

**COMPREHENSIVE
PARKS, RECREATION, TRAILS, AND NATURAL RESOURCE
PRESERVE PLAN 2020**

**Thurston County
Parks and Recreation Department
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**Adopted by the Board of Thurston County Commissioners
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INTRODUCTION

Recreation, the pursuit of leisure activities, enjoyment of the outdoors and preservation of open space, habitat and the natural environment are essential elements in maintaining a balance in the quality of life throughout Thurston County.

The public planning process provides a way to establish a comprehensive plan that identifies existing resources, involves an understanding of community needs and organizes critical information into goals, policies and procedures to implement and manage parks and recreation services.

The Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan: 2010 was a policy plan adopted in 1989 by the Parks and Recreation Department for the purpose of defining existing and future recreation needs of the people of Thurston County. The Comprehensive Plan identified service requirements, procedures, organization and methods by which the Department may coordinate with the Cities of Olympia, Lacey and Tumwater and other communities and Special Districts in implementing a full range of recreation programs, acquiring land and developing the recreation and open space resources needed to support the leisure activities of residents and visitor populations throughout the County over the next two decades. The original plan was updated in 1996. This Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan: 2020 updates the needs and policies defined in the 2015 Plan.

The 2020 plan embraces the County Comprehensive Plan and the policies and directives of Urban Growth Management legislation adopted by the Washington State Legislature, in that parks and recreation is a significant element of county policy and future decisions regarding land use, transportation and infrastructure issues. As acquisition of park lands and preservation of sensitive and unique natural or historic resources occur, the influence of growth within and outside the county will have to be considered in relation to demand for parks.

This plan establishes a basis for encouraging a continued and coordinated approach to park and trail development, natural resource preservation and recreation services considering the incorporated communities, schools, state and federal lands, and the private sector. It also addresses the relationship of recreation and tourism to surrounding communities and the South Puget Sound Region.

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OBJECTIVES OF PLAN

The plan is referred to as a "comprehensive plan" which establishes policies and provides public direction as to short and long-term goals and objectives. Procedures and resources for implementing the plan are identified through the annual Capital Facilities Budget and the 6-Year Capital Facilities Plan adopted by the Board of County Commissioners.

The first objective is to evaluate and establish policies by which the recreation services of the county may function effectively to carry out a park land acquisition program, classification, design and development, recreation programs and services, operations and maintenance, funding and economic performance.

The second objective of the plan is to assess the needs for recreation throughout the county by comparing existing resources and estimated future regional park and recreational needs and demands.

The third objective is to develop a parks lands acquisition plan which includes a program and criteria for carrying out land and park unit acquisitions.

The fourth objective is to define the organizational and operational requirements of the County Parks and Recreation Department in order to manage the needs of the overall parks system over time.

The final objective is to identify through the annual Capital Facilities Budget and the 6-Year Capital Facilities Plan, adopted by the Board of County Commissioners, priorities, procedures, phases and funding sources to implement an acquisition and parks improvement program.

MISSION

It is the mission of Thurston County Parks and Recreation Department to:

- 1) be the steward of regional parks, trails, open space and natural resource lands, and waterways which are designated for the use and enjoyment of the public for recreation and leisure activities; and
- 2) provide recreational resources, programs, and activities throughout the county and promote preservation and interpretation of historical/cultural resources, natural or wilderness areas and wildlife resources.

Through this plan Thurston County is providing for regional parks, recreation and natural resource preserve needs of County residents. The County, while recognizing the need to provide neighborhood, community and local parks and recreation areas in the urban and urban growth areas, will focus its efforts outside the adopted growth management areas. While this focus does not limit the County's ability to work with local communities on less than regional issues and in the urban growth management areas, it certainly sets a distinctly higher priority on regional issues. The plan defines Thurston County Parks and Recreation Department's mission as providing regional parks, public/private enterprise parks, natural resource/preserves and trails and greenways.

In achieving the mission of this plan, Thurston County recognizes the importance of coordinating its efforts with the efforts of other municipal park and recreation based agencies, school districts,

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parks and recreation districts, private industry and other entities with similar missions. In setting this coordination goal, Thurston County participates as a partner to maximize available resources in meeting the recreation, trail and natural resource preserve needs of the entire county.

An adequate funding source for land acquisition, development and operations is a critical element in the County's ability to achieve this mission. To this end, the County will utilize the Conservation Futures Tax as one source of funding for park acquisition purposes, look at defining opportunities for private-public cooperative projects and other short and long-term financing methods, set a high priority on creating enterprise centers and facilities to fund maintenance and operation needs, and analyze carefully all other potential funding source options.

SECTION I - GOALS AND POLICY OBJECTIVES

GOALS:

The following goals provide the general operating guidelines to implement a successful parks, recreation, trail and natural resource preserve program in the county through the year 2020.

- Work with the Parks and Recreation Citizen Advisory Board, the Board of County Commissioners and the community as a whole to define a funding strategy that is realistic and attainable and will place a priority on 1) developing existing park facilities and 2) acquiring those facilities defined as high priorities by the community and not currently or adequately provided or available in the county.
- Develop and implement an acquisition and development program that utilizes all available resources. This program should consist of the use of volunteers, donations, purchasing, leasing or operating agreements to use public or private lands for recreation purposes, leveraging local funds and other resources with state and federal grants, school/park and public/private partnerships and cooperative agreements with other local municipalities, state and federal governments, land trusts and other agencies with common goals.
- Actively seek to acquire, lease and/or establish stewardship opportunities that provide more public access to the shorelines of Thurston County. The mission is to establish marine and aquatic related recreational facilities, preservation and natural resource/wilderness areas, trails and special use parks and any other appropriate uses or access assurances that are consistent with the legislative intent of the Shoreline Master Program. This mission includes considering all opportunities associated with partnerships and joint operating agreements with DNR, the Port of Olympia, and other government agencies at the local, state and federal level.
- Create opportunities to formulate enterprise centers and facilities by developing public/private joint ventures. Establishing landlord/tenant or lease agreements for resource extraction and processing, special facilities, recreation services, concessions and commercial enterprise land use are some examples.
- Develop and implement a Parks and Recreation Capital Facilities Program that focuses on coordinating the acquisition and development of park and recreation facilities and the provision of recreation services with cities and other municipal and private agencies, school districts, land trusts and other organizations in Thurston County.
- Participate in regional planning activities to create, enhance and/or develop roadways and highways to effect the creation of a countywide trails system. Establish design criteria for trails programs utilizing existing right-of-ways, access areas, public utility easements, abandoned railways and natural resource areas such as wetlands, streams and rivers.

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Establish liaison with State Department of Natural Resources and Parks and Recreation and other appropriate local, state and surrounding county agencies in order to establish a trails program and linkages to other recreational resources and destinations in the region.

- Develop regional parks, trails and other recreational resources in suitable locations that serve local and regional populations and tourists and visitors from all segments of society. Coordinate planning and development activity with regional planning, economic development councils and state and other tourism offices as well as local or community chambers of commerce and visitor/convention bureaus.
- Seek to acquire, lease and/or establish stewardship opportunities to protect, preserve, and provide for public education of at risk, sensitive natural resources.
- Pursue opportunities for phased development and public access/use of existing undeveloped facilities when and where appropriate to enable low-impact access to parklands while building support for full site development.

In each of the goals, the Department has the ability to identify its immediate and long term opportunities and develop specific action plans utilizing the regional park, trails and greenways, and natural resource preserve classifications, system level procedures and the departmental policies and various financing options discussed in other sections of the plan.

It is essential that goals established in the Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan 2020 be sufficiently broad to allow the flexibility required in the day to day administration, organization and implementation of the many different improvement programs included in the plan.

POLICIES FRAMEWORK

Policies provide the broad framework that takes ideas and concepts in the abstract and coupled with data and knowledge expresses them in statements of intent and action.

The rapid pace of change in Thurston County suggests adequate administrative flexibility be maintained in policies for the Department. At the same time, such policies should, if different from existing policy, sustain a political basis of support and application to achieving the goals of the administration.

The following policies define the Parks and Recreation and Department's framework for achieving the plan's mission and objectives:

- Develop and maintain procedures for selection, classification and acquisition of park, recreation, trails and greenways, and other natural resource lands.
- Provide for the classification and designated uses of park lands, natural area preserves, trails and other areas through site selection, classification, and systems level planning procedures.
- Provide for the orderly and comprehensive planning of park lands, trails and greenways, recreation resources, natural area preserves and other resource lands through specific site master plans.
- Develop and implement strategies that provide for the orderly development of existing park resources, while acquiring additional park lands to meet community needs as necessary.
- Conserve open space for its natural environment, cultural and recreational values
- Provide public service, non-fee or fee-supported recreation programs and services as appropriate and that meet the needs of Thurston County residents and visitor populations.
- Provide appropriate and responsive recreation services through sound planning. Utilize

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county park and recreation facilities as a base for department sponsored events and activities.

- Develop and maintain a comprehensive maintenance and management program that identifies preventative, remedial and deferred maintenance programs for all parks, recreation facilities, buildings, equipment and other resources.
- Identify and utilize a combination of revenue, non-revenue, public service, grant, private and other financing mechanisms to insure consistent and stable funding sources are available for parks and recreation, including maintenance and operation.
- Develop and foster a program of joint services and use of existing physical resources with other municipalities, schools, community groups, associations, private enterprise and others.
- Develop and implement strategies that provide close-to-home recreation opportunities.
- Encourage residents to assume responsibility for making parks safe by giving them a role in park supervision and/or maintenance.
- Implement strategies that insure that environmental education and management are an integral part of park and recreation policies and programs.
- Encourage recreation programming to include a focus on cultural arts.
- Identify areas of specific legislative need and work with local, county, state and federal governments to identify and evaluate impacts of proposed legislation on the department mission and services and/or to draft new legislation that is consistent with the mission of the department and the policies of the county.
- Insure that all park, recreation and other facilities provide equal recreational and leisure opportunities for citizens with disabilities and the general citizenry.
- Develop and implement strategies for continually assessing the needs of the diverse Thurston County population.
- Insure proper planning for specific needs and demands of the county's population into the future by reviewing the status of the parks plan annually and fully updating the plan every five (5) years.
- As an element of the long-range planning process, the county will explore acquisition of valuable active park, trail, preserve or other properties that may become available on an "opportunity to acquire" basis.
- Park lands to be acquired will be focused on meeting specific needs not met by other jurisdictions and/or the private sector. The size and amount of specific recreational facilities will vary from area to area and for specific park classifications.
- Utilize on-site caretakers in all developed park and recreation facilities as a security and maintenance resource whenever possible and feasible.

SECTION II- EXISTING CONDITIONS

The following outlines existing conditions in Thurston County in terms of available park and recreation facilities.

- **Park Lands and Facilities:** The Thurston County Parks and Recreation Department currently has a total land base inventory of 2,773 acres, which includes 42.5 miles of regional trails. A complete list of the inventory of parklands and facilities is included in Appendix 1. Of this inventory of land, only four operating non-linear park sites are developed with facilities available for public use; Burfoot Park, Frye Cove Park, Kenneydell Park and the ORV Sports Park. These four park sites include a total of 337 acres, of which approximately 249 acres are actually developed. In addition, currently 7 miles of the Chehalis Western Trail and 7 miles of the Yelm-Tenino Trail system is developed. With

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grant funds already in hand in 2002, an additional 5 miles of the Chehalis Western and an additional 7 miles of the Yelm-Tenino Trail will be added to the developed system by the summer of 2003. In total, 23 miles of the 42.5-mile county trail system will be open for public use within a year of adopting this plan. Although the other park sites managed by the Parks and Recreation Department are not developed and officially open for public use, and therefore attendance figures are not available, they are also heavily used by public.

The total attendance of the four developed parks in 2001 was 290,439 visits. In addition, the department estimates over 100,000 people a year use the Chehalis Western and Yelm-Tenino Trails. Other park sites managed by the Parks and Recreation Department, which still get heavy public use, are not developed or officially open for public use. Attendance figures for these facilities are not available. The following table describes the attendance in the park system for the past five years.

PARK ATTENDANCE –1997 – 2001						
<i>Includes only those sites with developed facilities. Does not include annual trail use estimates.</i>						
PARK SITE	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	TOTAL
Burfoot Park	131,054	137,022	128,814	136,735	131,254	664,879
ORV Sports Park	17,322	23,691	23,778	25,987	28,877	119,655
Frye Cove Park	38,805	48,050	36,285	45,075	52,290	221,045
Kenneydell Park	94,000	121,328	78,781	87,771	78,018	459,898
TOTAL	281,181	330,091	268,198	295,568	290,439	1,465,477

- **Cities and Towns:** The cities of Olympia, Lacey and Tumwater combined operate and maintain approximately 1,427 acres of park lands. The cities and towns in rural Thurston County operate and maintain an additional 82 acres of park lands. These local parks that have developed facilities provide a combination of picnic areas, playgrounds, nature study, sports areas, trails, historic sites, active sports facilities and passive areas.
- **The State of Washington and Federal Recreational Resources:** These resources consist of 49,714 acres of forest and park lands and additional waterways and shoreline management acres. As a result of recent and expected ongoing budget limitations at the state and federal level, these resources will continue to decrease putting more pressure on local communities to support their individual community park and recreation needs.
- **Recreation Programs and Use Activities:** Thurston County Parks and Recreation Department program services are organized on a seasonal basis, guided by quarters of the year. The programs include special events, youth programs, sports, ORV activities, community recreation classes, camping activities, recreation services for persons with disabilities and other special service groups, and community education and enrichment

programs. The department, through contract assistance from the Cities of Lacey, Olympia and Tumwater, serves as the regional coordinator of recreation services for persons with disabilities in the county. The cities of Olympia, Lacey and Tumwater provide recreational classes and sports activities as well as nature study, cultural and educational, aquatics, fitness and outdoor activities. Non-municipal groups such as Together!, WSU-Cooperative Extension, the YMCA and other community groups also offer some programs and recreational services.

- **Organization/Operations and Service:** The Department is organized as a division of county government, administered by a director appointed by the County Commissioners. The Board of County Commissioners also appoints a seven member Citizen Advisory Park And Recreation Board to provide valuable citizen input, guidance and advice to the Department and County Commissioners on parks and recreation issues in Thurston County. The Department has a staff structure of administrative services, program service management, and park operations management, which includes the ORV Park. The ORV Park is one of only three of this type of facility in the state and the only one of its kind in Western Washington and draws users from throughout the Puget Sound region on a consistent basis. The Recreation Services Division provides over 156,000 recreation program service hours serving in excess of 8,500 participants annually. The Department currently has 14 permanent staff positions. In addition, 100 or more part time employees are hired to assist in seasonal program and recreation service implementation during the year.

SECTION III - STATEMENT OF NEEDS

A statement of needs, in the recreation planning process, evolves as a determination of opportunities and desires based upon the expressed goals and objectives of the residents and public agencies directly or indirectly responsible as service providers.

Recreation needs can be stated simply as the difference between current recreation demand for land, facilities and program services and the existing supply of these opportunities. However, community needs are much more complex, involving a host of values, perceptions and individual or group attitudes toward recreation and use of leisure time.

The previous Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan 2010 employed surveys of the resident population in four planning sub-areas. Surveys of user-groups, agency meetings and a series of workshops for public agencies and representatives of the community in the four (4) sub-areas of the county were conducted. The Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan 2015 employed a survey in the County Connection, mailed directly to 80,000 homes in the county. The planning process also included a series of three public workshops for local, state and federal agency providers, user groups, school district representatives and the general public as a part of the level of service review, and direct communication of interests by citizens to the Parks and Recreation Department, County Commissioners and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. This plan included the distribution of a survey via mail, handout within park facilities and in the department office, and via listing on the Parks Department Website. The survey was similar to that used in the 1996 update. A listing of the questions included in the survey distributed is described in [Appendix 2](#). The summary of results of the survey is included in [Appendix 3](#). The survey results of the 2020 plan update mirrored the results accumulated in 1996 and the results assembled by the cities of Lacey and Olympia in recent updates of their respective comprehensive park plans.

DESCRIPTION OF NEEDS

Thurston County needs for parks, recreation, trails and greenways, and natural resource preservation of lands are defined on the basis of the highest priority needs of all county residents. Based on public input, it appears that the community strongly supports the county's mission and regional emphasis and the continued need to acquire additional park lands. This input also supports the notion that the Thurston County Parks and Recreation Department should focus on development and acquisition of multiple use trails and greenways, water access sites, athletic fields, natural resource preserves, picnic sites and other developed recreation resources and active recreation facilities.

The major need facing the Department continues to be on developing the current inventory of properties into active park facilities. In addition, a major focus of the County's efforts should be oriented to adequately operating and maintaining currently developed facilities and new facilities as they come on line and maintaining the current Level of Service as the population grows.

SECTION IV - LEVEL OF SERVICE OVERVIEW

The basic NRPA spatial standard of 10 acres of parkland per 1,000 persons, as a level of service, has been refined based on recreation participation rates, needs and preferences to define a LOS goal for Thurston County of 4.5 acres/1,000 population. Thus, the level of service (LOS) becomes a qualification of park and recreation service delivery which responds to fundamental recreation needs of people within a service area. In short, the LOS is a needs driven, facility based and land measured formula, which establishes a set of park and recreation development objectives as a matter of public policy.

Thurston County has a land inventory of 2,773 acres, which is designated for parks, preservation and natural open space. Of the total land inventory, 337 acres or 12.15% of the land, is in four (4) parks, of which, 249 acres are developed and operational for public recreation. Also, Thurston County currently operates 42.5 miles of trails, which involves 825 acres of land, which includes open space, not counted in the LOS figure. The net amount of trail land credited to the LOS is 1.8 acres/mile or 76.5 acres. Thus, the total functional recreation land in Thurston County is 291.5 acres, which provides a 1.4 acre per 1,000 level of service (LOS), using the 2001 population figures (see Table 10 on page 24).

The communities of Olympia, Lacey and Tumwater operate 1,427 acres of parkland and other towns in Thurston County operate an additional 80 acres for a total of 1,507 acres of municipal or neighborhood and community parks. Thus, the combined cities or municipal level of recreation service is 6.2 acres per 1,000, which does not include Thurston County parks.

□ Park Classifications

The established Thurston County Park and Recreation Department's park classifications are consistent with revised NRPA classifications for parks, natural resource preserves, trails and greenways. The classifications expand upon past classifications to focus on park-school sites, athletic fields, public/ private (enterprise) parks, natural resource areas/ preserves and greenways/ trail systems.

The classification system also underscores the philosophy that large urban and regional parks are typically the domain of counties and serve a broader public recreation purpose than community or

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municipal parks. Thus, regional park classifications are appropriate when community and neighborhood parks are insufficient in terms of acres or the facilities required to serve the needs of the area’s resident population. This also occurs where visitor populations create an additional demand for recreation assets.

The Thurston County Parks and Recreation Department’s service objectives focus on four (4) classifications, which support certain recreation categories. Each classification is linked to facility/space standards to which the LOS is applied. This provides a measurement of the minimum service requirements for the population and selected recreation activities provided or administered by Thurston County.

TABLE 1
Thurston County Parks & Recreation Department
Parks Classification & Recreation Categories

CLASSIFICATION	RECREATION CATEGORIES
Regional Parks	League & Individual Sports Passive/Leisure Recreation Enterprise Recreation Health & Fitness Trails & Pathways Water Access Camping
Public/Private Enterprise Parks	Model Sports Athletic Fields ORV Sports Health & Fitness Aquatics Family Entertainment
Natural Resource/Preserve	Environmental Learning Wildlife Interpretation Historical/Cultural Interpretive Trails Visual Recreation Wildlife Habitat Water Access
Trails & Greenways	Walking, Jogging & Running Bicycling Equestrian Interpretive Environmental

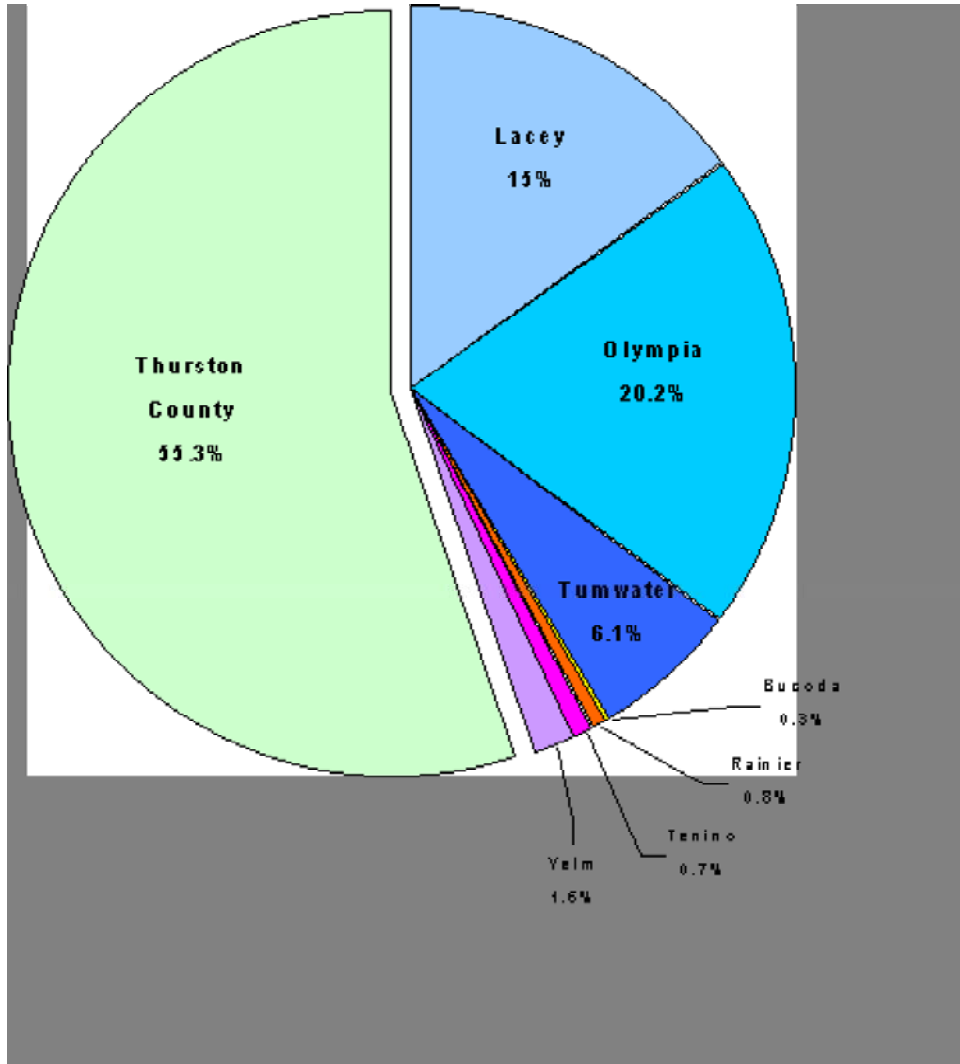
□ **Population & Demographics:**

The 2001 population for Thurston County, including the incorporated communities, is 210,200.

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Thurston County unincorporated areas have a majority population that is 116,300 or 55.3% of the total county population. The following identifies the 2001 population distribution by jurisdiction.

**Thurston County/ Municipalities
2001 Population by Percentage**



**TABLE 2
Thurston County/ Municipalities
2001 Population**

JURISDICTION	POPULATION	PERCENT TOTAL
Thurston County (unincorporated area)	116,300	55.3%
Olympia	42,530	20.2%
Lacey	31,600	15.0%
Tumwater	12,770	6.1%
Bucoda	635	0.3%

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Rainier	1,485	0.8%
Tenino	1,447	0.7%
Yelm	3,420	1.6%
Totals	210,200	100.0%

*SOURCE: Thurston Regional Planning Council
Landerman-Moore Associates*

The Thurston County Regional Planning Council (TRPC) has defined Urban Growth Areas (UGA's) around most incorporated jurisdictions within Thurston County.

TRPC analysis of population trends conducted during the 1990's indicated that Thurston County cities have received an increased share of population. This has occurred primarily through annexation of existing housing areas and not through redirection of new urban growth.

Several urbanizing areas surrounding smaller towns and cities continue to experience high growth rates. The following table identifies Urban Growth Areas and their respective growth rates between 1990 and the year 2000, as estimated by TRPC.

**TABLE 3
Thurston County
Urban Growth Areas
Percent Growth 1990 - 2000**

URBAN GROWTH AREA	PERCENT GROWTH
Yelm	5.0%
Rainier	4.4%
Grand Mound	3.8%
Lacey	2.8%
Tumwater	2.2%
Olympia	2.2%

Source: Thurston Regional Planning Council, Profile October 2001

Urban Growth Areas continue to be a focus of interest in determining land acquisition and the development of park and recreation facilities for emerging populations over the next 25 years.

The following table identifies population growth projections in 10-year increments for 2005 to 2025 as projected by the TRPC. These projections include UGA's as a designated population within Thurston County.

**TABLE 4
Thurston County
Population Projections by Jurisdiction
2005 to 2025**

JURISDICTION	YEAR		
	2005	2015	2025

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Incorporated	103,900	121,100	137,340
UGA's	54,070	72,250	92,900
Rural/County	78,370	91,930	104,030
Totals	236,430	285,280	334,270

SOURCE: Thurston Regional Planning Council

Since age and age groupings influence the type of recreation activities and allocation of recreation facilities to be developed, the following identifies the age profile and age groups of the Thurston County population.

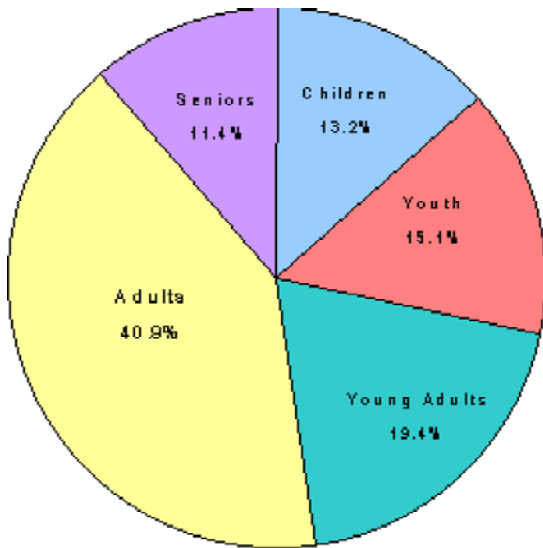
TABLE 5
Thurston County
 Age Profile - 2001

AGE	NUMBER	PERCENT
0-4	13,032	6.2
5-9	14,714	7.0
10-14	15,555	7.4
15-19	16,185	7.7
20-24	13,453	6.4
25-34	27,326	13.0
35-44	34,263	16.3
45-54	33,001	15.7
55-59	10,930	5.2
60-64	7,778	3.7
65-74	12,192	5.8
75-84	8,828	4.2
85 & Over	2,943	1.4
Totals:	210,200	100%

*SOURCE: Office of Financial Management
 Landerman-Moore Associates*

NOTE: The median age for Thurston County is 36.5 years. There are 102,998 (49.0%) males and 107,202 (51.0%) females and 11.4% of the population is 65 years and older.

Thurston County
Age Group Profile by Percent
2001



AGE GROUP	PERCENT	NUMBER
Children - 0 to 9	13.2%	27,746
Youth - 10 to 19	15.1%	31,740
Young Adults - 20-34	19.4%	40,779
Adults - 35-64	40.9%	85,972
Seniors - 65 & Older	11.4%	23,963
Totals	100.0%	210,200

The Thurston County Regional Planning Council and State Office of Financial Management project that annual population growth will average 2.6% over the next 25 years. If these projections are realized, Thurston County will have a total population of 334,270 by 2020. When 2020 arrives, the Thurston County unincorporated area will have approximately 31% of the total population, estimated at 104,030 or 12,270 people less than in the year 2001.

Visitor Population Recreation Demand

The Washington State Business and Tourism Department evaluates travel and visitor impacts on an annual basis. The 2001 reports indicate that of 24.2 million total visitors to Washington State in 2001, approximately 12%, or 2,930,000 visited Thurston County. Of those 2,930,000 visitors, 37% or 1,084,100 participated in sports or recreation activities. Thus, the visitor population places an additional demand on local recreation assets throughout Thurston County and incorporated communities. This “visitor population” demand must be considered in assessing level of service (LOS) policy.

The following table identifies visitor population participation by recreation activity for 2001.

**TABLE 6
Thurston County
Visitor Population
Sports & Recreation Demand**

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by Recreation Activity
(assumes 37% of 2,930,000 annual visitors)

RECREATION ACTIVITY	%	NO. OF ANNUAL VISITORS
Freshwater Lake Access	16%	173,456
Swimming (public/private pool)	12%	130,092
Hiking	12%	130,092
Photography	10%	108,410
Freshwater Swimming	9%	97,569
Saltwater Beach Access	8%	86,728
Power Boating/Sailing	8%	86,728
Freshwater Fishing	5%	54,205
Bicycling	4%	43,364
Bird Watching	4%	43,364
Golf	4%	43,364
Backpacking	3%	32,523
Horseback Riding	3%	32,523
Water-skiing	2%	21,682
Totals	100%	1,084,100

*SOURCE: Washington State, Business & Tourism Development
Longwood's International, Structure of Washington's Travel Market
Dean Runyan Associates, Visitor Volume Report - 2001*

NOTE: Recreation Activities listed are identified in the referenced reports

□ **Recreation Participation**

Registered participation in the combined adult, youth and specialized league/sports activities, which are under county or city administration, are identified as follows:

TABLE 7
Thurston County, Olympia, Lacey & Tumwater
League Sports Registration
Adult, Youth & Specialized Activities
2001

JURISDICTION	PARTICIPANTS
Thurston County	2,665
Olympia	1,828
Lacey	1,965
Tumwater	1,011
Total	7,469

*SOURCE: Thurston County Parks and Recreation Department
Olympia Department of Parks & Recreation
Lacey County Department of Parks & Recreation
Tumwater County Department of Parks & Recreation*

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NOTE: Total registration of 7,469 indicates the number of individuals who registered for participation in a particular sport activity once during the 12 calendar months of the year 2001.

Based on empirical research and statistical reports, keyed to the western Washington region of the Pacific Northwest, the following identifies recreation participation for the activities listed. The participation figures assume that an individual 7 years of age or older participates in a particular activity at least once during a 12-month period. It should be noted that public interest in several recreation activities is common. Thus, the number of persons column does not have a total. What is indicated are the total number of persons that most likely will have an interest in or participate in a particular recreation activity during a 12-month period.

The following table ranks by percent of population, participation levels for selected recreation activities on an annual basis. The data has been analyzed from annual reports by Scarborough Research, Inc., US Statistical Abstract, US Census, National Sporting Goods Association, the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) and other data sources.

TABLE 8
Thurston County
Recreation Activity Participation
 (based on 2001 population of 210,200)

RECREATION ACTIVITY	% POPULATION	No. of PERSONS
Walking	72%	151,344
Movies/ Video Games/ Entertainment	58%	121,916
Gardening	54%	113,508
Swimming/ Aquatics	35%	73,570
Computers/ Electronics	34%	71,468
Home Improvement/ Decorating	31%	65,162
Cycling/ Mountain/ BMX	29%	60,958
Fitness/ Aerobics	27%	56,754
Travel/ Excursions	27%	56,754
Running/ Jogging	24%	50,448
Photography	23%	48,346
Bowling	20%	42,040
Camping	19%	39,938
Basketball	18%	37,836
Collecting	17%	35,734
Baseball	16%	33,632
Fishing	14%	29,428
Golf	14%	29,428
Hiking/ Backpacking	13%	27,326
Model Sports	12%	25,224
Animals/ Zoo	11%	23,122
Soccer	10%	21,020
Boating/ Sailing	9%	18,918
Painting/ Art	9%	18,918

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In-line Skate/ Roller Hockey	8%	16,816
Skateboard/ Scooters	8%	16,816
Tennis	7%	14,714
Pottery/ Ceramics	7%	14,714
Volleyball	7%	14,714
Snow Skiing	6%	12,612
Horseback Riding	5%	10,510
Karate/ Martial Arts	4%	8,408
Football (touch/ tackle)	4%	8,408
Snowboard	3%	6,306
Hunting/ Target Shooting	2%	4,204

NOTE: This table indicates the level of interest in a particular leisure or recreational activity within the total population. Interest in several leisure activities is common, thus, totals of each column are not appropriate.

*SOURCE: Scarborough Research
National Sporting Goods Association
United States Statistical Abstract
US Census
Landerman-Moore Associates*

Using the recreation participation information described above as an element for determining need, and the recreation demand assessment based on existing park and recreation inventory, the following table provides an estimate of resident population user demand by recreation category.

TABLE 9
Thurston County
Recreation Participation Summary
(percentages based on resident population of 210,100)

RECREATION CATEGORY	%	No. OF PERSONS
League Sports	18.3%	38,467
Individual	26.4%	55,493
Passive/ Leisure	93.8%	197,168
Trails & Pathways	72.0% *	151,344
Environmental/ Interpretive	17.8%	37,416
Historical/ Cultural	6.5%	13,663
Senior Programs	5.9%	12,402

* The percent participation used includes all forms of trail use activity combined.

SOURCE: Landerman-Moore Associates

□ Recommended Level of Service

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The recommended level of service (LOS), while measured in acres per 1,000 people, is based on the premise that park land alone cannot meet the full range of recreation needs. Thus, the LOS serves to satisfy a particular set of selected recreation activities, with the space and facilities required to support the functional requirements of such activities.

Considering that the current level of service provided by the incorporated cities/ towns is 6.2 acres per 1,000, and that recreation demand suggests the need for a minimum LOS of 10.5 acres per 1,000, and recognizing the impacts of visitor populations on local parks; it is recommended that:

Thurston County establish a 4.0 acres per 1,000 resident population LOS and a 0.5 acre per 1,000 visitor population LOS. This 4.5 acre/1,000 level of service standard, based on 2001 resident and visitor population data, creates a need for 896 acres of operational park land.

Since Thurston County has 291.5 acres of park land and trails developed and operational, the net increase of land dedicated for park and trail purposes that meets the LOS standard is 604.5 acres.

□ **Park Classifications & Land Allocation**

The allocation of parks, in terms of classification, size and facilities is based on the functional requirements of recreation activities and facilities standards. As previously described, the classification focus for the Thurston County Parks System is:

- **Urban/ Regional Parks**
- **Public/ Private Enterprise Parks**
- **Natural Resource/ Preserve**
- **Greenways & Trails**

The following table identifies the park classifications and total acres required to establish and maintain a 4.5 acre level of service (LOS) standard.

TABLE 10
Thurston County Parks and Recreation
Park Classifications & Land Allocation
Year 2002

CLASSIFICATION	TOTAL ACRES
Urban/ Regional Parks	444.5 Ac.
Public/ Private Enterprise Parks	50.0 Ac.
Natural Resource/ Preserve	***
Greenways & Trails	110.0 Ac.
Total	604.5 Ac.

SOURCE: Landerman-Moore Associates

Note: Natural resource/preserve properties are acquired to preserve a particular ecosystem, environmental community or a unique environmental asset, therefore it is difficult to

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determine an exact number of acres that would need to be acquired to insure the preservation goal is accomplished. The acreages will be determined on a "as needed" priority basis as individual properties are assessed for value.

The recommended additional 110 acres dedicated to trails generates 61 miles of trails, applying a ratio of 1.8 acres per mile. This includes general trails throughout the county, interpretive or nature trails in designated natural areas and trails or pathways within regional parks.

The 1.8 acres per mile ratio is based on a 15 ft. wide section by 5,280 ft. (statute mile) area and does not include surrounding open space or natural lands. Since the widths of trails vary, according to trail classification and design criteria, the total additional acres counted in the trails system will vary accordingly.

SECTION V - PARK LANDS ACQUISITION PLAN

The following parks land acquisition plan identifies the process for meeting the land needs of the County park system:

A Park Classification System is adopted including definitions for regional parks, public/private enterprise parks, natural resource preserves and Greenways and Trails. A screening and evaluation program is utilized by the Department to define a property's priority for acquisition, its compliance with the overall department vision for a comprehensive park system and how it fits into the adopted level of service definitions prior to recommending any acquisition of any park or natural area preservation land.

Acquisition is described in terms of improving use areas of existing regional parks, by acquiring contiguous property and acquiring land for additional regional parks, school/park ventures and public/private ventures. The acquisition program places an emphasis on land transfer, land lease/purchase options and expanding the land area of existing parks with an emphasis toward improvements throughout rural communities and unincorporated areas of the county. Surplus county property will be assessed for its recreational values and transferred to the Parks and Recreation Department where appropriate.

County park lands evaluated as having minimal recreational value to the residents of the county may be considered as surplus and sold. The proceeds from the sale of those lands specifically dedicated or acquired by the County for park purposes will be used by the department to replace converted lands or acquire additional park properties.

PARK ACQUISITION CRITERIA

Park, trail and natural area preserve land, like any other property is acquired for or with a specific purpose in mind. The county has accepted donated properties or acquired lands that ultimately may be found unsuitable for the perceived purpose intended or in meeting current master plan goals.

At the present time, the department has properties which may or may not be questionable as to their suitability for park and recreation development due to either topography, location, size or area in which the land is situated, or which may be inconsistent with existing or future land use if developed.

Also, lands that are identified as preserving a unique ecosystem have been preserved, but the effectiveness of preserving the ecosystem is diminished by the fact that it may be divided by private or other ownerships.

Therefore it is appropriate to utilize a basis and procedure whereby the department can initially examine land acquisition or dedication proposals with some basic criteria, set priorities and take the appropriate actions.

This criteria then serves as the "initial screening" process to establish whether or not the property should be given further consideration.

Such a procedure also provides a basis to be fair and equitable to any individual or corporation who may wish to donate land, negotiate the purchase of land or convey property in lieu of fees.

LAND/PARK UNIT ACQUISITION

As stated in Section IV, there is a need to systematically plan for future additions to the parks system to meet the park and recreational needs of a growing population through the year 2020. Appropriate acquisitions will be considered as specific needs develop.

In addition, the public views it essential to preserve areas of significant environmental, cultural and historical resources. There is also a need to develop opportunities for providing expanded recreational services to residents and visitor populations that encourage the creation of enterprise parks and facilities. These enterprise parks and facilities provide funding to support the costs of acquisition, development and services for the County recreation and parks systems.

Land/park unit acquisition efforts should be conducted as part of the economic strategy of the Parks and Recreation Department. It is desirable to acquire lands that exhibit strong potential for revenue generation, to the extent that the acquisition does not reduce or compromise potential recreation services. The county should use those revenues to leverage the purchase of other lands and/or park development that may have little or no revenue production capability but are essential to the parks and recreation program.

Land transfers with state and local government, lease properties, and dedication of lands to county control help minimize acquisition costs and provide maximum use of existing government-owned properties for park and recreation purposes.

Based on the above points, the following efforts will be undertaken to initiate and carry forward a land/park unit acquisition program.

A. Examination of Existing Park Lands and Contiguous Properties:

1. Every five (5) years, undertake an evaluation of the existing county properties using the needs statements, classification and acquisition criteria, and existing staff reports and information as to surrounding land ownerships and assess each property to determine the following:

- a.) Should the property be sold or leased out because it is no longer

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suitable for natural area preservation needs or parks and recreation use due to not being suitable for park and recreation use.

b.) Should the property be expanded in size in order to meet needs and classification requirements and/or standards.

c.) Should the property be improved to provide for additional facilities or better access.

If the results are item a.) "sell or lease", and the property has been specifically dedicated to or purchased by the County for parks and recreation use, the funds generated from the sale should be dedicated to an acquisition and development fund established specifically for parks, trails and natural areas preserve lands.

If the results are item b.) "expand size", the department should conduct preliminary investigations as to ownership status and costs for acquisition. Where the owner is a city, state, or federal agency, contact with a representative of the agency may be made to discuss the process by which the county may acquire or develop a "land trade" program to bring desirable properties into a higher and better use for parks purposes. If the owner is a utility or quasi-public entity, negotiations for land lease or dedication may be appropriate.

If the results are item c.) "remain the same but improve", then the department may identify a project proposal for budget consideration as part of its capital facilities program and remove the site from the acquisition consideration list until the next review.

B. Joint Venture Acquisition Program:

1. Develop a formal liaison with the school districts to participate in school facilities planning activity and initiate programs for joint land acquisition for school/parks development through partnerships, purchase or lease.
2. Examine existing community park sites and determine if opportunities for forming county/city joint ventures for acquisition are appropriate and determine where the county can participate in the facilities' improvements and operations of the park and/or acquire contiguous land to expand the service capabilities of a park unit.
3. Examine the possibilities for public/private cooperative projects. The formation of public/private relationships in the recreation industry is widely recognized as an effective way to expand services without added burden to the tax dollar. In fact the opposite is true, in most instances new tax revenue is created as well as direct revenues to the recreation service agency. Such "partnerships" between public and private entities are based principally on a public initiative and private incentive. The public initiative may be to provide recreational experience and opportunity, clean up environmentally degraded areas, and create enterprise parks and facilities that will serve to support various programs. Private industry, on the other hand seeks opportunities to invest capital for a return and to increase business development and expansion capability through enterprise and commerce.

Examples of a parks department leasing public lands for the development and

operations of a conference center; recreational vehicle campground; special use parks, such as waterslide or miniature golf; golf courses; marinas and boating facilities; amusement parks; entertainment centers; and so-forth can be found throughout the United States and in the State of Washington. Some public agencies have participated in partnership with private industry to establish mixed-use developments wherein commercial retail, offices, hotel and restaurant, marina, boat launch and land/water recreation programs are carried out.

Considering budget limitations of tax based support for recreation in Thurston County it is appropriate to examine opportunities for utilizing existing public lands and acquiring additional County lands through purchase or land transfer (state to county), especially along the shoreline and mountain forest areas, in order to organize and advance a joint use, public/private program that addresses the needs of both the resident and visitor populations.

C. Regional Parks Acquisition Program:

1. Regional parks should be strategically located to assure the service requirements are met for a given park service area.
 - a.) Define service areas and requirements and land size/configuration based on classification and facility criteria.
 - b.) Examine ownerships of land units in the "target" service area where the park or parks may be desirable and participate in review of community or county planning activity including zoning and recreation/open-space requirements for the areas being considered.
 - c.) Where land units appear to qualify for regional park classification, determine owner requirements and what methods or procedures are to be used in establishing a mutual benefit in acquiring the property.

D. Special Use Parks

1. Regional sports park lands should be given consideration due to the relative need and potential for revenue generation and development of concession agreements.
 - a.) Identify private lands for acquisition and/or dedication.
 - b.) Identify lands owned by the federal or state government that may be "leased" for the purposes of regional park and recreation development.
 - c.) Initiate discussion with agency representatives and political authority to coordinate county service objectives with the governmental land owners to work out specific long-term use agreements and any requirements for sub-lease agreements to concession contractors.
2. Regional historic/cultural park: utilizing the existing historical cultural resource inventory data available, identify those resources that would appear to qualify for

classification and selection. Prepare a ranking for possible acquisition and review with selected state and federal agencies, corporations, non-profit corporations, foundations and granting authorities to form a basis for acquiring such properties through joint funding.

- a.) Examine opportunities for private/public partnerships.
- b.) Examine dedication of historic/cultural sites for interpretive/preservation purposes.
- c.) Examine a joint agency (city, county & state) effort to advance a coordinated historic preservation, interpretive program in and around Thurston County that includes a priority of funding for acquisition through special legislation.
- d.) Examine opportunities for revenue development through addressing tourism activity.

E. Natural Resource Preserves

Within Thurston County there is an extensive amount of land that is presently under the ownership or management of the State of Washington and federal agencies and which is classified as "nature or wilderness" park lands. Other lands that exhibit such qualities are the shoreline; waterways (salt and fresh); wetland areas closer to the cities that have an urbanizing influence nearby or traverse urban development, and other sensitive properties.

- 1. Examine opportunities to develop operating agreements and/or lease agreements for those lands that may be in proximity to urbanizing areas of the county. This would establish local controls on land that can be preserved as open space, nature study areas or conservation areas.
- 2. Develop liaison with the Nature Conservancy, Nisqually River Basin Land Trust, Trust for Public Lands, Capitol Land Trust and other business and industry organizations interested in supporting public acquisition of lands for nature study/conservation and preservation to generate support and participation for an acquisition program.
- 3. Coordinate with the Thurston County Water and Waste Management Department for the acquisition of land and/or development rights to protect sensitive and priority watersheds defined in adopted basin plans, while providing, where appropriate, low impact opportunities for public access, interpretation and/or recreation.
- 4. Continue to chair and remain an integral part of the County's internal Conservation Futures Group to evaluate, assess, and make recommendations on funding acquisition projects using Conservation Futures Funds to preserve and protect important sensitive lands.

F. Regional Trails System:

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1. As defined in the Railroad Right-of-Way Strategy Report, published by the Thurston Regional Planning Council and accepted by the Thurston County municipalities in 1990, aggressively pursue the acquisition and preservation of abandoned railroad right-of-ways for recreation trail purposes. The focus of these acquisition efforts shall be to continue to develop a countywide trail system that links urban and rural communities in the county with the Puget Sound, park and recreation facilities, schools, shopping areas and other community amenities and transportation elements.
2. As defined by the Urban Trails Plan, published by the Thurston Regional Planning Council and adopted by the Cities of Olympia, Lacey and Tumwater in 1992, undertake those efforts necessary to insure a linkage between the urban trail system and the County's overall trail system and master plan.
3. Establish specific liaison procedures with the county Roads and Transportation Services Department and state Department of Transportation to identify use of right-of-ways for trails purposes along existing roadways and highways.
4. Identify "right of use" and access points to water ways for boating trails. Focus on land units that provide opportunity for parking, staging, and access to rivers or streams suitable for trail development.
5. Give priority to lands and waterways under state and federal control seeking opportunities to establish operating agreements and/or land transfers leases or use agreements.
6. Provide planning input to roadway-highway design for parkways, trails, roadside rest stops and retention of open-space where the natural environment, visual qualities and urban areas enhancement opportunities become apparent.
7. Work with State Legislative representatives to obtain funding for land acquisition, development, and maintenance and operation of recreation facilities.
8. Coordinate with local, state and Federal legislative bodies to secure special funding for pedestrian bridges over major local transportation corridors and state and federal highways.
9. Establish a working relationship with the Washington State Department of Natural Resources for joint management and/or transfer of management responsibilities to the county with the goal of connecting the northern and southern portions of the Chehalis Western Trail and consistent local management.

SECTION VI - CAPITAL FACILITIES PLAN

The Capital Facilities Plan is the tool that sets the priorities for park land acquisition and development and also defines the funding resources to accomplish the mission, goals and objectives, and policies of the Parks and Recreation Department. See Appendix 5 for a complete listing of projects and fund sources included in the adopted Capital Facilities Plan.

Park land and facilities improvements are defined through a procedure evaluating individual site capacities, development potential and recreational needs and demands, and by completing site master plan documents reviewed and approved by the Parks and Recreation Board and adopted by the Board of County Commissioners.

General guidelines and standards for site planning for specific facilities and service areas are based on adaptations of National Recreation and Parks Association, Urban Land Institute, Thurston County Parks and Recreation Department and Heritage Conservation Service standard recommendations.

Specific recommendations for improvements to the existing parks and future parks are made for all regional parks and all classifications of the County Park system on the basis of defined local citizen need and demand. This improvement program is defined in the annual Capital Budget for the department and included in the 6-year Capital Facilities Plan adopted by the Board of County Commissioners.

SECTION VII - ORGANIZATION AND OPERATIONS

Departmental services should be expanded to provide a full service parks, recreation, trails and greenways and open space preservation program with historic/cultural and natural resource preservation management and interpretation.

The organization should be structured on the basis of four (4) units or divisions:

1. Administration
2. Recreation Programs and Services
3. Acquisition and Development
4. Operations and Maintenance

Staffing levels will develop as the County's park system grows and work load demand warrants. Monitoring systems will be established to assess work loads and policy and procedures manuals for maintenance and operations prepared and adopted.

Security will remain a primary function of the Sheriff's Department with special units organized such as bicycle or mounted posse patrols and ORV units.

This plan includes a set of policy statements that provide a framework for the operations of the Department. The policies address the following elements:

- Lands Acquisition Policy
- Park Classification Policy
- Planning, Design and Development Policy
- Programs and Services Policy
- Operations and Maintenance Policy
- Economic Performance and Finance Policy
- Legislative and Ordinance Policy

Department policy statements should be responsive to issues facing the Department, but flexible in

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

terms of providing management with guidelines to carry out an effective program that is responsive to changes in the county.

SECTION VIII- IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

The implementation strategy outlines a set of specific actions for the Department to undertake in order to carry out elements of the Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan 2020. The priorities for these actions are as follows:

- Establish authority through adoption of the Comprehensive Plan 2020.
- Establish a priority for developing the existing park land inventory and insuring that the facilities are available for active public recreational use.
- Establish a priority for insuring that existing park lands and facilities and those facilities that are developed in the future are adequately maintained.
- Define a funding strategy and sources of funding for the annual capital budgets and the 6-year Capital Facilities Plan adopted by the Board of County Commissioners.
- Continue an acquisition and development program that focuses on developing existing resources and acquiring the regional parks defined as priorities in filling the needs and demands of the community not currently met by others.
- Prepare the organizational structure of the Department to manage the resources and provide the service levels required by a growing park system and need to operate and maintain facilities and programs effectively in the long-term future.
- Leverage available local, private, grant and other fund sources to maximize the value of available resources in acquiring, developing and managing county park, recreation, natural resource preserve, trails and greenways, and other facilities

See [Appendix 6](#) for a complete listing of strategies to implement the comprehensive parks, recreation, trails, and natural area preserve plan

<p align="center">THURSTON COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT PARKS, PRESERVES, TRAILS & HISTORIC SITES</p>						
<p>PARKS, PRESERVES, TRAILS & HISTORIC SITES</p>	<p>DATE ACQUIRED</p>	<p>ACRES</p>	<p>WATERFRONT (LINEAL FEET)</p>	<p>MARINE SHORE</p>	<p>FRESH WATER</p>	<p>TYPE OF FACILITY</p>
<p><small>Missouri Pacific</small></p>						

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Pioneer Cemetery	1869	2	None			H
Indian Road Park	1940	5	330	X		PA
Burfoot Park	1973	60	1,100	X		DP
Frye Cove Park	1973	86	1,400	X		DP
Guerin Park	1976	41	1,800		X	DP
Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) Sports Park	1977	150	None			SP
Boston Harbor Boat Ramp	1980	1	60	X		SP
Fort Eaton Monument	1982	1	None			H
Woodland Creek Wetlands Preserve	1987	75	5,000		X	PA
Lake Lawrence Park	1988	15	1,200		X	PA/B
Kenneydell Park	1988	18	1,000		X	DP
Louise H. Meyers Park	1988	38	406	X		DP
Black River-Mima Prairie Glacial Heritage Preserve	1989-90	1,020	10,000		X	PA
Johnson Point Wetlands Preserve	1990	26	None			PA
Chehalis Western Trail	1991	109	400		X	T
Chehalis Western Trailhead	1991	10	None			T
Deschutes River Park	1991	50	3,960		X	DP
Black River Natural Area	1991	13	300		X	PA
Deschutes Falls Park	1992	155	5,280		X	RP
Yelm-Tenino Trail	1993	400	2,640		X	T
Thurston County/Lacey Athletic Complex	1999	67	None			AF

FACILITY TYPE KEY:	DP - District Park	RP - Regional Park
	SP - Special Use Park	T - Trail or Trailhead
	PA - Preserve Area	H - Historic Site
	AF - Athletic Facilities	

Date: 3/1/02
 L:\Word\Administration\Park Property Summary Table

PARK PROPERTIES SUMMARY

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NUMBER OF PARK SITES:	21	(16 are located on salt/fresh water)
NUMBER OF ACRES:	2,733 Acres	
WATERFRONTAGE:	42,876 FT	(39,580 FT/Freshwater Access) (3,296 FT/Saltwater Access)
ACREAGE/MILEAGE SUMMARY:	Freshwater Acreage	2,216 Acres
	Marine Shore Acreage	190 Acres
	Non-water Acreage	189 Acres
	Trail Mileage	23 miles

PARK ACQUISITION SUMMARY

ACREAGE ACQUIRED PRIOR TO 1970:	7 Acres
ACREAGE ACQUIRED 1970-1979:	647 Acres
ACREAGE ACQUIRED 1980-1989:	1,153 Acres
ACREAGE ACQUIRED 1990:	41 Acres
ACREAGE ACQUIRED 1991:	182 Acres
ACREAGE ACQUIRED 1992:	165 Acres
ACREAGE ACQUIRED 1993:	400 Acres
ACREAGE ACQUIRED 1999:	67 Acres

Date: 5/10/02L:\Word\Administration\Park Property Summary Table

APPENDIX 2 **PARKS PLAN SURVEY** **THURSTON COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PARKS PLAN UPDATE 2001** **PARKS SURVEY**

The Thurston County Parks system currently includes 25 sites accounting for a total of 2,773 acres. The county focuses on providing parks, trails and preserves that contain special features intended to be used by all residents of the county, inside and outside of city limits. Therefore, the county does not provide small neighborhood or community parks of the kind typically found inside cities. The current park system includes:

- There are 9 active park sites (454 acres) currently undeveloped
 - 4 of the 13 active park sites are currently partially or fully developed (Burfoot, Kenneydell, Frye Cove, and the ORV Sports Park)
- 1,157 acres in preserves & historic sites
 - Glacial Heritage Preserve accounts for 1,020 of these acres
- 825 acres of regional trails (42.5 miles)

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- 3 regional trails: Chehalis Western (15.5 mi), Yelm-Tenino (14.5 mi), and Gate-Belmore (12.5 mi)
- 28 miles of the system will be developed by spring 2002
 - ▶ 14 miles of the Chehalis Western from Lacey to Yelm-Tenino Trail
 - ▶ 14 miles of the Yelm-Tenino connecting Yelm, Rainier and Tenino

1. Please provide your residence zip code below.

Zip Code:

2. Number of people in your immediate household? (Check one)

1-2 3-5 More than 5

3. Number of people in your immediate household between the following ages?

0-10 11-18 18-30 30-45 Over 45

4. When you plan to visit a regional park, what is the maximum preferred travel time required to reach your destination?

Less than 30 minutes Less than 1 hour

Less than 2 hours Doesn't matter

5. Listed below are the developed county parks/trails. Please indicate how often in the past year you have visited each of the facilities.

Burfoot Park Frye Cove Kenneydell

Chehalis Western Trail Yelm-Tenino Trail

Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) Park

6. The Parks and Recreation Department's mission to date has been to acquire and develop parks and recreation facilities generally located outside the urban areas and to provide for the regional park and recreation needs of the county as a whole. Do you agree with this mission?

Yes No

7. In referring to the opening paragraph, do you believe that the County has acquired enough park property to meet the needs of Thurston County citizens now and in the future?

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Yes

No

8. What factors do you believe to be most important in defining the need for land acquisition? (Please list in order by priority 1-8, with 8 being highest priority and 1 being lowest priority)

Fund Availability

Public Demand

Location

Land Availability

Population Growth

Revenue Potential

Environmental Factors

Regional Natural Significance

Other:

9. Limited resources require county officials to make choices about the parks and recreation facilities the county provides. Please prioritize the following list as you believe the County should prioritize their acquisitions. Please prioritize your choices as follows: 5 is high; 3 is medium; and 1 is low.

Regional Multi-use Parks

Regional Open Space/Preserves

Special Use Parks

Regional Natural Significance

Trails

Water Access Parks

Historic Areas

Sports Parks

Wetlands

Other:

10. Given the fact that Thurston County has limited financial resources, please prioritize the following list of park and recreation facilities, as you believe the County should prioritize their development. Please prioritize your choices as follows: 5 is high; 3 is medium; and 1 is low.

Multi-Purpose trails

Bicycle Facilities

Athletic Fields

Public Golf Courses

Picnic Facilities

Group Picnic Facilities

Camping Facilities

Freshwater Fishing Facilities

Freshwater Swimming

ADA Accessible Parks

Marine Boat Launches

Marine Boating Facilities

Theme Park Facilities

Equestrian Facilities

Children's Playgrounds

Family Recreation Center

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Ice Skating Rink

Roller Skating Rink

Conference/Meeting Facilities

Residential Camp Facilities

Swimming Pool (indoor)

Court Facilities (tennis, basketball)

Off-Road Vehicle Facilities

Interpretive Centers

Other:

11. The following programs and services are offered or sponsored by the department or co-sponsored with other community organizations/municipalities throughout the year. (Please rank each program/service in terms of importance to your household with a 5 for High importance; a 3 for Medium importance or a 1 for low importance)

Youth Sports Programs

Adult Sports Programs

Youth Programs

Adult Enrichment Programs

Tenino Halloween Parade

Swede Days Festival

Oregon Trail Days

Lakefair Kids Programs

Hershey's Track and Field

Mobile Day Camps

Children's Day Camps

Summer Camp for the Disabled

Trips Tours for Children

Special Olympics

Quarterly Programs (gymnastics, arts & crafts, aerobics, educational, etc)

Special Events (fun runs, holiday celebrations, etc.)

Special Services (disabled) Programs (Summer Weekday, Community Access, Saturday Express, etc.

Tenino Pool Swim Program

12. Please list below any recreation program or services you would like to see which are currently not available through the department:

13. Funding sources for parks and recreation facility acquisition and development is limited. Listed below are some sources available. Please prioritize these options as you believe the County should utilize them with 5 as a high priority; 3 is medium priority; and 1 is low priority.

County General Fund

Conservation Futures Tax

Grants

Donations

Bond Issue

Impact Fees

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Park Entrance Fees

Park Use Fees

Concession Contracts

Construct Theme Parks/Revenue Parks Other:

14. Would you support a general bond measure to pay for park acquisition and development, trail development, acquire natural areas and construct other recreation facilities?

- Would support it
- Would support it depending on the amount
- Would support it depending on the facilities proposed
- Would not support it

15. If you would favor a general bond measure, how much would you be willing to support?

- Up to \$50 annually (one family of 4 dinner at a restaurant per year)
- Up to \$100 annually (one family of 4 attending a Mariners game)
- Up to \$150 annually
- Up to \$200 annually

16. Are there specific properties or natural features in Thurston County that you feel should be acquired and preserved by the County for park and recreation purposes?

Yes No

17. If yes, please name them.

18. Additional comments/suggestions:

Current Date: TIME \@ "M/d/yy" 6/26/02

APPENDIX 3
PARKS PLAN SURVEY 2001
RESULTS SUMMARY
Compiled 11/6/01

Total Number of Surveys returned:	147	
Total Number of surveys from within Thurston County:	121	(82.32%)
Returns by Zip Code:		
98501	21	(14.29% of in-county returns)
98502	39	(26.53% of in-county returns)
98503	10	(6.81% of in-county returns)
98506	14	(9.53% of in-county returns)
98511	1	0.68% of in-county returns)
98512	11	(7.49% of in-county returns)
98513	10	(6.81% of in-county returns)
98516	5	(3.41% of in-county returns)
98576	2	(1.36% of in-county returns)
		-Rainier

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98579	2	(1.36% of in-county returns)	-Rochester
98589	2	(1.36% of in-county returns)	-Tenino
98597	4	(2.73% of in-county returns)	-Yelm
Out of County:			
Shelton	3		
Elma	2		
Allyn	1	Summary:	Mason County 4
Kent	2		Grays Harbor County 2
Renton	3		King County 9
Woodinville	1		Snohomish County 1
Seattle	3		Skagit County 2
Marysville	1		Pierce County 7
Sedro Wooley	1		Kitsap County 1
Stanwood	1		
Bremerton	1		
Gig Harbor	1		
Puyallup	1		
Spanaway	1		
Tacoma	4		
	26	(17.69%)	
Urban Zip Area Responses:	111	(91.74%)	
Rural Zip Area Responses:	10	(8.26%)	

Travel Time Preference:

Less than 30 minutes	36	(29.75%)
Less than 1 hour	31	(25.62%)
Less than 2 hours	18	(14.88%)
Doesn't Matter	36	(29.75%)

A little more than 55% prefer travel time of 1 hour or less

A little less than 30% have no travel time preference

Combined—approximately 85% have no preference or prefer 1 hour or less

Do You Agree with the Department's Mission:

Yes	114	(94.21%)
No	7	(5.79%)

Of the rural responses (10)---all 10 responded Yes, they agree with the mission

Has the County Acquired Enough Property:

Yes	29	(23.97%)
No	84	(69.42%)

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No Answer 8 (6.61%)

Rural Responses (10):

Yes 6 (60%)
No 3 (30%)
No Answer 1 (10%)

Urban Response (111)

Yes 23 (20.72%)
No 81 (72.97%)
No Answer 7 (6.31%)

Would you support a bond issue:

Would support 41 31.78%
Support depending on amount 23 17.83%
Support depending on facilities 52 40.31%
Not support 13 10.08%

116 of 129 responses (89.92%) would support a bond issue depending on amount and facilities

If you support a bond, how much would you be willing to pay annually:

\$50 annually 55 44.0%
\$100 annually 38 30.40%
\$150 annually 15 12.0%
\$200 annually 17 13.6%

93 of 125 responses (74.4%) of responses would support a bond up to \$100 annually

APPENDIX 4
PARKS CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

Within Thurston County, throughout the unincorporated areas and in the various communities, both urban and rural, there exists a significant recreational opportunity spectrum.

The model that illustrates these opportunities has evolved through the efforts of local, state and federal agencies to establish a means to classify different kinds of recreation activities. The approach taken involves estimating the demand for specific recreation opportunities and identifying appropriate settings to carry out the desired activities and experiences for recreation and leisure pursuits.

The roles of various recreation "service providers" are also addressed in the plan to show the inter-relationship of county, city or municipal parks and state or federal parks and recreation facilities

and services.

However, in recognizing the different roles of the agencies, it is well to remember that all parks share a common definition:

"A tract of land/or water established primarily for the benefit and enjoyment of people and maintained essentially for outdoor recreation and leisure activities."

The true distinctions between different classes of parks are commonly based on park size, type of uses, length of stay, populations served and importance in terms of resource preservation and recreational facilities.

With a recreation classification system, Thurston County Parks and Recreation Department effectively represents the transition between recreational facilities provided and preserved by cities and local entities and the expansive recreation areas and resources administrated by the State and Federal governments. More specifically, the County parks and recreational or preservation resources are defined as a composite of Regional Parks, Trails and Greenways, and Natural Resource/Preserves that serve the general populations within and from outside the county.

These are parks where either cultural, historic, natural, sporting, passive, interpretive or other specialized recreation opportunities of localized or regional significance are offered. The land area for county parks range in size from a few acres to a few thousand acres and include beach areas, tidelands, uplands, valleys and inland waterways, mountains and unique sites in the urban, transitional and rural settings.

Park, recreation and cultural services provide a significant number of direct and indirect benefits to Thurston County. Although important, economic benefits, alone would not dictate the analysis or thinking of the role that county parks and programs plays in service to residents and visitors from areas outside the county who are users of parks and recreational resources. Recreation has been and remains one of the basic necessities of life. The promotion, use and accessibility of parks and waterways are an important means of maintaining and enhancing the general welfare and quality of life of the community as a whole. For these and reasons herein and after addressed, Thurston County Parks and Recreation Department recognizes the importance of establishing a regional park classification system that defines its role within the overall recreational opportunity spectrum and the classes of parks required to meet the needs of the community.

There are three (4) major park classifications that are defined in the comprehensive plan. Each classification has standards that can be applied to determine acquisition, design or management and operational criteria. This serves to achieve recreational and leisure needs objectives while preserving open space and enhancing environmentally sensitive areas on a county wide basis.

Regional Parks

Regional parks are designed to serve local and regional visitor populations included in the urban, urbanizing and rural areas of the county as a whole. In some instances a regional park may be located in the urban zone but more often is located outside city limits and is sized at a minimum of 150 acres with 250 to 1,000 acres being most desirable. Some special facilities and enterprise facilities may be situated within a regional park boundary.

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The regional park may feature wooded areas, wetlands, have varying topography, water or shoreline features and unique or outstanding geologic or historic features. The park may accommodate day use and overnight use, hiking, riding trails, day camps and some sports or active recreation programs. A regional park may also be left primarily in its 'natural state' or have both natural preserves or nature study areas or it may have extensive recreation development by both public and/or private sectors.

A regional park should not however replace the function of a neighborhood, community or district park and as population expands, pressure to encroach local recreation facility or neighborhood need fulfillment on the regional resource should be resisted to preserve the regional use qualities. Regional parks are located normally where the land resources, natural features and opportunities for organizing sizable land units through land trades or acquisition can effectively occur.

The facilities typically developed to a high quality in regional parks are athletic facilities, campgrounds, picnic areas, nature/interpretive centers, trail systems, water areas (on-shore and marine), golf courses, open play area, and other special uses which relate to a regional use demand or the land in relation to environmental/economic resource opportunities.

The normal drive time zone for access to a regional park is 1.0 to 2.0 hours. The recommended minimum size of 50 acres and as earlier mentioned 250 to 1,000 or more acres is desirable.

Public/Private Enterprise Parks Classification

There are a number of uses applied to Public/Private Enterprise Parks that are for both highly active purposes with a focus on generating revenues for use within the park system. Some examples within the full range of active uses are as follows:

- Special Events and Festival Grounds
- Special Attractions, Theme Parks
- Recreational Vehicle Group Camp Facility
- Marina, Boat Launch and Aquatic Parks
- Golf Courses
- Equestrian Facilities
- Model Sports Parks

Historic/Cultural Park: A park unit with a historic or cultural theme that preserves and provides the public with exposure to historically important sites, homes, monuments, structures and/or activities.

Sports Park: A park unit for sports and facilities which support various organized, sponsored or club sporting activities or events which are of regional significance or public demand, such as off road vehicles and other type of activities.

Each of the **Public/Private Enterprise Parks** have their respective standard in terms of population ratios or geographic area served and in terms of site size, location, needs served and scale of facilities. They generally serve local and regional populations and are determined by market

influence.

The general classifications as described above are necessary to establish and ascertain the basic land unit, services, programs and uses for a proposed park unit in a particular geographic location. Each classification will have the appropriate standards applied to the particular recreational, preservation and leisure activity or uses determined to be suitable through the specific planning process which would include a close examination of the site, its characteristics, resource qualities, and constraints or opportunities for acquisition and development into an operating unit of the County parks system.

Natural Resource/ Preserve Classification:

These types of park facilities focus on preserving wilderness, special natural area or habitat, and unique qualities of open space. Such areas or land units require preservation in their natural state and management programs designed to protect natural habitat values over the long term for education and research purposes with limited public access. These types of facilities can be located in urban, urban-transitional or rural zones of the county and are specifically defined for preservation based on their value to the county's overall environmental health and/or because of their uniqueness.

Trail and Greenway Systems Classification:

These type of facilities focus on providing a regional system of trails for walking, bicycles, equestrian, and hiking that complements or provides opportunities to interconnect with existing or proposed federal, state and local community trail systems or destinations. The regional trails system also provides staging areas, rest/picnic areas and interpretive stations which serve the major populated areas of the region and provide access through the rural unincorporated areas. The trails can be categorized for waterborne craft, hikers, bicycles, horses and vehicles.

The regional trail system also includes in its inventory major trail systems within regional parks and natural resource/preserves.

APPENDIX 5

Table 6-9

PARKS & RECREATION CAPITAL PROJECTS

2002 - 2007

REVENUES FOR PROJECTS					
Fund Source			2002	2003	2004
Capital Balance Forward / from capital reserves			1,378,750	20,000	20,000
Grants			579,250	550,000	850,000
REET (Real Estate Excise Tax)			25,000	25,000	25,000
City of Lacey			475,000	250,000	250,000
Trail Permit Fees			10,000	50,000	50,000

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Future Councilmatic GO Bonds Conservation Futures/other source) (1)			500,000	4,500,000	500,000
Other			50,000	230,000	530,000
TOTALS			\$3,018,000	\$5,625,000	\$2,225,000
EXPENDITURES FOR PROJECTS			2002	2003	2004
Project Name	Type	Fund Source			
Sports Complex (2) (5)	Dev	L, G, B, O, BF	1,825,000	2,000,000	1,000,000
ORV Sports Park	Dev	G, BF	133,000	50,000	50,000
Kenneydell Park (4)	Dev	G, O	0	0	200,000
Major Maint./Repair	Dev	R, T, C	25,000	50,000	75,000
Master Plans		R, T, C	0	25,000	0
Chehalis Western Trail	Dev	C, G, T, O, BF	250,000	0	0
Yelm - Tenino Trail (2)	Dev	C, G, T, B, O	285,000	1,000,000	0
Griffin Athletic Fields (3)	Dev	G	0	0	400,000
Deschutes Falls Park (2)	Dev	B	0	2,500,000	0
Reserve for Acq & Development	300A	CFB, G, O	500,000	0	500,000
TOTALS			\$3,018,000	\$5,625,000	\$2,225,000
DEBT SERVICE AMOUNT			2002	2003	2004
Current Bonds			66,500	66,500	344,344
Future Bonds			33,725	370,978	708,231
Total Debt Service			\$100,225	\$437,478	\$1,052,575
LEGEND:					
B	Bonds (See Note #1)			L	City of Lacey
C	County Budget Allocation/Capital Fund			O	Donations, Other Sou
CFB	Conservation Futures Bond (nonvoter GO bond to be financed from existing Conservation. Futures Property Tax)			R	Real Estate Excise T
G	Grant			T	Trail Permit Fees
				BF	Capital Balance For
NOTE: (1) These are bonds paid for by outside revenue sources, either voter approved from the property tax, or councilmatic paid such as Conservation Futures or other sources.					
(2) These projects would be funded if a source for repaying bonds is found (e.g., property tax approved by the voters, existing revenue sources).					
(3) The Griffin Athletic Fields are a joint project with the Griffin School District and are being constructed on school district property.					
(4) Tumwater UGA					
(5) Lacey UGA					
6/29/01					

**APPENDIX 6
IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES**

- Maintain procedures for selection, classification and acquisition of lands and the use of lands or waterways for recreation, open space preservation, trails, and natural resource management.
- Develop land transfer, lease, exchange, dedication and surplus land acquisition procedures and undertake a working relationship with private entities and public agencies to maximize

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- opportunities for acquisition of qualifying land units for the parks system.
- Utilize the resources of national, regional and local conservation organizations, corporations, associations and benevolent entities to identify and acquire environmentally sensitive land, wetlands and waterway resources for preservation and enhancement.
- Provide for the classification and designated uses of park lands, natural resource preserves, trails and other areas through site selection, classification, and systems level planning procedures.
- Develop and maintain direct liaison with and utilize the services of the Thurston regional planning staff in the processes of site location, suitability and classification.
- Provide for the orderly and comprehensive planning of park lands, recreation resources, trails, natural resource preserves and other lands through specific planning and master plan procedures. Such procedures are to be sensitive to public need, geographic area requirements for parks and recreation, county/city park and programs joint efforts, school/park programs and the application of standards for use, user service area and facilities.

- Park design to conform to recognized industry standards for access, safety, health and protection of human and wildlife species. Park development to be of high quality and aesthetically pleasing, sensitive to the natural environment.
- Conserve open space for its natural, cultural, historical and recreational values.
- Implement procedures and strategies for public-private conservation of open space, through mechanisms such as donation, purchase of easement, management strategies, or establishment of regional resource conservation and recreation authorities with independent taxing and management roles.
- Transfer derelict land, tax delinquent land, surplus highway rights-of-way, and other land not presently in productive use to the park department through land exchange, purchase, or long-term, no fee leases when it has been determined that these lands may be used for viable recreational opportunities.
- Make maximum use of lands associated with public water supply reservoirs and stormwater retention areas to meet recreation needs.
- Encourage new residential, business, or industrial development and redevelopment to provide recreational and park amenities within these development to effectively address the additional park and recreation needs created by the development. Through the SEPA process require either the dedication of park lands, provision of recreation facilities, or payment of money to a public recreation fund to provide the necessary park and recreation facilities in the appropriate service area to meet the additional needs created by the development.
- Work intensively with the private sector to encourage donations or bargain sales and dedicated lands.
- Work closely with conservation groups to conserve open space and protect wilderness areas.

- Provide public service, non-fee or fee-supported recreation programs and services as appropriate and that meet the needs of Thurston county residents and visitor populations.
- Identify and utilize a combination of revenue and non-revenue or public service programs to evaluate economic performance of the park system. Economic performance is based on the amount of revenues earned and public services rendered.
- Financing is principally based on the general fund which will be augmented through the development of enterprise centers, public/private joint ventures, participation in ground lease of public lands, concession contracts, service contracts, use of statutory funding through state legislation, special funding legislation, fees, grants and various bonding authorities including revenue bonds, general obligation bonds, certificates of participation, joint power authority

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and other forms of lease leveraged financing and public donations.

- The Parks and Recreation Department shall consider the potential for revenue-generating capacity in defining possible property acquisitions, planning facility development and operating recreation and other public services. Fees initiated shall be reasonable for the services provided and shall strike a balance between insuring that adequate basic services are provided to the public and revenues are generated to assist in off-setting operating and maintenance costs of facilities and programs. Under this policy, it shall be the goal of the department that entry fees will not be charged for general public access to park facilities. Fees and charges will be considered on a case-by-case basis and shall be considered in those cases in which a specific service is provided to the public that goes beyond basic access to park facilities. Such services may include, but are not limited to, swim programs; shelter and meeting facility rentals; camping facilities; food, equipment and other concessions; and special events or activities held within a particular facility such as the ORV Park.
- Utilize growth related public services fees such as refuse collection and in tourist related revenues and taxing methods such as the hotel/motel or "bedroom" tax as appropriate to provide parks and recreation services and facilities.
- Provide appropriate and responsive recreation services through sound planning.
- Provide recreation programs that are the expressed needs of residents of Thurston County and visitor populations that are public service, non-fee and use fee as appropriate. Programs should be focused to achieve production of a variety of recreational programs and services and not duplicate other programs and services available throughout Thurston County.
- Promote community and regional events, family and organized recreation activities and programs that serve special populations and recognize the profile of the community in terms of population, age and ethnic group or cultural heritage.
- Develop and foster joint program services with groups, associations and the communities and cities of Thurston County.
- Improve coordination between planning and implementation efforts to ensure realistic plans and responsive action to meet identified needs.
- Coordinate recreation planning with other human service planning; coordinate park and facility planning with overall land use planning in the county.
- Conduct citizen participation and preference surveys to determine recreation and park deficiencies.
- Create user advisory councils at neighborhood or community levels to ensure citizen participation in the planning process.
- Create recreation coordinating councils at the jurisdiction level composed of all public and private (commercial and voluntary) recreation providers to coordinate recreation service delivery.
- Create regional planning bodies, composed of park and recreation agencies, schools, and other public and private park and recreation providers, to coordinate park and recreation acquisition and development.
- Develop formal working ties, with environmental and conservation groups, to help in planning and implementing open space protection and park development programs.
- Develop and maintain a comprehensive maintenance/management program that identifies preventative, remedial and deferred maintenance programs for all parks, recreation facilities, buildings, equipment, other resources, and county building landscapes.
- Establish a maintenance services program that provides for the protection of public property and preservation of its values, intended uses, life expectancy, safety, security and appearance. Maintain all park lands and structures, and county building landscapes in a manner that promotes community pride, exhibits cleanliness and security.

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- Provide support for in-service training to create greater job mobility and career ladders in parks and recreation. Specialists from other non-park and recreation disciplines could participate in the program.
- Increase use of neighborhood residents as recreation leaders, aides, and park maintenance workers or facility caretakers by recruiting staff from neighborhoods in which they will work, and by developing flexible recruitment standards that will allow use of a nonprofessional with neighborhood experience.
- Contract for services with nonprofit agencies for recreation programming, and with private-for-profit agencies for operation and maintenance, when savings can be achieved without lowering service levels.
- Contract with nonprofit community organizations for development, operation, and maintenance of neighborhood and regional facilities. Encourage participation of neighborhood residents in these activities, especially unemployed youth.
- Utilize private-nonprofit agencies to help recruit volunteers.
- Recruit, train, and place volunteers to provide program assistance and light maintenance. Establish a separate volunteer unit in the park and recreation agency. Use neighborhood and other local organizations and residents, whenever possible.
- Implement and maintain a year-round internship program to use undergraduate recreation majors as volunteers and to complete specific planning projects and other tasks.
- Develop meaningful, highly visible volunteer recognition programs that express appreciation for citizen-volunteer services.
- Implement, maintain and expand programs that provide training and work-release opportunities in parks for inmates of local correction institutions and work-parole opportunities for juvenile offenders. These programs could provide both horticultural and maintenance staffing for the park department and rehabilitation for working participants.
- Participate with the state and federal governments in joint implementation of youth conservation programs, and encourage support and participation by conservation, environmental, and community organizations.
- Support all alternative staffing resources with training, supervision, supplies, and community recognition.
- Identify and utilize a combination of revenue, non-revenue, public service, grant, private and other financing mechanisms to insure consistent and stable funding sources are available for parks and recreation.
- Evaluate user fee policies and identify ways to increase recreation revenues through user fees, concession royalties and lease agreements on an annual basis.
- Maintain a stable and consistent county general fund contribution for parks and recreation including growth related service fees. Leveraging these various funding sources to maximize results is a priority goal.
- Actively seek and participate in local, state, federal and other grants programs to ensure that the county is taking advantage of all appropriate non-local sources of assistance.
- Develop and foster a program of joint services and use of existing physical resources with other municipalities, schools, community groups, associations, private enterprise and others.
- Utilize school sites and buildings for recreation activities. Consider the potential for joint recreation use in the planning stages for all new or expanded school and park facilities.
- Develop reciprocal, no-fee policies that encourage both park use by school groups and school use by park groups.
- Assist in providing services required to open up school facilities to the public for recreational purposes after school hours; this will overcome present constraints on joint-use due to prohibitive custodial and maintenance costs.

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- Encourage use of schools by non-public recreation service providers such as arts, science, book clubs and dance groups or others.
- Encourage joint-use for recreation, wherever possible, on lands and facilities committed to other private and public purposes, including federal properties, utility rights-of-way, and the property of institutions and private corporations.
- Develop model contracts (between park and recreation agencies, schools, community colleges, and other public and private agencies now providing some type of recreation services) as a means of standardizing and simplifying the technique for joint facility development and programming.
- Encourage and expand the use of local park and recreation facilities for a wider range of human delivery and/or public services (i.e., health information, consumer protection, nutrition, bookmobiles, permit centers, etc.).
- Develop and implement strategies that provide close-to-home recreation opportunities
- Establish priorities that recognize the location of potential users when considering new recreation land acquisition in rural and urban areas. Use streets closed to traffic, parking lots, urban wetlands, utility rights-of-way, water supply reservoirs, etc., to provide near-by recreation in heavily developed and densely populated areas. Use mobile recreation units where appropriate for those services that are appropriate for interpretive or education.
- Reduce deterrents to the full utilization of existing recreation facilities and programs by encouraging residents to assume responsibility for making parks safe by giving them a role in park supervision and/or maintenance.
- Secure financial restitution for vandals caught destroying park property or sentence them to repair the effects of their vandalism.
- Develop park-oriented crime prevention courses for integration into public safety and law enforcement curricula at state and local colleges and universities.
- Develop and promote use of an in-service seminar package on park security problems and methods for the continuing education of police and recreation professionals.
- Improve police-community relations in parks by securing greater involvement of police officers and police academy cadets in the supervision of youth recreation activities under the police athletic league and other programs.
- Design park facilities that discourage crime and vandalism without reducing recreation, aesthetic, and environmental benefits.
- Design park and recreation facilities to keep ongoing annual maintenance and operation costs low by using native vegetation and other non-traditional design methods.
- Coordinate park planning and regional public transit planning to ensure that new parks are accessible by public transit.
- Improve public transit service to parks during weekends and evenings and peak recreation use times, especially for seniors and mentally and physically challenged.
- Plan for maximum pedestrian and bicycle access to new parks as an alternative to automobile access.
- Develop master plans for trails to be used as guides in creating comprehensive recreation and transportation systems for pedestrian and all non-motorized vehicles.
- Ensure that transit-dependent people are an integral part of the transportation planning process.
- Provide recreation leaders with sensitivity training on conducting recreation programs for members of special populations.
- Increase the awareness of all park and recreation employees to the needs and desires of special populations.
- Fund outreach and transportation services for those with special needs as part of a

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coordinated approach by all public and private agencies.

- Insure that all park and recreation facilities are accessible, barrier-free and in compliance with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Whenever possible, utilize representatives of groups and organizations familiar with the specific needs of special populations to assist in park design and development plans and standards.
- Provide specialized staff and equipment for the physically or mentally challenged, seniors, young children and other special populations to help them make better use of park facilities and programs.
- Develop and implement programs to lease portions of parks to private groups for recreation or commercial use.
- Expand efforts to inform citizens of recreation opportunities with emphasis on reaching special populations such as the mentally or physically challenged or economically disadvantaged. In addition inform regular users of recreational facilities of new programs, schedules, and use-related problems or issues in the county.
- Implement strategies that insure that environmental education and management are an integral part of park and recreation policies and programs.
- Adopt policies and provide in-service training programs that result in sound environmental management.
- Use parks as year-round, close-to-home environmental laboratories for all age groups to study natural systems. Use other facilities such as waste water treatment centers, streets, and utilities to study the interaction between human beings and their environment.
- Broaden the scope of interpretive programming to address local environmental issues; sponsor public forums on land use planning, energy conservation, and environmental management programs to involve the public in the decision-making process.
- Sponsor cooperative programs for environmental improvement on park lands with civic, scouting and youth organizations, special populations (senior citizens, mentally and physically challenged, juvenile offenders, etc.) And other local government and private agencies.
- Develop cooperative programs between resource agencies and local educational advisors so that park and recreation resources become an instrument for environmental teaching as an extension of the standard academic program.
- Conduct teacher/parent workshops on the use of park lands for environmental education.
- Encourage recreation programming to include a focus on cultural arts.
- Encourage recreation programming to include quality art opportunities by developing more arts-in-parks programs and combining such features as citizen mural programs, regularly scheduled art shows and sales, mobile performance stages, etc.