



2017 Development Plan and Gap Analysis: Frequently Asked Questions

The City has made a commitment to be carbon neutral by 2050. A goal in the Seattle 2035 Comprehensive Plan is to consider access to our parks by transit, bicycle, and on foot when acquiring, siting and designing new park facilities or improving existing ones.

What is the 2017 Development Plan and Gap Analysis?

The 2017 Development Plan is a 6-year plan that documents and describes Seattle Parks and Recreation's (SPR) facilities and lands, looks at Seattle's changing demographics and lays out a vision for the future. Seattle 2035 Comprehensive Plan, contains overarching goals and policies, whereas the 2017 Development Plan takes these a step further and helps to define SPR's future acquisition priorities and capital investments.

The Gap Analysis is a part of the 2017 Development Plan and uses Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping technology to illustrate SPR's and the City's open space and recreational facilities.

Why is the plan being updated? Why is this important?

Every six years, SPR updates its Development Plan – it was last updated in 2011. The Plan is required by the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) to maintain the City of Seattle's eligibility for state grants that will help realize outdoor recreation development and open space acquisition projects.

The plan is an opportunity to ensure that all of our residents have access to a range of facilities and programming, while also serving as an interconnected system that serves the broader city through our community centers, pools, parks, trails, other facilities and open space.

What's proposed, what's new and what is different?

The desire is for this plan to be more visionary and usable for future planning, and looks at city resources from the lens of accessibility and equity. We will be using equity and population density mapping, as one of many tools, to help us formulate our priority areas for acquisition. The intent is to gain a more accurate picture of access, by measuring how people walk to a park or facility. We are calling this 'walkability'.

What are the anticipated Outcomes?

1. Have an approach to Open Space and Recreation Facility distribution that is based upon access, opportunity, equity, and real time data.
2. Have a user friendly data interface that the public can access via story mapping and other new technologies.
3. Maintain a Baseline Level of Service for Citywide Open Space.
4. Have refined long-term strategies that look to acquire more land to add to the park network over time, and to increase the capacity of existing facilities to allow expanded use (e.g., converting grass fields to synthetic turf fields or adding a walking path in a park), where feasible.

What does 'walkability' mean?

'Walkability' is both a measurement and an urban design concept. The measurement is the distance from a park. As an urban design concept, it is how an area or neighborhood is designed to encourage walking, including factors such as sidewalks or pedestrian rights-of-way, safety, traffic, road conditions and other public amenities such as open space.

How is 'walkability' measured?

'Walkability' is measured as a network that uses the street grid and measures the distance that a person would need to walk, or bike, to access a community center or park, and is measured from the park or facility entrance.

SPR is using the Trust for Public Lands and the National Park Service definition of 'walkability' as the distance a person walks in 10-minutes, which is approximately ½ mile.

Are other cities using 'walkability' metrics?

Yes. There are many cities across the nation that are moving towards using 'walkability metrics'. Right now Tacoma and San Francisco are developing their walking metrics. New York City, Washington D.C., Boston, Chicago, San Francisco and Seattle are considered the most walkable cities in the nation, followed by Portland, Pittsburgh, Denver, Philadelphia, Atlanta, Charlotte, and Minneapolis-St. Paul.



2017 Development Plan and Gap Analysis: Frequently Asked Questions (continued)

Why were the Urban Village population based goals removed in the proposal?

We found that the Urban Village population based goals were inaccurate and conflicting. For example, in Urban Villages such as Northgate, Ballard, South Park, Westwood-Highland, North Rainier and many more, the population based goals indicated that there was sufficient open space, but when we looked at it from the stand point of access, we still had large distribution gaps.

How does the Gap map work? Do I need a special program to view the maps?

SPR's GIS staff mapped over 1000 park entry points and linked to SDOT's walking network layer to develop the Walkability areas. In addition to park property, there is information on Greenway projects, bicycle and park trails, public school property, major institutions and universities, and other non-park owned property, such as Seattle Center.

No special program is needed to view the maps, just pull up the link on your smart phone, tablet, laptop or computer and zoom into the neighborhood you are most interested in.

Story Mapping link: http://www.seattle.gov/ArcGIS/SMSeries_GapAnalysisUpdate2017/index.html

Project webpage: <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/about-us/policies-and-plans/2017-development-plan>

How can I get involved? Are there public meetings?

We are interested in your feedback! SPR will be participating in several citywide meetings, presenting information to the Board of Park Commissioners, the Planning Commission and to City Council; all of which are open to the public. Please check the project website for meeting dates and locations.

Questions? Please email all questions to: 2017DevPlan@seattle.gov

What is the 2017 Development Plan and Gap Analysis Schedule?

Nov 10, 2016	Initial briefing and roll out to the Board of Park Commissioners
Nov, 2016 – Jan, 2017	Public Engagement – participating with DON's Citywide Public meetings, focus groups, other partners and City Departments
Dec 8, 2016	Planning Commission briefing
March, 2017	Board of Park Commissioners Public Hearing
March-June 2017	Finalize Plan
May/June 2017	Draft Legislation and SEPA review
September 2017	Council Approval (Resolution)
October 2017	Submit to the State

Is there a public comment period? What if I have a question?

Yes. The public comment period runs from November 10, 2016 through March, 2017.

Public comments can be submitted by email or U.S. mail, or shared at a public hearing. All comments are weighted equally.

Please use the following email address for any questions you have or to submit a public comment.

For email, please use: 2017DevPlan@seattle.gov

For U.S. mail, please use:
Seattle Parks and Recreation
Attention 2017 DevPlan
800 Maynard Ave South, 3rd fl.
Seattle WA 98134

Project Information can be found at:

<http://www.seattle.gov/parks/about-us/policies-and-plans/2017-development-plan>

For Comments and Questions, please e-mail:

2017DevPlan@seattle.gov

Susanne Rockwell, Project Manager:

susanne.rockwell@seattle.gov or 206.684.7133