

**AMENDMENT TO THE PARKS, ARTS AND RECREATION CHAPTER  
OF THE OLYMPIA JOINT PLAN  
FINAL STAFF REPORT**

**Date:** April 21, 2010

**Public Hearing Date:** End of May - Tentative

**Prepared by:** Jan Weydemeyer  
Senior Planner

**Proponent/Applicant:** City of Olympia

**Staff Contact:** Jan Weydemeyer, Senior Planner,  
City of Olympia,  
[jweydeme@ci.olympia.wa.us](mailto:jweydeme@ci.olympia.wa.us), (360)  
753-8592

**Action Requested:** Add a policy to the Joint Area Plan for Olympia and the Urban Growth Area to clarify the definition for park service area.

**Proposal Description:** Clarify the definition for “service area” for the community parks, special use, and open space parks categories to include the City of Olympia and the Olympia Urban Growth Area.

Map Changes  Text Changes  Both  Affects Comprehensive Plans/documents  
 Affected Jurisdictions : City of Olympia

1  
2 **ISSUE:** The City’s comprehensive plan does not perfectly define the service area of the  
3 community parks, open space and special use parks.  
4  
5 **BACKGROUND:** During its 2007 Comprehensive Plan amendment process, the City of  
6 Olympia adopted a Comprehensive Plan policy that explicitly defines the service area as  
7 including the city and the urban growth area. Due to scheduling constraints, the amendment has  
8 not been included on the Thurston County docket until this year.  
9  
10 **ANALYSIS:**  
11 The proposed amendment would clarify the definition of community parks , open space and  
12 special use parks in the joint plan. As a matter of sound parks planning principals, in  
13 combination with a reading of the comprehensive plan and practical experience, the Parks  
14 Department treats the service area for these parks categories as being city-wide. Parks  
15 experience, surveys and research indicates that residents are willing to travel across the city to

1 enjoy the amenities that are provided by these types of parks. Further, in the case of “Little  
2 League” and other sporting leagues, games are held at the ball field that is available, not  
3 necessarily the closest one. For these reasons, the UGA-wide service area is appropriate for these  
4 parks categories.  
5

6 **OPTIONS:**

- 7 1. Incorporate the following policy into the City of Olympia Joint Plan as written:  
8 **Chapter 7 Parks, Art and Recreation**  
9 **Goal PAR 8**  
10 **Policies**  
11 **‘PAR 8.9 “Define the service areas of community parks, open space and special use**  
12 **parks as being city-wide and also including all of the city’s urban growth areas.”**  
13  
14 2. Do not adopt a policy to clarify the service area definition for community parks, open  
15 space and special use parks.  
16

17 **SEPA:**

18 On August 17, 2007, the City of Olympia issued a Final Supplemental Environmental Impact  
19 Statement (FSEIS) for the City of Olympia Comprehensive Plan. The FSEIS contained an  
20 analysis of the subject amendment. No significant impacts were identified and the City did not  
21 receive any public comment related to this amendment. Thurston County will be adopting the  
22 City of Olympia FSEIS for this amendment.  
23

24 **NOTIFICATION:**

25 Notification of the public hearing will be provided as required by Thurston County Code Chapter  
26 2.05 Growth Management Public Participation.  
27

28 **DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:**

29 No other department comments have been received at this time. Any comments will be  
30 forwarded to the Planning Commission prior to public hearing.  
31

32 **CITY OF OLYMPIA CITY COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION:**

33 The Olympia City Council adopted this policy as part of the Olympia Comprehensive Plan in  
34 2007 and recommended **APPROVAL** of this policy for inclusion in the Olympia Joint Plan.  
35

36 **STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

37 Staff recommends Option 1, to include the new policy in to the Joint Plan.  
38

39 **THURSTON COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION:**

40 On March 17, 2010, the Thurston County Planning Commission recommended adoption of the  
41 proposed policy.  
42

43 **ATTACHMENTS:**

44 Attachment A: Excerpt from Chapter 7 Parks, Art and Recreation  
45  
46  
47

O:\Track\LONG RANGE PLANNING\COMP PLAN AMENDMENTS 2009\City Items\Olympia Parks Chapter Amendment\Olympia parks cpa Final Staff Report.042110.docx

in the general stewardship of public spaces.

**PAR 7.5** Solicit financial support from recreation sports leagues for field development, renovation and maintenance. (Ordinance #5661, 12/26/96)

**PAR 7.6** Minimize or eliminate the use of pesticides or herbicides in the maintenance of City parks.

**PAR 7.7** Develop and implement a maintenance management system and create a fund to finance recurring major maintenance needs in parks.

### **Park Planning, Funding and Administration**

**GOAL PAR 8\*.** When feasible, encourage provision of parks and recreation facilities consistent with target outcomes and community recreation needs.

### **Park Planning, Funding and Administration**

#### **POLICIES**

**PAR 8.1\*** Through the Capital Facilities Plan, support neighborhood parks and urban trails which are basic to preserving and enhancing the quality of neighborhoods in Olympia and its growth area.

**PAR 8.2** Encourage private individuals, non-profit organizations and businesses to develop recreation facilities for neighborhood and community use, which are available for public use.

**PAR 8.3\*** Consider, where appropriate, a regional approach to funding major recreation facilities, for instance swimming pools and tournament-level ball fields.

**PAR 8.4\*** Work with Thurston County to identify future park and open space sites within the urban growth area.

**PAR 8.5\*** Create an inter-jurisdictional committee to coordinate Capital Facility Plan projects with adjoining municipalities, as required by the Growth Management Act.

**PAR 8.6** With the Port of Olympia, jointly improve public recreation facilities on the East Bay, West Bay, and the Port peninsula. (Ord. #5971, 12/14/99)

**PAR 8.7** When feasible, plan, fund and construct a park system based on park definitions and target outcomes.

**PAR 8.8** Update the capital facilities plan every year to reflect changing or unforeseen needs.

**PAR 8.9\*** Define the service areas of community parks, open space and special use parks as being city-wide and also including all of the City's urban growth areas.

**GOAL PAR 9.** Develop an outreach program for parks, arts, and recreation with neighborhood associations, the business community, and other groups in planning design, construction, operation, and maintenance of Olympia's park system. Maintain an open process using objective criteria for making decisions regarding land acquisition, park development and park renovation.

#### **POLICIES:**

**PAR 9.1** Regularly inform citizens, especially neighborhood and park and recreation groups, of the city budget process and requirements of the process.

**PAR 9.2** Develop standard financial and programmatic criteria to make