



Seattle's Parks and Recreation 2006 Development Plan

Adopted May 8, 2006

Resolution 30868

Introduction

This is **Seattle's Parks and Recreation 2006 Development Plan**, which replaces Seattle's Parks and Recreation Plan 2000, previously adopted by the Seattle City Council Resolution 30181. This plan is specific to acquisition and development efforts that will be pursued over the next five to six years. It will be submitted to the Washington State InterAgency Committee for Outdoor Recreation to maintain Seattle's eligibility for grants that will help realize such projects.

This document provides a recap of goals and policies relative to park acquisition and development, an update of our Gap Analyses that indicates the areas of the city where the City's distribution guidelines for parks and open space remain to be met, and Seattle's adopted 2006-2011 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for parks and recreation. Seattle's adopted 2006-2011 CIP for the Department of Parks and Recreation is part of the city-wide CIP adopted by Ordinance 121991.

Context

Geographic Location

The City of Seattle is located in King County, Washington. Situated on Puget Sound, an estuary of the Pacific Ocean, the City is 113 miles from the United States-Canadian border in the Pacific Northwest area of the United States. The western edge of the City is defined by Puget Sound and the eastern edge by Lake Washington. The City's downtown is just inland from the eastern edge of Elliott Bay and the City's industrial area is located along the Duwamish River and the southerly shores of Elliott Bay. A series of long, glacially formed hills and valleys, that run north-south, define Seattle's neighborhoods. The City has a maritime climate marked by cool rainy weather that persists from fall through early spring, and warm summers. The Olympic mountains to the west and the Cascade mountains to the east shield the Puget Sound area from Pacific storms and the more harsh weather of the nation's interior.

Population and Economy

Seattle is the commercial, cultural and technological hub of the Pacific Northwest. The federal census conducted in 2000 counted 563,374 Seattle residents and the state estimates the 2004 population at 572,600. The city lost population beginning in the 1960s through the early 1980s as a consequence of out-migration and the lower birth rates that prevailed nationwide following the baby boom years. Since the mid-1980s Seattle's population has grown annually.

The combined 2000 population of Seattle, the balance of King County, and neighboring counties Pierce and Snohomish was 3,043,878 comprising 52 percent of the state's total. The 2004 population for this region was estimated at 3,177,100 representing over 70 percent growth in the region's population since 1975 [Office of Financial Management estimates].

Seattle's population is projected to reach 594,116 by 2010 [Puget Sound Regional Council] and the three-county region is projected to reach nearly 3.4 million [Office of Financial Management estimates].

Most people living in Seattle are white and are not of Hispanic origin but the proportion of non-Hispanic whites declined to 67.9 percent, according to the Census 2000. The 2000 census also reported 13.0 percent of the city's population was Asian, 8.3 percent black or African American, 0.9 percent American Indian or Alaska native, 0.5 percent native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, 0.3 percent were of some other race, 3.9 percent were more than one race, and 5.3 percent were Hispanic.

Over 44,000 people of Seattle’s residents in 2000 were born abroad and moved to the U.S. in the 1990s. More detail on the population of Seattle by race and ethnic identification is provided in Table 1.

Table 1. Race by Hispanic Ethnicity in Seattle, 2000

	Number	Percent
NOT HISPANIC OR LATINO	533,655	94.7
White alone*	382,532	67.9
Black or African American alone*	46,545	8.3
American Indian and Alaska Native alone*	5,004	0.9
Asian alone*	73,512	13.0
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone*	2,715	0.5
Some other race alone*	1,656	0.3
Two or more races	21,691	3.9
HISPANIC OR LATINO	29,719	5.3
White alone*	12,357	2.2
Black or African American alone*	996	0.2
American Indian and Alaska Native alone*	655	0.1
Asian alone*	398	0.1
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone*	89	0.0
Some other race alone*	11,767	2.1
Two or more races	3,457	0.6
TOTAL	563,374	100.0

* “Alone” indicates a person is only one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 1 (SF 1) 100-percent, or complete count, data. Data compiled by City of Seattle Department of Planning & Development, September 2004.

The population of Seattle is distinguished by a high level of educational attainment. In 2000, 47.2 percent residents 25 years of age or older had earned at least a bachelor's degree. On the other hand, 10.5 percent of adults over 24 had not earned a high school diploma or equivalency.

The median annual household income in 1999 was \$45,736 and 6.4 percent of households had incomes of \$150,000 or more. Conversely, 14.5 percent had an annual 1999 income of below \$15,000. Based on annual income for 1999 (collected by the 2000 census), 11.8 percent of the city’s population lived below the federal poverty line. While 8.5 percent of Seattle’s white population lived in poverty in 1999, poverty rates for people of other races and Hispanic ethnicity ranged from 16.2 percent to 29.1 percent.

While the economy of Seattle has been strong over the last several years and the region is a leading center for advanced technology in aerospace, computer software, biotechnology, genomics, telemedicine, electronics, medical equipment, and environmental engineering. Although the Boeing Company, the largest airplane manufacturer in the world and one of the top three exporters in the United States, moved

its headquarters from Seattle to Chicago, it is still one of the region's largest employers. Microsoft, the world leader in production of computer software, is also located in the Seattle region, as are numerous other "high-tech" industries. Over 55,000 people work in computer software and another 12,500 in biotechnology or medical technology in the region. Forest products, heavy truck equipment manufacturing and the United States military are also significant contributors to the region's economy. Services wholesale/retail trade, and the finance, insurance and real estate sectors, however, are the major employment base of the regional economy. Seattle's center city, where a significant amount of the region's retail, service and finance and other work is centered, has an estimated 200,378 daytime worker population.

Inventory

Seattle Parks and Recreation is responsible for 6,100 acres of parkland and operates a park system that includes a zoological garden, an aquarium, a conservatory, 25 community centers, 4 teen life centers, 4 environmental education centers, a cultural arts center, an indoor tennis center, 8 indoor swimming pools, 2 outdoor swimming pools, 7 swimming beaches, 2 small craft centers, 10 boat ramps, an outdoor camp, 5 golf courses, 150 tennis courts, 204 sports-fields, 53 P-Patch gardens, and many other facilities. There are facilities in the park system for active recreation as well as both large expanses and small pockets of natural open space for passive enjoyment. Appendix A is a detailed inventory of Seattle's parks and recreation facilities.

Demand and Need Analyses

The Seattle park system of open space, parks and recreation facilities is fairly well distributed throughout the City to serve the population. However, there are some noticeable "gaps" in the system, where certain households are at a significant distance to the nearest useable open space. A Gap Analysis using Geographic Information System technology was developed in 2001 and updated in 2005 for inclusion in this report, see Appendix B.

The Gap Analysis indicates areas of Seattle where the City's goals for the provision of parks and open space, as outlined in previously adopted distributional guidelines (the 1994 Seattle Comprehensive plan and Seattle's Parks and Recreation Plan 2000), are not being met at present. Other planning efforts in recent years have identified unmet demands for certain recreational facilities. The results are summarized in the following paragraphs.

Several neighborhoods in north Seattle are not well served by parks, and there is no indoor swimming pool in Beacon Hill or in the north end of the Rainier Valley. Many of the city's urban villages do not have appreciable amounts of parks and open spaces. In

the central and southerly portions of the city are many of the City's older parks where renovations would be most desirable. Sportsfields and gymnasium space are in short supply to meet demands throughout Seattle. The downtown area is somewhat lacking in useable open space and public recreation services at present, although two new community centers have been completed in Yesler Terrace and the International District. An additional, smaller center is planned for the Belltown neighborhood, pending site selection and property arrangements with a private funding partner.

Given Seattle's cool maritime climate, indoor recreation facilities are important most of the year, but particularly so in the winter months when basketball and other such activities are at their peak. Despite the cool weather, outdoor activity is often possible and year-round demand for soccer fields exceeds supply of all weather or synthetic-turf surfaced fields that can sustain such play. In good weather periods, peak demand outstrips supply of picnic facilities, boat ramps and the like, and shoreline area parks are often over-crowded. These patterns of use are expected to continue, and there will likely be a need for increased senior adult recreation programs as the large "baby boom" population begins to enter their later years. In general, it is expected that there will be increased demand for "close-to-home" recreation due to continued population density and traffic congestion that will affect mobility in Seattle.

While it is expected that many Seattleites will take advantage of regional recreational attractions in the Olympic and Cascade Mountains, and other Puget Sound destinations, much of Seattle's less affluent population tend to have relatively little access to such amenities due to lack of transportation, lack of sufficient income, or demands of low-paying jobs.

Public Involvement

The City of Seattle engaged in a lengthy comprehensive planning process that ended with the adoption of the **City's Comprehensive Plan: Towards a Sustainable Seattle** in September, 1994. There were numerous public meetings and hearings throughout this planning effort. This plan has since been subject to annual amendments to keep it current, and was substantially revised in 2004 after public input.

Following the adoption of the Comprehensive Plan, the City initiated a nationally recognized program of neighborhood planning. Between 1994 and 2000, 37 neighborhood plans were completed by citizen led groups throughout the City. Neighborhood planning incorporated thousands of volunteer hours. The resulting recommendations were assembled into City-recognized work plans. Neighborhood plan recommendations were included in the **Seattle Parks and Recreation Plan 2000** and were the basis of the 2000 ProParks Levy for parks improvements. As such, many park related recommendations from those neighborhood plans have been realized in recent years. An extensive public engagement effort was also undertaken as part of the development of Seattle's Parks and Recreation Plan 2000.

In preparation for this 2006 Development Plan, surveys were sent to each of Seattle Parks and Recreation's 38 citizen advisory councils, and follow-up meetings were held with selected councils to talk about parks issues and recreation demands in their communities. Appendix C is a recap of responses to the surveys and meetings.

It should be noted that planning and public involvement in such is a continuous activity for Seattle Parks and Recreation. While the slate of projects originally proposed for the Pro Parks Levy was set in late 2000 when the levy was approved by Seattle's votes, the levy also provided for an Opportunity Fund, which has involved two subsequent cycles of project nomination, evaluation and selection. This process involved work by a Citizen Oversight Committee that worked on the identification of criteria for project selection, evaluated the project nominations, and prioritized and selected the projects for funding. Within each project has been an extensive public participation process in the planning and design of the project.

While major maintenance projects typically do not engender the same degree of citizen involvement, Seattle Parks and Recreation assembles a proposed Major Maintenance Plan each biennium that is reviewed by the City Neighborhood Council and the Board of Parks Commissioners before it is completed, and before the proposed Capital Improvement Program is submitted for City Council review as part of the City's budget process. The City Council typically holds hearings on the budget and Capital Improvement Program before they are adopted. In fall 2005, two such hearings were held, and based on input received by the Council, adjustments were made to the proposed Capital Improvement Program prior to its final adoption on November 28, 2005 (Ordinance 121991).

Goals and Objectives

Seattle Parks and Recreation mission statement is as follows:

Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation will work with all citizens to be good stewards of our environment, and to provide safe and welcoming opportunities to play, learn, contemplate and build community.

Seattle's park and recreation system is comprised of open space, parks, boulevards and trails, beaches, lakes and creeks, recreational, cultural, environmental, and educational facilities, a broad variety of programs, and people. The system is diverse and woven into the fabric of Seattle's neighborhoods. It is an integral part of everyday life within our city. The system contributes significantly to the city's identity, stability, urban design and network of public services. It promotes the physical, mental, social, and spiritual well being of our citizens. The condition of the park and recreation system reflects the city's health and is essential to our quality of life.

Planning for parks and recreation in Seattle must be sensitive to the stresses and complexities of urban life, flexible to changing conditions, and be a part of the City's overall growth strategy. It must be focused on conservation of the natural environment, and meld recreation programs with human and family services. Above all, planning for parks and recreation must reflect a vision consistent with the goals and aspirations of the community.

The following goal statements represent a philosophy fundamental to the provision of park and recreation services in the future:

- Listen to the citizens of our city and involve them in decisions affecting the future of their parks and recreation system, especially in their neighborhoods. Implement recommendations from neighborhood planning activities and support community initiated efforts to improve the Seattle park system.
- Strengthen our city's unique relationship with the natural environment, the land and the water by conserving, restoring and maintaining substantial open space, natural areas, shorelines, and wildlife, by demonstrating a strong conservation ethic, and conducting an effective environmental education program.
- Strengthen the park and recreation system's long relationship with the Seattle School District, the Seattle Housing Authority, other

departments or agencies, and community-based organizations through joint planning, shared use of facilities, and supportive programming in order to provide the youth of our city opportunities to achieve their positive potential for human development.

- Improve the health and well being of our city's people as individuals, families, and neighborhoods as well as refresh their spirits by providing and maintaining open spaces, recreational facilities, and programs tailored to their needs.
- Work with community organizations and other City departments to build a network of support and opportunity in neighborhoods, serve as an essential element in community development, and join with other City agencies to bring together a range of services in response to neighborhood priorities.
- Build a stronger sense of community ownership and individual responsibility among Seattle's diverse variety of communities by increasing opportunities for public involvement and by sensitive management of public lands, waters, and facilities as the common ground and as a source of pride for people of diverse ages, races, cultures, languages, and economic circumstances.
- Increase awareness of the park and recreation heritage and the Olmsted philosophy that guided the early development of Seattle's park system and that can provide a framework for future development.
- Help manage future growth and change for neighborhoods and individuals by advocating an adequate balance of park and recreation programs designed to promote respite, socialization, and education, and to provide an identifiable source of stability consistent with the City's growth management goals and policies as outlined in the City Comprehensive Plan.
- Emphasize good management and fiscal responsibility by making the most effective use of limited resources, evaluating programs and services, protecting the public interest, being accountable for achieving adopted objectives, and guarding against unrealistic expectations.

The **Seattle Parks and Recreation Plan 2000** outlined policies for planning, acquisition, development, acquisition, recreational programming, park uses, maintenance, stewardship and other operational matters. The following are relevant policies from that document related to parks acquisition and development. These are reaffirmed in this 2006 Development Plan.

Acquisition Policies

1. The spirit and guiding principles of the original 1903 Olmsted Plan will be expanded through open space acquisitions, park development, and creation of new or improved boulevards and trails to serve as park connectors.
2. Acquisition and voluntary preservation of real property to expand Seattle's inventory of open spaces and parklands will be actively pursued.
3. With the diminishing availability of natural open space, urban property will be reclaimed and converted to park purposes for small neighborhood parks and major regional parks.
4. Private properties within Greenspaces (greenbelts and natural areas) and other primarily natural areas such as stream corridors, and wetlands will be acquired to preserve such areas.
5. Preservation and acquisition of other open space will be planned on a geographic basis. The quantity of open space will be based upon the following considerations:
 - a) Distribution guidelines presented later in this document.
 - b) Two categories of open space, one for Breathing Room and one for Neighborhood Park (Usable) Space are to be considered. For Breathing Room Space, total dedicated open space acreage on a citywide basis regardless of use, topography or access restrictions, but not including tideland or shoreland (submerged) park acreage shall be considered, as well as availability of public open space owned by others. For Neighborhood Park (Usable) Space, separate guidelines for primarily single-family areas and for higher density urban village areas shall be considered.
 - c) The open space functions of boulevard trails and green streets in meeting open space needs shall be recognized.
 - d) Unique characteristics of properties, user patterns (local, citywide and regional) and densities in the analysis of open space needs shall be considered.
 - e) Available opportunities, long-term budget impacts, and priorities as established in the City's Comprehensive Plan shall be considered in each potential acquisition.

6. In general, priority for the expansion of the open space network shall be given to areas of the City subject to population growth, including urban villages targeted for the largest share of residential growth and those areas not adequately served at present according to the population-based goals for open space.
7. The Urban Wildlife Habitat Plan shall be maintained and updated on a regular cycle. Grant monies shall be sought to realize important wildlife habitat acquisition and enhancement projects.
8. Public shoreline access will be regarded with the same degree of importance as open space and will be planned to ensure a reasonable amount of public access along each shoreline. A distribution guideline is presented later in this document.
9. The following methods may be used to preserve open space:
 - a) acquisition for park purposes through public funds and grants, donations, and community self-help;
 - b) acquisition of life estates, where appropriate, to protect current owners;
 - c) acquisition of voluntary conservation easements or similar mechanisms for preserving the open space qualities;
 - d) dedication or leasing from other public agencies, including the Seattle School District; and
 - e) If no other options are available, condemnation or removal of existing development will be pursued to preserve or re-create open space in highly developed areas lacking open space, although elimination of existing housing stock is generally to be avoided.
10. No-cost or low-cost methods to protect open space shall be pursued to preserve critical publicly-owned open space that is not owned by the Department, recognizing the requirements of Washington state law in the acquisition of surplus utility property.
11. Work with the Department of Planning and Development(DPD) to ensure that land use code requirements are adequate to meet needs for on-site open space, provision of open space linkages, and protection of parklands and water features.
12. Encourage the private sector to join in providing adequate open space for residential developments and public open space for commercial developments.

Development Policies

1. Provide for community centers and community indoor pools based upon the distribution guidelines presented later in this document. Consider integration of new facilities with other municipal facilities such as libraries, family support services, neighborhood service centers, senior centers, and the like. Consider the provision of other community gathering spaces by re-use of shelterhouses and smaller facilities for certain community center program activities and neighborhood meeting places.
2. Provide for the number and distribution of park and recreation facilities based upon community demands and consideration of distribution guidelines as presented later in this document.
3. Provide and maintain a sufficient geographic distribution of facility and park amenities that support arts programming, including provisions for outdoor music programs.
4. Consider the following in siting park and recreation facilities:
 - a. Support for the facility in a particular area or at a particular location, as based upon demonstrated (or anticipated) demand and distribution guidelines.
 - b. Potential impacts of the facility on the local area.
 - c. Specific site conditions relating to cost of development and operations.
5. Adopt life-cycle cost analysis as a means of comparing short- and long-term benefits of development projects.
6. Pursue improvements to existing parks in accordance with Department planning for major maintenance (capital replacement), park master plans, and neighborhood planning.
7. Seek to improve barrier free access to and within park recreation facilities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
8. Make multi-use the cornerstone of design principles for program spaces within community centers, with consideration given to the programmatic needs of other service providers and community groups interested in sharing space within community centers.

9. Base the design of new pools and improvements to existing pools on a friendlier family atmosphere through the addition of amenities, programs, and multiple activity opportunities.
10. Improve sportsfields to ensure playability. Improvements such as synthetic turf and lighting on selected fields will be considered to increase scheduling capacity where appropriate and where adverse neighborhood impacts as identified in public involvement processes can be mitigated. Such improvements have been identified in the Joint Athletic Field Development Program.
11. Assist the Seattle School District in improvement of selected school fields for community sportsfield use.
12. Seek opportunities to assist the Seattle School District in providing amenities for school children and the public at school facilities.
13. Consider the following in the design of all facilities including the retrofit of existing facilities:
 - a. Function.
 - b. Sustainability, including energy and water conservation as well as minimizing the use of non-renewable or hazardous building materials.
 - c. Durability, standardization, accessibility for ease of maintenance, and reasonable life expectancy.
 - d. Security (as coordinated with the local area residents, the Seattle Police Department and Department staff, including reference to the Police Department's Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design).
 - e. Barrier-free access.
14. Strive for consistency in park amenities and signage throughout the system as a means both of establishing identity and of reducing maintenance costs, while recognizing special needs associated with historic and natural resource areas.
15. Recognize changing demographics and that any new or redeveloped facilities should be built in a fashion that can be flexible to meet a variety of changing needs.
16. Use adopted policies for citizen involvement to help shape the siting and design of park improvements. Such policies include requirements for notices and meetings that allow for public participation during planning and design processes.
17. Reclaim, restore, and enhance green spaces, creeks, wetlands, to improve and increase the city's inventory of such natural areas.

18. Pursue boulevard type improvements and the greening of Seattle's streets to link neighborhoods to parks and other activity centers.
19. Undertake boulevards and trail improvements with consideration for natural and historic resources associated with such facilities and provide special landscaping, signage, or other design elements that reflect the importance of boulevards and trails as a major link in the city's comprehensive open space system
20. Improve selected street ends for shoreline access.
21. Coordinate planning and design for park improvements with other City departments, including the Police Department's Crime Prevention through Environmental Design program.
22. Coordinate planning for park resources with the State Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation, State resource agencies, King County, and other municipal park agencies in the region.
23. Work with appropriate natural resource agencies on the restoration and enhancement of intertidal and nearshore habitat for the pacific salmon.

Distribution Guidelines for Open Space & Parks

Evaluations using Distribution Guidelines that are based on service areas or distances will take into consideration physical barriers to access such as major arterials, water and topography. Service areas are only a starting point for analysis. The location of other similar spaces owned by others must also be considered. Evaluation will include consideration of policies and priorities which are part of the City's adopted Comprehensive Plan. This 2006 Development Plan establishes distribution guidelines for the provision of parks, open space, and recreational facilities at a level identified as "*acceptable*" to minimally meet the demand for such in Seattle. Longer term distribution guidelines for the provision of an ideal distribution parks, open space and recreational facilities are identified as "*desirable*".

Breathing Room or Total Open Space

- definition Combined acreage of all dedicated open spaces (parks, greenspaces, trails, and boulevards,) but not including tidelands and shorelands (submerged park lands.)
- desirable One acre per 100 residents of population
- acceptable One-third acre per 100 resident population or community approved offset to lack of Breathing Room open space.
- offsets School grounds, green streets, boulevard, trail, etc.

Neighborhood Park or Usable Open Space Primarily Single-family Residential Areas

- definition Relatively level and open, easily accessible, primarily green open space available for drop-in use (can be part of larger citywide park space).
- desirable One-half acre within 1/2 mile of Seattle households in primarily single-family areas.
- acceptable One-half acre within 1 mile or community approved offset to lack of usable open space.
- offsets School grounds, green streets, recreation facility, boulevard, trail, etc.

Neighborhood Park or Usable Open Space Urban Village

- definition Publicly owned or dedicated open space that is easily accessible and intended to serve the immediate urban village. This encompasses various types of open space for passive enjoyment as well as activity and includes green areas and hard-surfaced urban plazas, street parks, and pocket parks. Dedicated open spaces should be at least 10,000 square feet in size.
- desirable One acre of open space per 1,000 households and one-quarter acre of urban space per 10,000 jobs in the Downtown Urban Core. One-quarter acre within 1/8 mile of all locations in urban villages density areas.
- acceptable One-quarter acre within 1/2 mile or community approved offset to lack of usable park space.
- offsets School grounds, recreation facility, green streets, boulevard, and trail.

Greenspaces

- definition Areas designated for preservation because of their natural or ecological qualities and their potential to contribute to an interconnected open space system.
- desirable Preserve such areas where they meet the designation criteria established in the Greenspaces Policies. Greenspaces are counted as breathing room, but such areas should be preserved regardless of relationship to distribution guidelines and existing amounts of open space.

Public Shoreline Access

- definition Access to the water's edge that includes at least 40 lineal feet of shoreline and is either publicly owned or dedicated by Shoreline Management permit condition.
- desirable At least one public access point, a minimum of 40 feet wide, for at least every one-half mile of Seattle shoreline.
- acceptable At least one public access point, a minimum of 40 feet wide, for every one mile of Seattle shoreline or community approved offset to lack of public shoreline access.
- offsets Shoreline viewpoints, shoreline trails, etc.

Distribution Guidelines for Community Centers & Indoor Pools

Evaluations using Distribution Guidelines that are based on service areas or distances will take into consideration physical barriers to access such as major arterials, water and topography. Service areas are only a starting point for analysis. The location of other similar providers or facilities must also be considered. Evaluations will include consideration of policies and priorities that are part of the City's adopted Comprehensive Plan. Priority will be given to addition of new centers and improvement of existing centers in underserved areas of the city undergoing population growth, particularly those with expected and actual growth in urban center and urban village locations.

Community Centers

- definition Approximately 20,000 square feet of indoor space, including a balanced combination of multi-purpose activity and gymnasium space. Newer centers at Bitter Lake, Garfield, and Delridge are the desired examples, although the types of spaces or design may vary with local needs and wants. The need for a second gymnasium or other programmable space could increase the size of a center beyond 20,000 square feet. Ideally, the center should be sited in a campus environment with sufficient outdoor recreation space and facilities to support center programs. Co-location with Seattle School District facilities, compatible public service agencies or other community-based program providers will be considered where appropriate. In certain higher population density areas of the City, location in a campus environment with outdoor facilities may not be possible due to existing urban development.
- desirable A community center should be located within one mile of every Seattle household as defined above and/or 1 full service center to serve a residential population of 15,000-20,000 people. Each Urban Center of the City is to be served by a center.
- acceptable A community center should be provided within 1-1/2 miles of every Seattle household. Satellite facilities, or less than full-service facilities, will be considered to provide for community gathering places and to accommodate certain program activities, where conditions warrant. In order to control the number of new city facilities, programs may be provided in facilities owned by others in some cases.

Indoor Community Pools

- definition A multi-program swimming pool with provisions for concurrent lap swimming, family and youth play, instruction, physical rehabilitation and other complementary aquatic activities is desirable. A pool size somewhat larger than the existing Helene Madison Pool (a 25-yard, 6-lane pool) is envisioned. Existing Seattle pools may be retrofitted to partially achieve this concept in the future. Ideally, new pools are to be sited at or near community centers and Seattle School District high schools.
- desirable An indoor swimming pool should be provided within 2 miles of every Seattle household and/or 1 swimming pool to serve a population of 40,000-50,000 residents.
- acceptable An indoor swimming pool should be provided within 2-1/2 miles of every Seattle household. The availability of pools accessible to the public and provided by others (e.g., YMCA, etc.) will be considered when determining priorities for new City pools.

Distribution Guidelines for Park & Recreation Facilities

Evaluations using Distribution Guidelines that are based on service areas or distances will take into consideration physical barriers to access such as major arterials, water and topography. Service areas are only a starting point for analysis. The location of other similar providers or facilities must be considered. Evaluation will also include consideration of policies and priorities in the City's adopted Comprehensive Plan. In general, priority will be given to adding park amenities in underserved areas of the City undergoing population growth, particularly those with expected and actual growth in urban center and urban village locations.

Boulevards

New boulevards will be developed in accordance with the Seattle Comprehensive Transportation Plan, with undesignated boulevard treatment or greening of streets pursued where feasible and desired by local communities (and as coordinated with Seattle Transportation).

Trails

New multi-use trails will be developed in accordance with an Urban Trails Plan, with a goal of having an interconnected system of primary and secondary trails throughout the city (and as coordinated with Seattle Transportation) as well as a variety of trails within all appropriate parks and green spaces.

Park Restrooms

Park restrooms are desirable in conjunction with larger parks, and normally only in those parks serving scheduled/programmed activities or those with a significant number of drop-in users.

Children's Play Areas

A neighborhood or community center children's play area is desirable within one-half mile of households in areas with 100 to 200 resident children ages 2 to 11 and/or in areas with several day cares/preschools

(and as coordinated with Seattle School District). A destination or larger than normal children's play area is desirable at selected major urban parks.

Wading Pools and Water Features

A wading pool or water feature is desirable within one to two miles of households in areas with 200 to 500 resident children ages 2 to 11. Priority for wading pool or water feature development shall be given to Summer Playground Program sites. Each sector of the City should have at least one wading pool or water feature. New facilities will normally be water spray features due to increasing costs associated with regulations governing traditional wading pools.

Soccer Fields

A soccer field is desirable within one to two miles of all Seattle households. A sufficient quantity of fields should be provided on a citywide basis to meet scheduling needs (and as coordinated with Seattle School District and other program providers). Most fields will be natural turf, but a selected number of fields shall be maintained as all-weather surfaces to accommodate intensive levels of play.

Football Fields

A turf football field is desirable within areas with youth football programs. A sufficient quantity of fields should be provided on a citywide to meet scheduling needs (and as coordinated with Seattle School District and other program providers).

Softball/Youth Baseball Fields

A turf softball/youth baseball field (60'basepaths) is desirable within 1 to 2 miles of all Seattle households. A sufficient quantity of fields should be provided on a citywide basis to meet scheduling needs (and as coordinated with Seattle School District and other program providers).

Senior Baseball

A limited number of turf senior baseball fields (90' basepaths) are desirable citywide with sufficient quantity to meet scheduling needs (and as coordinated with Seattle School District and other program providers).

Ultimate Frisbee, Rugby and Cricket Fields

A limited number of turf fields suitable for these sports are desirable on a citywide basis to meet scheduling needs. Other new field sports will be accommodated as demand arises.

Track and Field Event Facilities

A track and field facility is desirable in each sector of the city (and as coordinated with Seattle School District).

Volleyball Courts

Suitable turf or sand surface space for 4 to 8 courts is desirable in each sector of the City, but such spaces may not necessarily be designated solely for volleyball).

Tennis Courts

One 8-10 court indoor tennis complex is desirable in north and south Seattle. Approximately four to six 6-court outdoor tennis complexes are desirable distributed throughout the city. A 4-court outdoor tennis complex is desirable at or near each community center. Existing neighborhood tennis courts will be maintained where feasible and new neighborhood courts sited only in response to strong community support.

Outdoor Basketball Courts

A full or half court is desirable within 1 mile of Seattle households in areas with 200 to 500 resident youth and/or young adults.

Picnic Facilities

At least 1 or 2 scheduled group picnic shelters are desirable in each sector with drop-in picnic tables distributed in appropriate park areas throughout the city.

Dog Off-leash Areas

A dog off-leash area is desirable in each sector of the city. Such areas should be contained by fencing. Possible improvements include pathways, benches, kiosks, drinking fountains and other park furniture appropriate to the site. Other public properties besides parklands will be considered for future off-leash areas to avoid conversion of existing park spaces to dog off-leash areas.

Boat Ramps

At least 8 to 10 boat ramps are desirable distributed citywide to provide launching opportunities on both fresh water and salt water (and as coordinated with the Port of Seattle and Seattle Department of Transportation).

Hand Carry Boat Launches

At least one hand carry, non-motorized boat launch is desirable along every 2 miles of Seattle's shorelines.

Fishing Piers

Fishing piers are desirable in locations where conditions permit a reasonable opportunity to catch fish, with the number of piers based upon demand and available space (and as coordinated with natural resource agencies and the Port of Seattle).

Outdoor Lifeguarded Beaches

Lifeguarded beaches will be provided at selected parks on Lake Washington and at Green Lake only, with no new facilities anticipated.

Small Craft Facilities

One Department-owned facility exists in the north end (Green Lake) and one in the south end (Mount Baker). Additional facilities will be considered only if non-profit organizations can significantly offset costs.

Golf

Three existing 18-27 hole golf courses (Jackson, Jefferson, West Seattle), one executive length course (Interbay) and one pitch and putt (Green Lake) will be maintained and upgraded in accordance with adopted master plans. No additional courses within the city are anticipated.

Capital Improvement Program

Seattle Parks and Recreation's capital improvement program is large and multi-faceted, financed by a variety of funding sources. Seattle is in the latter part of the implementation of the 2000 Pro-Parks levy that provides for over 100 park improvement projects and numerous property acquisitions, and continues to invest its Cumulative Reserve Fund in important major maintenance projects that protect park assets throughout the City. The Pro-Parks levy is an eight-year, \$198,000,000 fund that has provided park development as well as enhanced maintenance and recreational programming, but which will expire in 2008. The Cumulative Reserve Fund has provided approximately \$10,000,000 a year for park renovations and will continue to provide for such. Private donations and Neighborhood Matching Fund awards provide for a variety of community based investments in the parks as well.

In 2006, \$5,000,000 of additional money will be added to the Shoreline Park Improvement Fund to provide for property acquisition, building and roadway removals and habitat enhancement at Discovery Park. The acquisition is for the Navy's 23 acre "Capehart" housing area in Discovery Park. Grant funding has been secured for some of the money necessary to effect this purchase, but additional monies still must be raised by 2008 to meet the purchase price.

The 2006-2011 Capital Improvement Program for the City of Seattle was adopted by Ordinance 121991 on November 28, 2005. The Parks and Recreation portion of that document can be found in Appendix D.

- Appendix A: Department of Parks and Recreation Park and Open Space Inventory
- Appendix B: Gap Analysis Update Summary and Maps
- Appendix C: Advisory Council Questionnaires
- Appendix D: 2006-2011 Capital Improvement Program