

Seattle Parks and Recreation Parks Development Plan & Gap Analysis December 8, 2016

(This material has been generated by Seattle Planning Commission staff for discussion only)

Purpose

Susanne Rockwell from Seattle Parks and Recreation's Planning and Development Division will be attending the December 8 Planning Commission meeting to provide an overview of SPR's 2017 Parks Development Plan and Gap Analysis. This plan will define SPR's future acquisition priorities and capital investments over the next 6 years. The Development Plan and Gap Analysis Plan were originally created in 2000-2001 in response to the City's first Growth Management Act (GMA) Comprehensive Plan. Although the Development Plan was last updated in 2011 edition, the metrics and mapping analysis have not changed over the 17 intervening years. With the 2017 update, SPR is proposing revised metrics and a new mapping approach. The Planning Commission will have an opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback on the direction and methodology of this important planning effort.

Key Issues for SPC Consideration

1. How does the 2017 Parks Development Plan relate to Seattle 2025 and other recent plans?

The Parks and Open Space Element of the Seattle 2035 Comprehensive Plan contains overarching goals and policies. The Parks Development Plan is an implementation tool for the goals and policies of the Seattle 2035 Comprehensive Plan.

The 2017 Development Plan will have goals and objectives that are consistent with related goals and policies in the Seattle 2035 Comprehensive Plan, the Parks Legacy Plan, and some that will carry over from the 2011 Development Plan.

- 5 goals and 24 objectives in the 2011 Development Plan,
- Approximately 46 goals in the Parks Legacy Plan, and
- 4 goals and approximately 42 policies in the Parks and Open Space element of the Seattle 2035 Comprehensive Plan.

The 4 Parks and Open Space goals from the Seattle 2035 Comprehensive Plan are as follows:

- P G1. Provide a variety of outdoor and indoor spaces throughout the city for all people to play, learn, contemplate, and build community.
- P G2. Continue to provide opportunities for all people across Seattle to participate in a variety of recreational activities.
- P G3. Manage the City's park and recreation facilities to provide safe and welcoming places.
- P G4. Plan and maintain regional parks and facilities to accommodate the people who will want to visit them, while respecting the facilities' neighbors.

2. How will the 2017 Parks Development Plan and Gap Analysis help to achieve parks and facilities that meet the need of Seattle's growing and changing population?
 - What is the appropriate citywide Level of Service to meet anticipated population growth estimates in Seattle 2035?
 - How will the Parks Development Plan help SPR to identify sufficient parks and open space to meet those growth estimates?

Seattle 2035 does not include citywide metrics for parks level of service to guide how SPR plans to meet the parks and open space needs anticipated by Seattle's population growth over the next 20 years. The City has identified several indicators to provide measurable progress toward meeting key goals of the Seattle 2035 Comprehensive Plan. A decision was made to defer identification of any specific indicators for parks and open space to the 2017 Parks Development Plan.

SPR is considering developing a new metric for open space goals, replacing the population-based open space goals for individual Urban Villages. The 2017 Development Plan will help to define SPR's capital investments to meet those goals. The Gap Analysis uses GIS mapping technology to illustrate the City's open space and recreational facilities and inform SPR's long-term acquisition strategy. Susanne will demonstrate the Gap Analysis methodology using a GIS story mapping interface. **SPR is shifting from a buffer approach to a network approach by mapping accessibility, or walkability, to help identify priority areas for acquisition.** The Gap Analysis also considers population density and equity considerations, such as levels of income, as well as other publicly accessible land, such as Major Institutions and Universities, Seattle Public School property and Port property.

- Is the Gap Analysis methodology appropriate meet equity considerations?
- Is a quantitative level of service realistic given the constraints of our built environment?

3. What other metrics should be considered to determine an overall level of service?

Level of service in parks planning has evolved to include a menu of options. While some local governments and parks agencies continue to use single quantitative metrics to determine their level of service, others are using **both quantitative and qualitative indicators** to assess performance and plan for investments. At the November Land Use & Transportation Committee meeting, the following parks and open space level of service metrics were discussed:

✓ **Park Acres per 1,000 Residents**

The most traditional metric for determining the number of city parks is **X acres of park per 1,000 residents**. While the amount of parkland is important, **use of this one indicator has been criticized as inflexible and not representative of a city's unique park system situation**. Additional metrics described below are useful to more comprehensively understand and analyze the park needs of a community.

✓ **Size and Percentage of City Land**

The **median size of parks** and **park acreage as a percentage of a city's land area** are two additional metrics that are related to the amount of parkland. These are especially helpful to monitor park system conditions over time, but are only snapshots.

✓ **Park Accessibility**

This metric is evaluated by using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Census data to determine the percentage of households that are within walking distance from a park.

Walking distance is most commonly defined as 1/2 mile or a 10-minute walk. However, maps that show 1/2-mile buffers around parks to identify areas that are within or outside of the ten-minute walk threshold do not always reflect actual walking conditions. A more refined methodology incorporates GIS mapping that explicitly defines walksheds using the public road network and access that is uninterrupted by physical barriers such as highways, train tracks, rivers, and fences.

✓ **Park Pressure**

Park pressure is a lesser known, but helpful metric that refers to the **potential demand on a park**, assuming that the residents in a "parkshed" use the park closest to them. Using GIS, a Park Service Area (PSA) is defined containing all households with the given park as their closest park. The population within this PSA provides an estimate of the number of nearby potential park users. The acreage of the subject park is then used to calculate the **number of park acres available per 1,000 people within the parkshed**. Research has demonstrated that park pressure can be used to highlight racial inequities in park access, showing that Latinos, African-Americans, and low-income groups are more likely to live close to parks with higher potential park congestion.

✓ **Quantity and Variety of Park Amenities**

Communities should regularly assess their amenities, including playgrounds, swimming pools, sport courts and playfields, skate parks, picnic shelters, splash pads, gymnasiums, recreation centers, senior centers, restrooms etc. To get a sense of whether a community needs more of certain amenities, it can then **compare to national, state, and/or city averages (e.g. X playgrounds per 100,000 population) and a citywide needs assessment.**

✓ **Condition of Park Amenities**

The condition or quality of park amenities is a key measure of park adequacy. **Communities should regularly assess the condition of each park's general infrastructure and amenities**, such as walkways, parking lots, park furniture, drainage and irrigation, lighting systems, and vegetation. The condition of this infrastructure and park amenities may be rated in any way that **allows a city to determine its deferred maintenance and park improvement needs in terms of costs.**

Public Involvement

SPR will be introducing the Parks Development Plan and collecting feedback from the public over the next few months. In December and January, SPR and other city departments will be participating in several public meetings coordinated by the Department of Neighborhoods.

- Dec 3 - Bitter Lake Community Center
- Dec 7 – West Seattle
- Dec 14 – University District
- Jan 10 – First Hill/Capitol Hill
- Jan 21 – Columbia City

After completing the public involvement process, SPR will make staff recommendations for the Parks Development Plan to the Park Board. These recommendations will be based on public input, legal requirements, and alignment with the Mayor’s vision for Seattle.

Budget

Planning costs for the Parks Development Plan update come out of the SPR Planning and Development Division’s operating budget. Capital Improvement Projects and Acquisitions are funded through the CIP (Real Estate Excise Taxes-REET) and Seattle Park District funding. The current acquisition budget in the Seattle Park District’s current six-year financial plan is \$2 Million annually.

Project 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)

Additional Resources and Referenced Documents:

- Project Website:
<http://www.seattle.gov/parks/about-us/policies-and-plans/2017-development-plan>
- Gap Analysis Story Mapping Link:
http://www.seattle.gov/ArcGIS/SMSeries_GapAnalysisUpdate2017/index.html
- SPR Contact: Susanne Rockwell, 206.684.7133, susanne.rockwell@seattle.gov
- Attachments
 - 2004-2024 Seattle Comprehensive Plan -Citywide Open Space & Recreation Goals
 - Seattle 2035 Parks and Open Space Element
 - Seattle Planning Commission recommended policies for Seattle 2035 Parks Element
 - 2017 Development Plan and Gap Analysis FAQ

B Urban Village Appendix B

Old (2004-2024) Comp Plan

Citywide Open Space & Recreation Facility Goals

City Open Space	Goal	Area
Breathing Room Open Space	1 Acre per 100 residents	Citywide
Usable Open Space	¼ to ½ acre within ¼ to ½ mile of every resident	Areas outside Urban Villages
Recreation Facilities	Specific Goals for Recreation Facilities such as Community Centers, swimming pools and athletic fields are contained in the Parks Comprehensive Plan	Citywide, except as modified by Village Open Space and Recreation Goals

Urban Village Open Space & Recreation Facility Goals

Goal	Urban Center Villages	Hub Urban Villages	Residential Urban Villages
Urban Village Open Space Population-based Goals	One acre of Village Open Space per 1,000 households and one acre of Village Open Space per 10,000 jobs in each urban center, or in the four contiguous urban centers that comprise the center city, considered as a whole.	One acre of Village Open Space per 1,000 households.	Same as for Hub Urban Villages.
Urban Village Open Space Distribution Goals	All locations in the village within approximately 1/8 mile of Village Open Space.	Same as for Urban Center Villages.	For moderate and high density areas: All locations within 1/8 mile of a Village Open Space that is between 1/4- and 1-acre in size, or within 1/4 mile of a Village Open Space that is greater than 1 acre. For low density areas: all locations within 1/4 mile of any qualifying Village Open Space.
Qualifying Criteria for Village Open Space	Dedicated open spaces of at least 10,000 square feet in size, publicly accessible, and usable for recreation and social activities.	Same as for Urban Center Villages.	Same as for Urban Center and Hub Villages.
Village Commons, Recreation Facility and Community Garden Goals	At least one usable open space of at least one acre in size (Village Commons) where the existing and target households total 2,500 or more. (Amended 11/96). One indoor, multiple-use recreation facility serving each Urban Center. One dedicated community garden for each 2,500 households in the Village with at least one dedicated garden site.	At least one usable open space of at least one acre in size (Village Commons). One facility for indoor public assembly. Same as for Urban Center Villages.	At least one usable open space, of at least one acre in size (Village Commons), where overall residential density is ten households per gross acre or more. One facility for indoor public assembly in Villages with greater than 2,000 households. Same as for Urban Center and Hub Villages.

urban village appendix

Seattle Planning Commission comments on Seattle 2035 Parks and Open Space Element

1. Add wording in the Access to Open Space policies to clarify the aim of increasing parks holdings to keep pace with increasing demands. Also add a policy to link these increases with the overarching Growth Strategy and monitoring of progress of Seattle 2035.

P 1.1 *Continue to expand the City's park holdings and open space opportunities, ~~with~~ to meet the needs of an increasing population. Place special emphasis on serving urban centers, ~~and~~ urban villages, areas that are home to marginalized populations, and areas that have been traditionally underserved.* **(Not incorporated)**

NEW *Link parks development planning with the Comprehensive Plan's Growth Strategy. Include parks and open space in the process of developing indicators and monitoring progress of the Comprehensive Plan.* **(Not incorporated)**

2. In the Appendix, Capital Facilities – Parks – Forecast of Future Needs section on page 529, either remove the two existing goals of funding park acquisitions or **add a third goal related to equity.**

NEW *Provide access to open space and recreation activities for marginalized populations and in areas that have been traditionally underserved.* **(Added)**

3. In the Appendix, Capital Facilities – Parks – Forecast of Future needs section on page 529, remove wording that conflicts with the Parks and Open Space policies. **(Not incorporated)**

Park acquisitions are opportunity driven. Additions to the park facilities would enhance the City's quality of life. However, such additions are not necessary to accommodate new households in urban centers, urban villages, or citywide.

4. Policies P 1.4 and P 1.12 are almost identical other than the population that they are intended to benefit. We suggest deleting P 1.4 and keeping P 1.12 to focus on all residents, but include marginalized populations, seniors, and children.

P 1.4 *Reduce health disparities by making investments that provide access to open space and recreation activities for marginalized communities.* **(Removed)**

P 1.12 *Use investments in park facilities and programs to reduce health disparities by providing access to open space and recreational activities for all Seattle residents, especially marginalized populations, seniors, and children.*

5. Add a new policy, possibly after P 1.2, to encourage development of parks and buildings that recognize and promote diverse cultures, similar to policies P 2.4, 2.5, and 2.12.

NEW *Engage with community leaders to design and develop parks and facilities based on the specific needs and cultures of each community they serve.* **(Added as new P 1.15)**

6. Add an Access to Open Space policy that addresses the need for "new strategies" to create parks, as identified in the introduction to this section on page 134.

NEW *Create innovative opportunities to utilize existing land, especially in the right of way, for open space and recreation, including street plazas, pavement to parks, parklets, and community gardens.* **(Added as new P 1.17)**

7. Ensure that public access is provided to open spaces associated with private development; delete language about providing recreation for building tenants, as this does not constitute public access.

P 1.8 *Encourage or require private developers to incorporate on-site publicly accessible open space ~~or to provide appropriate recreation opportunities for building tenants within new developments.~~* **(Removed)**

8. Include other funding strategies than impact fees.

P 1.9 *Consider the use of open space impact fees and other financing mechanisms to help fund open space system improvements that will serve the expected growth.* **(Added)**

9. Replace “consider” with “ensure.”

P 1.15 *Ensure ~~Consider~~ access by transit, bicycle, and foot when acquiring new park facilities or improving existing ones.* **(Added as “Provide for...”)**

10. Include other funding strategies than impact fees.

P 2.1 *Consider the use of open space impact fees and other financing mechanisms to help fund recreational facility system improvements that will serve the expected growth.* **(Not incorporated)**

11. Include other habitats in addition to forests.

P 3.4 *Enhance wildlife habitat by restoring forests, shoreline areas, wetlands, and creeks and expanding the tree canopy on City owned land.* **(Not incorporated)**

12. This policy should be included in the Access to Open Space section.

P 3.6 *Increase access to public land by assessing, managing, and cleaning up contaminated sites.* **(Moved as new P 1.16)**

Parks and Open Space



Introduction

Parks and open space help make Seattle a great place to live, play, and raise families. These places contribute not only to the city's environmental health but also to the physical and mental health of its residents. Access to **open space** can benefit individuals by giving them places to exercise their bodies and refresh their minds. Open spaces also provide valuable wildlife and vegetation habitat that might otherwise be scarce in the city.

The City-owned park and recreation system comprises about 11 percent of the total city land area. It includes gardens, community centers, boating facilities, and environmental education centers. From the magnificent views off the bluffs of Discovery Park to the tree-lined boulevard system and intimate pocket parks, these areas provide opportunities for residents and visitors to relax, enjoy competitive games, exercise, or meet with friends and neighbors.

Developed parks are not the only sources of open space that people enjoy in the city. There are also open spaces and recreation opportunities located in public rights-of-way, such as along Cheasty and Ravenna Boulevards or in Bell Street Park. Off-road bike trails, including the Burke-Gilman Trail and Alki Beach Park, offer other types of active recreation. An extensive system of P-Patches and community gardens throughout the city offer gardening spaces for residents to grow their own fruits, vegetables, and flowers. Seattle Center, which itself is not part of the City parks system, is nevertheless a unique urban amenity that offers both open space and a wide variety of cultural activities.

Other agencies also provide open spaces in the city. These include fields and playgrounds at public and private schools, areas such as the federal Chittenden Locks, several waterfront access points provided by the Port of Seattle, and the open spaces on several college and university campuses. Numerous private developments have made plazas and other open areas available to the public, such as Waterfall Garden Park in Pioneer Square.

In addition to the areas enjoyed by the public, there are many private open spaces in the city. These areas—such as yards in **single-family** and **multifamily zones**—also provide light, air, and breathing room that benefit everyone in the city.

Puget Sound and the city's lakes provide another form of open space. These wide stretches of water are open to the sky and offer visual relief from the urban environment, as well as visual connections to other areas of the city and region.

In 2014 voters in Seattle approved the formation of the Seattle Park District. This district provides a new taxing authority and funding source for the maintenance and improvement of City parks, as well as for programs aimed at serving historically **underserved** residents and communities. Some of the ways the City obtains new parkland are by using state funds, acquiring surplus federal land, establishing requirements for new development projects, providing incentives for developers, and creatively using public rights-of-way.

Access to Open Space

Discussion

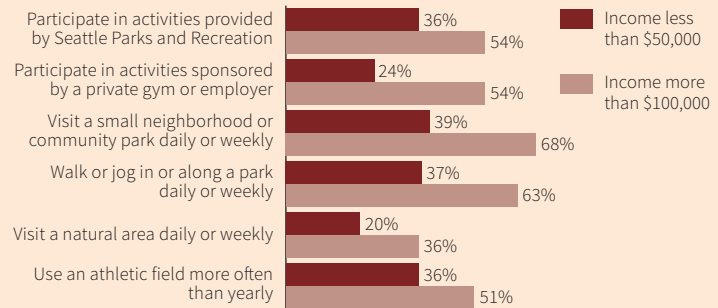
The city has a robust citywide park and open space system. These open spaces are available for use by all. However, the City continues to look for ways to improve this system. Seattle is already very developed, so there aren't many opportunities to find new land for open spaces. Creating the system that we desire—and one that will serve the growing city—will require new strategies, including some that will increase the capacity of existing parks. We will have to find the right balance between active and passive recreational activities throughout the park system, build better access through the City's transportation planning,

and provide access to open space and recreational programming as part of public and private development.

Public health studies indicate that proximity to parks is associated with greater levels of physical activity as well as increased park use. Open spaces in Seattle are well distributed and available throughout the city. However, a recent study found that lower-income people are less likely to participate in physical activity than people with higher incomes, as shown on the accompanying table.

Seattle Residents' Participation in Recreational Activities

Percentage of residents who participate



Source: City of Seattle Parks Legacy Plan Survey, conducted in 2012

This section addresses the design and distribution of our citywide park and open space system, including how new parks and open space are acquired and developed. The Seattle Parks and Recreation Department's Development Plan also contains specific goals for Seattle's parks, open space, and facilities such as community centers, athletic fields, and playgrounds.

GOAL

- P G1** Provide a variety of outdoor and indoor spaces throughout the city for all people to play, learn, contemplate, and build **community**.

POLICIES

- P 1.1** Continue to expand the City's park holdings and open space opportunities, with special emphasis on serving **urban centers** and **urban villages** that are home to **marginalized populations** and areas that have been traditionally underserved.
- P 1.2** Provide a variety of parks and open space to serve the city's growing population consistent with the priorities and level-of-service standards identified in the City's Park Development Plan.
- P 1.3** Provide urban trails, **green streets**, and boulevards in public rights-of-way as recreation and transportation options and as ways to connect open spaces and parks to each other, to urban centers and villages, and to the regional open space system.
- P 1.4** Make rights-of-way available on a temporary basis to provide space for community events, such as street fairs, farmers' markets, or neighborhood celebrations.

- P 1.5** Provide areas to preserve important natural or ecological features in public ownership, and allow people access to these spaces.
- P 1.6** Provide public access to shorelines by using street ends, regulation, or acquisition.
- P 1.7** Encourage or require private developers to incorporate on-site publicly accessible open space.
- P 1.8** Consider the use of open space impact fees and other financing mechanisms to help fund open space system improvements that will serve the expected growth.
- P 1.9** Use cooperative agreements with Seattle Public Schools and other public agencies to provide access to open spaces they control.
- P 1.10** Create healthy places for children and adults to play, as well as areas for more passive strolling, viewing, and picnicking.
- P 1.11** Make investments in park facilities and programs to reduce health disparities by providing access to open space and recreational activities for all Seattle residents, especially marginalized populations, seniors, and children.
- P 1.12** Design open spaces that protect the natural environment and provide light, air, and visual relief within the built environment.
- P 1.13** Make the most of the limited available land by developing parks and open spaces so that they can accommodate a variety of active and passive recreational uses.
- P 1.14** Provide for access by transit, bicycle, and foot when siting and designing new park facilities or improving existing ones.
- P 1.15** Engage with community members to design and develop parks and facilities based on the specific needs and cultures of the communities the park is intended to serve.
- P 1.16** Increase access to public land by assessing, managing, and cleaning up contaminated sites.
- P 1.17** Create innovative opportunities to use existing public land, especially in the right of way, for open space and recreation, including street plazas, pavement to parks, parklets, lidding of reservoirs and highways, and community gardens.

Parks and Recreation Activities

Discussion

Seattle Parks and Recreation provides programs and facilities that let people play, learn, and lead healthy, active lives. People gather, take classes, exercise, and play sports at community centers, pools, and lakes. Other City facilities, such as golf courses, boating centers, and tennis courts, offer additional opportunities for recreation. Seattle Parks and Recreation

offers programs for teens and classes that provide opportunities for lifelong learning and recreation options for those with disabilities.

GOAL

- P G2** Continue to provide opportunities for all people across Seattle to participate in a variety of recreational activities.

POLICIES

- P 2.1** Consider the use of open space impact fees to help fund recreational facility system improvements that will serve the expected growth.
- P 2.2** Develop a long-term strategic plan that accounts for citywide and neighborhood demographics, as well as the demand for various active and passive recreation activities.
- P 2.3** Establish partnerships with public and private organizations to supplement programming that supports residents' needs and interests.
- P 2.4** Develop activities at community centers based on the specific needs of each community they serve and make them neighborhood focal points where people can enhance their individual health and well-being and strengthen a sense of community.
- P 2.5** Promote the use of open spaces and park facilities in the city for events that celebrate our history and the many cultures of our community.
- P 2.6** Provide recreation and social programs that allow older adults to remain healthy and actively involved in their community.
- P 2.7** Provide athletic fields that can serve as places where people of diverse ages, backgrounds, and interests can engage in a variety of sports.
- P 2.8** Offer fun and safe water experiences through a diverse range of healthy and accessible aquatic programs at outdoor and indoor venues throughout the city.
- P 2.9** Provide welcoming, accessible, and affordable recreation and social programs for people with disabilities and their families.
- P 2.10** Engage teens with activities that help them to build their identities and to acquire skills that will lead to healthy and productive lives.
- P 2.11** Develop programs that foster awareness and appreciation of nature from the neighborhood scale to the regional scale and provide activities for residents to help protect or restore the environment.
- P 2.12** Provide programs that are culturally responsive, accessible, welcoming, and affordable to communities of color and to immigrant and refugee communities.

- P 2.13** Provide welcoming, accessible, and affordable recreation and social programs for LGBTQ youth and adults.
- P 2.14** Develop partnerships with organizations that consider race and social justice to be fundamental to their operations and business practices.

Maintaining Park and Recreation Facilities

Discussion

The City's park system makes up a significant amount of the city's land, and that land contains many types of buildings, swimming pools, trails, landscaped and natural areas, and **urban forests**. Keeping these facilities safe and enjoyable requires constant attention.

GOAL

- P G3** Manage the City's park and recreation facilities to provide safe and welcoming places.

POLICIES

- P 3.1** Implement capital improvements that are driven by a long-term programmatic strategic plan.
- P 3.2** Maintain the long-term viability of park and recreation facilities by regularly addressing major maintenance needs.
- P 3.3** Look for innovative ways to approach construction and major maintenance activities to limit water and energy use and to maximize environmental sustainability.
- P 3.4** Enhance wildlife habitat by restoring forests and expanding the tree canopy on City-owned land.
- P 3.5** Protect habitat and wildlife areas through education, interpretation, and wildlife-management programs.
- P 3.6** Preserve and reclaim park property for public use and benefit, and ensure continued access to parkland for the growing population.
- P 3.7** Leverage capital and program investments and agreements with private vendors to provide training, apprenticeships, youth employment, and living wage job opportunities for marginalized populations.

Major Open Space Attractions

Discussion

Some of the facilities maintained by Seattle Parks and Recreation and certain other open spaces in the city attract many visitors from outside their immediate neighborhoods. Washington Park Arboretum, Woodland Park Zoo, Kubota Garden, Seattle Aquarium, Magnuson Park, the Olympic Sculpture Park, and Seattle Center are examples of locations that offer natural and cultural attractions and bring users from across the region into Seattle's neighborhoods.

GOAL

- P G4** Plan and maintain regional parks and facilities to accommodate the people who will want to visit them, while respecting the facilities' neighbors.

POLICIES

- P 4.1** Develop plans for regional and special-use parks to take advantage of unique natural and cultural features in the city, enhance visitors' experiences, and nurture partnerships with other public agencies and private organizations.
- P 4.2** Design parks and program activities in Downtown in ways that create a welcoming and safe environment.
- P 4.3** Recognize that visitors to major regional attractions can impact the neighborhoods surrounding those facilities, and look for ways to limit those impacts, including through enhanced walking, biking, and transit connections.
- P 4.4** Look for innovative ways to conduct construction and major maintenance of park facilities that will provide training, apprenticeships, youth employment, and living wage opportunities for marginalized populations.



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>

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