



MEMORANDUM DRAFT

Date: January 15, 2015
To: Board of Park Commissioners & Planning Commission Members
From: Tom Hauger, Department of Planning and Development
Susanne Rockwell, Seattle Parks and Recreation
Subject: Seattle Comprehensive Plan and Parks Element – Discussion Questions

Requested Board Action

Members of the Planning Commission have been invited to join the Park Board for continued discussion on the Parks and Open Space Element of the Comprehensive Plan on January 22, 2015.

Staff Recommendation:

Add a new Parks and Open Space Element into the Comprehensive Plan to provide long-term guidance about how the City will meet the open space needs of a growing population.

Intent/content of Parks Element

Many of the Goals and Policies in the proposed Parks Element came directly from the Parks Legacy planning process, some came from the previous edition of Seattle's Comprehensive Plan; often times pulled from other elements. The goals and policies are divided into the following sections in the element:

- Distribution of Parks and Open Space
- Recreation
- Maintenance
- Regional and Special-Use Parks
- Race and Social Justice Section (in progress) - to include a Parks-related equity vision statement and principles.
- Parks Element Appendix - contains a very brief overview of park land per Parks Classification Policy, a tally of recreational facilities by type and aspirational acquisition goals for future capital needs.

Key Policy Issues (Questions for Discussion):

The proposed Element includes a table showing open space goals for the different types of urban villages. This chart is currently in the Plan's appendix.

- 1. Are the open space goals for the different types of urban villages still the right goals as we move forward to 2035?***

2. Are there other ways to think about open space goals?

Urban Center

1 acre of open space per 1,000 households and 1 acre per 10,000 employees

All locations in center within 1/8 mile of open space at least 10,000 square feet in area

1 usable open space of at least 1 acre per 2,500 households; 1 indoor, multi-use recreation facility per urban center; 1 community garden per 2,500 households

Hub Urban Village

1 acre of open space per 1,000 households

1 usable open space of at least 1 acre; 1 indoor facility for public assembly; 1 community garden per 2,500 households

Residential Urban Village

1 acre of open space per 1,000 households

All locations in center within 1/8 mile of open space at least 10,000 square feet in area

1 usable open space of at least 1 acre where residential density is 10 households per gross acre; 1 facility for indoor public assembly; 1 community garden per 2,500 households

Proposed policies call for encouraging developers to provide publicly accessible open space (POPS) and for the City to use rights-of-way more creatively as methods of providing open space.

3. Is there more policy guidance to include in the Plan about this?

4. Are there other ways to acquire and fund open space that the Plan's policies should address?

5. How can the City better align parks and open space investments with the urban village strategy?

6. Are there other aspects of open space that the policies should address?

7. Should the Plan provide guidance about acquiring, or using POPS (privately owned, public open space)?

Additional Information

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