (public art)
- Trash receptacles
- Vault toilet (closed)



# FENNEL CREEK OPEN SPACE

32.9 acres Regional

## **Design Opportunities:**

- Backyard (private) fences often have back gates for direct access to undeveloped park & Trail corridor. Consideration should be given to addressing private access points to ensure mutual respect for both private and public property. Gate agreements could be formulated to outline expectations, conditions of access, and prevention of encroachment.
- Neighborhood access to the trail and parking is unsigned. From the adjacent streets, visitors would have no idea of park access. Signage would help.
- Develop wayfinding signage along the Trail with indications of distances, destinations, emergency locator system and mileage markers. Show plans for larger connections to regional trails and destinations.
- Improve trailheads and parking for greater access. Add birdhouses to add interest/art and increase continuity with Fennel Creek Park.

## **Management Considerations:**

- No park identification sign at entry. Entrance appears like all the residential units.
- Invasive non-native blackberries encroaching on sections of trail, covering edge of pavement.
- Does the City remove fallen (seasonal) leaves from trail surface?
- New bridges and boardwalks use a decking material with openings that can be hazardous to dogs' toenails. Toenails can rip off if caught in the holes.
- Trail in good condition.
- Consider whether a trail sweeper should be acquired by the City to maintain the trail, particularly during the fall months.

- Boardwalks
- Bird boxes
- Bridges
- Dog waste and litter bins (at north end)
- Ducks
- Fencing at parking lot
- Log benches
- Park rules sign
- Paved Fennel Creek Trail (1.4 miles to SR 410 underpass)
- Picnic table
- Pleasant trickling stream
- SWM wet pond
- Trail to Victor Falls ES (Safe Route to School)
- Trailhead parking paved and ADA



# **DRAFT**







# **KEN SIMMONS PARK**

32.9 acres Regional

### **Design Opportunities:**

- Does Bonney Lake shore launch parcels belong to city? If so, can a trail connection reasonably link to Ken Simmons NH Park?
- No lake access. Ideally park would offer visual or physical public access to the lake. Could a boardwalk with a small craft launch be added?
- Create a more place-based play experience speaking to nature, the lake, etc. Improve accessibility.

## **Management Considerations:**

- User-created pathways into natural area being used as toilets used toilet paper evident at 2 locations.
- Play area has concrete barrier around wood fiber safety surfacing which is not ADA compliant.
- Add a greater diversity of play amenities.
- Kiosk is not maintained with current information.
- Light standards seem strangely out of place for this natural park.

- Bench swings (non ADA)
- Kiosk (has outdated information)
- Lighting
- On-street gravel parking (non ADA)
- Park rules sign
- Park sign
- Picnic shelters (2) (1 table each)
- Play area
- Drainage course/ "Bioswale"





# **MADRONA PARK**

**32.9 acres** (acquired: 2011)

Regional

### **Design Opportunities:**

■ This pocket park has limited amenities and terrible public access. Visitors must use private driveways with no sightlines to the park to access park space up the hill from 182nd Ave E. A small sign at public ROW identifies the hidden space. There is no parking and no sidewalks along the road to get to the driveway/entry. Consider divesting property for replacement park.

## **Management Considerations:**

■ Gravel area by basketball court impacted by neighbor's vehicles – no room for public park visitors.

- Smaller than ½ basketball court
- BBQ grill
- Bike rack (though uncertain if on park land)
- Drinking fountain
- Kiosk (empty)
- No ADA-accessible amenities
- Picnic tables (2)
- Play area with spinner, digger & spring toys (2)





# **MIDTOWN PARK**

**32.9 acres Community Park** 

## **Design Opportunities:**

- Maintain/enhance pedestrian connectivity. Perhaps formalize the connections to the backs of the shopping areas.
- Coordinate connections with existing and future development
- Confirm previously developed site plan to convert this site to athletic fields. Discuss co-location of parking with adjacent large surface parking lots.

## **Management Considerations:**

■ Schedule litter pick-up to reduce trash in forest.

- Alleyoop Trail with "Fit" stops (0.4 mile loop)
- Gravel trail along north edge of SWM basin
- Stormwater basins
- Wooded area with trails



# **REED PROPERTY**

32.9 acres Community Park

## **Design Opportunities:**

- Lots of existing infrastructure (buildings, fuel tanks, fuel truck, stockpiled bulk materials that should be decommissioned or demolished to remove potential hazards. Clearing the site could allow for interim open space uses.
- Hilltop location has potential for capturing scenic views.

## **Management Considerations:**

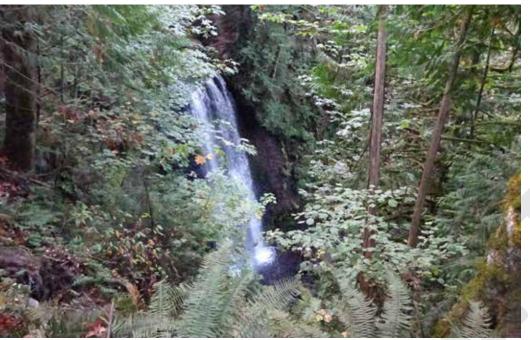
■ Provide a sign at locked & gated entrance to inform public on who (at the City) to call to report any trespassing or issues.

#### **Amenities:**

■ None; undeveloped



## **DRAFT**







# VICTOR FALLS PARK

**32.9 acres** (acquired: 2011)

Regional

## **Design Opportunities:**

- Only a small part of the city-owned park acreage is developed with amenities. A master planning effort will be part of this PROS planning effort to help determine connectivity to lower riparian area and future Fennel Creek Trail connections.
- None of the provided amenities nor parking are ADA-compliant. Consider adding a paved path to at least ½ the amenities.
- Accentuate a sense of arrival and discovery, particularly around views of the falls.

## **Management Considerations:**

- Neighboring private residence has awkward proximity to public park (lots of trespassing signs). A park perimeter fence could clarify park boundaries and avoid public/private conflicts. Interpretive signage appears to be located on neighboring property; clarify lines of ownership.
- Old apple trees from former orchard are exceeding their useful age. Consider removing (or replacing if apple trees are desired) as part of the park's future design.
- Safety at the cliff edge is a primary concern.
- Management plan should include vegetation management.

- ADA parking stall
- BBQ grills (2)
- Benches (2)
- Dog waste bag dispensers (2)
- Fencing at parking area
- Historic Victor Fall sign
- Park identification sign (faded, hard to see wayfinding from the street)
- Park rules signs (2)
- Parking (gravel)
- Picnic tables (5)
- Portable toilet
- Trash receptacles (2)







# **VIKING PARK**

**32.9 acres** (acquired: 2011)

Regional

## **Design Opportunities:**

■ Formalize entry and add several parking spaces to provide some degree of ADA-compliance for parking and entry.

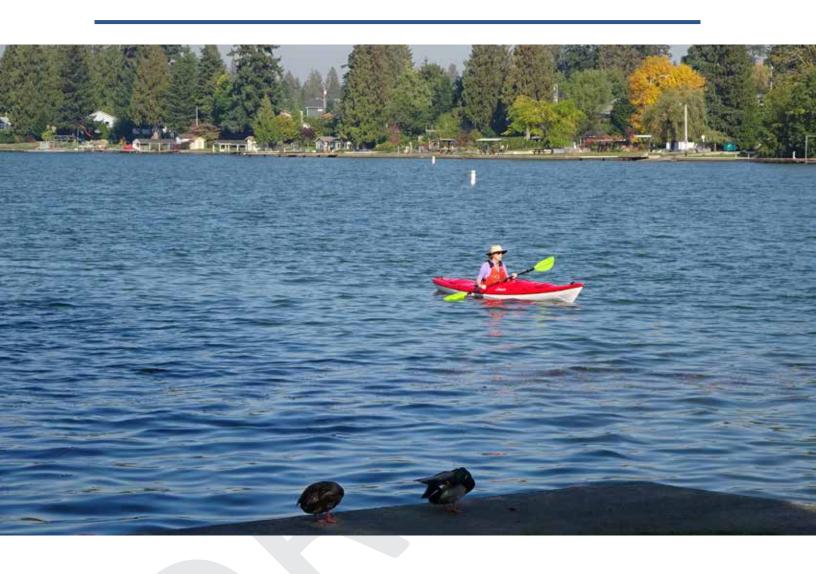
## **Management Considerations:**

- No parking at the site. User must walk or use adjacent school's on-street parking spaces by soccer fields.
- Park appears to contain stream/drainage course headwaters that eventually flow into Lake Bonney which, from aerials, has significant algal blooms.
- Prevalent invasive plant species.

- Bench
- Dog waste bag dispensers
- Double gate entrance
- Fencing
- Lights
- Hydrant
- Park sign
- Picnic tables (2)
- Rules sign
- Trails through woods
- Water for dog drinking
- Wood natural area



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# Appendix F Allan Yorke Park Concept Design Summary

### Allan Yorke Park

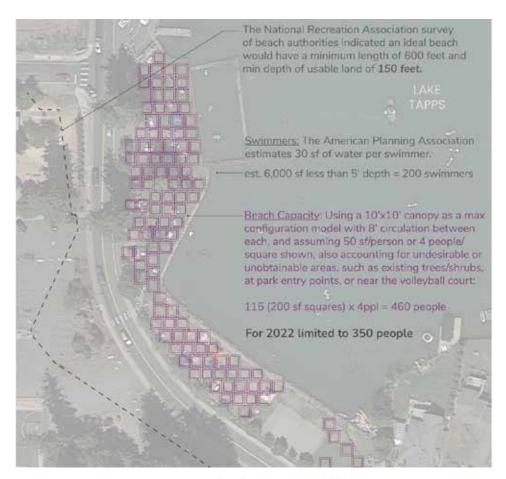
The process for developing the Allan Yorke Park concept plan began with the design team and City staff meeting on site to review current site challenges and also explore possibilities for future improvements at the park. Immediately from this very early discussion the question was raised for whether it might be possible to realign of W Tapps Highway E further to the interior of the park. The thin slice of waterfront green space becomes overcrowded during warm summer months and efforts to contain these crowds pose a number of safety challenges, most especially as visitors cross between the lakefront and rest of the park.

The boat launch was another main area of focus during this initial meeting, with participants sharing essential information on how the current system functions and also insight regarding traffic problems during busier times of use.



Boat launch usage and trailer parking capacity study, as shared with City Council in May 2023.



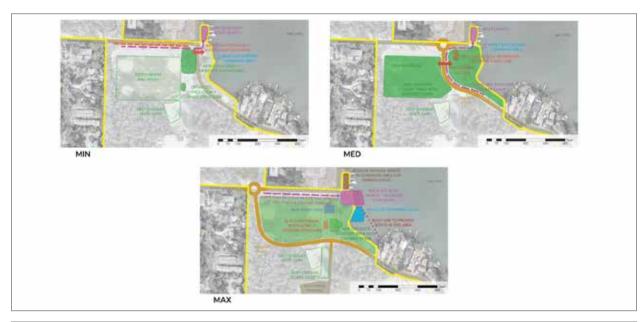


Beach capacity study, as shared with City Council in May 2023.

After a process of basemap preparation and further site analysis, the design team explored a range of possibilities for the site that ultimately were structured into three design options. Labeled as "min" "med" and "max," differences in these plan options largely revolved around W Tapps Highway E, whether it would remain in place, be shifted only slightly west, or more dramatically be realigned to allow for maximum connectivity between the park and lakefront. These options were presented to Council, and once the decision was made to pursue the "max" option work could begin in earnest on the concept design.



Park Narratives: ALLAN YORKE PARK 2



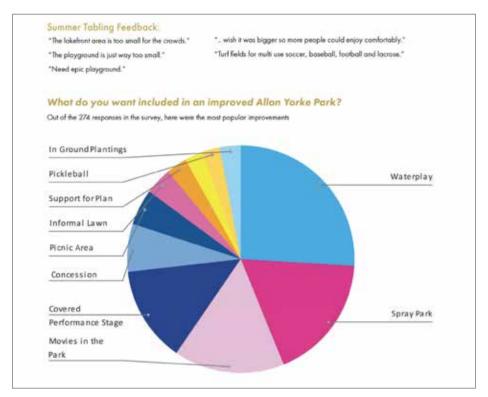
		Improved Waterfront Access	Waterfront Capacity	Improved Boat Launch Access	Boat Launch Capacity
	Current	n/a	1×	n/a	1×
	Min	~	1x + overflow	~	1x
	Med	V	2.2x	~	1x
The state of	Max	~	6x	~	2×

Site design options for Allan Yorke Park, as shared with City Council in May 2023.

Community input played a key role in identifying what program elements and site qualities to incorporate into the park improvements. This input was collected via a variety of means, including the mailed and online surveys, in-person and online open house, plus a whole sequence of summer tabling events. Feedback was also solicited from the PTO Steering Committee and Sports Stakeholder group. Through all of these outreach efforts some clear community priorities for Allan Yorke Park were identified. The community expressed strong



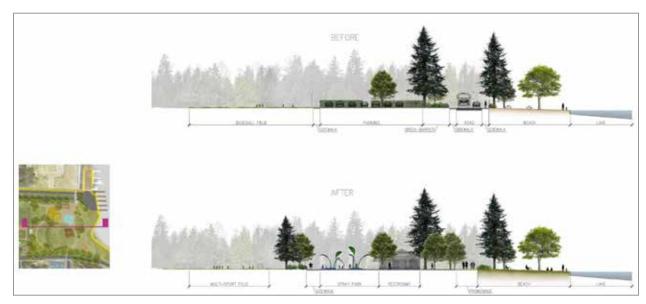
interest in improved access to the waterfront, calling for enhanced waterplay and the addition of a spray park. A covered performance stage that could facilitate outdoor performances and special activities like movies in the park was also supported. Existing facilities like the concession stand, picnic area, and restroom were all seen as ready for upgrading.



Community feedback for Allan Yorke Park, as shared with City Council in November 2023.



Park Narratives: ALLAN YORKE PARK 4



Sections illustrating improved park connectivity as consequence of realigned W Tapps Hwy E, as shared at the October 2023 Open House.



Perspective view of an improved Allan Yorke Park.

The concept plan for Allan Yorke Park builds on the strengths of this distinct public space to offer the community a new range of improved amenities. With W Lake Tapps Highway E rerouted to the interior of the site, a safe and welcoming connection is made between the waterfront and the heart of the park. This waterfront edge features a new boat launch,



improved lake access and picnic shelters, all adjacent to a new spray park plus an improved playground that is served by a new structure holding restrooms, concessions, and storage areas. This cluster of amenities transitions to a more expansive lawn area to be used for concerts and other events taking place on the new covered performance stage.

To the north, the existing baseball field has been converted to a multi-sport turf field that will accommodate a wider range of sports throughout the year. Boat trailer parking has been added to the northwest area of the park, while to the south new visitor parking has been added that is adjacent to the tennis courts that are now restriped to accommodate pickleball.

Ultimately, the PTRO Plan has given the City a chance to rethink long-term needs and opportunities for Allan Yorke Park to make this a significantly improved community resource.

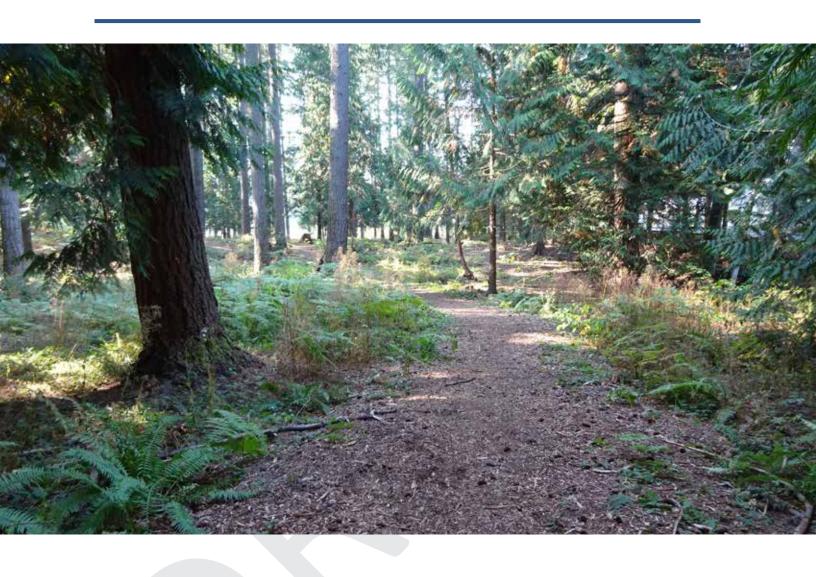


Park Narratives: ALLAN YORKE PARK 6



Final concept plan for Allan Yorke Park.





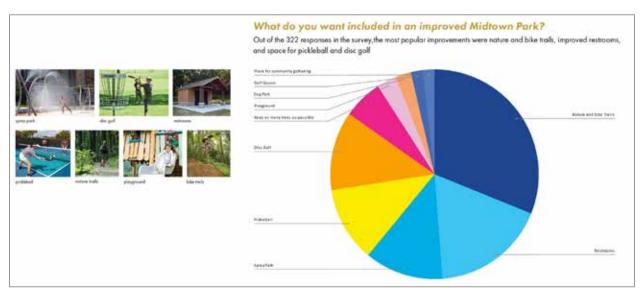
# Appendix G Midtown Park Concept Design Summary

#### Midtown Park

Midtown Park is located behind the Fred Meyer store and S Prairie Rd. The site currently features a large stormwater pond and extensive tree coverage. As part of the PTRO Plan, this concept plan for the park has been prepared based on the feedback provided by the public.

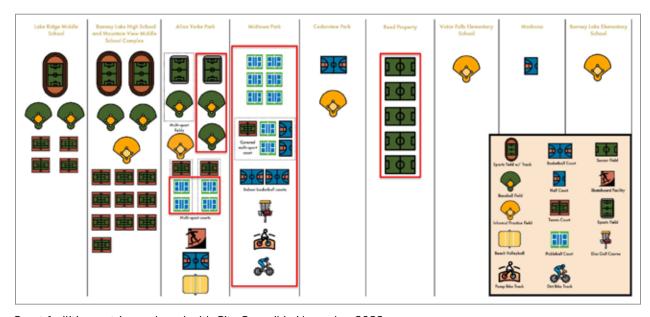
Early in the design process there was a question of whether the site ought to be given over to essentially a single use such as sports fields, or instead hold a wider range of features and supported activities. This choice between these two possible approaches became simple after our public outreach effort.

The community expressed a clear desire to make full use of this site, transforming it from what now is perceived to be a somewhat neglected and uninviting place into a park that feels safe, supports a rich array of activities, and allows the community to gather. There also was interest in maintaining many of the trees and having some of the amenities make use of this forest condition.



Community feedback for Midtown Park, as shared with City Council in November 2023.





Sport facilities matrix, as shared with City Council in November 2023.

With these interests in mind the design team made multiple visits to Midtown Park, exploring its varied edge conditions along the full perimeter while also identifying unique conditions within the site. The existing stormwater ponds were recognized to offer a unique opportunity to create a figure-eight path that could be a destination in itself, allowing for visitors to walk, run, or roll for laps around the forest edge. The triangular patch of land at the western portion of the site has steep topographic change, making it poorly suited for flat paved courts. While some visitors will walk and enter the park from the southern edge, being there on site it is clear that the majority will arrive from the northwest corner that links to the adjacent shopping area.

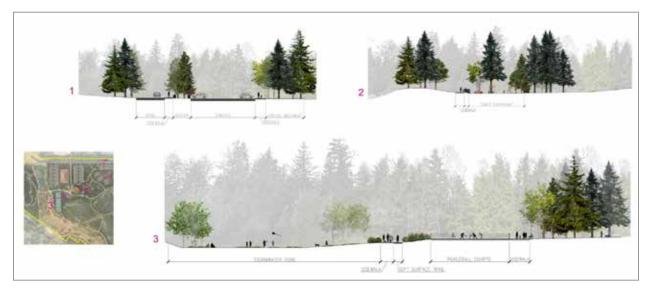




Preliminary programming plan for Midtown Park, as shared with Steering Committee in September 2023.

Linking the expressed program goals with the interpreted site conditions has led to a concept plan for Midtown Park that begins with visitor access at the site's northern edge, with a new community / senior center center anchoring the northeast corner and acting as a gateway to a public plaza, spray park, playgrounds, and restroom. A primary pathway stretching east-west across the site links recreation amenities including tennis and pickleball courts, a covered multi-sport court that allows for basketball and pickleball, in addition to two new sports fields. Further west, mountain / dirt bike trails make use of the hilly and forested terrain, while a pumptrack is tucked into the northwest corner and offers an active welcome to visitors entering the park. Meanwhile, the existing stormwater pond is ringed by a wide path that makes for an inviting circuit used by walkers and runners. A disc golf course weaves through the eastern portion of the site, with additional holes available during dry months within the stormwater basin.





Sections illustrating site conditions at Midtown Park, as shared at the October 2023 Open House.

These amenities are combined to make Midtown Park greater than the sum of its parts, all while fulfilling the requirement to preserve a majority of the site's existing tree canopy.



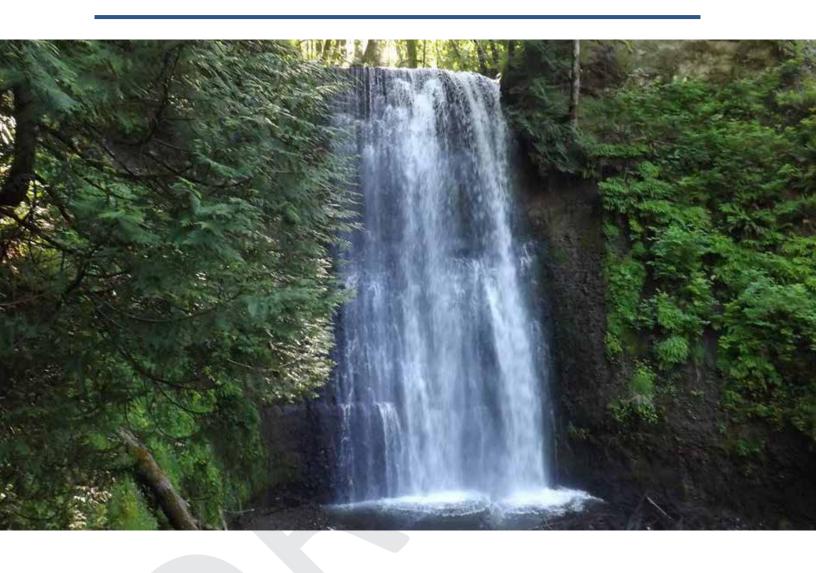
Perspective view of an improved Midtown Park.





Final concept plan for Midtown Park.



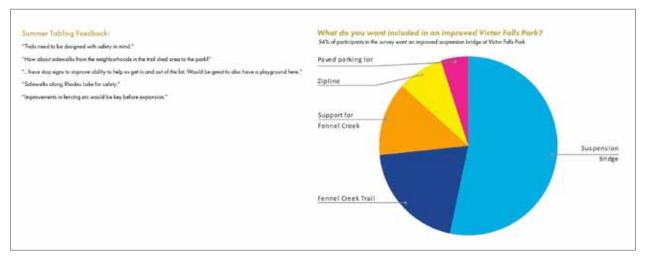


# Appendix H Vistor Falls Park Concept Design Summary

# Victor Falls Park

Victor Falls Park is located along Rhodes Lake Rd near Victor Falls Elementary School. It offers views of 70-foot high Victor Falls. The City has considered a variety of improvements to enhance the park experience so that visitors can better enjoy this site.

When reaching out for community feedback, safety was identified as a high priority both in viewing the falls and also gaining access to the site itself. Imagery of a suspension bridge shared during tabling events received positive feedback, however during later discussions with City staff it was noted Bonney Lake has no existing capacity for maintaining such a feature and the bridge was removed from the scheme. Meanwhile, these same discussions raised concerns about having trail access along the southern portion of the site and in the vicinity of existing spring water collection boxes. As a consequence it was decided to drop the idea of having a loop trail and instead focus on providing out-and-back access in the northern area.



Community feedback for Victor Falls Park, as shared with City Council in November 2023.





A preliminary concept plan for Victor Falls Park, as shared at the October 2023 Open House.

The final concept plan for Victor Falls Park includes improvements to existing conditions while adding new site-specific features. Entrance to the site is formalized with a paved parking lot and small entry plaza. An ADA accessible path winds toward the bluff edge, with a view deck reaching out to provide visitors a direct vista of the falls. A trail running east-west provides additional lookout opportunities, while picnic areas between the main view deck and parking welcome visitors to stay and enjoy the park setting a bit longer.



Perspective view of an improved Victor Falls Park.



Park Narratives: VICTOR FALLS PARK 14



Final concept plan for Victor Falls Park.



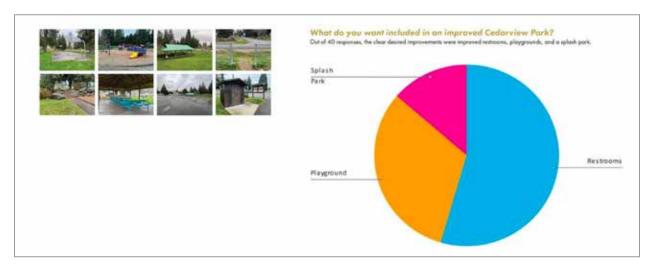


# Appendix I Cedarview Park Concept Design Summary

# Cedarview Park

Cedarview Park is located between 206th and 208th Ave E, where they intersect at 93rd St E. This is a small neighborhood park that is valued but also ready ready for meaningful improvements.

Feedback received through tabling events and open house showed support for maintaining the park's current uses, but with the somewhat tired existing facilities all upgraded. The one main program change put forward was to add a spray park, and this idea received positive support during the outreach events. Adding even a small spray park could be costly, and this site has the added complication of not yet having sewer service, but it it was decided to still set the goal of including this feature to provide cooling play opportunities for this neighborhood during hot summer months.



Community feedback for Cedarview Park, as shared with City Council in November 2023.





Preliminary programming plan for Cedarview Park, as shared with Steering Committee in September 2023.



Perspective view of an improved Cedarview Park.

The final concept plan for Cedarview Park upgrades existing features to improve the quality and capacity of use at this neighborhood park. Access is better accommodated with parallel parking along the west and north edges, in addition to existing parking at the east. A new playground is paired with a small spray park, while the existing pit latrine is replaced by a fully functional restroom. Small new picnic shelters allow for additional groups to gather beyond



Park Narratives: CEDARVIEW PARK 17

the one large existing structure. A covered multi-sport court replaces the existing basketball court, supporting a range of play options throughout the year. The existing baseball backstop is upgraded at the informal playfield, while all of these features are better accessed with improved pathways.



Final concept plan for Cedarview Park.



# Appendix J Summaries of Past Plans

# **City-wide Plans**

# Parks, Open Space and Recreation Plan (1998)

Bonney Lake's early park, open space and recreation plan, adopted in 1998, identified two city parks: Allen Yorke Park and Bonney Lake Park and five open space areas (including open water bodies). In addition, the early park plan included private parks, public schools and special facilities in the recreation facility inventory. City park classifications and standards were based on the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) recommendations for park and recreation development. The City listed mini parks (Ascent Park), neighborhood parks (Bonney Lake Park) and community parks (Allen Yorke Park) as their city-owned park categories. The Plan also named a natural open space/special regional park classification to recognize the Washington State University demonstration Forest even though the City had no control over its future.

The Plan's community survey identified their first priority was a system of trails for walking, jogging and biking. A future trail system was recommended to connect activity centers and connect nearby facilities. The standard for trail provision was stated at a ratio of ½ mile per 1,000 population. The need for park facilities was evaluated for neighborhood and community parks, both existing and into the future. In 1997, the existing need to meet the adopted standard was 14.38 acres (equaling a 9.8-acre deficit) for neighborhood parks and 23.97 acres (with a 2.47-acre deficit) for community parks. By 2017, those deficits would increase to almost 27 acres for neighborhood parks and 31 acres for community parks. The City was also planning a future 21-mile trail network to connect destination within Bonney Lake to the Pierce County trail system.

# 2015 Bonney Lake Comprehensive Plan

#### Community Facilities & Services Element: Parks & Recreation

The Parks and Recreation section of the Community Facilities & Services Element of the City's Comprehensive Plan identified the park system classifications for park and recreation facilities and the park level of service (PLOS) standards. The comprehensive plan also identified the current and future needs for park and recreation facilities based on those adopted PLOS standards and the projected city population growth. Community park acreage and sports fields were identified as the largest current deficits.

By 2035, Bonney Lake will need 69.5 additional acres of community parks to provide capacity for the population growth identified in the Community Development Element. The future development of existing open space sites like Midtown Park will increase the amount of open space

needed by 2035 to 118.86 acres to meet the PLOS for the future population growth.

By 2035, Bonney Lake will need 4.85 miles of new trails. Most of Bonney Lake's trail future mileage will be in the Fennel Creek Trail which will ultimately link westward and eastward with the Foothills Trail. The Fennel Creek Trail, including the spur to Allan Yorke Park, will be about 5.2 miles long. All 5.2 miles should be built by 2035. Fennel Creek Trail includes some short spur trails that will connect to the sidewalk system or important pedestrian destinations such as safe routes to schools.

The Parks and Recreation needs also identified the need for a community center, current recreational programming and coordination with the School District and other organizations, the park impact fee program and anticipated future park maintenance costs for the 2035 parks and trail system.

The adopted Parks and Recreation System Goal in the Comprehensive Plan:

Goal CFS-6: "Develop a cost-effective parks and recreation system that provide a balance of passive and active recreational facilities and pedestrian/bicycle trails through pleasant natural ecosystems at the adopted park level of service standards."

#### **Implementation Element**

The Implementation Element of the City's Comprehensive Plan contains recommended actions that will involve the park system.

- Cultural Arts and Heritage Actions include the incorporation of historical displays, interpretation and designations. The identification of heritage trees within the City is another heritage action.
- Environmental Stewardship Actions include urban forestry programs and restoration plans. Open space acquisition is recommended to identify key conservation, recreation and agriculture land parcels for future acquisition or protection.
- The Economic Vitality Actions include updating the Downtown Center Plan and updating the Midtown Center Plan, both areas contain proposed green spaces or public parks.
- The Community Mobility Actions include directing non-motorized transportation development to complete the Fennel Creek Trail through Bonney Lake and support the connections to the Flume Trail and Foothills Trail. Other actions involve a variety of approaches to improving and expanding bike and pedestrian facilities and creating an interconnected network of alternative transportation (and recreation) opportunities.

# **Bonney Lake Centers Plan (2017)**

The 2017 Centers Plan updates the previous subareas plans for Downtown, Midtown and Lake Tapps. The Bonney Lake Comprehensive Plan included a strategic outcome for the City to focus resources to support these centers for regional growth. The three centers are classified under Pierce County's planning policies as Centers of Local Importance (CoLIs). This Centers Plan supports the shift to a classification of Countywide Center as these centers concentrate their future development. The Midtown Center already serves regional needs for retail and commercial development. Allan Yorke Park, which is located in the Lake Tapps Center, provides a regional recreational amenity. Downtown has the potential for additional transit-oriented development at the Bonney Lake Park and Ride. Based on the Centers Plan's Guiding Principles, all centers will be walkable and connected and have a network of connected parks and public spaces for recreation,



events and social gatherings. The City conducted watershed planning in coordination with the development of the Centers Plan. The boundaries of the three Centers were drawn to incorporate land identified as most suitable for development in the Watershed Protection Plan. The future Fennel Creek Trail will provide multi-modal connections from the Lake Tapps Center (in Allan Yorke Park) to the Downtown and Midtown Centers. One Goal for Lake Tapps supports the development of increased amenities at Allan Yorke Park and improved connectivity to the Lake Tapps waterfront. The Downtown Center incorporates a future civic campus and proposes the planning and development of a community gathering ("civic green") space that can host community events. Midtown Center retains its economic role with a focus on better circulation (including Fennel Creek Trail development), a variety of uses (including Midtown Park development) and the development of a distinct regional commercial identity.

# **Site-Specific Plans**

# Allan Yorke Park Master Plan Summary Report (2016)

A public planning process was conducted in 2016 to update the master plan for further development and potential upgrades and renovations for Allan Yorke Park. The initial incentive was triggered by the need for providing more recreational elements. A series of public meetings of an ad hoc committee with representative City Council and Park Commission members were conducted to refine the program elements and layouts for the preferred future park improvements. The target 45-acre park area included the former city hall, the senior center, public works maintenance shops and yard, existing developed park areas and a recent 5.2-acre land acquisition on the southeast side of the site. The master plan divided the park into four sections (North, Central, South, and East) for focused program and design development. North Park involved relocation of public works facilities, realigned parking areas, additional sports fields (realigned) and an off-leash dog park while retaining the senior center and former city hall. Central Park proposed conversion of sports fields into artificial turf. South Park eliminated maintenance storage yard and added a BMX track, parking and more natural area trails. East Park formalized boat trailer parking, added community gardens, a multi-purpose sports field and parking. The Fennel Creek Trail would connect to the loop trail in the South Park section. The implementation for master plan for the park was divided into four phases with the total estimated cost at over \$16 million.

# Fennel Creek Trail Plan (2007)

Beginning in 2005, the efforts to plan a general route for the Fennel Creek Trail were initiated with an ad hoc committee and landscape architecture consultant that connected Allan Yorke Park to Victor Falls and eventually the Pierce County Foothills Trail and Flume Trail. Portions of the trail within the City would total 5.2 miles. The plan highlighted the proposed alignment for the future trails and its connections to sidewalks and feeder trails. Standards to guide trail construction and an implementation strategy as well as funding sources and grant opportunities were spelled out. Trailhead locations, creek crossings and roadway crossing were identified. A signage plan was proposed for wayfinding and interpretation of natural features and historic sites. The Trail Plan provided cost estimates for construction and priorities for phasing the Trail's implementation.

# **Ken Simmons Park Concept (2007)**

In 2007, a preferred design alternative was developed by Gaynor, Inc for the city-owned park site on the shore of Bonney Lake. The design concept illustrated park improvements including paved pathways, floating boardwalk, trails, volleyball/badminton grass court, parking, play area, bioswale, park kiosk, and small shelter with picnic table. The concept also included a concrete sidewalk along 74th Street East connecting to the WDFW boat launch access.

# Midtown Park Concept Plan (2015)

A concept plan by Bruce Dees & Associates proposed a series of park amenities in the western portion of the city-owned open space. Multi-use sports fields with infiltration areas underneath for stormwater management were complimented with tennis/Pickleball courts, as well as basketball and Bocce courts. A large parking area separated the sports complex from an amphitheater, restrooms and picnic area. An obstacle course was located along the trails in the existing forested area. The bulk of the eastern forested area retained its natural tree cover with a disc golf course and walking paths interweaving the woods. The main vehicular entrance was located on South Prairie Road East.

# Victor Falls Overlook Park & Cedar View Park Geotechnical Engineering Report (2015)

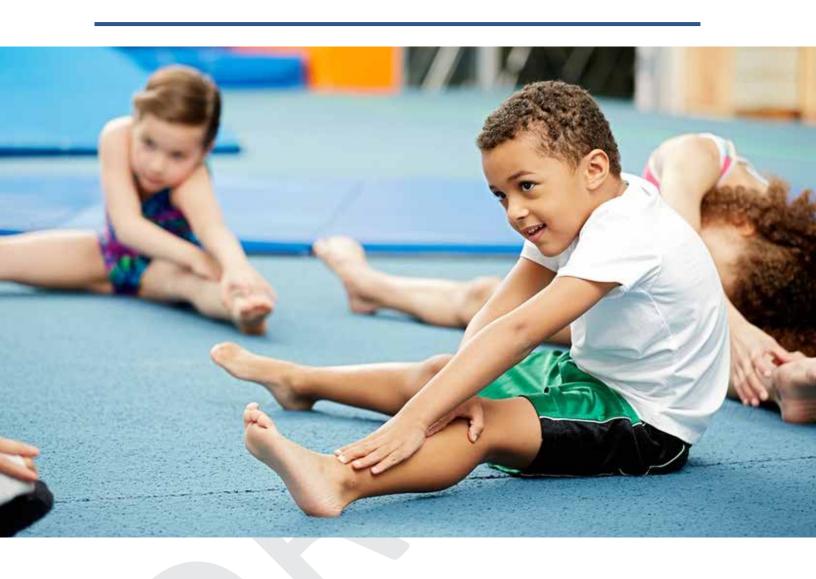
The geotechnical examination of both parks evaluated the feasibility of providing permanent restrooms through the utilization of septic tanks at each site. At both locations, the native subgrade was suitable for adequate foundation support for septic tanks. The Report offered specific technical information to guide the tank support, buoyancy design, backfill material and need for construction observation to ensure proper implementation. The overall conclusion was that both parks could support improved restroom facilities (replacing portable toilets).

# Victor Falls Property Management Plan (2017)

The Property Management Plan follows the acquisition of Parcel #0519081070 assisted by the use of Conservation Futures funding. The City identified three primary priorities for the property including Open Space Passive Recreation, Trails and Corridors, and Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation. This parcel added to the total size of Victor Falls Park, now 22.23 acres. Improvements for passive recreation are cited as paved parking lot, restrooms, ADA access to a formalized viewing area and more intentional trails. Environmental and historical interpretive signage is intended as well. A potential future loop trail is to be considered as well as a trailhead for the south terminus of the Fennel Creek Trail. Several environmentally critical areas are intended to be conserved and avoided during any future trail routing or park improvements. Based on this Plan, more detailed trail plans are required by November 2022. Public access to the acquired park parcel is expected to be limited to trail access due to environmental and physical site constraints.



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# Appendix K Recreation Trends

The following summaries from recognized park and recreation resources provide background on national, state and local park and recreation trends. Examining current recreation trends may inform potential park and recreation improvements and opportunities to enhance programs and services.

# 2023 NRPA Agency Performance Review

In the 2023 National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) Agency Performance Review and its accompanying Park Metrics share comprehensive park and recreation-related data collected and analyzed to inform park and recreation professionals and key stakeholders about the state of the industry. The 2023 NRPA Agency Performance Review presents data from more than 1,000 unique park and recreation agencies across the United States as reported between 2020 and 2022. These resources provide guidance to inform decisions and demonstrate the full breadth of service offerings and responsibilities of park and recreation agencies throughout the United States. This data can offer a perspective for Bonney Lake Parks and Recreation to compare their service provision to other agencies across the country. However, every park & rec agency has its own unique characteristics, combination of responsibilities and community composition. This comparison of nationwide data with the City of Bonney Lake can provide guiding insights rather than target benchmarks. The agency performance report indicated recent trends in staffing and volunteers for park and recreation agencies show that numbers of authorized full-time positions has steadily rebounded since 2011.

#### **Key Findings & Characteristics**

Park facilities and operations vary greatly across the nation. The typical agency participating in the NRPA park metric survey serves a jurisdiction of approximately 45,000 people, but population size varies widely across all responding jurisdictions. The typical park and recreation agency has jurisdiction over 22 parks comprising over 571 acres. When including non-park sites (such as city halls and roadway medians), the median management scale for park agencies increases to 30 sites encompassing 676 acres. Park facilities also have a range of service levels in terms of acres of parkland per population and residents per park. These metrics are categorized by the agency's population size.

#### **Park Facilities**

The typical park and recreation agency has:

- One park for every 2,287 residents
- One playground for every 3,759 residents
- 10.8 acres of park land for every 1,000 residents in its jurisdiction
- 15 miles of trails for walking, hiking, running and/or biking
- 8.9 full-time equivalent employees per 10,000 residents

Figure K1. Median Residents per Park Based On Population Size

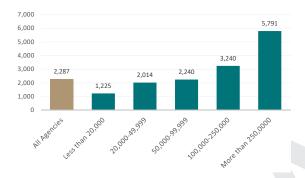
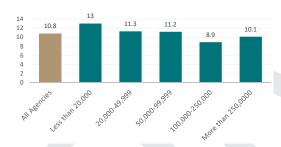


Figure K2. Acres of Parkland per 1,000 Residents based on Population Size



A large majority of park and recreation agencies provide playgrounds (95%) and basketball courts (86%) in their portfolio of outdoor assets. Most agencies (three in five) offer community and/or recreation centers. Recreation centers (63%) are provided more often than community centers (59%). Senior centers (41%), performance amphitheaters (37%) and nature centers (33%) are also common.

The typical park and recreation agency that manages or maintains trails for walking, hiking, running and/or biking has 15 miles of trails. Agencies serving more than 250,000 residents have a median of 89 miles of trails under their care.

Park and recreation agencies often take on responsibilities beyond their core functions of operating parks and providing recreational programs. Other responsibilities may include tourist attractions, golf courses, outdoor amphitheaters, indoor swim facilities, farmer's markets, indoor sports complexes, campgrounds, performing arts centers, stadiums/arenas/racetracks, fairgrounds and/or marinas.



#### **Programming**

At least seven in ten agencies provide themed special events (89% of agencies), team sports (86%), social recreation events (88%), youth summer camps (82%), fitness enhancement classes (81%), and health and wellness education (80%).

# **Staffing**

Park and recreation employees are responsible for operations and maintenance, programming and administration. The typical park and recreation agency has:

- 51.5 full-time equivalent staff (FTEs) on payroll
- 8.9 FTEs on staff for every 10,000 residents in its jurisdiction

Median FTE counts also positively correlate with the number of acres maintained, the number of parks maintained, operating expenditures, and the population served. For example, agencies that serve populations between 20,000 and 49,999 residents employ an average of 32.3 FTE, while agencies that serve 50,000 to 99,000 people employ an average of 75.8 FTE.

Figure K3. Park and Recreation Agency Staffing: Full-Time Equivalents (By Jurisdiction Population)



Another way of comparing agency staffing across different park and recreation agencies examines number of staff per 10,000 residents. These comparative numbers hold fairly steady across population sizes with the median for all agencies at 8.9 FTEs.

Figure K4. Park and Recreation Agency FTEs Per 10,000 Residents



#### **Capital and Operating Expenses**

For capital expenses, the typical park agency:

- Dedicates about 56% to renovation projects and 30% to new development projects.
- Plans to spend about \$8 million on capital expenditures over the next five years.

For operations, the typical park agency spends:

- \$5.5 million per year on total operating expenses
- \$7,823 on annual operating expenses per acre of park and non-park sites managed by the agency
- \$94.77 on annual operating expenses per capita
- \$105,484 in annual operating expenditures per employee
- 55% of the annual operating budget on personnel costs, 38% on operating expenses, and 5% on capital expenses not included in the agency's capital improvement plan (CIP)
- 46% of its operating budget on park management and maintenance, 41% on recreation, and 13% on other activities

# **Agency Funding**

The typical park and recreation agency:

- Derives 61% of their operating expenditures from general fund tax support, 22% from generated revenues, 8% from dedicated taxes or levies, 3% from other dedicated taxes and 6% from grants, sponsorships and other sources
- Generates \$21.71 in revenue annually for each resident in the jurisdiction

# 2022 State of the Industry Report

Recreation Management magazine's 2022 Report on the State of the Managed Recreation Industry summarizes the opinions and information provided by a wide range of professionals (with an average 21.9 years of experience) working in the recreation, sports, and fitness industry.

#### **Partnerships**

The 2022 report indicated that most (82.3%) recreation, sports, and fitness facility owners form partnerships with other organizations as a means of expanding their reach, offering additional programming opportunities or as a way to share resources and increase funding. Local schools are shown as the most common partner (59.6%) for all facility types. Youth-serving organizations (Ys, JCC, Boys & Girls Clubs) and park and recreation organizations were the most likely to report that they had partnered with outside organizations, at 98% and 94% respectively.

#### **Revenue Outlook**

The year 2020 represented a dramatic departure from the norm, with nearly two-thirds (64.9%) of respondents indicating that their revenues for the year were lower than the previous year. By 2021, the number reporting a drop in revenue fell to 26.7%—still a dramatically different result from most survey years, but an obvious improvement over 2020. At the same time, while only 13.4% of respondents saw their revenues increase in 2020, by 2021, more than half (51.7%) were reporting



revenues on the rise again. Respondents were much more optimistic about 2022 and 2023, with 60% indicating they expect to see higher revenues in both years. At the same time, 9.8% still expect revenues to fall in 2022.

#### **Facilities & Improvements**

A majority of park respondents (43%) reported plans to add features at their facilities and were also the most likely to be planning to construct new facilities in the next few years (39%).

The top 10 planned features for all facility types include:

- 1. Splash play areas (21.4% of respondents with plans to add features are planning to add splash play)
- 2. Synthetic turf sports fields (19.5%)
- 3. Playgrounds (17.7%)
- 4. Fitness centers (15.5%)
- 5. Park shelters (14.1%)
- 6. Dog parks (13.6%)
- 7. Park restroom structures (12.7%)
- 8. Fitness trails and outdoor fitness equipment (12.3%)
- 9. Exercise studio rooms (11.8%)
- 10. Disc golf courses (11.8%)
- 11. Concession areas (11.8%)

# **Programming**

Nearly all respondents (96.4%) offer programming of some kind. The top 10 most commonly offered programs include: holiday events and other special events (provided by 57% of respondents); day camps and summer camps (54%); group exercise programs (53%); fitness programs (53%); educational programs (51%); youth sports teams (50%); mind-body balance programs such as yoga and tai chi (43%); arts and crafts programs (41%); adult sports teams (38%); and programs for active older adults (38%).

Respondents from community centers, parks and health clubs were the most likely to report that they had plans to add programs at their facilities over the next few years. The ten most commonly planned program additions were:

- 1. Mind-body balance programs (29.9%, up from 23.4% in 2021)
- 2. Fitness programs (27.9%, up from 25.5%)
- 3. Group exercise programs (27.9%, up from 25.7%)
- 4. Educational programs (25.9%, up from 20.8%)
- 5. Arts and crafts programs (21.9%, up from 17.4%)
- 6. Teen programs (21.9%, down from 23.7%)
- 7. Functional fitness programs (21.4%, up from 17.8%)
- 8. Performing arts programs (21.4%, up from 17.4%)
- 9. Environmental education (20.9%, up from 20%)
- 10. Holidays and other special events (20.4%, down from 21%)

#### **General Challenges**

Facility managers were asked about the challenges they anticipated impacting their facilities in the future. Generally, overall budgets are the top concern for most respondents including staffing (63%) and their ability to support equipment and facility maintenance needs (50%).

With COVID-19's impact on the wane, we asked respondents to tell us about their top goals for their facilities in the coming year. The most common responses centered around increasing participation and membership, as well as building and renovating facilities. Recruiting and training staff, as well as just "getting back to normal" also made up a large number of the responses.

# **2023 Outdoor Participation Report**

According to 2023 Outdoor Participation Trends Report, published by the Outdoor Foundation in Boulder, Colorado, the outdoor recreation participant base grew 2.3% in 2022 to a record 168.1 million Americans (55%) ages 6 and older. The number of outdoor participants has grown over the last eight years, however, the number of outings per participant declined in 2022 for the first time since the pandemic began in 2020. Key Insights include the following:

#### **Diversity**

The recreational participant base is much more diverse than ever before. New and young outdoor participants are significantly more diverse than the current outdoor base and are accelerating quickly. The participation rate for Hispanic people has increased from 34% in 2015 to 56% in 2022.

# **Seniors**

A significantly higher percentage of seniors (ages 55+) are participating in outdoor recreation. In 2022, the senior participation rate hit a record high of 35% and rising. This equates to 1 in every 5 outdoor participants and a total of 1 million new participants in 2022.

# **Gateway Activities & Growth Trends**

Gateway activities, one of the first outdoor recreation activities people participate in at any age, serve as magnets to outdoor activity and commonly lead to more activity in niche categories like backpacking and adventure racing. Gateway activities continue to drive new entrant outings and frequency of participation. Hiking is the most popular activity. Running, bicycling, fishing and camping round out the top five. Running has the highest average outings per runner at In 54 per year. Camping has the highest growth rate over the past three years at 29.1% per year.

The outdoor activity categories with the highest growth rates among kids included backpacking, snowshoeing, canoeing, climbing, and off-road triathlon.

# **Participation Rate Decline**

The frequency of participation is declining across outdoor recreation. In 2013, the average number of outings per participant was 84.6. Over the last ten years, average number of outings has dropped to 71.8 per participant.



Demographics are changing quickly in the U.S. population, and the outdoor recreation market has lagged behind. Park and recreation agencies are recognizing the need for increased diversity in the participant base of park and recreation users. The new and young outdoor participant bases are significantly more diverse than the total participant base, a formula for long-term growth in diversity for outdoor recreation. Monitoring progress on diversity is key to understanding if outreach is being effective.

# 2023 Sports, Fitness & Leisure Activities Participation Report

Prepared by a partnership of the Sports and Fitness Industry Association (SFIA) and the Physical Activity Council (PAC), this February 2023 participation report summarizes levels of activity and identifies key trends in sports, fitness, and recreation in the US. The report is based on over 18,000 online interviews of a nationwide sample that provides a high degree of statistical accuracy using strict quotas for gender, age, income, region, and ethnicity. The study looked at more than 124 different team and individual sports and outdoor activities, including a section dedicated to the impact of COVID-19 on participation results.

Compared to 2017, activity increased by 9.2% in total participation rates. Activity in the U.S. continues to increase for the fifth consecutive year. In 2022, 77.6% of all Americans, or 236.9 million people participated in at least one activity during the 2022 calendar year.

There were more things to do as outdoor activities thrived, fitness at home became more popular, and team sports started back up after the COVID-19 hiatus. Participation nearly doubled for pickleball in 2022, increasing by 85.7% year-over-year. In 2022 for the first time in over seven years, every racquet sport increased its total participation number compared to the previous year.

In terms of team sports, the overall participation rate approached, but did not exceed, the 2019 rate. Basketball, outdoor soccer, and flag football all posted three-year increases of over 4.5%, with basketball leading the way with a 13% increase since 2019.

Lifestyle activities generally remained very popular. Golf and tennis have grown more than 20% since 2019, and yoga grew more than 10% in that same time period. Trail running and day hiking participation grew for the fifth straight year. However, facility-based fitness activities like elliptical, group stationary cycling, and weight resistance machines, which suffered as clubs were shuttered during COVID, have struggled to return to pre-pandemic levels.

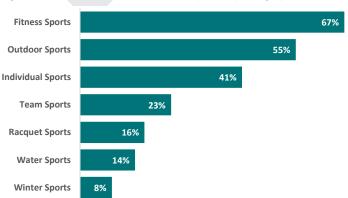


Figure K5. 2021 Total Participation Rate by Activity Category (U.S. population, ages 6+)

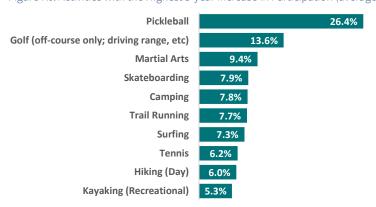


Figure K6. Activities with the Highest 5-year Increase in Participation (average annual growth, 2018-2022)

# Washington State 2023 Recreation & Conservation Plan

The 2023 Recreation and Conservation Plan for Washington State outlines a strategic direction for state investments in the conservation of public lands and the development of outdoor recreation opportunities to help meet the needs of Washington State residents. For 2023, RCO's thirteenth SCORP builds upon concepts and updates priorities from the 2018-2022 Washington State Recreation and Conservation Plan. The plan provides a common, statewide vision for public investments in outdoor recreation and public land conservation. It is the key to unlocking critical federal and state funding and serves as a guide for allocating that funding across the state.

The plan identifies four core values that weave through four strategic priorities using a framework of the Outdoor Action Compass. The four core values act as the four cardinal directions: Equity, Resiliency, Connection, and Collaboration. These core values are RCO's top-tier standards and weave through each of the four priorities, acting as touchpoints for each goal. The core values, strategic priorities, and goals identified in the Outdoor Action Compass will guide the prioritization and distribution of RCO's funding programs for outdoor recreation and conservation.

Each priority has a series of goals that collectively set a course for addressing the most important outdoor recreation and conservation challenges and opportunities in Washington State. The four priorities are

Priority 1	Provide meaningful access to outdoor recreation for all
Priority 2	Protect natural and cultural resources while managing demand
Priority 3	Demonstrate the essential nature of parks, natural areas and recreation infrastructure
Priority 4	Support healthy, adaptable and connected communities

The 2023 Washington SCORP conducted assessments of outdoor recreation demand to determine rates of participation across ten activity categories. Twenty outdoor recreation activities showed double-digit increases in participation rates since 2017. Non-motorized trials, nature and wildlife viewing, camping, paddling, winter recreation, and leisure activities in close-to-home parks are consistently cited as the opportunities Washington residents want more access to. Increasingly, residents are looking for close-to-home access to a variety of developed and primitive experiences that enable the integration of nature-based recreation into busy work and family schedules while avoiding crowds and traffic congestion.



The top four activities with the highest rates of participation were consistent across the state: Walking or Using a Mobility Device on Roads or Sidewalks, Walking or Day Hiking or Using a Mobility Device on Trails, Scenic Driving (Sightseeing), and Wildlife or Nature Viewing.

Participation trends since 2017 were measured in the 2022 Assessment of Resident Demand showing increases in participation in most activities:

- Wildlife or nature viewing increased by 28%
- Paddle sports increased by 28%
- Visiting outdoor cultural or historical facility increased by 27%
- Tent camping (undeveloped area) increased by 26%
- Backpacking increased by 25%
- Playing yard games (in a park) increased by 25%
- Snowshoeing increased by 23%
- Tent camping (developed area) increased by 19%
- Hanging out (in a park) increased by 19%
- Mountain biking increased by 18%

Survey participants were asked what types of outdoor recreation opportunities they would like more of. More non-motorized trail access (79 percent of respondents), camping (61 percent of respondents), and winter activities (42 percent of respondents) led the list of higher demanded infrastructure and activities.

Participants were also asked to indicate the most significant motivators that would increase the amount of time they spend recreating outdoors in Washington. The following were the top five identified factors:

- More opportunities near where I live (79.4%)
- Better facilities near where I live (64.2%)
- More parking (58.0%)
- Better neighborhood access (50.7%)
- More information about opportunities and requirements (48.6%)

As part of the assessments and analysis of outdoor recreation trends and needs, RCO surveyed park and recreation providers, public land managers, and non-governmental organizations that provide volunteers to land managers. The survey results aggregate the responses from land management agencies or organizations (federal, state, county, and city/town respondents), land trusts, and private or other (mostly volunteer) organizations.

#### **Most Important Issues**

Participants were asked about the most important issues for outdoor recreation and conservation in their service areas in the next 3-5 years.

- Maintaining existing recreation resources (97.6%)
- Coordination with other organizations that manage outdoor recreation (94.0%)
- Capacity of facilities to serve a growing population (91.6%)

- Adapting to changing user expectations (89.2%)
- Engaging partners for programming; (85.5%)
- Improving access for people with a disability (85.5%)

#### **Biggest Challenges**

Participants were asked about the biggest challenges for their organizations to address the issues they identified. The following are the top five identified challenges:

- Competing demands for limited funds (89.2%)
- Not enough staff capacity (81.9%)
- Ability to raise local funds for projects (78.3%)
- Lack of political or management support (49.4%)
- Ability to create and coordinate partnerships (47.0%)

# **Management Priorities**

Participants were asked: Looking ahead at demand over the next five years, what types of outdoor recreation sites or activities will be a priority for your agency/organization to provide?

- Expanding community trail systems (79.5%)
- Connecting regional trail systems (79.5%)
- Renovating aging infrastructure (74.7%)
- Expanding the amount of public lands (67.5%)
- Developing nature-based parks (55.4%)

#### **Trail-related Priorities**

Participants were asked about their trail-related priorities for the next 5 years and the themes are as follows:

- Maintaining existing trails (91.6%)
- Planning and coordination with partners (86.7%)
- Providing connections between existing trails (83.1%)
- Re-routing or improving trails to modern, sustainable design (74.7%)
- Creating new opportunities for non-motorized trail users (e.g., hikers, equestrians, mountain bikers) (73.5%)



# **Americans Engagement with Parks Survey**

This annual study from the National Park and Recreation Association (NRPA) probes Americans' usage of parks, the key reasons that drive their use, and the greatest challenges preventing greater usage. Each year, the study examines the importance of public parks in Americans' lives, including how parks compare to other services and offerings of local governments. The survey of 1,000 American adults looks at frequency and drivers of parks/recreation facilities visits and the barriers to that prevent greater enjoyment. Survey respondents also indicate the importance of park and recreation plays in their decisions at the voting booth and their level of support for greater funding. Key findings include:

- Eighty-four percent of U.S. adults seek high-quality parks and recreation when choosing a place to
- Nearly 3 in 4 U.S. residents have at least one local park, playground, open space or recreation center within walking distance of their homes.
- Nine in ten people agree that parks and recreation in an important service provided by the local government.
- Nearly 3 in 4 adults agree that equity should be an extremely or very important goal for their local park and recreation agency.

People who live near parks and recreation facilities are more likely to be park and recreation users. Individuals living near at least one park are much more likely to arrive at that park by an "active" means (e.g., walking, biking, running), with walking being the most common method of transport. Conversely, 80 percent of U.S. adults who do not live within a walkable distance to parks or recreation opportunities travel to those amenities by car. The typical adult in the United States visits their local parks or recreation facilities every other month. Four main reasons for visiting local parks and recreation facilities stand out: being with family and friends, exercising and being physically fit, taking a break from day-today stresses, and being closer to nature. Park and recreation agencies can customize their offerings to the specific needs, wants and desires of their community members by knowing their motivation for visiting parks.

Figure K7. NRPA Park Engagement: Key Reasons for Park Visits

Key Reasons Why We Go to Parks	% of Survey Respondents
To have someone care for my children while I am at work	5%
To learn a skill or craft	13%
to connect with members of my community	22%
To experience excitement/adventure	30%
To be closer to nature	50%
To have a break from day-to-day stresses	52%
To exercise or be physically fit	53%
To be with family or friends	54%

According to the Americans Engagement with Parks report,

"Parks and recreation's success results from its vast offerings of parks, trail networks and other recreation facilities that deliver critical programs for every segment of a community. Each person's relationship with parks and recreation is unique. Some people flock to their local park to stay physically fit, meet with friends and family, or reconnect with nature. Others depend on their local park and recreation agency for indispensable services that improve their lives.

But there remains much work to do. One-hundred million people do not live within a walkable distance of at least one park or recreation facility. Further, many survey respondents indicate they have felt unwelcome at a park or recreation facility or say the infrastructure and programming are not inclusive. Parks and recreation is for everyone — regardless of age, income, race, ethnicity, ability, gender identity or sexual orientation. Professionals, advocates and political leaders have the opportunity to narrow any accessibility or inclusivity gaps through greater community engagement and addressing inequitable funding and infrastructure investments that have deprived millions of people of access to parks and recreation."

# **Outdoor Recreation Economy**

In November 2022, the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) released its annual report on the economic impact of the outdoor recreation industry at national and state levels. The gross economic output for the outdoor recreation economy was \$862 billion in 2021, accounting for 1.9% of the gross domestic product that year. Outdoor recreation economic activity showed an 18.95% increase from 2020 while the overall U.S. economy only saw a 5.9% increase. People finding employment in the outdoor recreation industry increased by 13.1% from 2020 to a total of 4.5 million people.

The research group Headwaters Economics, in collaboration with the State Outdoor Recreation Business Alliance, published a report in 2021 on the state of the outdoor recreation economy nationally. The outdoor recreation industry employed nearly 5.2 million people in the U.S. in 2019 and contributed \$459.8 billion to the economy. The report emphasizes that investments in outdoor recreation directly result in visitor spending that supports jobs, businesses, and industries across the country.

# **Inclusion & Universal Access**

Across the country, local municipalities and park and recreation providers with older public infrastructure have been upgrading their facilities to comply with the outdoor recreation guidelines for universal access and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The removal of existing architectural barriers in park facilities has been ongoing and should continue until renovations, upgrades and newer construction provide barrier-free access to all users. Access and inclusion in public parks extends beyond the physical amenities and incorporates considerations of language, technology, wayfinding, program equity and equitable geographic distribution of facilities.



Park and recreation agencies are in a unique position to champion efforts that advance diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI). By assuring representation of diverse life experiences and voices, park and recreation professionals will better reflect the communities their agencies serve. Inequity is the ultimate challenge facing the nation, and parks and recreation can make a profound difference.

# **Trends in Playgrounds**

Across multiple communities, residents strongly value their parks and recreation facilities and park playgrounds are an important element in outdoor recreation. Reported in Landscape Architect magazine, the top five playground industry trends for 2021 were compiled from data and feedback from parks professionals, landscape architects and educators.

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

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

# **Parks for Climate Resiliency**

Numerous studies have been documenting the contributions of parks and public lands to better climate resiliency. Parks, open space and natural lands can cool urban heat islands, buffer flood impacts, improve water quality and improve air quality. Urban tree canopy in parks can remove air pollution and sequester carbon. Parks and greenways along storm-affected coastlines are being create to help buffer impacts of anticipated flooding due to sea level rise, storm surges, and increased precipitation. Climate resilience strategies involving parks can focus on resilient shoreline development, green stormwater infrastructure and increased tree groves.

As the climate changes, outdoor recreation opportunities and availability can become more

inconsistent. Wildfires, flooding, reduced snowpack and other environmental impacts from climate changes can directly and indirectly affect visitor-use patterns. Recreation planners and managers play a role in climate resiliency by protecting vulnerable resources that can impact outdoor recreation opportunities.

# 2019 Special Report on Paddlesports & Safety

In 2019, the Outdoor Foundation produced a report focused on paddlesports data based on a participation survey (over 20,000 online interviews with a nationwide sample of individuals and households). In 2018, 22.9 million Americans (approximately 7.4% of the population) participated in paddle sports. This represents an increase of more than 4 million participants since the study began in 2010. Over the last five years, there continues to be an increase in paddlesports popularity among outdoor enthusiasts, with significant portions of the nationwide growth occurring in the Pacific region.

Recreational kayaking continues to grow in popularity but may be driving some of the decline in canoeing. The popularity of stand-up paddling has soared, increasing by 1.5 million participants over the past five years, though it does not have nearly as high a participation rate as either recreational kayaking or canoeing.

Most paddlers are Caucasian, other racial and ethnic groups are largely under-represented. However, Caucasian participation has remained relatively flat while participation by people identifying as Hispanic or Black/African American has grown by 0.5% to 1% per year since 2013. This growth has led to more than 773,000 new Hispanic paddlers in just six years, signaling the importance and potential of engaging minority groups in paddlesports.

One in eight paddlers have been participating in the sport for 21 years or more. However, many participants – between thirty and sixty percent, depending on the discipline – tried a paddlesport for the first time in 2018. Such high levels of first-time participation may produce longer term growth in paddling, assuming participants continue to enjoy the sport.

Among adult paddlers, most participate for excitement and adventure, for exercise, or to be close to nature. Kayakers, rafters, canoers and stand-up paddlers often enjoy, or would be willing to try, other paddlesports. Many also enjoy similar outdoor "crossover" activities such as hiking, camping, walking, and nature viewing.



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# Appendix L Implementation Tools

# **Local Funding Options**

The City of Bonney Lake possesses a range of local funding tools that could be accessed for the benefit of growing, developing and maintaining its parks and recreation system. The sources listed below represent likely potential sources, but some also may be dedicated for numerous other local purposes which limit applicability and usage. Therefore, discussions with City leadership are critical to assess the political landscape to modify or expand the use of existing City revenue sources in favor of park and recreation projects and programs.

# Councilmanic Bonds

Councilmanic bonds may be sold by cities without public vote. The bonds, both principal and interest, are retired with payments from existing city revenue or new general tax revenue, such as additional sales tax or real estate excise tax. The state constitution has set a maximum debt limit for councilmanic bonds of 11/2% of the value of taxable property in the city.

# **General Obligation Bond**

For the purposes of funding capital projects, such as land acquisitions or facility construction, cities and counties have the authority to borrow money by selling bonds. Voter-approved general obligation bonds may be sold only after receiving a 60% majority vote at a general or special election. If approved, an excess property tax is levied each year for the life of the bond to pay both principal and interest. The state constitution (Article VIII, Section 6) limits total debt to 5% of the total assessed value of property in the jurisdiction.

# Excess Levy – One Year Only

Cities and counties that are levying their statutory maximum rate can ask the voters, at any special election date, to raise their rate for one year (RCW 84.52.052). As this action increases revenue for one-year at a time it is wise to request this type of funding for one-time uses only.

# Regular Property Tax - Lid Lift

Cities are authorized to impose ad valorem taxes upon real and personal property. A city's maximum levy rate for general purposes is \$3.375 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. Limitations on annual increases in tax collections, coupled with changes in property value, causes levy rates to rise or fall; however, in no case may they rise above statutory limits. Once the rate is established each year, it may not be raised without the approval of a majority of the voters. Receiving voter approval is known as a lid lift. A lid lift may be permanent, or may be for a specific purpose and time period.

A levy lid lift is an instrument for increasing property tax levies for operating and/or capital purposes. Taxing districts with a tax rate that is less than their statutory maximum rate may ask the voters to "lift" the levy lid by increasing the tax rate to some amount equal to or less than their statutory maximum rate. A simple majority vote of citizenry is required.

Cities and counties have two "lift" options available to them: Single-year/basic or Multi-year.

Single-year: The single-year lift does not mean that the lift goes away after one year; it can be for any amount of time, including permanently, unless the proceeds will be used for debt service on bonds, in which case the maximum time period is nine years. Districts may permanently increase the levy but must use language in the ballot title expressly stating that future levies will increase as allowed by chapter 84.55 RCW. After the initial "lift" in the first year, the district's levy in future years is subject to the 101% lid in chapter 84.55 RCW. This is the maximum amount it can increase without returning to the voters for another lid lift.

The election to implement a single-year lift may take place on any election date listed in RCW 29A.04.321.

Multi-year: The multi-year lift allows the levy lid to be "bumped up" each year for up to a maximum of six years. At the end of the specified period, the levy in the final period may be designated as the basis for the calculation of all future levy increases (in other words, be made permanent) if expressly stated in the ballot title. The levy in future years would then be subject to the 101% lid in chapter 84.55 RCW.

In a multi-year lift, the lift for the first year must state the new tax rate for that year. For the ensuing years, the lift may be a dollar amount, a percentage increase tied to an index, or a percentage amount set by some other method. The amounts do not need to be the same for each year. If the amount of the increase for a particular year would require a tax rate that is above the maximum tax rate, the assessor will levy only the maximum amount allowed by law.

The election to implement a multi-year lift must be either the August primary or the November general election.

The single-year lift allows supplanting of expenditures within the lift period; the multi-year left does not, and the purpose for the lift must be specifically identified in the election materials. For both single- and multi-year lifts, when the lift expires the base for future levies will revert to what the dollar amount would have been if no lift had ever been done.

The total regular levy rate of senior taxing districts (counties and cities) and junior taxing districts (fire districts, library districts, etc.) may not exceed \$5.90/\$1,000 AV. If this limit is exceeded, levies are reduced or eliminated in the following order until the total tax rate is at \$5.90.

- Parks & Recreation Districts (up to \$0.60)
   Parks & Recreation Service Areas (up to \$0.60)
   Cultural Arts, Stadiums & Convention Districts (up to \$0.25)
- 2. Flood Control Zone Districts (up to \$0.50)
- Hospital Districts (up to \$0.25)
   Metropolitan Parks Districts (up to \$0.25)
   All other districts not otherwise mentioned





- 4. Metropolitan Park Districts formed after January 1, 2002 or after (up to \$0.50)
- 5. Fire Districts (up to \$0.25)
- 6. Fire Districts (remaining \$0.50)

Regional Fire Protection Service Authorities (up to \$0.50)

Library Districts (up to \$0.50)

Hospital Districts (up to \$0.50)

Metropolitan Parks Districts formed before January 1, 2002 (up to \$0.50)

#### Sales Tax

Paid by the consumer, sales tax is a percentage of the retail price paid for specific classifications of goods and services within the State of Washington.

Governing bodies of cities and counties may impose sales taxes within their boundaries at a rate set by state statute and local ordinances, subject to referendum.

Until the 1990 Legislative Session, the maximum possible total sales tax rate paid by purchasers in cities was 8.1%. This broke down as follows: state, 6.5 cents on the dollar; counties, 0.15 cents; cities, 0.85 cents; and transit districts, a maximum of 0.6 cents (raised to 0.9 cents in 2000). Since then multiple sales options were authorized. Those applicable to Parks and Recreation include: counties may ask voters to approve a sales tax of up to 0.3%, which is shared with cities. At least one-third of the revenue must be used for criminal justice purposes.

Counties and cities may also form public facilities districts, and these districts may ask the voters to approve a sales tax of up to 0.2%. The proceeds may be used for financing, designing, acquisition, construction, equipping, operating, maintaining, remodeling, repairing, and reequipping its public facilities.

Revenue may be used to fund any essential county and municipal service.

If a jurisdiction is going to change a sales tax rate or levy a new sales tax, it must pass an ordinance to that effect and submit it to the Department of Revenue at least 75 days before the effective date. The effective date must be the first day of a quarter: January 1, April 1, July 1 or October 1.

# **Business and Occupation Tax**

Business and occupation (B&O) taxes are excise taxes levied on different classes of business to raise revenue. Taxes are levied as a percentage of the gross receipts of a business, less some deductions. Businesses are put in different classes such as manufacturing, wholesaling, retailing, and services. Within each class, the rate must be the same, but it may differ among classes.

Cities can impose this tax for the first time or raise rates following referendum procedure.

B&O taxes are limited to a maximum tax rate that can be imposed by a city's legislative body at 0.2% (0.002), but grandfathered in any higher rates that existed on January 1, 1982. Any city may levy a rate higher than 0.2%, if it is approved by a majority of voters (RCW 35.21.711). Beginning January 1, 2008, cities that levy the B&O tax must allow for allocation and apportionment, as set out in RCW 35.102.130.

# **Admissions Tax**

An admissions tax is a use tax for entertainment. Both cities and counties may impose this tax through legislative action. Cities and/or counties may levy an admission tax in an amount no greater than five percent of the admission charge, as is authorized by statute (cities: RCW 35.21.280; counties: RCW 35.57.100). This tax can be levied on admission charges (including season tickets) to places such as theaters, dance halls, circuses, clubs that have cover charges, observation towers, stadiums, and any other activity where an admission charge is made to enter the facility. If a city imposes an admissions tax, the county may not levy a tax within city boundaries.

The statutes provide an exception for admission to elementary or secondary school activities. Generally, certain events sponsored by nonprofits are exempted from the tax; however, this is not a requirement. Counties also exempt any public facility of a public facility district for which admission is imposed. There are no statutory restrictions on the use of revenue.

# **Impact Fees**

Development impact fees are charges placed on new development in unimproved areas to help pay for various public facilities that serve new development or for other impacts associated with such development. Both cities and counties may impose this tax through legislative action.

Counties that plan under the GMA, and cities, may impose impact fees on residential and commercial development activity to help pay for certain public facility improvements, including parks, open space, and recreation facilities identified in the county's capital facilities plan. The improvements financed from impact fees must be reasonably related to the new development and must reasonably benefit the new development. The fees must be spent or encumbered within ten years of collection. Bonney Lake currently assesses a parks impact fee.

#### Real Estate Excise Tax

Excise tax levied on all sales of real estate, measured by the full selling price, including the amount of any liens, mortgages, and other debts given to secure the purchase. Both cities and counties may impose this tax through legislative action.

Counties and cities may levy a quarter percent tax (REET 1); a second quarter percent tax (REET 2) is authorized. First quarter percent REET (REET 1) must be spent on capital projects listed in the city's capital facilities plan element of their comprehensive plan. Capital projects include planning, acquisition, construction, reconstruction, repair, replacement, rehabilitation, or improvement of parks, recreational facilities, and trails.

The second quarter percent REET (REET 2) must also be spent on capital projects, which includes planning, construction, reconstruction, repair, rehabilitation, or improvement of parts. Acquisition of land for parks is not a permitted use of REET 2. Both REET 1 and REET 2 may be used to make loan and debt service payments on projects that are a permitted use of these funds. The City of Bonney Lake currently assesses both REETs and uses this funding for various capital project needs.

# **Lodging Tax**

The lodging tax is a user fee for hotel/motel occupation. Both cities and counties may impose this tax through legislative action. Cities and/or counties may impose a "basic" two percent tax under



RCW 67.28.180 on all charges for furnishing lodging at hotels, motels and similar establishments for a continuous period of less than one month.

This tax is taken as a credit against the 6.5 percent state sales tax, so that the total tax that a patron pays in retail sales tax and hotel-motel tax combined is equal to the retail sales tax in the jurisdiction. In addition, jurisdictions may levy an additional tax of up to two percent, or a total rate of four percent, under RCW 67.28.181(1). This is not credited against the state sales tax. Therefore, if this tax is levied, the total tax on the lodging bill will increase by two percent.

If both a city and the county are levying this tax, the county must allow a credit for any tax levied by a city so that no two taxes are levied on the same taxable event. These revenues must be used solely for paying for tourism promotion and for the acquisition and/or operating of tourism-related facilities. "Tourism" is defined as economic activity resulting from tourists, which may include sales of overnight lodging, meals, tours, gifts, or souvenirs; there is no requirement that a tourist must stay overnight.

# Conservation Futures Tax (Pierce County)

Conservation Futures is a land preservation program for the protection of threatened areas of open space, timber lands, wetland, habitat areas, agricultural and farm lands within the boundaries of Pierce County. Conservation Futures funds are used to acquire the land or the rights to future development of the land. The funding for this program is a state authorized / county property tax. The Pierce County Council enacted the tax and all property taxpayers pay 6.25 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value of each Pierce County owned parcel. These monies, identified in the budget as Conservation Futures, are budgeted annually by the Pierce County Council.

# Federal & State Grants & Conservation Programs

# Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program

The Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program, also known as the Rivers & Trails Program or RTCA, is a technical assistance resource for communities. The program is administered by the National Park Service and federal government agencies to conserve rivers, preserve open space, and develop trails and greenways. The RTCA program implements the natural resource conservation and outdoor recreation mission of NPS in communities across America.

# **Recreation and Conservation Office Grant Programs**

The Recreation and Conservation Office was created in 1964 as part of the Marine Recreation Land Act. The RCO grants money to state and local agencies, generally on a matching basis, to acquire, develop, and enhance wildlife habitat and outdoor recreation properties. Some money is also distributed for planning grants. RCO grant programs utilize funds from various sources. Historically, these have included the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund, state bonds, Initiative 215 monies (derived from un-reclaimed 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)

Funding sources managed by the RCO include the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program. The WWRP is divided into Habitat Conservation and Outdoor Recreation Accounts; these are further divided into several project categories. Cities, counties, and other local sponsors may apply for funding in urban wildlife habitat, local parks, trails, and water access categories. Funds for local agencies are awarded on a matching basis. Grant applications are evaluated once each year, and the State Legislature must authorize funding for the WWRP project lists.

#### Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) provides grants to buy land and develop public outdoor facilities, including parks, trails, and wildlife lands. Grant recipients must provide at least 50% matching funds in either cash or in-kind contributions. Grant program revenue is from a portion of Federal revenue derived from selling or leasing off-shore oil and gas resources.

### **National Recreational Trails Program**

The National Recreational Trails Program (NRTP) provides funds to maintain trails and facilities that provide a backcountry experience for a range of activities, including hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, motorcycling, and snowmobiling. Eligible projects include the maintenance and re-routing of recreational trails, development of trail-side and trail-head facilities, and operation of environmental education and trail safety programs. A local match of 20% is required. This program is funded through Federal gasoline taxes attributed to recreational non-highway uses.

# Youth Athletic Facilities (YAF) Program

The YAF provides grants to develop, equip, maintain, and improve youth and community athletic facilities. Cities, counties, and qualified non-profit organizations may apply for funding, and grant recipients must provide at least 50% matching funds in either cash or in-kind contributions.

#### **Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration Fund**

Grants are awarded by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board for acquisition or restoration of lands directly correlating to salmon habitat protection or recovery. Projects must demonstrate a direct benefit to fish habitat. There is no match requirement for design-only projects; acquisition and restoration projects require a 15% match. The funding source includes the sale of state general obligation bonds, the federal Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund, and the state Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration Fund.



# **Puget Sound Regional Council**

#### **Surface Transportation Program Funding**

The Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) helps communities secure federal funding for transportation projects. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (also referred to as the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act or IIJA) is the current federal transportation bill. It continues or expands the core funding programs authorized under the FAST Act, while also establishing several new programs for transportation, broadband, drinking water, energy and the environment. Funding is authorized through 2026.

Every two years, the PSRC conducts a competitive grant program to award FHWA Surface Transportation Program (STP) and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds. For the Countywide STP/CMAQ competitions, the policy focuses on providing transportation improvements to a center or centers and the corridors that serve them. Centers are defined as regional growth and regional manufacturing/industrial centers, centers designated through countywide processes, town centers, and other local centers. Program set-asides include funding for priority non-motorized projects within King County.

# **Other Methods & Funding Sources**

# **Metropolitan Park District**

Metropolitan park districts may be formed to manage, control, improve, maintain, and acquire parks, parkways, and boulevards. In addition to acquiring and managing their own lands, metropolitan districts may accept and manage park and recreation lands and equipment turned over by any city within the district or by the county. Formation of a metropolitan park district may be initiated in cities of five thousand population or more by city council ordinance, or by petition, and requires majority approval by voters for creation.

### **Park and Recreation District**

Park and recreation districts may be formed to provide leisure-time activities and recreation facilities (parks, playgrounds, pools, golf courses, paths, community centers, arboretums, campgrounds, boat launches, etc.). They must be initiated by petition of at least 15% of the registered voters within the proposed district. Upon completing the petition process and review by county commissioners, a proposition for district formation and election of five district commissioners is submitted to the voters of the proposed district at the next general election. Once formed, park and recreation districts retain the authority to propose a regular property tax levy, annual excess property tax levies, and general obligation bonds. All three of these funding types require 60% voter approval and 40% voter turnout. With voter approval, the district may levy a regular property tax not to exceed sixty cents per thousand dollars of assessed value for up to six consecutive years.

# Park and Recreation Service Area (PRSA)

A quasi-municipal corporation with independent taxing authority whose purpose is to finance, acquire, construct, improve, maintain or operate any park, senior citizen activities center, zoo, aquarium, or recreation facilities; and provide a higher level of park service.

# **Business Sponsorships/Donations**

Business sponsorships for programs may be available throughout the year. In-kind contributions are often received, including food, door prizes, and equipment/material.

# **Interagency Agreements**

State law provides for interagency cooperative efforts between units of government. Joint acquisition, development, and use of park and open space facilities may be provided between Parks, Public Works, and utility providers.

# **Private Grants, Donations & Gifts**

Many trusts and private foundations provide funding for park, recreation, and open space projects. Grants from these sources are typically allocated through a competitive application process and vary dramatically in size based on the organization's financial resources and funding criteria. Philanthropic giving is another source of project funding. Efforts in this area may involve cash gifts and include donations through other mechanisms such as wills or insurance policies. Community fundraising efforts can also support park, recreation, or open space facilities and projects.

# **Acquisition Tools and Methods**

#### **Direct Purchase Methods**

#### Market Value Purchase

The City purchases land at the present market value based on an independent appraisal through a written purchase and sale agreement. Timing, payment of real estate taxes and other contingencies are negotiable.

# Partial Value Purchase (or Bargain Sale)

In a bargain sale, the landowner agrees to sell for less than the property's fair market value. A landowner's decision to proceed with a bargain sale is unique and personal; landowners with a strong sense of civic pride, long community history or concerns about capital gains are possible candidates for this approach. In addition to cash proceeds upon closing, the landowner may be entitled to a charitable income tax deduction based on the difference between the land's fair market value and its sale price.

#### **Life Estates & Bequests**

If a landowner wishes to remain on the property for an extended period of time or until death, several variations on a sale agreement exist. In a life estate agreement, the landowner may continue to live on the land by donating a remainder interest and retaining a "reserved life estate." Specifically, the landowner donates or sells the property to the city but reserves the right for the seller or any other named person to continue to live on and use the property. When the owner or other specified person dies or releases their life interest, full title and control over the property will be transferred to the city. The landowner may be eligible for a tax deduction when the gift is made by donating a remainder interest. In a bequest, the landowner designates in a will or trust



document that the property will be transferred to the city upon death. While a life estate offers the city some degree of title control during the landowner's life, a bequest does not. Unless the intent to bequest is disclosed to and known by the City in advance, no guarantees exist concerning the property's condition upon transfer or to any liabilities that may exist.

#### Gift Deed

When a landowner wishes to bequeath their property to a public or private entity upon their death, they can record a gift deed with the county assessors office to ensure their stated desire to transfer their property to the targeted beneficiary as part of their estate. The recording of the gift deed usually involves the tacit agreement of the receiving party.

# **Option to Purchase Agreement**

This type of agreement is a binding contract between a landowner and the city that would only apply according to the conditions of the option and limits the seller's power to revoke an offer. Once in place and signed, the Option Agreement may be triggered at a future, specified date or upon completing designated conditions. Option Agreements can be made for any time duration and can include all of the language pertinent to closing a property sale.

#### **Right of First Refusal**

In this agreement, the landowner grants the city the first chance to purchase the property once the landowner wishes to sell. The agreement does not establish the sale price for the property, and the landowner is free to refuse to sell it for the price offered by the city. This is the weakest form of agreement between an owner and a prospective buyer.

### Conservation and/or Access Easements

Through a conservation easement, a landowner voluntarily agrees to sell or donate certain rights associated with their property (often the right to subdivide or develop), and a private organization or public agency agrees to hold the right to enforce the landowner's promise not to exercise those rights. In essence, the rights are forfeited and no longer exist. This type of easement is a legal agreement between the landowner and the city that permanently limits land uses to conserve a portion of the property for public use or protection. The landowner still owns the property, but the use of the land is restricted. Conservation easements may result in an income tax deduction and reduced property taxes and estate taxes. Typically, this approach provides trail corridors where only a small portion of the land is needed or for the strategic protection of natural resources and habitat. The city purchases land at the present market value based on an independent appraisal through a written purchase and sale agreement. Timing, payment of real estate taxes, and other contingencies are negotiable.

# Park or Open Space Dedication Requirements

Local governments have the option to require developers to dedicate land for parks under the State Subdivision Law (Ch. 58.17 RCW) and the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) (Ch. 43.21C RCW). Under the subdivision law, developers can be required to provide the parks/recreation improvements or pay a fee in lieu of the dedicated land and its improvements. Under the SEPA requirements, land dedication may occur as part of mitigation for a proposed development's impact.

## **Landowner Incentive Measures**

#### **Density Bonuses**

Density bonuses are a planning tool used to encourage a variety of public land use objectives, usually in urban areas. They offer the incentive of being able to develop at densities beyond current regulations in one area, in return for concessions in another. Density bonuses are applied to a single parcel or development. An example is allowing developers of multi-family units to build at higher densities if they provide a certain number of low-income units or public open space. For density bonuses to work, market forces must support densities at a higher level than current regulations.

# **Transfer of Development Rights**

The transfer of development rights (TDR) is an incentive-based planning tool that allows landowners to trade the right to develop a 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 where development beyond regulation may be allowed. Usually, but not always, the "sending" and "receiving" property are under common ownership. Some programs allow for different ownership, which, in effect, establishes a market for development rights to be bought and sold.

# IRC 1031 Exchange

If the landowner owns a business or investment property, an IRC Section 1031 Exchange can facilitate the exchange of like-kind property solely for business or investment purposes. No capital gain or loss is recognized under Internal Revenue Code Section 1031 (see www.irs.gov for more details). This option may be a useful tool in negotiations with an owner of an investment property, especially if the tax savings offset to the owner can translate to a sale price discount for the City.

#### **Current (Open Space) Use Taxation Programs**

Property owners whose current lands are in open space, agricultural, or timber uses may have that land valued at their current use rather than their "highest and best" use assessment. This differential assessed value, allowed under the Washington Open Space Taxation Act (Ch.84.34 RCW), helps to preserve private properties as open space, farm, or timberlands. If the land is converted to other non-open space uses, the landowner is required to pay the difference between the current use annual taxes and the highest/best taxes for the previous seven years. When properties are sold to a local government or conservation organization for land conservation/preservation purposes, the required payment of seven years' worth of differential tax rates is waived. The amount of this tax liability can be part of the negotiated land acquisition from private to public or quasi-public conservation purposes. King County has four current use taxation programs that offer this property tax reduction to incentivize landowners to voluntarily preserve open space, farmland, or timberland on their property.



# **Other Land Protection Measures**

#### **Land Trusts & Conservancies**

Land trusts are private non-profit organizations that acquire and protect unique open spaces and are traditionally not associated with any government agency. Forterra (formerly called the Cascade Land Conservancy) is the regional land trust serving the Bonney Lake area. Its efforts have led to the conservation of more than 234,000 acres of forests, farms, shorelines, parks, and natural areas in the region (www.forterra.org). Other national organizations with local representation include the Nature Conservancy, Trust for Public Land, and the Wetlands Conservancy.

# **Regulatory Measures**

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

# **Public/Private Utility Corridors**

Utility corridors can be managed to maximize the protection or enhancement of open space lands. Utilities maintain corridors to provide services such as electricity, gas, oil, and rail travel. Some utility companies have cooperated with local governments to develop public programs such as parks and trails within utility corridors.

# 2024 PTRO Plan CITY OF BONNEY LAKE, WA



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