



2016 Parks, Arts & Recreation Plan

February 9, 2016



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WELCOME FROM PAUL SIMMONS, OPARD DIRECTOR

The foundation for Parks, Arts and Recreation in Olympia is incredible. The park system has grown to over 1,000 acres and includes all of the traditional amenities one would look for such as ballfields, tennis courts, playgrounds, restrooms and picnic shelters. Olympia parks also provide substantial open space and natural areas, complemented by multiple opportunities to access the Puget Sound shoreline and our historical waterfront.

The well-established recreation division provides a diverse menu of activities and has achieved four consecutive years of record-breaking participation and revenue generation. The public art collection has grown to 100 pieces; while the Percival Plinth project and award-winning Arts Walk event create a unique community identity and provide meaningful opportunities for civic engagement.

On November 3, 2015, Olympians took a historic step to further enhance Parks, Arts and Recreation services. The Olympia Metropolitan Parks District (MPD) funding measure passed with more than 60% voter approval. The newly-formed MPD will ensure that the existing park system is well-maintained and remains safe and accessible. It will also provide the resources to meet expanding needs as Olympia grows substantially over the next twenty years. This community-driven update to the Parks, Arts and Recreation Plan provides the road map and funding plan to achieve that vision through the following actions:

- Acquisition of 417 acres of new park land
- An increase of more than 25% to our existing 16-mile trail inventory
- Elimination of the existing \$4 million major-maintenance backlog
- Management shift towards data-driven decisions with performance measures
- A strengthened commitment to the arts and to recreation programming
- More than doubled investment in safety and security of our parks and facilities

I want to take a moment and recognize the in-house staff team that worked together to develop this Parks, Arts and Recreation Plan. With Associate Planner Jonathon Turlove as the

Project Leader; this staff group spent countless hours facilitating an extensive public feedback process, finalized a series of supporting documents and master plans, and worked collaboratively to craft and edit the final language and approach outlined in this plan.

I would also like to express my sincere gratitude for the unprecedented level of community support for Parks, Arts and Recreation services in Olympia. The amount of community engagement in the planning process and ongoing support for Parks, Arts and Recreation initiatives is truly remarkable.

I am honored to serve as the Parks, Arts and Recreation Director in Olympia and look forward to working closely together with community members as we make this plan a reality.

Sincerely,



Paul Simmons
Parks, Arts and Recreation Director



Plan Technical Advisory Group. Left to right: Jonathon Turlove, Gary Franks, David Hanna, Paul Simmons, Tammy LeDoux, Scott River, Dave Okerlund, and Stephanie Johnson.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Olympia loves its parks! 95% of Olympia residents are park users according to a 2015 Stuart Elway poll. To find out what parks, arts and recreation amenities Olympians want, parks staff conducted an extensive public input process for this plan. Through eight neighborhood meetings, a community meeting, an on-line questionnaire, and a random sample survey, Olympia residents were able to make their needs known.

Residents made it clear that they wanted additional parks and open space to meet a variety of unmet needs. The acquisition of the “LBA Woods” topped the list, but there was also a strong desire expressed for more neighborhood parks, community parks, other open space/trail acquisitions and increased maintenance of existing parks.

In addition to the challenge of meeting current unmet needs, Olympia and its urban growth area are expected to grow by over 21,000 people in the next 20 years. Substantial land acquisition, development and additional maintenance resources will be required to address this growth.

In order to fund the land acquisition, development and maintenance required, the Plan will rely on General Fund revenue, the existing Voted and Non-Voted Utility Tax, Park Impact Fees, SEPA Mitigation Fees, and revenue generated by the newly formed Olympia Metropolitan Park District (MPD). MPD funds can be used to rebuild parks maintenance service levels, address the \$4 million deferred maintenance backlog, provide ongoing inspection and maintenance of Percival Landing and help OPARD meet other critical needs. This will allow the Voted Utility Tax to be utilized exclusively for land acquisition.

The following is a summary of the major elements of this plan (for a complete list of all projects and projected costs, see the Capital Investment Strategy at the end of this plan).

Land Acquisition

The plan calls for 417 acres of land acquisition over the 20-year planning horizon¹. This includes:

- “LBA Woods” (74-acres)
- “Kaiser Woods” (75-Acres)

¹ The 417-acre estimate is based on cost estimates from recent land acquisitions. Should City Council choose to purchase land that is more expensive per-acre or should land costs increase more than projected, the 417-acre goal will need to be adjusted.

- 10 combination neighborhood park/open space parks (45-acres)
- Open space/trail corridors (54-acres)
- Land Acquisition Fund (169-acres)

If these acquisitions are accomplished, the land for Olympia’s foreseeable park needs as expressed by the public will be secured while it is still available. The City will also have achieved the goal of 500 acres of park acquisition expressed in the informational materials for the 2004 Funding Measure effort. The City’s inventory of trails will increase by more than 30%.

Path to 500 Acres			
(Park Land Added Since 2004 and Additional Proposed Acres)			
	Park Name	Date Acquired or Leased	Total Acres
1	Evergreen Park Drive (IUMP)	2005	3.99
2	8 th Ave	2006	3.99
3	Kettle View	2007	4.80
4	Ward Lake	2007	9.14
5	West Bay	2007	17.04
6	Grass Lake Expansion (Loete Parcel)	2007	7.97
7	Heritage Park Fountain expansion (Little Da Nang)	2007	0.07
8	Madison Scenic Park	2007	2.21
9	Log Cabin Road Park	2010	2.35
10	Harrison Avenue Parcel	2011	24.00
11	Artesian Commons	2013	0.20
12	Leo Donation	2013	0.89
13	Isthmus Parcels	2013	2.34
14	Grass Lake Expansion (parcel adjacent to Rite Aid)	2015	21.04
15	Springwood Dr Parcel donation (Bowen/Zabels)	2015	3.20
	Acres Added Since 2004 Funding Measure Passed		103.23
	Land Acquisition proposed in draft Plan		417.00
	TOTAL		520.23

Park Development

While the plan has a strong emphasis on land acquisition, there are also substantial park development projects to ensure that as Olympia’s population grows during the next twenty years its recreation needs continue to be met. The plan calls for:

- Phase 2, Section A reconstruction of Percival Landing
- West Bay Park and Trail Phase 2
- Olympia Woodland Trail Phase 3
- Athletic field complex

- 5 Neighborhood parks
- Arts Center
- 2 Sprayground water play features
- A Major Community Park development project
- Dog park, disc golf course, skate court and community gardens

Maintenance

The Plan places a strong emphasis on both maintaining the existing park infrastructure and also setting aside sufficient funds to maintain the new parks that will be acquired and developed during this planning horizon:

- Major maintenance program fully funded at \$750,000 annually
- Additional maintenance staff for new land and projects
- Restoration of park custodial crew
- Restoration of park landscape crew
- Art maintenance support
- Additional park maintenance administrative support
- Percival Landing maintenance reserve and annual inspection fund

Safe Parks

The plan provides funds to help keep Olympia's parks safe:

- Investments in proactive park enforcement
- Increased park patrolling
- Increased lighting and other park safety upgrades
- Resources for encampment cleanup

With anticipated population growth and aging infrastructure, there will be a strong demand for new and updated parks in coming years. This plan provides a roadmap for how we can address these challenges and build a parks, arts and recreation system that will be enjoyed for generations to come.

OUR MISSION

We provide opportunities for meaningful life experiences through extraordinary parks, arts and recreation.

OUR VISION

To make a difference by enriching Olympia's quality of life, being good environmental stewards, strengthening community connection, creating neighborhood identity, fostering artistic expression, and beautifying our City; in short, to touch the life of every Olympian in a positive way.

OBJECTIVES OF THE PLAN

This plan discusses the findings and recommendations for meeting the community's needs for parks, arts, and recreation services in Olympia. More specifically, the plan:

- **Designs a park, arts, and recreation system that meets the needs of the community.** Over time, the community's population profile and interests change. The park system, arts programs, and recreation services must be flexible to meet emerging needs.
- **Identifies the general location of future parks, open space, and trail systems.** The "Existing and Proposed Parks and Open Spaces" map in Chapter 7 shows the general locations of these proposed sites.
- **Provides direction for future recreation activities and services.** The Olympia Department of Parks, Arts & Recreation offers a wide variety of recreation programs using The Olympia Center, schools, parks and other facilities.
- **Provides direction for arts facilities and services.** The plan contains goals and policies for new arts programs and facilities and contains a link to the Municipal Arts Plan.
- **Identifies new services and facilities.** New parks, arts, and recreation services and facilities are included in this plan.
- **Complies with the Growth Management Act (GMA).** While this is not a Growth Management Act Document, OPARD will recommend amendments to the Comprehensive Plan to ensure that these plans are consistent.
- **Maintains Olympia's eligibility for funding through grants.** The Washington Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) requires that grant applicants have a park system master plan that has been updated within the last six years. This plan will meet the requirements of the RCO for several grant categories including habitat grants.

- **Establishes the foundation for assessing Park Impact Fees and SEPA Mitigation Fees.** Park Impact Fees are charged for new residential construction within Olympia City Limits, and SEPA Mitigation Fees are charged for new residential construction in Olympia's Urban Growth Area.
- **Provides a business plan for implementing parks, arts and recreation services.** The business plan will provide a framework for measuring progress towards performance measures.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

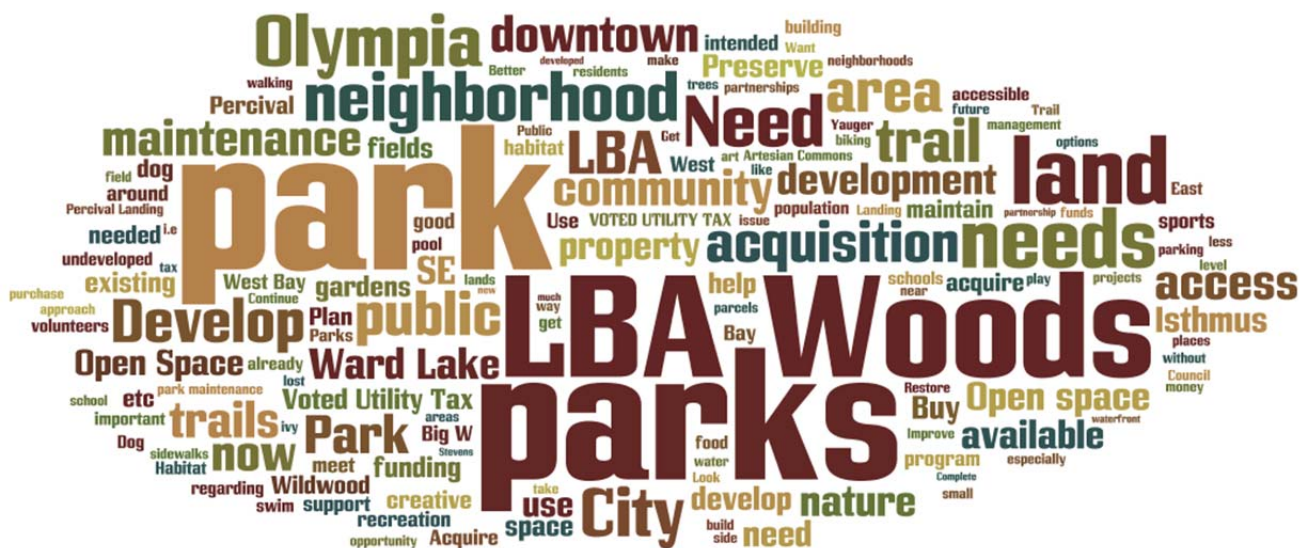
One of the primary goals of the plan update was to reflect the needs of Olympia's residents. Only through public involvement could we know how people perceive their needs. Throughout the planning process, the community was invited to help shape the future of their parks, arts, and recreation programs. This plan update has been based on community input that was gathered in the following ways:

- Meeting with Coalition of Neighborhood Associations to discuss outreach Strategy 10/13/14
- Series of eight neighborhood outreach meetings throughout Olympia 11/12/14 – 1/8/15
- Initial OlySpeaks on-line survey 12/4/14 – 1/9/15
- Community meeting 2/18/15
- Random sample survey of Olympia residents 3/20/15 – 4/5/15
- Public made aware of draft plan's availability and public comment period via media releases, emails to all participants at initial public meetings, department newsletter, and posting on the City of Olympia's homepage. 11/17/15
- Draft plan available on OPARD's website 11/17/15
- A public comment period for the draft plan 11/17/15 – 12/11/15
- A public meeting on the draft plan [Scheduled for 12/2/15]
- Olympia Planning Commission review [Scheduled for 12/7/15]
- Olympia Arts Commission review [Scheduled for 12/10/25]
- Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee review [Scheduled for 12/17/15]
- Olympia City Council Public Hearing [Scheduled for 1/12/16]



Eight Neighborhood Outreach Meetings

From November 12, 2014 to January 8, 2015, OPARD staff hosted a series of eight neighborhood meetings. Each meeting was located in a different part of the City. There was strong participation at the meetings with 143 unique participants and 160 total participants (some people attended more than one meeting). At the meetings, participants were asked to identify what they felt was the greatest parks, arts or recreation need in their neighborhood and in the community as a whole. The following were the most dominant themes brought up at the meetings: (to see all comments, click here: olympiawa.gov/parksplan)



Most Dominant Themes (Topics mentioned 20 or more times)

- Buy the LBA Woods property
- Acquire land in general while it is available
- Buy open space/natural areas – provide nearby access to nature

Secondary Themes- (Topics mentioned 10-19 times)

- Provide more trails and trail/sidewalk connections to parks
- Utilize Voted Utility Tax as it was intended
- Construct an off-leash dog park
- Increase volunteerism/Park Stewardship Program
- Develop a park on the Isthmus

Other Common Themes (Topics mentioned 5-9 Times)

- Improve natural resource management/removal of invasive species
- Construct the “Big W” waterfront trail
- Provide swimming access/swimming pool
- Improve park safety/reduce park drug use
- Develop Ward Lake swim beach
- Develop West Bay Park/Trail
- Strengthen partnership with Olympia School District
- Develop more soccer fields
- Finish renovating Percival Landing
- Maintain existing parks
- Construct more community gardens
- Acquire heron rookery
- Foster partnerships
- Provide food forests in parks (fruit/nut trees, berry bushes)

OlySpeaks On-Line Survey

From December 4, 2014 through January 9, 2015 the City provided an on-line survey asking participants to identify what they felt were the greatest parks, arts or recreation needs in their neighborhood and in the community as a whole (the same questions as were asked at the neighborhood meetings.) This gave people who were unable to attend a meeting an opportunity to participate. Again there was strong participation with 119 comments submitted. Comments mentioned more than once are below (to see the comments in their entirety, click here: olympiawa.gov/parksplan)

Number of Similar Responses	Input
52	Purchase LBA Woods property
9	Construct lit, synthetic turf soccer fields
6	Construct West Bay Trail
4	Construct a swimming pool
4	Develop Log Cabin Road neighborhood park site
3	Develop mountain bike trails
2	Add amenities to West Bay Park
2	Artesian Commons has drug problems, is not family-friendly
2	Develop an off-leash dog park
2	Foster stronger partnership with Olympia School District to provide shared

	fields/parks
2	Fulfill promises made to the voters regarding the Voted Utility Tax
2	Tear down Capitol Center Building and make Isthmus a mixed-use site

Random Sample Survey of Olympia Citizens

From March 20 through April 5th, 4000 households selected at random were asked to participate in an on-line questionnaire. 759 people completed the questionnaire. This random sample survey was conducted by a well-respected professional survey consultant and conducted in a scientific manner; ~~it is perhaps the most accurate way to gauge the opinions of Olympia's population.~~ A summary of the results follow. (To see the complete survey report, click here: olympiawa.gov/parksplan)

95% of respondents report visiting a city park in the last year.

- 51% say they went to a city park 12+ times in the last year.

Nearly 1 in 5 (18%) had participated in a city recreation program.

City parks get an overall grade of "B-".

- Most respondents gave city parks an "A"(11%) or "B" (52%) grade
- The parks' "grade point average" was 2.70 ("B-").

Park users are generally satisfied but not overly impressed by park maintenance.

- The overall grade for maintenance was is "C+" with each of 6 features getting a rating of "satisfactory" or better from a large majority of park users.
- Maintenance of playgrounds (GPA=2.62), trails (2.58), parking (2.51), sports fields (2.43), picnic facilities (2.42) and restrooms (2.14) were each rated "satisfactory" to "good" by a majority of park users.

Walking paths and restrooms were ranked as the "most important park features."

- Nearly 9 in 10 included walking paths (87%) and restrooms (86%) among their top five most important features.
- Majorities included picnic tables (67%), open grassy areas (57%) and playground equipment (50%) in their top five.

1 in 3 respondents said there are parks in Olympia in which they do not feel safe.

- A dozen specific parks were cited, headed by the Artesian Commons, named by 11% of respondents as a place where they do not feel safe.

About half of respondents (55%) had visited the Olympia Center in the past year.

- 15% had visited at least 5 times.
- 63% considered it to be a "safe facility"; 7% said unsafe; 31% had no opinion.

Respondents prefer a fairly balanced spending plan with a slight emphasis towards maintenance and improving existing parks but would allocate substantial funding towards land acquisition and development as well.

- Asked to distribute \$100 across park priorities, on average:
 - \$28.94 was distributed to maintenance and
 - \$26.55 improving existing parks;
 - \$25.02 to land acquisition;
 - \$19.49 for develop new facilities on undeveloped sites.

Neighborhood parks were rated as the "most needed".

- Large natural areas ranked second with pocket parks ranked last
- Swimming facilities (outdoor and indoor) were the most frequently named item when respondents were asked if there were recreation facilities needed but not currently available in Olympia (18% named outdoor; 16% named indoor). In a separate question, however, swimming facilities ranked in the middle of the list of priority projects.

Respondents preferred more small open areas over one or two large open areas.

- By a 5:3 margin (58-35%) respondents chose several 1-10 acre parks over one or two 50+ acre parks "that would serve the entire city."

Most people were at least "probably willing" to travel across town to large parks and open spaces. The smaller the park, the less willing people were to travel:

- 93% were willing to cross town to large open spaces like Priest Point or Watershed Parks (93% including 62% "definitely willing").

- 74% were willing for a community park such as Yauger or LBA parks (33% "definitely willing").
- 50% were willing to travel to a neighborhood park such as Lions or Decatur Woods (only 15% "very willing.").

Respondents rated several reasons as equally important for preserving open space.

- Water quality, wildlife habitat, public access and scenic value were each rated by more than 90% as important reasons to preserve open space.

Preservation of wetland habitat was ranked as the most important type of wildlife habitat to protect.

- Mature forest land, wildlife species and Budd Inlet shoreline were not far behind in the ranking.

Trails, natural open spaces and improved maintenance were ranked as the top priorities for the Department.

- These three items were ranked 1-2-3 from a list of 13 potential action items suggested by citizens at community forums.
- Improved safety, developing currently undeveloped neighborhood parks and removing invasive species made up the second tier of priorities.

No clear priority among six potential "megaprojects".

- Asked to rank six potential projects, respondents scored the top four items in a tight cluster, headed by the Percival Landing project.
- Close behind were demolishing Capitol Center and completing the Olympia Woodland Trail.
- Acquisition of the LBA Woods ranked 4th, followed by developing the West Bay Park and Trail and Development of an Athletic Field Community Park.

Most respondents thought the city should sponsor and promote arts projects, including:

- Sponsoring large community events like Arts Walk (72%);
- Promoting arts activities happening in town (60%);
- Sponsoring small arts programs, such as neighborhood concerts (51%).

There was less support for arts capital projects, such as developing an Arts & Entertainment District, live/work housing, purchasing public art and monetary grants.

Sizeable majorities were at least "probably" willing to support a tax increase for both acquisition and development of recreational facilities and for maintenance.

- 71% said they would "definitely" (35%) or "probably" (36%) be inclined to support "an increase in taxes to pay for acquisition and development of parks trails and other recreational facilities."
- 75% said they would be "definitely" (28%) or "probably" (47%) be inclined to support "an increase in taxes to pay for maintenance of parks, trails and other recreational facilities."

Most (58%) would trust the city to use the funds appropriately if funding measure were to pass.

- Only 10% would trust the city "completely"
- 48% would "mostly" trust the city.
- 28% would not trust that the funds would be used appropriately, including 8% who would trust the city "not at all."

Public Input Summary

Looking at the results of the various public input methods outlined above, one begins to see some common themes:

- Buy the LBA Woods property
- Acquire land in general while it is still available
- Buy open space/natural areas/trails to provide habitat value and access to nature
- Important to maintain what we already have
- Neighborhood parks very important

REPORT ON THE LAST PLAN

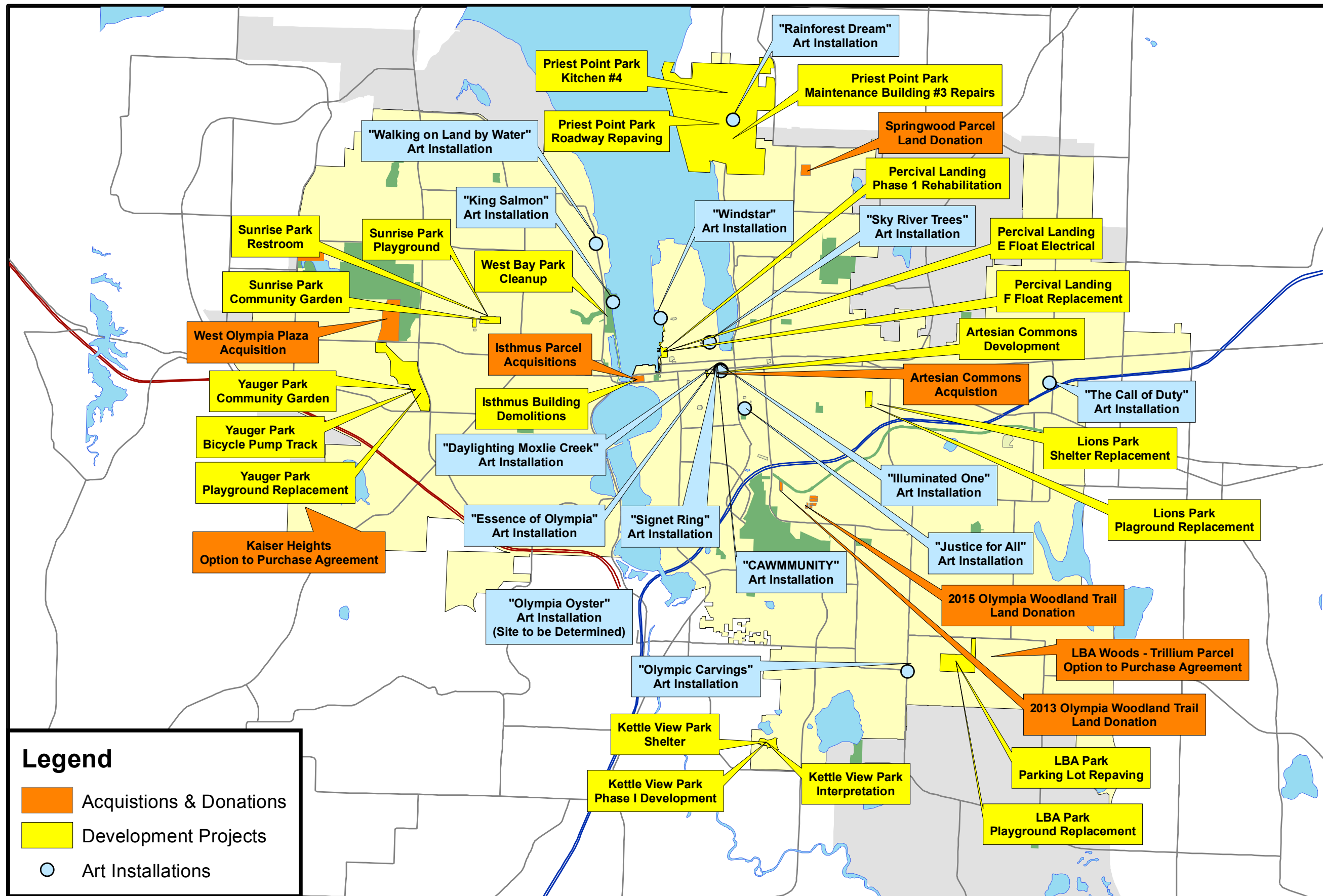
As we go forward, we build on the past. The last six years have brought many changes to our programs and services based on the blueprint presented in the 2010 Parks, Arts & Recreation Plan, City budgets, and community need.

Park Facilities Constructed Since 2010 Plan Adopted

Since the last plan was written, the following park facilities have been constructed:

- Lions Park Playground (2010)
- Percival Landing Plinths (2010)
- Percival Landing Reconstruction Phase 1 (2011)
- Kettle View Park Phase 1 (2011)
- Sunrise Park Restroom (2011)
- LBA Park Playground (2011)
- Yauger Park Playground (2011)
- Yauger Park Community Garden (2011)
- Sunrise Park Community Garden (2012)
- Lions Park Shelter (2012)
- Kettle View Park Shelter (2013)
- Artesian Commons Phase 1 (2014)
- Yauger Park Pump Track (2015)
- Sunrise Park Playground (2015)
- Percival Landing E Float Electrical (2015)
- Percival Landing F Float Replacement (2015)
- Priest Point Park Kitchen Shelter 4 (2015)





Legend

- Acquisitions & Donations
- Development Projects
- Art Installations

Map created 10/21/15
 Please contact the Olympia Parks, Arts and Recreation Department with questions: olympiaparks@ci.olympia.wa.us, (360) 753-8380.



The City of Olympia and its personnel cannot assure the accuracy, completeness, reliability, or suitability of this information for any particular purpose. The parcels, right-of-ways, utilities and structures depicted hereon are based on record information and aerial photos only. It is recommended the recipient and or user field verify all information prior to use. The use of this data for purposes other than those for which they were created may yield inaccurate or misleading results. The recipient may not assert any proprietary rights to this information. The City of Olympia and its personnel neither accept or assume liability or responsibility, whatsoever, for any activity involving this information with respect to lost profits, lost savings or any other consequential damages.

City of Olympia Parks, Arts and Recreation Plan

Park and Public Art Projects since 2010 Plan Adopted

Map 3-1

Public Art Pieces added to Olympia's Collection Since 2010 Plan Adopted

Title	Location	Artist	Year Acquired
<i>Olympic Carvings</i>	Boulevard/Log Cabin Roundabout	Steve Jensen	2010
<i>CAWWMMUNITY</i>	Olympia City Hall	Judith Gebhard Smith	2011
<i>Daylighting Moxlie Creek</i>	Olympia City Hall	Mimi Williams	2011
<i>Essence of Olympia</i>	Olympia City Hall	Shelley Carr	2011
<i>Signet Ring</i>	Olympia City Hall	Tom Anderson	2011
<i>The Call of Duty</i>	Olympia Fire Station 4	Haiying Wu	2012
<i>Justice for All</i>	Lee Creighton Justice Center	John Vanek	2012
<i>King Salmon</i>	West Bay Park	Dan Klennert	2012
<i>Sky River Trees</i>	Hands On Children's Museum	Koryn Rolstad	2012
<i>Rainforest Dream</i>	Priest Point Park	Leo E. Osborne	2013
<i>Windstar</i>	Port Plaza	Ross Matteson	2013
<i>Walking on Land by Water</i>	West Bay Drive	Carolyn Law and Lucia Perillo	2014
<i>Illuminated One</i>	City Hall	Leo E. Osborne	2014
<i>Olympia Oyster</i>	TBD (Plinth Project People's Choice)	Colleen R. Cotey	2015

Grants and Donations Received Since 2010 Plan Adopted

Since the last plan was adopted in 2010, the Department has been able to augment traditional funding sources by securing over \$7.9 million in grants and donations. Two generous citizens also donated land to the City for future park sites, totaling approximately four acres.

Monetary Grants/Donations			
Date	Project	Agency	Amount
2010-2015	Arts Walk Sponsorship	Heritage Bank & WSECU	\$12,000
2010-2015	Recreation Program Scholarships	Community Donations	\$14,047
2010	Percival Landing Rehabilitation	State Legislature	\$3,000,000
2010	Percival Landing Rehabilitation	Housing and Urban Development	\$1,071,400
2010	Percival Landing Rehabilitation	Washington State Heritage Capital Project Fund	\$555,660
2010	Percival Landing Rehabilitation	Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (RCO)	\$164,075
2011	Percival Landing Rehabilitation	Citizens - Railing Project	\$32,600
2011	Park Stewardship – Volunteer Tools	REI	\$10,000
2012	Isthmus Property Acquisition	Thurston County Conservation Futures	\$600,000
2012	Olympia Woodland Trail Phase IV Study	Washington Dept. of Transportation via Thurston Regional Planning Council	\$65,000
2012	Park Stewardship Interpretive kiosks	REI	15,000
2013	Isthmus Property Development	Olympia Capitol Park Foundation	\$100,000
2013	Park Stewardship – Volunteer Trailer & Camping Equipment	REI	\$10,000
2014	Isthmus Property Development	Community Development Block Grant	\$250,000
2014	Percival Landing F Float	Washington State Parks	\$308,874
2014	Yauger Park Pump Track	REI	\$5,000

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2014	Yauger Park Pump Track	Macy's	\$449
2014	Olympia Woodland Trail "Hub Junction" project	Federal Transportation Alternatives Program Grant via Thurston Regional Trails Council	\$50,000
2015	Percival Landing Bulkhead Replacement	State Appropriation	\$921,500
2015	Stevens Field Synthetic Turf	Washington Recreation and Conservation Office	\$193,223
2015	Yauger Park Pump Track	Nisqually Indian Tribe/PARC Foundation	\$5,000
2015	Park Stewardship Trail Stewardship Program	REI	\$8,000
2015	Park Stewardship Volunteer Appreciation sponsorship	Washington State Employees Credit Union	\$400
2010-2015	Park Stewardship volunteer hours (6,500 average annually)	N/A	\$585,000
		TOTAL	\$7,977,228.00
Land Donations			
2013	Olympia Woodland Trail Addition	Private Citizen	.89 acres
2015	Springwood parcel (formerly Zabels)	Private Citizen	3.19 acres
2015	Olympia Woodland Trail Addition	Private Citizen	2.39 acres
		TOTAL	6.47 acres

These funds and land donations will benefit the citizens of Olympia through enhanced amenities, greater access to nature, and a more beautiful urban landscape.

Changes in Programs and Services since 2010 Plan Adopted

Extensive changes have been made in activities and services since 2010. The most significant are listed below:

Activities:

- Percival Plinth Project (sculptural exhibition on Percival Landing)
- Community gardens

- Kids Canopy Climb tree-canopy environmental education climbing adventure
- Environmental stewardship elements integrated into Outdoor Adventure programming
- Increased offerings of youth camps
- Adopt-A-Park Program
- Park Stewards Program
- Junior Ranger Program
- Annual Backyard Campout in Priest Point Park
- Nature Hikes
- Artesian Commons activities and events
- Youth and adult ultimate Frisbee league
- “Smaller Ballers” youth sports program

Services:

- On-line map of all public art: www.olympiawa.gov/publicart
- Pesticide Free Parks initiative in six neighborhood parks
- Safe and Secure Parks initiative
- Monthly department e-newsletter
- Use of social media and on-line public input forums
- Volunteer Power Tool Program
- Harbor House and Priest Point Park Shelter #4 available for rent

Setting the Stage for the Future: Planning Projects

A variety of planning efforts have set the stage for projects already in the works and those slated for completion during this planning horizon.

Some significant planning efforts since 2010 have included:

- Percival Landing Condition Assessment Report (2014)

- Community Park Site Suitability Study (2014)
- Olympia Woodland Trail Phase 4 Alternatives Analysis Study (2014)
- Heritage Park Fountain Evaluation (2014)
- Olympia Comprehensive Plan (2014)
- Municipal Art Plan (2015)
- West Bay Environmental Restoration Assessment (2015)
- Downtown Strategy (underway)

CHALLENGES: BALANCING PRIORITIES IN A CHANGING COMMUNITY

Those who live here treasure Olympia's location at the southern end of Puget Sound. We value our relationship to our natural environment. We cherish our backyard – forested ravines, wetlands, and evergreen landscape. Our environment is rich in beauty and diversity. In addition to our wonderful people, our environment enhances our quality of life in Olympia.

Our world continues to change at a record pace. Change offers both challenge and opportunity. Some of the major challenges that will likely have a major impact on OPARD services in the coming years are described below.

1. Public Needs to be Safe and Secure in Parks and Facilities

The past several years have seen an increase of unwanted and illegal behavior in Olympia's parks. Illegal drug use, vandalism, alcohol consumption, unauthorized camping and violent behavior are issues in several of our parks, particularly in the downtown core, making for an unsafe and unwelcome environment.

Significance for the Plan

Increased resources will be added to improve park and facility security. These may include security guards, security cameras, increased ranger patrols, and increased park programming.

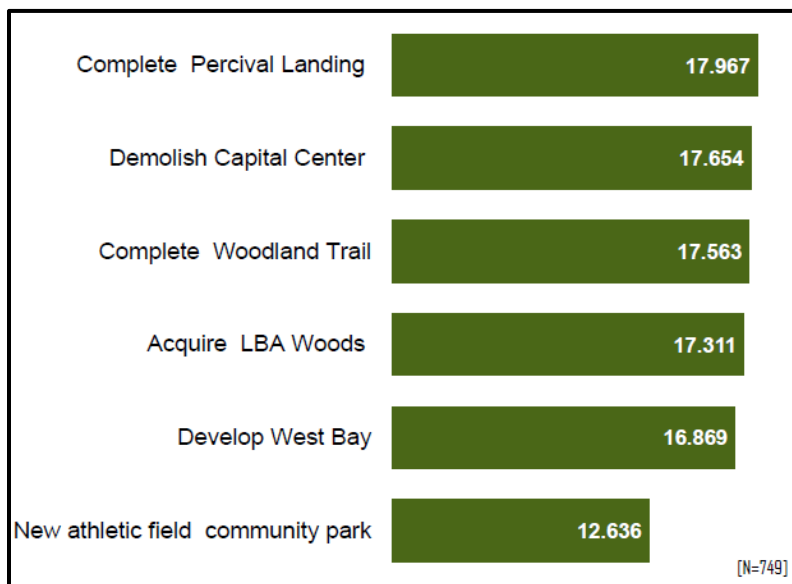
OPARD will continue to work closely with the Olympia Police Department, Downtown Ambassador Program, Artesian Leadership Committee, Olympia Downtown Association and other community groups to foster positive behavior in Olympia's parks.

2. Public Demand for New Parks Exceeds Resources

Many of the most desired new parks projects in Olympia will cost tens of millions of dollars each. These “mega projects” include rebuilding the remaining phases of Percival Landing, completing the final phases of the Olympia Woodland Trail, acquiring and demolishing the empty nine-story Capitol Center building on the Isthmus, acquiring the LBA Woods open space adjacent to LBA Park, developing West Bay Park and Trail and acquiring and developing an athletic field complex. When surveyed about which one of these projects was the most important, no single project rose to the top

Figure 3.1

Random Sample Survey Results – Prioritization of Large Projects



Source: City of Olympia Resident Priorities for Parks, Arts & Recreation, April, 2015, p. 27.

Significance for the Plan

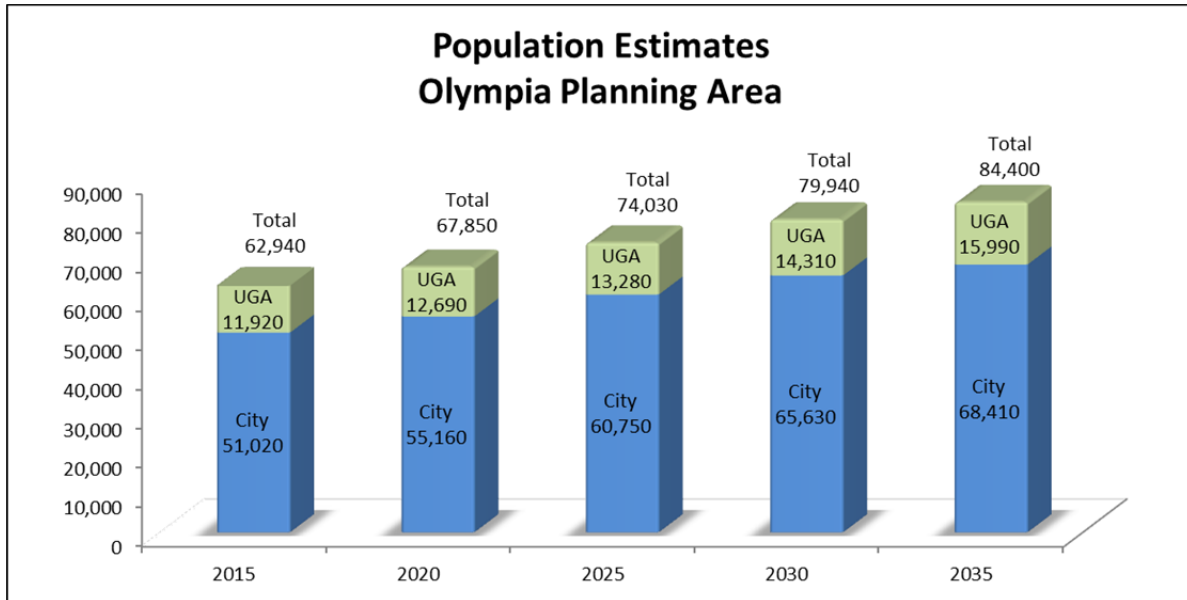
Even with projected revenue from the recently passed Olympia Metropolitan Park District, the City’s sources of revenue for parks are insufficient to implement all of these “mega projects” in the near-term. A phased approach will be necessary to achieve these community goals.

3. Population Growth Creating Demand for New Park Land

Today Olympia’s population is estimated at 51,020. Outside the city limits, but within Olympia’s Urban Growth Area (UGA), reside another 11,920 people. The total combined population in 2015 is estimated to be 62,940. During the next twenty years, the population of

Olympia and its UGA are expected to grow to 84,400, an increase of over 21,000 people. Figure 3.2 illustrates the population forecast to 2035.

Figure 3.2



Source: Thurston Regional Planning Council: Small Area Population Estimates and Population and Employment Forecast Work Program, 2014.

Population is a key factor used to project needs for future parks, arts and recreation programs and facilities. The planning area for this study includes Olympia’s city limits and Urban Growth Area. The purpose of including the growth areas is to plan for areas that are anticipated to be annexed into the City.

Significance for the Plan

Increases in population will drive the demand for additional facilities, programs, maintenance and services.

With increasing growth, the availability of land for parks, open space, and trails will decrease.

A significant portion of the new growth in the region is occurring outside the Olympia city limits. This regional growth will continue to create demand for city parks and services.

As density increases and more residents are living in households with very small or no yards, there is a greater reliance on parks to provide for recreational activities that were once done at home. This includes community garden space, off-leash dog areas, open grassy areas and urban forest.

4. Percival Landing Needs to be Replaced

Percival Landing, built in three phases from 1977 thru 1988, is deteriorating. In 2011, the City replaced about 700 feet (of approximately 5,000 feet of existing boardwalk) leaving over 4,000 feet of original wooden boardwalk remaining. Annual inspections and follow-up repairs have served to keep the Landing open and safe for the past several years. Marine engineers estimate that the cost of temporary repairs will grow exponentially over time.

Significance for the Plan

Percival Landing is one of Olympia's signature attractions and most popular parks. It provides public access to the waterfront. It draws thousands of visitors and residents annually and is a significant economic draw for downtown. Replacing Percival Landing is expensive and will need to be implemented in phases as funding allows. (See p. 37 for more information on Percival Landing).

5. Invasive Species Threaten Olympia's Open Spaces

Olympia is fortunate to have a park inventory that includes over 800 acres of open space, natural areas set aside to protect the special natural character of Olympia's landscape. From the mature forests and streams of Priest Point Park and Watershed Park, to the wetland and riparian habitat at Grass Lake and Mission Creek Nature Parks, Olympia has several special places set aside for humans and wildlife alike. The habitat value of these areas is increasingly threatened by invasive species such as English ivy, Himalayan blackberry, Scotch broom, and knotweed. These non-native species choke out native plants, degrading the habitat value of these open space areas. This may eventually prevent healthy forest development and impair the ability of these areas to protect stream and wetlands.

Significance for the Plan

Despite hundreds of volunteers contributing thousands of hours annually eradicating invasive species through the Parks Stewardship Program, this problem appears to be getting worse each year rather than better. Without greater resources to tackle this problem, the habitat value of Olympia's open space areas will continue to degrade.



Conclusion

Olympia and its residents have changed since 2010 when the last Parks, Arts, and Recreation Plan was written. From an increase in population, to increasing focus on park safety and security, these changes have great significance to the programs and facilities that OPARD will provide during the next twenty years. A creative approach will be necessary to address these challenges. In the following chapters, you will read about a vision for adapting to these changes.



TODAY'S PARKS, ARTS, AND RECREATION EXPERIENCE

OPARD currently provides a wealth of parks, arts, and recreation experiences: One can hike the Watershed Trail, keep cool in the Heritage Park Fountain, or take in views of the Olympics at Percival Landing. Olympians can enjoy skateboarding at Yauger Park, show off the masterpiece they just created in ceramics class, or learn a new language. From listening to your child's memories of summer camp to meeting your friends at Arts Walk – this is today's Parks, Arts & Recreation Experience!

Planning for the future starts with a good understanding of where we are today. This chapter provides a snapshot of the current programs and facilities that comprise the Olympia Parks, Arts & Recreation Department and sets the stage for subsequent chapters that outline future facilities and programs. Like our department itself, this chapter is divided into sections on parks, arts and recreation.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS, COMMUNITY PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

Reflecting the community's need for solitude, social gathering, space for play, and connections to nature, Olympia's system of parks offers a variety of scenic northwest landscapes as well as active and passive recreation facilities. From forest trails to fountains, waterfront access to skate courts, Olympia's park system is full of fun, beauty, and diversity. In the random survey conducted for this plan, 95% of residents had visited a park in the past 12 months.

The City of Olympia owns 1,015 acres of park land. This plan utilizes three park land classifications: Neighborhood Parks, Community Parks, and Open Space. Many of Olympia's parks serve the functions of multiple classifications. Yauger Park, for instance, serves as a Neighborhood Park for nearby residents, as a Community Park for the larger community, and as open space for wildlife.

“Neighborhood Park” Classification Definition

Neighborhood Parks are a combination playground and open area designed primarily for non-supervised, non-organized recreation activities. They are generally small in size. Typically, facilities found in a Neighborhood Park include a children's playground, picnic areas, a restroom, and open grass areas for passive and active use. Amenities may also include trails, tennis courts, basketball courts, skate courts, public art, and community gardens.

“Community Park” Classification Definition

Community Parks are parks that are specifically designed to serve a large portion of the community. There are two types of Community Parks: athletic field complexes and sites with unique uses. Athletic field complexes can range in size from 15-80 acres with the optimum size being 30-40 acres. They are designed for organized activities and sports, although individual and family activities are also encouraged. Athletic field complexes serve a large portion of the community, and as a result, they require more in terms of support facilities such as parking, restrooms, picnic shelters, etc. Olympia’s three existing athletic field complexes are LBA Park, Yauger Park and Stevens Field. Special-use oriented Community Parks may have a waterfront focus, a garden focus, a water feature, etc. Some examples include Heritage Park Fountain, Yashiro Japanese Garden and Percival Landing.

“Open Space” Classification Definition

Open Space is defined as primarily undeveloped land that is set aside to protect the special natural character of Olympia’s landscape. They provide an opportunity for the community to experience and connect with the flora, fauna, and natural habitats in Olympia. They also provide important natural infrastructure that helps care for our water and air. Open Space may include, but is not limited to, wetlands; wetland buffers; creek, stream or river corridors and aquatic habitat; marine shorelines; forested or upland wildlife areas; ravines, bluffs, or other geologically hazardous areas; prairies/meadows; and undeveloped areas within existing parks. The level and intensity of allowed public use is evaluated based on potential resource impacts. Trail development to allow public access is typical except in cases where wildlife conservation is the primary function. Less sensitive sites can be appropriate for more active recreational activities such as running, mountain biking or disc golf. Parking and trailhead facilities such as restrooms, information kiosks and environmental education facilities are also appropriate.

Figure 4.1 identifies Olympia’s existing Neighborhood Park, Community Park, and Open Space inventory. Note that some parcels serve multiple uses and are classified accordingly.

Figure 4.1

City of Olympia Existing Park and Open Space Sites

	Park Name	Park Classification	Date	
			Acquired or Leased	Total Acres
1	8 th Ave	Neighborhood	2006	3.99
2	Artesian Commons	Community	2013	0.20
3	Bigelow	Neighborhood	1943	1.89
4	Bigelow Springs	Open Space	1994	1.30
5	Burri Park (IUMP)	Neighborhood	1997	2.32
6	Chambers Lake	Open Space/Neighborhood/Community	2003	47.09
7	Cooper Crest	Open Space	2003	13.37
8	Decatur Woods	Neighborhood	1988	6.27
9	East Bay Waterfront	Community	1994	1.86
10	Edison St. Parcel	Open Space/Neighborhood	1997	4.52
11	Evergreen Park Drive (IUMP)	Neighborhood	2005	3.99
12	Friendly Grove	Open Space/Neighborhood	1997	14.48
13	Garfield Nature Trail	Open Space	1900	7.41
14	Grass Lake Nature Park	Open Space/Neighborhood	1990	195.34
15	Harrison Avenue Parcel	Open Space/Community	2011	24.00
16	Harry Fain's Legion	Neighborhood	1933	1.34
17	Heritage Park Fountain	Community	1996	1.18
18	Isthmus Parcels	Community	2013	2.34
19	Kettle View	Neighborhood	2007	4.80
20	LBA	Neighborhood/Community	1974	22.61
21	Lions	Neighborhood	1946	3.72
22	Log Cabin Road Park	Neighborhood	2010	2.35
23	Madison Scenic	Community	1989	2.21
24	Margaret McKenny	Neighborhood	1999	4.16
25	McGrath Woods (IUMP)	Neighborhood	1998	4.00
26	McRostie Parcel	Open Space	1997	0.23
27	Mission Creek	Open Space/Neighborhood	1996	36.83
28	Olympia Center	Community	1987	1.30
29	Olympia Woodland Trail	Open Space	2002	32.38
30	Olympic Park	Neighborhood	1925	0.60
31	Percival Landing	Community	1978	3.38
32	Priest Point	Open Space/Neighborhood/Community	1906	313.50
33	South Capital Lots	Open Space	1994	0.92
34	Springwood Dr Parcel (Zabels)	Open Space	2015	3.20
35	Stevens Field	Neighborhood/Community	1963	7.84
36	Sunrise	Neighborhood	1988	5.74
37	Trillium	Open Space	1989	4.53
38	Ward Lake	Neighborhood/Community	2007	9.14

	Park Name	Park Classification	Date Acquired or Leased	Total Acres
39	Watershed	Open Space	1955	153.03
40	West Bay	Open Space/Neighborhood/Community	2007	17.04
41	Wildwood Glen Parcel	Open Space	1999	2.38
42	Woodruff	Neighborhood	1892	2.46
43	Yashiro Japanese Garden	Community	1990	0.74
44	Yauger	Neighborhood/Community	1978	39.77
45	Yelm Highway Parcel	Community	2000	3.54
	TOTAL			1015.29

Within the boundary of Olympia and its Urban Growth Area are several parks and areas with recreational value that are managed by jurisdictions other than the City of Olympia. Since these areas provide recreational use to area residents, they are inventoried for planning purposes in Figure 4.2.

Figure 4.2

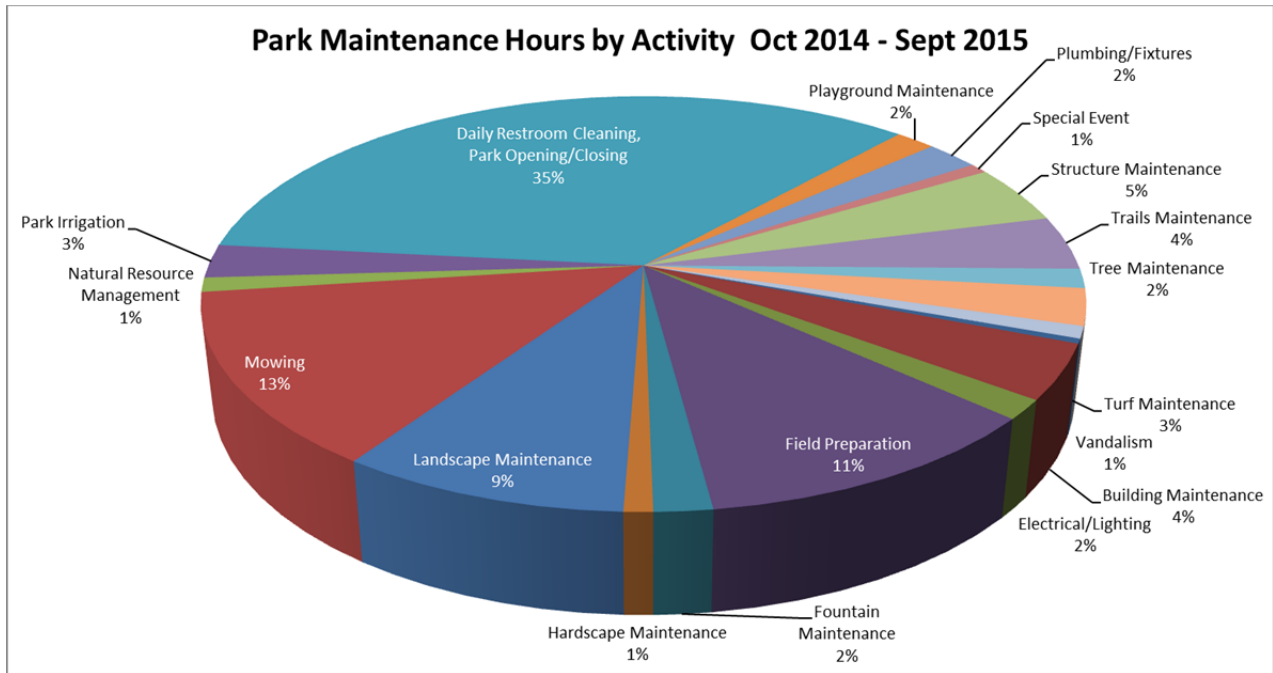
Other Jurisdictions’ Parks within Olympia and Olympia’s Urban Growth Area

Location	Acres	Comment
Capitol Campus	20.00	State-owned
Centennial Park	0.80	State-owned
Chambers Lake Access	1.71	State owned
Chehalis Western Trail	44.99	Thurston County owned
East Bay Plaza	0.72	LOTT-owned
Heritage Park	24.00	State-owned
I-5 Trail Corridor	4.21	State-owned
Marathon Park	2.10	State-owned
Port of Olympia Trail	1.22	Port-owned
Port Plaza	1.20	Port-owned
Sylvester Park	1.30	State-owned
Ward Lake Fishing Access	0.46	State-owned
TOTAL	102.71	

Park Maintenance

Staff takes great pride in maintaining Olympia’s park system. Parks Maintenance is responsible for keeping parks safe, clean, and beautiful. Under a joint use agreement with the Olympia School District (OSD), Park Maintenance staff also maintains 36 fields at 17 schools. Support is also provided on an as-needed basis to other City departments on projects in areas such as tree trimming and removal, irrigation, electrical, and landscaping. Figure 4.3 illustrates what proportion of the maintenance effort is spent on each park maintenance category.

Figure 4.3



Asset Management Program

In 2014, OPARD began utilizing VueWorks asset management software to track park infrastructure more efficiently. The goal of the program is to consolidate and improve infrastructure maintenance by implementing a system for tracking condition, maintenance scheduling, and maintenance cost budgeting.

Capital Asset Management Program (CAMP)

Homeowners recognize that annual maintenance is necessary to protect the investment they have made in their homes. Similarly, capital improvements in park facilities need to be maintained. Aging facilities require replacement of roofs, antiquated equipment, and utilities. Driveways, parking areas, sport courts, and trails require resurfacing to maintain safety and accessibility. CAMP is designed to monitor the condition of park capital assets, identify and prioritize needed major repairs or replacements, and cost and schedule these projects. If this maintenance is not performed, park facilities might have to be closed or removed to safeguard the public.



OPARD Maintenance Staff Iralena Emerson-Beckman landscaping Percival Landing

Having a sustainable, predictable maintenance fund for parks is as important as building new facilities. It is critical that future maintenance requirements are identified and funded concurrently with new construction. In this way, the community is assured uninterrupted access to its public recreation facilities and the City can avoid unanticipated large maintenance costs. OPARD staff updates and reprioritizes the list of CAMP projects annually based on current conditions. Currently the backlog of CAMP projects is approximately \$4 million (not including Percival Landing).

Natural Resource Management

The Parks, Arts & Recreation Department is responsible for managing 1015 acres of park land, which includes 16 miles of trails, 810 acres of open space, and over four miles of waterfront. These properties are rich with wildlife and thousands of trees that absorb carbon dioxide, enhancing Olympia's air quality. These sites protect some of the city's most important streams, wetlands, riparian areas, marine shorelines, mature forests, and



ecological functions. We are charged with the dual tasks of preserving the delicate balance between active and passive recreation uses while being sensitive to the needs of the living infrastructure. The Park Stewardship program provides volunteer opportunities for environmental restoration projects such as tree planting and invasive plant removal. OPARD has been working closely with the recently-formed Environmental Services division of the Public Works Department in the natural resource management of several park properties. The Department intends to pursue grants to implement future restoration and habitat work on park properties in partnership with other city departments and local organizations. Green construction, environmental restoration, and efficient utility systems are all standard park development practices.

Integrated Pest Management & Pesticide Free Parks

The City Council adopted an Integrated Pest Management Plan for park facilities in 2006. Since its implementation, the Department has reduced reliance on chemicals once thought to be critical to maintaining parks. At present, the Department uses limited amounts of glyphosate (Round-Up) and synthetic fertilizers on some parks while six neighborhood parks are now designated "Pesticide Free" with no herbicides, pesticides, or synthetic fertilizers used at all. The Department will explore the feasibility of making more parks "Pesticide Free." The City

also works closely with the Thurston County Noxious Weed Program to eradicate noxious weeds, some of which must be removed under county mandate.

Street Trees

The City of Olympia has a long tradition of urban forestry. Olympia has been a "Tree City USA" for 21 years, as well as receiving five National Arbor Day Foundation Growth Awards for outstanding urban forestry initiatives between 1995 and 2006. Olympia's Urban Forestry Program also received the Association of Washington Cities' Certificate of Excellence in 2007 for its "Healthy Urban Forests for Everyone!" outreach program.

OPARD maintains Olympia's approximately 2,000 street trees. This involves pruning, watering, and mulching. The City is proposing to prepare a new street tree inventory and include tree maintenance in OPARD's Asset Management Program. (See Map-4-1 Parks, School Fields and Street Trees Maintained by Olympia Parks, Arts & Recreation.)



Volunteers strike up conversation while brushing trails at Watershed Park.

School Field Maintenance Agreement

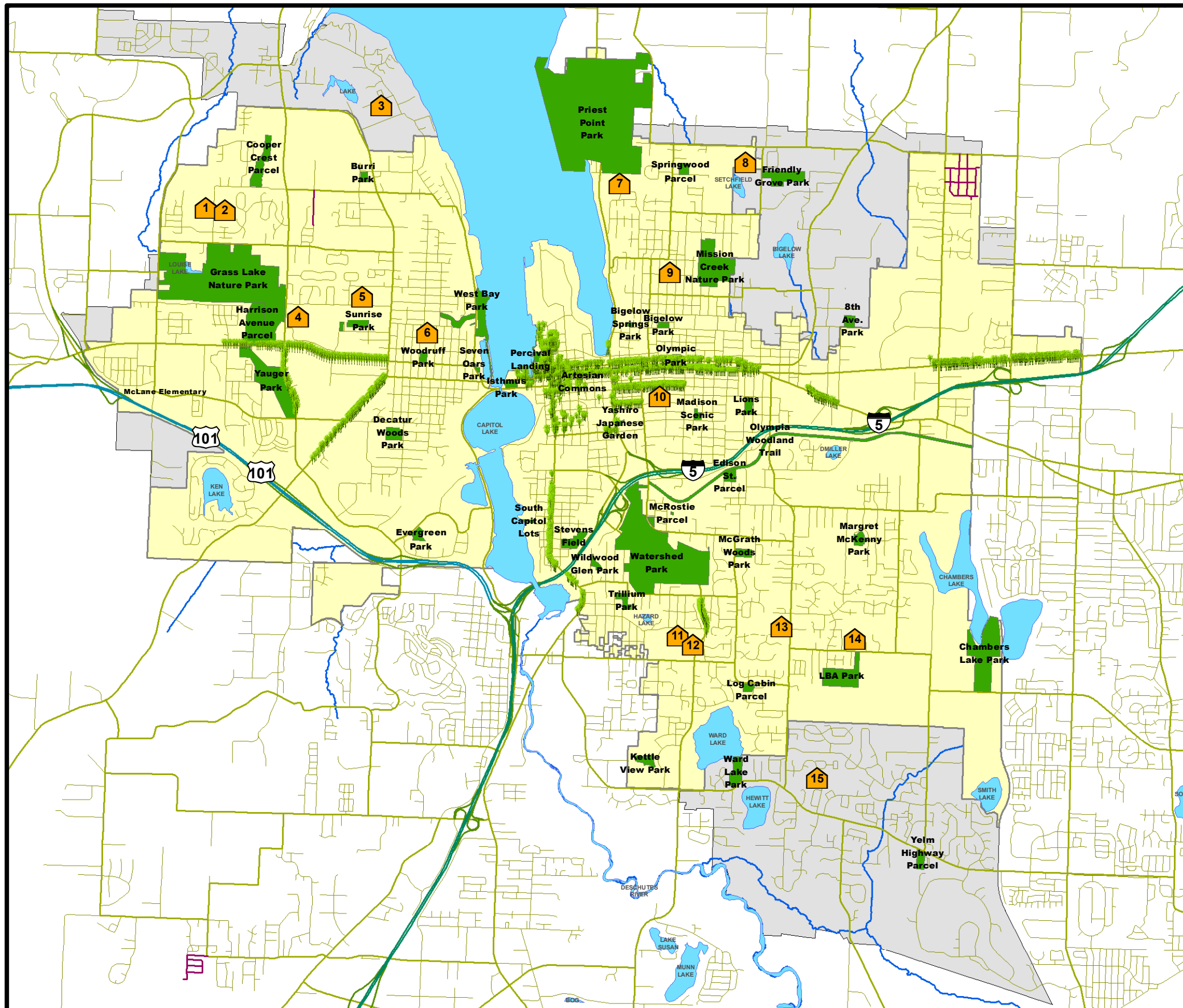
Under a joint use agreement with the Olympia School District, the City operates a turf maintenance program consisting of mowing, irrigation, overseeding, and top dressing at 36 school fields. (See p. 53 for a detailed description of this agreement).

Park Stewardship Program

The Park Stewardship program combines Volunteers in Parks, Park Ranger, and environmental education components. The program is designed to connect individuals with nature through volunteering, safe and secure parks, and environmental education to increase community ownership and stewardship of local parks.

Volunteers in Parks

Approximately 6,500 volunteer hours are contributed annually to ~~make~~ improve Olympia's parks. The Volunteers in Parks (VIP) program includes staff-led volunteer work parties, Park Steward, and the Adopt-a-Park programs. At staff-led work parties, volunteers maintain, restore and beautify their parks several days per week. Park Stewards work independently within a park of their choosing. And finally, the Adopt-a-Park program encourages local neighborhood organizations, schools, service clubs, businesses, and other community groups to "adopt" a particular park.



- ### Legend
- City Limits
 - Urban Growth Area
 - Parks
 - Street Trees Maintained by OPARD
 - School Fields
 1. Hanson Elementary School
 2. Marshal Middle School
 3. LP Brown Elementary School
 4. Capitol High School
 5. Jefferson Middle School
 6. Garfield Elementary School
 7. Reeves Middle School
 8. John Rogers Elementary School
 9. Roosevelt Elementary School
 10. Madison Elementary School
 11. Olympia High School
 12. Pioneer Elementary School
 13. Washington Middle School
 14. McKenny Elementary School
 15. Centennial Elementary School
 16. Boston Harbor Elementary School (outside of map area)

City of Olympia Parks, Arts and Recreation Plan
**Parks, School Fields, and Street Trees Maintained by
 Olympia Parks, Arts and Recreation**



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 OLYMPIA
 PARKS • ARTS • RECREATION



The City of Olympia and its personnel cannot assure the accuracy, completeness, reliability, or suitability of this information for any particular purpose. The parcels, right-of-ways, utilities and structures depicted hereon are based on record information and aerial photos only. It is recommended the recipient and or user field verify all information prior to use. The use of this data for purposes other than those for which they were created may yield inaccurate or misleading results. The recipient may not assert any proprietary rights to this information. The City of Olympia and its personnel neither accept or assume liability or responsibility, whatsoever, for any activity involving this information with respect to lost profits, lost savings or any other consequential damages.



Map created 4/27/15
 Please contact the Olympia Parks, Arts and Recreation Department with questions: olympiaparks@ci.olympia.wa.us, (360) 753-8380.

Map 4-1

Park Ranger

The Park Ranger Program provides visitor and resource protection in Olympia’s parks. A uniformed presence in City parks encourages positive use, while discouraging vandalism, theft, illegal camping, and other negative behaviors. The Ranger patrols all OPARD properties on foot or via patrol vehicle. Regular patrols are conducted twice a week focusing on properties reported to the Ranger as showing evidence of a potential issue or known to host negative behavior in the past. Enforcement of park regulations is achieved through education and a strong relationship with the Olympia Police Department.



Park Ranger, Sylvana, with a park user and dog.

Environmental Education

The Environmental Education Program reaches out to local classrooms and hosts school and community groups in parks offering stewardship and learning opportunities. Curriculum focuses on natural and cultural resources, specifically the interaction between plants, animals, and water. In addition to education through the school system, Park Stewardship also offers opportunities to combine education with recreation during the summer season through activities such as Junior Ranger Adventures, Backyard Campout, and Kids Canopy Climb.



Staff and volunteers preparing for Kids Canopy Climb event.

Interpretation

Interpretation enriches the park experience by giving park users a greater understanding of the natural and cultural resources in our parks. The Park Ranger has been trained as a certified interpretive guide and provides interpretation through the environmental education program offerings, volunteer events, and signage.

OLYMPIA'S DOWNTOWN PARKS

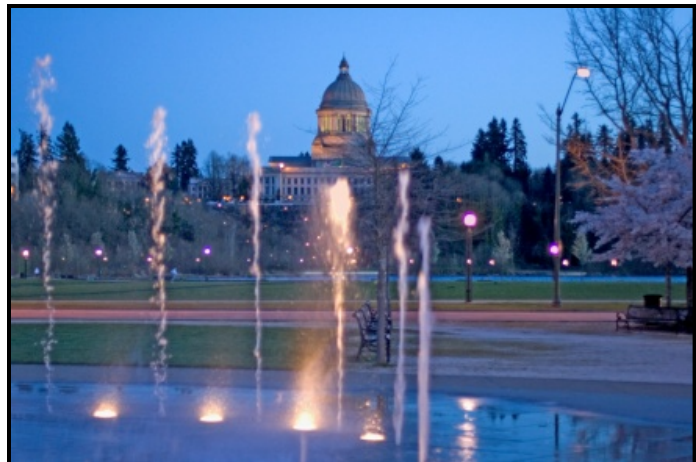
OPARD manages four parks in the heart of downtown Olympia: Heritage Park Fountain, Percival Landing, Artesian Commons, and the undeveloped Isthmus Properties. (West Bay Park and trail, while not downtown, has the potential to provide a key connection to Downtown and will be considered in this section as well. Heritage Park and Sylvester Park, while important downtown parks, are owned by the State and are therefore not included in this section of the plan.)

Olympia's downtown parks have unique challenges and opportunities that differ significantly from parks in other areas of the community. With 5000 new residents expected downtown during the next 20 years, these parks will be essential in meeting the recreation needs of downtown residents. These parks are also utilized by downtown employees during the day. They can be significant tourist draws.

Olympia's downtown parks have the potential to provide a key component of Olympia's downtown renewal effort.

At the time of this plan's writing, the City was in the midst of creating a Downtown Strategy. This project will identify actions our community will take over a 5-6 year period that will have the greatest strategic impact toward implementing our downtown vision.

Once the Downtown Strategy is complete, OPARD will develop a plan for downtown parks that will align with the strategy. The following section gives a description of our existing downtown parks along with their challenges and opportunities.



HERITAGE PARK FOUNTAIN

In the foreground of our majestic State Capitol building, the Heritage Park Fountain is a favorite place to keep cool on a warm summer day. This parcel was purchased in 1996 with a grant from the Washington Recreation and Conservation Office. The centerpiece to the park is the interactive fountain which entices children of all ages to run through the circular array of water jets. The fountain was made possible by a family donation. In the spring, the park offers a place to pause among the flowering cherry trees.

Challenges:

- The mechanical system for the Fountain is now nearly 20 years old. While well-maintained, its aging systems are subject to frequent mechanical breakdowns.
- The fountain has a relatively small water reservoir and treatment system. This necessitates two daily shut-downs during warm months to ensure the fountain water meets health standards.

Significance for the Plan

OPARD supports redevelopment and the continual removal of blight on the Isthmus. The city purchased the GHB building in 1995 and the Little Da Nang restaurant in 2007 for the purpose of expanding the Fountain park and preserving views. The City now owns two of the three parcels adjacent to the Fountain. This area is being considered as part of the City's Community Renewal Area process. The Downtown Strategy and Community Renewal Area process will inform OPARD's future decisions on how these parcels integrate with the existing fountain area. OPARD will likely have a significant role in this area based on previous investments.

The plan proposes two "sprayground" water play features in other parks which ~~should~~ can reduce the stress placed on the fountain.

ISTHMUS PARCELS

The "Isthmus" is the 4-acre area on the peninsula between Capitol Lake and Budd Inlet. In 2013 OPARD purchased two properties with vacant buildings on the Isthmus totaling 2.3 acres: the former County Health Department at 529 4th Ave W. and the former Thurston County Housing Authority building at 505 4th Ave W. The City has demolished both buildings. The remaining vacant structures on the isthmus are the 9-story Capitol Center Building and its one-story Annex. The random sample survey for this plan showed strong public support for demolishing the Capitol Center Building.

Challenges:

- The Isthmus area contains environmental contamination that ~~makes~~ could make development of this area costly.

Significance for the Plan

The Community Renewal Area process, Downtown Strategy and future City-led focus area planning will inform OPARD's level of involvement in the Isthmus area. OPARD supports redevelopment and the continual removal of blight and will likely have a significant role in

the Isthmus area based on previous investments and strong community support for expanded parks in this area.

PERCIVAL LANDING

Built in three phases beginning in 1978, this timbered boardwalk is reminiscent of early Olympia life where the bustling Percival Dock was host to the transport of goods and people. 30+ years later, the wooden creosote pilings and other wood framing and planks are succumbing to decay and marine organisms. After substantial public input, a new design for Phase 1 was completed. The Phase I project was completed in 2011 and included the replacement of about 700 feet of boardwalk, the construction of the Harbor House restroom/multi-use space, and extensive shoreline restoration. The project won several awards and the design has set the foundation for future phases.



Challenges:

- According to the *2014 Condition Analysis Percival Landing and Floats* conducted by a marine engineering consulting firm, timber structures in the marine environment typically have a useful service life of around 20 to 30 years. The remaining timber portions of the oldest section of Percival Landing (Section A) are 36 years old, placing them at or beyond the normal service life.
- Maintaining the existing structure required \$350,000 in immediate repairs in 2015 and is estimated to cost \$700,000 over the next 5 years. These maintenance costs are expected to grow exponentially until the existing structure is replaced or taken out of service.
- Replacing the remaining sections of boardwalk far exceeds existing funding sources and will need to be reevaluated moving forward.

Significance for the Plan

The 700 foot section of the Landing refurbished in 2011 gives a hint of the opportunity presented by the remainder of the boardwalk. While already a very popular destination for locals and tourists, replacing the rest of the boardwalk would create an opportunity for Percival Landing to be an integral part of a first class waterfront.

Already home to several large community festivals including Harbor Days and the Wooden Boat Festival, replacing the remaining sections of the landing would likely make

Percival Landing a draw for more community events, creating community and increasing Olympia's tourism potential.

Restoring the remaining shoreline in conjunction with future phases of Percival Landing reconstruction will provide an opportunity to improve water quality and shoreline habitat in Budd Inlet and strengthen Olympian's connection to the marine environment.

As the southern terminus of Puget Sound, a restored Percival Landing can play a key role in attracting the boating community and many other visitors to Olympia, strengthening the local economy.

ARTESIAN COMMONS

Artesian Commons is an urban courtyard that incorporates a free-flowing artesian well, spaces for two mobile food vendors and a multi-purpose space that includes a small canopy for scheduled events. Located at 415 4th Ave SE, the .2 acre Artesian Commons had its grand opening as a City park on May 3, 2014.

Many use the artesian well as their primary source of drinking water.



Challenges:

- Artesian Commons has frequently been the site of criminal activity including violence, vandalism, and illegal drug use. These problems were present before the area became a park, and park development did not reduce these problems. When Olympia residents were asked in a recent random survey if there were any parks in which they did not feel safe, Artesian Commons was the most cited park.
- With a very high number of park users in a small space, Artesian Commons may very well be the most intensively used park in Olympia in terms of use per square foot. This makes this space challenging for park maintenance staff to keep clean.

Significance for the Plan

- Artesian Commons is an urban plaza on one of Olympia's busiest downtown streets with a free-flowing artesian well, space for mobile food vendors, and a performance stage area. ~~When this space~~ The vision for this park is that it becomes safe, clean, and welcoming to all. ~~When this vision is reached, this park~~ it has the potential to become a great public amenity in Downtown Olympia that honors the historic value of our artesian wells.

- In recognition that this is a unique urban park that operates differently than other parks, An Artesian Leadership Committee (ALC) was formed in April of 2015. The intent of this group is to provide opportunities for a broad group of community stakeholders to have a voice in the daily operation and management of the Artesian Commons Park. The ALC and the Artesian Action Teams have been working hard to bring new events, programs, park improvements, safety/security policies and public outreach efforts to our urban park.
- ~~A significant number of those who gather at the Commons are some of our more vulnerable citizens including at-risk youth, homeless, unemployed, and people suffering from substance or domestic abuse. This provides an opportunity for social services organizations to connect with this population in a centralized location.~~

WEST BAY PARK

The City of Olympia has acquired over 17 acres on the west side of West Bay for a shoreline park and trail. This spectacular site provides outstanding views to the State Capitol, Budd Inlet and Olympic peaks. A Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program Water Access Grant and an Aquatic Lands Enhancement Grant helped to fund acquisition, development and shoreline enhancement. A partnership with local Rotary Clubs resulted in a developed overlook, hand held boat launch and other Phase 1 improvements.

Challenges:

- Developing the remaining portion of West Bay Park, particularly a trail connection to Deschutes Parkway, will likely be expensive. While a preferred trail alignment has not been determined, a shoreline and/or over-water trail would likely cost several million dollars. Road frontage improvements are also expected to cost several million dollars.
- As a former industrial site, portions of West Bay Park have environmental contamination that will have to be cleaned up prior to being open to the public. The City continues to conduct on-going monitoring of the soils and groundwater on this site and has been working closely with the Department of Ecology in this effort.
- The recently adopted Shoreline Master Program (SMP) will guide future park development concepts.

Significance for the Plan

- Once developed, West Bay Park and Trail has the potential to be a vital link for pedestrians and bicyclists between West Olympia and Downtown. A resident who lives in West Olympia could walk through the forested ravine of the Garfield Nature Trail, cross West Bay Drive into West Bay Park, and then walk along a shoreline trail,

- crossing under the bridge into Downtown. The importance of this connection was cited by several participants during neighborhood meetings for this plan.
- With over 4,000 feet of marine shoreline, West Bay Park has the potential to become a major destination. When the park and shoreline are cleaned up, restored and made accessible, it be a great opportunity for people to experience and learn about the marine environment right in their own community.
 - The City, Port of Olympia and Squaxin Island Tribe are currently working with a consultant to conduct an environmental restoration assessment of West Bay which includes West Bay Park and Trail in the study area. The goal of the study is to understand the ecology and habitat restoration opportunities along the shoreline. The study will influence the design of future phases of West Bay Park and Trail.
 - There are over 110 acres of undeveloped, forested habitat property on the hillside above West Bay Drive. The City has been working closely with stakeholders to identify priority parcels for conservation in this area. In addition to habitat preservation and restoration, some of the parcels in this area could provide important public access links to the waterfront. Conservation may take the form of acquisition, conservation easements or land donations.



HABITAT IN OLYMPIA’S PARK AND OPEN SPACE SYSTEM

Olympia’s Parks and Open Spaces contain a wide variety of habitat including wetlands, streams, critical area buffers, marine and lake shorelines, and mature forests. West Bay Park, Percival Landing and Priest Point Park provide critical habitat on Budd Inlet for fish and other marine wildlife. Grass Lake Nature Park contains the headwaters of Green Cove Creek and one of the most environmentally intact wetland and stream systems in northern Thurston County. The lower reaches of the creek support Coho and chum salmon, steelhead and cutthroat trout. Chambers Lake Park includes freshwater wetland and shoreline habitat while Watershed Park contains the springs and wetlands forming the headwaters of Moxlie Creek surrounded by mature forests. The remaining parks and open spaces include some large upland areas with native vegetation and mature forests and many smaller forested habitats scattered across the city. Each of these natural areas provides habitat for a variety of species. [These natural areas also play an important role serving as natural infrastructure that helps care for our water and air.](#) Table 4.4 lists an inventory of wildlife observed in Olympia’s parks by location.

Table 4.4
Partial Inventory of Observed Wildlife

Grass Lake Nature Park ²			
BIRDS			
Common loon	Greater yellowlegs	American crow	White-crowned sparrow
Pied-billed grebe	California quail	Steller’s jay	Red-winged blackbird
Double-crested cormorant	Ring-necked pheasant	Black-capped chickadee	Brown-headed cowbird
Wood duck	Ruffed grouse	Chestnut-backed chickadee	Audubon’s warbler
Northern pintail	Cooper’s hawk	Bushtit	Myrtle warbler
American widgeon	Sharp-shinned hawk	Red-breasted nuthatch	Black-throated gray warbler
Northern shoveler	Northern harrier	Brown creeper	Yellow warbler
Green-winged teal	Red-tailed hawk	Bewick’s wren	Townsend’s warbler
Cinnamon teal	Bald eagle	Winter wren	Common yellowthroat
Blue-winged teal	Osprey	Swainson’s thrush	McGillivray’s Warbler
Mallard	Great-horned owl	Varied thrush	Orange-crowned warbler
Gadwall	Northern saw-whet owl	Townsend’s solitaire	Wilson’s warbler
Ring-necked duck	Turkey vulture	Ruby-crowned kinglet	Western tanager
Bufflehead	Belted kingfisher	Golden-crowned kinglet	Pine siskin

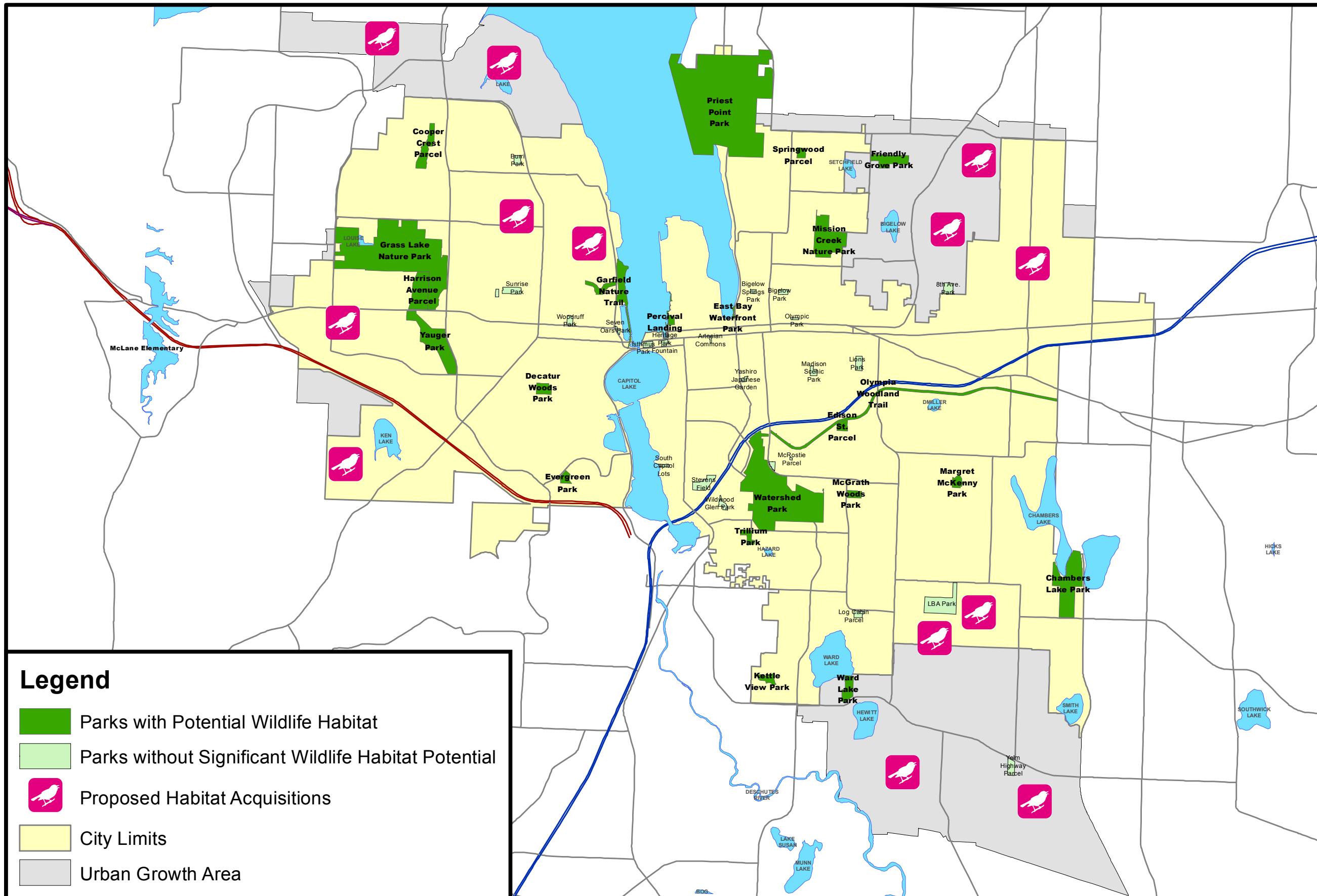
² “Bird species inventory of Grass Lake Park, Olympia WA, Compiled by Michael R. Clegg, October 1994-1995”

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Grass Lake Nature Park ²			
Barrow's goldeneye	Band-tailed pigeon	American robin	American goldfinch
Canada goose	Rufous hummingbird	European starling	House finch
Hooded merganser	Northern flicker	Cedar waxwing	Purple finch
Ruddy duck	Pileated woodpecker	Warbling vireo	Evening grosbeak
Great blue heron	Downy woodpecker	Hutton's vireo	House sparrow
Green-backed heron	Hairy woodpecker	Solitary vireo	Song sparrow
Great egret	Red-breasted sapsucker	Black-headed grosbeak	Barn swallow
American bittern	Western wood-pewee	Dark-eyed junco	Tree swallow
Killdeer	Western flycatcher	Rufous-sided towhee	
Common snipe	Violet-green swallow	Golden-crowned sparrow	
MAMMALS			
Mountain beaver	Northern flying squirrel	Raccoon	Red fox
Coyote	Striped skunk	Mule deer	
Red-back vole	Oregon vole	Trowbridge shrew	
Deer mouse	Forest deer mouse	Douglas squirrel	

Priest Point Park ³			
BIRDS			
Bald eagle	Screech owl	Greater yellowlegs	Great blue heron
Osprey	Northern flicker	Western sandpiper	Green-backed heron
Canvasback	Downy woodpecker	Least sandpiper	Pileated woodpecker
Barrow's Goldeneye	Black-capped chickadee	Dunlin	Pigeon guillemot
Scaup	Chestnut-backed chickadee	Cormorants	Band-tailed pigeon
Ruddy duck	Red-breasted nuthatch	Mallards	
Bonaparte gull	Kinglet	Glaucous-winged gull	
Kingfisher	Brown creeper	Scoter	
MAMMALS			
Seal	Deer	Little brown bat	Northern flying squirrel
Fox	Coast mole	Shrew mole	Douglas squirrel
River otter			
FISH			
Pile perch	Herring	Coho Salmon	Surf Smelt

³ Black Hills Audubon website and 1988 Priest Point Park Master Plan,



Legend

- Parks with Potential Wildlife Habitat
- Parks without Significant Wildlife Habitat Potential
- Proposed Habitat Acquisitions
- City Limits
- Urban Growth Area



The City of Olympia and its personnel cannot assure the accuracy, completeness, reliability, or suitability of this information for any particular purpose. The parcels, right-of-ways, utilities and structures depicted hereon are based on record information and aerial photos only. It is recommended the recipient and or user field verify all information prior to use. The use of this data for purposes other than those for which they were created may yield inaccurate or misleading results. The recipient may not assert any proprietary rights to this information. The City of Olympia and its personnel neither accept or assume liability or responsibility, whatsoever, for any activity involving this information with respect to lost profits, lost savings or any other consequential damages.



Map created 10/21/15
 Please contact the Olympia Parks, Arts and Recreation Department with questions: olympiaparks@ci.olympia.wa.us, (360) 753-8380.

City of Olympia Parks, Arts and Recreation Plan
Potential Wildlife Habitat

Map 4-2

Priest Point Park ³			
Dog fish	Sculpin	Chum Salmon	
Starry flounder	Stickleback	Cutthroat Trout	
AMPHIBIANS			
Rough skinned newts	Red-legged frogs		
MARINE INVERTEBRATES			
Acorn barnacles	Polychete worms	Tube building worms	Corophium
Bay mussels	Four species of clams	Snails	Macoma
Shore crabs	Two species of shrimp	Bristlestars	Mysella
Watershed Park			
BIRDS			
Downy woodpecker	Winter wren	Spotted towhee	Red-breasted nuthatch
Northern flicker	Bewick's wren	Golden-crowned kinglet	Dark-eyed junco
Steller's jay	Brown creeper	Ruby-crowned kinglet	Great Horned owl
Chestnut-backed chickadee	Swainson's thrush	Pine siskin	Barred owl
Black-capped chickadee	Varied thrush	Sparrows	

ARTS AND EVENTS

From its inception, the City of Olympia’s Arts Program has endeavored to support and promote our arts community, representing great artistic diversity with one voice. Olympia is now home to nearly 2,500 individual artists and almost 100 arts organizations and venues. Resident artists are active in music, literary, performance, and visual arts. They are both nationally known and emerging artists and include a world touring conductor, a MacArthur “Genius” grant-winning poet, an international opera star, and a best-selling novelist. Olympia hosts award-winning theater, ground-breaking independent rock (“indie”) music performances, the Procession of the Species, and a strong visual and performing arts community that ranges from emerging artists to those with nationwide representation.

Both the Olympia Arts Program and the Olympia Arts Commission, a nine-member advisory board appointed by the City Council, have been working on behalf of the arts in our community for over 25 years. Because there are no other municipal programs of this type in neighboring jurisdictions, many of the City’s programs benefit the arts regionally, while serving as a model for communities throughout Washington State.

Arts and Events staff and programming is funded by the City’s General Fund. In addition, to develop the city’s public art collection, the City has a policy of setting aside one dollar per

person and 1% of City construction projects with budgets over \$500,000 that are visible and useable by the public to purchase public art. With a small staff and limited operating expenses, the program works creatively to fund various public services. Community partnerships, volunteers, and in-kind support help to stretch dollars while allowing active participation on issues as diverse as social services, economics, infrastructure, revitalization, neighborhood and community identity, environment, and urban design amenities.

The City of Olympia's Arts and Events Program has sought to expand the community's understanding of the arts, sponsor community gatherings, and bring art into our everyday lives. From temporary artwork to multi-faceted art tours, community events to public art, the City strives to create a diverse collection of images and experiences to engage, inform, and enlighten.

Arts Walk

The City's Arts Walk program, which is just passing the 25 year mark, has grown to become one of the largest public events in the community. It is an expression of civic spirit and a source of community pride. It has also become a tourist draw for Olympia, with an estimated 30,000 local and regional visitors each year. In 2013 and 2014, Olympia's Arts Walk was voted "Best Art Event" by readers of the regional "Weekly Volcano." This successful



partnership of local artists and the Olympia downtown business community highlights the work of over 400 visual, performing, and literary artists at more than 100 venues. It includes youth and adult artists, and hands-on activities and demonstrations. Arts Walk is held on the fourth Friday and Saturday in April and the first Friday and Saturday in October. The spring event includes the Procession of the Species Celebration, produced by Earthbound Productions.

Public Art

OPARD's Arts Program, with a collection of 100 individual artworks, encourages the best work from our community and introduces art from outside the area, both enhancing the City and enriching the dialogue and understanding of art. Community participation at all levels of the public art process work to ensure that the City's collection reflects the people, unique character, and culture of our community. Works are acquired through a variety of methods

including commissioned works, incorporating art into infrastructure through design teams, temporary works and direct purchases.

Future projects are identified by the Arts Commission through their annual [Municipal Art Plan](#), the annual budget and spending plan for the Municipal Art Fund, that provides direction and accountability for the use of public resources in support of the arts. Proposed projects are considered that meet the following goals:

- **Contribute to broad distribution of public art throughout Olympia.**
Commissioners will consider the relative representation of art among City neighborhoods, and seek to distribute public art broadly throughout the community.
- **Provide for diverse forms of art within the public collection.**
While every piece in the collection may not resonate with every citizen, a wide range of style, media, subjects and viewpoints will offer perspective and interest for everyone.
- **Bring new ideas, innovation, or thinking to the community.**
- **Achieve a balanced city collection that includes a strong local base but also has regional and national reach.**
- **Maintainable and safe.**
- **Well-suited to chosen site or venue.**

The City's Public Art Collection is accessible year-round, creating opportunities for both community dialogue and quiet contemplation. Public art creates a distinctive identity for the City in our capital projects that trigger the 1% for Arts ordinance. Ongoing projects include the Percival Plinth Project, a loaned sculpture exhibition that includes a purchase prize of one piece based on public vote. Annually, the winning sculpture is moved to City Hall for a temporary display of one year before moving to permanent installation in the community. Most recently, the Traffic Box Mural Wrap Project piloted an expanded online vote that received significant public input and response to select 20 designs to be reproduced on signal boxes in downtown and West Olympia.



Education and Outreach

The assortment of public art along the waterfront has become the focus of a multi-faceted education program that expands public understanding and appreciation of the City's public art collection:

- Guided school and community tours are offered by appointment to introduce citizens to the public art collection.
- QR barcodes are posted near each piece of temporary waterfront public art and at several historic interpretative sites. Visitors can scan the barcodes with their smartphones to find information about art and waterfront history.
- Information on the public art collection is made available through the City's website, and through the mobile storytelling platform, STQRY.

The Arts and Events program sends out weekly Arts Digest e-mails that serve as a virtual clearinghouse for information on community arts and regional opportunities for local artists.

Community Partnerships for Creative Solutions in Parks & Arts

The City's Arts and Events Program has reached beyond providing basic arts programs and services to become an active community partner on many fronts. City staff is regularly called upon to work with art and non-art organizations in order to address various issues and join in the implementation of ideas, programs, and policies. Following are some examples of these partnerships in action:

- Percival Landing Historic Interpretation, encompassing two pavilions, three telescope sites and a changeable display chronicling Olympia's industrial, cultural, environmental and land use history.
- Organizing legislative visits for Arts Day on the Capitol Campus, participating with arts communities statewide in encouraging ongoing support for the arts by state government.
- Research, design and fabrication coordination of three historic interpretation panels for the Washington Center for the Performing Arts, in conjunction with the structure's façade repair completed in 2014.
- Participation on the HUB Junction project at the intersection of the Olympia and Lacey Woodland Trails and the Chehalis Western Trail.
- Collaboration with the Visitor and Convention Bureau to tell the story of Olympia's public art and interesting places through the STQRY mobile storytelling platform.

- Contributed to the discussion of art and economy as a member of the City's Comprehensive Plan Writing Team.
- Interpretive display on the geology that formed the kettle basins around Kettle View Park, in partnership with citizens and the State Department of Natural Resources.
- Assisting the Olympia Artspace Alliance in their efforts to build affordable housing for artists in a mixed use facility in downtown Olympia.

Challenges:

- In addition to this Parks Plan, and the Municipal Art Plan, the current Comprehensive Plan identifies 10 specific goals for the arts throughout the document. Some of these directions are a shift in emphasis, others are new programs.
- The public art collection is aging, calling for greater maintenance and conservation efforts

Significance for the Plan:

With a staff of 1.25FTE, these projects are on top of a currently extensive work plan and will be addressed incrementally, as time and staffing allow. More aggressive pursuit of these directives can only happen with increased program staffing.

RECREATION

OPARD's recreation programs promote physical and mental well-being, bring citizens together in a positive, supportive, and fun atmosphere creating memorable experiences for individuals and families. The Department offers traditional programs such as sports leagues, youth camps and clinics, and special interest classes that have all remained popular over the years. OPARD also responds to emerging recreational needs, recently adding community gardening and urban park programming. Each year approximately 400 teams participate in OPARD's sports leagues, over 4,000 citizens take a leisure recreation class, and over 1,500 youth participate in one of our camp programs. Several studies cite a strong correlation between participation in recreational programs and a reduction in both health care costs and crime.⁴ Whether an adult is taking a Jazzercise class at The Olympia Center to stay fit or a teen is building self-esteem at a Leader-In-Training camp, it is easy to see how OPARD's recreational offerings provide a

⁴ "The Health and Social Benefits of Recreation," California State Parks Planning Division, 2005, www.parks.ca.gov/planning.

nurturing environment for Olympia’s residents. Youth, adults, and seniors who feel nurtured gain a sense of belonging, make great contributions, and invest in their communities.

Youth Programs

The Youth Recreation Program provides a safe, positive environment for Olympia’s youth by offering a variety of quality recreational activities and self-esteem building experiences. These opportunities include summer and school break day camps for elementary aged youth, 6 to 11 years old, with a Leader-In-Training option for youth 12 to 14 years old, seasonal outdoor adventure camps and trips, and special events such as Middle School Activity Nights.

Recreational opportunities focus on the development of positive, meaningful, and supportive relationships between staff, youth, school administrators, teachers, custodial staff, parents, and youth service agencies. Physical and emotional safety for both participants and staff is emphasized.

OPARD’s youth camp programs and trips offer a diverse array of recreational opportunities that allow youth to explore, learn, and develop social, physical, and problem-solving skills. Components include outdoor adventure skills, environmental stewardship, sports and field games, fitness and dance, arts, crafts, cooking, leadership development and community service. Field trips and special guests are also regularly scheduled.

The Summer Kids in Parks Program (SKIPP) is a free, recreational drop-in program for kids aged 6 to 12, based at strategic locations in Olympia. SKIPP runs for eight weeks during the summer concurrently with the summer lunch program. This program, in partnership with the US Department of Agriculture and Olympia School District, offers neighborhood children an opportunity for a free, nutritious meal. After the meal, SKIPP engages children in recreational play. The summer lunch program then provides an afternoon snack before the children go home.

Teen Programs

Teen-based activities include fee-based recreation programming for 12 to 17 year olds through teen trips, camps and classes. The fun includes summer four-day/three-night trips to Camp Cascades in Yelm and outdoor-based overnight excursions. “Especially for Teens” summer day camps travel to different locations daily including Wild Waves, Experience Music Project, Pacific Science Center, Ape Caves, Ocean Shores, Westport, various professional sporting events and many more.

Athletic Programs

OPARD provides a safe, organized, and challenging environment by offering a variety of leagues, tournaments, and classes. These opportunities include adult soccer, volleyball and basketball, fitness classes, and youth clinics and camps. In addition, the Department manages scheduling of athletic field use by various City and Olympia School District (OSD) programs.

Adult leagues are mainly for participants between the ages of 18 and 50. Youth sports camps and clinics are appropriate for 6 to 11-year olds.

Athletic and fitness programs provide opportunities for fitness, competition, social interaction, and wellness. Youth participants have opportunities to associate with positive adult role models in supervised activities where they learn and practice skills, appropriate behavior, and build supportive relationships. Local leagues and fitness classes can provide economic benefits to the community in at least two ways. First, participants may support local businesses that provide equipment and supplies related to their chosen activity. Second, once the recreation has brought them together, participants often extend the social experience by grabbing a bite to eat together, further supporting local businesses. Above all, athletic and fitness programs promote an active community and can provide the inspiration for citizens to get up and get moving.

The Department's athletic field allocation management provides a fair and manageable system for efficiently utilizing both City and OSD fields creating opportunities for diverse user groups to access the fields.

Leisure Recreation Classes

Lifelong learning and recreational activities are taught through a variety of classes. Most leisure and recreation classes are conducted at The Olympia Center. The offerings appeal to people of many interests, skill levels, and talents. Classes are available to youth, adults, and families and include art, dance, music, photography, languages, cooking, preschool, and other specialty classes. These opportunities introduce participants to new recreational activities as well as promoting balance, relaxation, and creative outlets for participants.

All segments of the population are served through recreation classes. Youth, teens, adults, families, and seniors have many opportunities to choose from. Promoting healthy lifestyles through positive and creative recreational opportunities benefits the entire community. Seniors engage in uplifting social interaction, vital to physical and emotional health, while practicing or learning new recreational skills. Youth and teens have opportunities to try new activities in a positive and supportive atmosphere while learning appropriate social

skills. Adults enjoy continuing education opportunities, learning skills that empower them to become more self-sufficient, environmentally conscious, and physically and creatively active.

Outdoor Adventure Programs

Olympia and the surrounding area provide a tremendous number of outdoor recreation resources. OPARD provides opportunities to experience land and water activities including sailing, kayaking, stand up paddle boarding, hiking, mountain biking, rock climbing, and beach exploring.



Seniors and adults can enjoy weekend activities where they get outdoors, share positive social interaction, and engage in physical activities. These activities provide a chance to explore and participate in a variety of outdoor settings – city, county, state, and national parks, wildlife refuge areas, and rivers, bays, and lakes – all offering pristine natural environments for relaxing and invigorating experiences. Increased environmental and wildlife habitat awareness is one benefit of participating in these activities. Outdoor recreation enthusiasts who are educated and aware of their impact on wetlands, waterways, and trails contribute a great deal to protecting, preserving and enhancing outdoor resources.

Youth and teens explore a variety of outdoor skill development and educational opportunities through the Department’s Outdoor Adventure Program. Camp activities include theme camps, such as rock climbing, mountain biking, sailing, kayaking or beach exploration and play, or a variety of combined activities such as hiking, sea kayaking, and rock climbing. Older youth have fun opportunities in camps like Aqua Terra Camp and Camp Cascadia Camps. Some skills that are gained during these camps include instruction in outdoor trip logistics; map and compass, outdoor cooking, leave no trace ethics, and trip planning. Team building and leadership skill development enhances the camp activities. Mentoring and educating future outdoor stewards helps ensure that local resources will be available for generations to come.

Families can enjoy sea kayak tours and classes, as well as river raft trips. These trips and classes offer unique and exciting experiences that strengthen and bond families. In addition, they offer informal educational opportunities, social interaction, and exploration of the outstanding outdoor resources available to all.

Recreation for Seniors

OPARD partners with Senior Services for South Sound (SSSS) to provide recreation for Olympia’s senior population. OPARD rents space to SSSS for senior programming at the Olympia Center at a subsidized rate. While SSSS provides many outstanding programs for seniors, OPARD recognizes the opportunity to engage a growing population of active seniors in



mainstream recreation programs. One way to do this may be cooperative programming that is cross-marketed by both agencies. Another option is to target marketing of general program offerings to seniors that are most likely to take advantage of those types of services. OPARD will continue to partner with SSSS to make sure that there are ample opportunities senior recreation as this segment of our population grows.

Specialized Recreation

OPARD partners with Thurston County Parks and Recreation to provide programs to meet recreational needs of the special-needs citizens in the Olympia/Thurston County area. These programs are designed to give persons with developmental disabilities the opportunity to participate in events and activities within the community and surrounding area. Most are suitable for people 16 and older and include trips, dances, bingo, movie and pizza nights. Olympia recognizes the value of these services being offered on a regional scale and will continue to support this multi-jurisdictional partnership when funding is available.

The Fun Fund

The Fun Fund is OPARD’s way of ensuring that fun, enriching recreation experiences are available to all residents regardless of income level. The program is funded by private donations and community fundraising. Funding levels and eligibility policies are subject to available funding and are designed to touch as many eligible individuals and families as possible.

The Olympia Center

The Olympia Center is a 56,000 square foot community center with two fully-equipped certified commercial kitchens, a large event room with stage and private entrance, nine meeting rooms,

a gymnasium, ceramics room, free parking and amenities which include: sound systems, tables, chairs, coffee services and a variety of audio visual equipment. It is home to OPARD and Senior Services for South Sound and is a major hub of community activity.

Olympia Parks, Arts and Recreation hosts the majority of their fitness and enrichment classes at this location. Senior Services for South Sound also schedules over 4,000 hours of activities each year. Between these two agencies, citizens from newborns to 90 year-olds are served through active and passive classes, social interaction, and community events. In addition, families and community groups access rental space for a variety of needs.

OPARD's commitment to maintain the facility, provide sound management and marketing, and build on the foundation of customer service will ensure that The Olympia Center continues to be enjoyed by the community well into the future.

Programming in Parks

Olympia Parks, Arts & Recreation continues to explore opportunities to increase programming within our own parks system. Since 2010, the City has implemented Community Gardening in two parks, facilitated community access at The Artesian Commons, and increased programming in other parks through partnerships with community groups. The Summer Kids in Parks Program (SKIPP) is a good example of programming in parks. SKIPP is a free, recreational drop-in program for kids aged 6 to 12 based out of Woodruff and Lions Parks (see p.48). Benefits of increased programming in parks include:

- **Customer Convenience** – This model takes the program to the customer saving time, reducing traffic congestion and eliminating parking concerns in some cases.
- **Crime Prevention** – Programming desired behavior in parks can replace unwanted behavior.
- **Reduced Environmental Impact** – Taking the program to neighborhoods reduces fuel usage.
- **Personal and Family Wellness** – As we encourage families to visit their parks, many get additional exercise by walking or bicycling from their homes, actively play with their neighbors, and create or enhance social connections.
- **Increased Ownership** – Program participants and surrounding neighbors may be encouraged to take an active role in maintenance projects/ park improvements.

School District Partnerships

OPARD partners with the Olympia School District #111 in many areas. A primary example of this is the “Interlocal Agreement for Shared Use of Playfields and Recreation Facilities.” This relationship has been in existence for over forty-five years and continues to evolve as the resources available to each agency change. The intent of this agreement is to ~~promote~~ provide positive educational and recreational opportunities to the community in the most efficient and effective manner possible. In return for maintenance and scheduling services provided by the City, the School District provides community access to school district fields and prioritizes City access to indoor facilities. Highlights of the agreement include:

OPARD manages athletic field scheduling for both City and School District fields.

This results in a fair and manageable system for field use that provides access for the variety of user groups in the community.

OPARD maintains both City and School District Fields.

OPARD provides regular mowing, preventive maintenance and demand maintenance throughout the growing season on all fields accessed by the community. While the City contributes most of the human resources and equipment required for these tasks, the School District provides supplies such as fertilizer.

The City is given priority use (after School District programs and events) in School District facilities.

This use enables the City to provide popular programs such as the Middle School Activity Nights, School Break Camps, and Adult Athletics such as basketball and volleyball.

In addition to the programs described above, City and School District staff communicate frequently to take advantage of opportunities as they arise. As this plan moves toward implementation, OPARD staff will work closely with School District staff to explore opportunities for collaboration. An example of this could be partnering on upgrading natural turf school district fields to synthetic turf fields to increase use by both the schools and the community.

GOALS AND POLICIES

The goals and policies from the most current version of the [Olympia Comprehensive Plan](#) guide OPARD's efforts. The goals from the Public Health, Arts, Parks and Recreation chapter (2014 version) are reprinted here:

GR1 Unique facilities, public art, events, and recreational programming encourage social interaction, foster community building, and enhance the visual character and livability of Olympia.

PR1.1 Continue to provide extraordinary parks and community programs that contribute to our high quality of life and attract tourism and private investment to Olympia.

PR1.2 Promote City parks, arts, and recreation programs and facilities so they are used and enjoyed by as many citizens as possible.

PR1.3 Be responsive to emerging needs for programs, facilities, and community events.

GR2 The City leverages its investments in parks, arts and recreation programs and facilities.

PR2.1 Seek non-profit organization and citizen partnerships, sponsorships, grants, and private donations for park and facility acquisition, development, operation, programming, and events.

PR2.2 Use creative problem-solving and cost-effective approaches to development, operations, and programming.

PR2.3 Continue the Joint Use Agreement between the City and the Olympia School District to provide recreation facilities and programming for the community.

PR2.4 Seek opportunities to increase revenues generated by users of park facilities and concessions.

PR2.5 Search for opportunities for mixed-use facilities and public/private partnerships.

GR3 A sustainable park system meets community recreation needs and Level of Service standards.

PR3.1 Provide parks in close proximity to all residents.

PR3.2 Ensure that Olympia's park system includes opportunities for its citizens to experience nature and solitude as a healthy escape from the fast pace of urban life.

PR3.3 Preserve and enhance scenic views and significant historic sites within Olympia's park system.

PR3.4 Identify and acquire future park and open space sites in the Urban Growth Area.


PR3.5 Beautify entry corridors to our City and our neighborhoods, giving priority to street beautification downtown and along Urban Corridors.

PR3.6 Continue to collect park impact fees within the Olympia City Limits and SEPA-based mitigation fees in the Olympia Urban Growth Areas so new development pays its fair share to the park and open space system based on its proportionate share of impact. Work with Thurston County to devise an alternative system for funding parks and open space in the unincorporated Urban Growth Area.

PR3.7 During development review, if consistent with park level of service standards or other needs, encourage developers to dedicate land for future parks, open space, and recreation facilities.

PR3.8 Develop parks or plazas near Urban Corridors.

GR4 An urban trails system interconnects parks, schools, neighborhoods, open spaces, historical settings, neighboring jurisdictions' trails systems, important public facilities, and employment centers via both on- and off-street trails.

PR4.1 Coordinate with adjacent jurisdictions and State agencies to build a regional trail network and coordinated trail signage program that is consistent with the [Thurston Regional Trails Plan](#) .

PR4.2 Use existing rail, utility, and unopened street rights-of-way, alleys, streams (where environmentally sound), and other corridors for urban trails.

PR4.3 Preserve unimproved public rights-of-way for important open space, greenway linkages, and trails.

PR4.4 Encourage walking and bicycling for recreation and transportation purposes by linking parks to walking routes, streets and trails.


PR4.5 When located in areas where future trails are shown on the adopted map, ensure that new development provides appropriate pieces of the trail system using impact fees, the SEPA process, trail Right-of-Way dedication, or other means.

GR5 A lively public waterfront contributes to a vibrant Olympia.

PR5.1 Complete Percival Landing reconstruction and West Bay Park construction.

PR5.2 Encourage creation of a public shoreline trail as property north of West Bay Park is developed.

PR5.3 Develop a West Bay trail alignment that follows the shoreline and connects to Deschutes Parkway to the south.

PR5.4 Designate waterfront trails and important waterfront destinations as the "Olympia Waterfront Route" as outlined in the [Thurston Regional Trails Plan](#) .

PR5.5 Encourage the acquisition of saltwater shoreline property and easements to create more public access to the waterfront.

PR5.6 Preserve street rights-of-way when they extend to shorelands and install signs that indicate public access.

GR6 Olympia's parks, arts and recreation system investments are protected.

PR6.1 Continue to implement and refine the City-wide Asset Management Program to make sure the City's public facilities remain functional and safe for as long as they were designed for.

PR6.2 Establish a dedicated and sustainable funding source for maintaining City parks, landscape medians, roundabouts, entry corridors, street trees, City buildings, and other landscaped areas in street rights-of-way.

PR6.3 Protect the City's investment from damage by vandalism, encampments, and other misuse in a manner that preserves the intended purpose.

PR6.4 Consider regional approaches to funding major recreational facilities, such as swimming pools, regional trails, art centers, and tournament-level athletic fields.

PR6.5 Establish a strategy for funding maintenance and operation of new park facilities before they are developed.

GR7 Permanent and temporary public art is located in parks, sidewalks, roundabouts, public buildings, alleys and other public spaces.

PR7.1 Include diverse works of art.

PR7.2 Ensure opportunities and participation by local, regional and national artists.

PR7.3 Use public art to create unique community places and visible landmarks.

PR7.4 Incorporate art into public spaces such as sidewalks, bridges, parking meters, tree grates, buildings, benches, bike racks and transit stops.

PR7.5 Encourage community participation at all levels of the public art process.

PR7.6 Ensure our public art collection is regularly maintained so it retains its beauty and value.

PR7.7 Encourage art in vacant storefronts.

PR7.8 Encourage neighborhood art studios.

PR7.9 Support art installations that produce solar or wind generated energy.

PR7.10 Help artists, organizations and businesses identify possible locations in commercial areas for studios and exhibition space.

PR7.11 Establish an "art in city buildings" program that would host rotating art exhibits.

GR8 Arts in Olympia are supported.

PR8.1 Pursue a regional community arts center.

PR8.2 Pursue affordable housing and studio/rehearsal space for artists, including support for, or participation in, establishing or constructing buildings or sections of buildings that provide living, work and gallery space exclusively for artists.

PR8.3 Encourage broad arts participation in the community.

PR8.4 Provide opportunities for the public to learn about and engage in the art-making process.

PR8.5 Provide opportunities that highlight the talent of visual, literary and performing artists.

PR8.6 Provide technical support to art organizations.

PR8.7 Establish and promote a theater and entertainment district in downtown Olympia.

PR8.8 Create a range of opportunities for the public to interact with art; from small workshops to large community events.

PR8.9 Encourage early arts education opportunities

GR9 Olympians enjoy lifelong happiness and wellness.

PR9.1 Provide opportunities that promote a mentally and physically active lifestyle and healthy food choices, including participation in local food production.

PR9.2 Provide programs and facilities that stimulate creative and competitive play for all ages.

PR9.3 Provide programs, facilities, and community events that support diverse self-expression.

PR9.4 Provide opportunities for bringing balance, relaxation, and lifelong learning into one's life.

GR10 Families recreate together.

PR10.1 Enhance recreation opportunities for the Olympia area's physically and mentally disabled populations.

PR10.2 Provide recreational opportunities for all family structures.

PR10.3 Work towards providing recreation programs that are affordable and available to all citizens.

PR10.4 Provide parks and programs to serve people of all ages, and with many different abilities, and interests.

PR10.5 Develop programs and design park facilities that encourage activities people can do together regardless of their age.

PR10.6 Provide convenient, safe, active, outdoor recreation experiences suited for families.

The goals related to habitat and environmental protection from the Natural Environment chapter [and urban green space from the Land Use and Urban Design chapter](#) of the [Olympia Comprehensive Plan](#) also guide OPARD's efforts in the management of parks and open space. These include, but are not limited to:

GN1 Natural resources and processes are conserved and protected by Olympia's planning, regulatory, and management activities.

PN1.4 Conserve and restore natural systems, such as wetlands and stands of mature trees, to contribute to solving environmental issues.

PN1.11 Design, build, and retrofit public projects using sustainable design and green building methods that require minimal maintenance and fit naturally into the surrounding environment.

GN2 Land is preserved and sustainably managed.

PN2.1 Acquire and preserve land by a set of priorities that considers environmental benefits, such as stormwater management, wildlife habitat, or access to recreation opportunities.

PN2.2 Preserve land when there are opportunities to make connections between healthy systems; for example, land parcels in a stream corridor.

PN2.3 Identify, remove, and prevent the use and spread of invasive plants and wildlife.

PN2.4 Preserve and restore native plants by including restoration efforts and volunteer partnerships in all city land management.

PN2.5 Design improvements to public land using existing and new vegetation that is attractive, adapted to our climate, supports a variety of wildlife, and requires minimal, long-term maintenance.

PN2.6 Conserve and restore wildlife habitat in both existing corridors and high-priority separate sites.

PN2.7 Practice sustainable maintenance and operations activities that reduce the City's environmental impact.

PN2.8 Evaluate, monitor, and measure environmental conditions, and use this data to develop short- and long-term management strategies.

GN3 A healthy and diverse urban forest is protected, expanded, and valued for its contribution to the environment and community.

PN3.1 Manage the urban forest to professional standards, and establish program goals and practices based on the best scientific information available.

PN3.3 Preserve existing mature, healthy, and safe trees first to meet site design requirements on new development, redevelopment and city improvement projects.

PN3.6 Protect the natural structure and growing condition of trees to minimize necessary maintenance and preserve the long-term health and safety of the urban forest.

GN4 The waters and natural processes of Budd Inlet and other marine waters are protected from degrading impacts and significantly improved through upland and shoreline preservation and restoration.

PN4.1 Plan for the health and recovery of Budd Inlet on a regional scale and in collaboration with local tribes and all potentially affected agencies and stakeholders.

PN4.2 Prioritize and implement restoration efforts based on the best scientific information available to restore natural processes and improve the health and condition of Budd Inlet and its tributaries.

PN4.3 Restore and protect the health of Puget Sound as a local food source.

PN4.4 As a party of significant interest, support the process for determining a balanced, scientifically grounded and sustainable approach to the management of the Deschutes River, state-owned Capitol Lake and Budd Inlet.

GN5 Ground and surface waters are protected from land uses and activities that harm water quality and quantity.

PN5.2 Increase the use of permeable materials and environmentally-beneficial vegetation in construction projects.

GN6 Healthy aquatic habitat is protected and restored.

PN6.1 Restore and manage vegetation next to streams, with an emphasis on native vegetation, to greatly improve or provide new fish and wildlife habitat.

PN6.2 Maintain or improve healthy stream flows that support a diverse population of aquatic life.

PN6.6 Preserve and restore the aquatic habitat of Budd Inlet and other local marine waters.

PN6.7 Partner with other regional agencies and community groups to restore aquatic habitat through coordinated planning, funding, and implementation.

GN10 Risk to human health and damage to wildlife and wildlife habitat due to harmful toxins, pollution, or other emerging threats is tracked by appropriate agencies and significantly reduced or eliminated.

PN10.1 Minimize the City's purchase and use of products that contribute to toxic chemical pollution when they are manufactured, used, or disposed.

PN10.3 Maintain City land and properties using non-chemical methods whenever possible; use standard Integrated Pest Management practices and other accepted, natural approaches to managing vegetation and pests.

GL7 Urban green space is available to the public and located throughout the community and incorporates natural environments into the urban setting, which are easily accessible and viewable so that people can experience nature daily and nearby.

PL7.2 Provide urban green spaces that are in people's immediate vicinity and can be enjoyed or viewed from a variety of perspectives.

PL7.3 Establish a maximum distance to urban green space for everyone in the community.

PL7.4 Increase the area of urban green space and tree canopy within each neighborhood proportionate to increased population in that neighborhood.

PARK AND FACILITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Background

Approximately every six years, OPARD updates the Parks, Arts and Recreation Plan. During the plan update process, an assessment of park and facilities needs is conducted to ensure that OPARD is on track to meeting the community's needs. Level of Service Standards (LOSs) are the primary means of measuring progress toward meeting park land needs. LOSs are the ratio of developed parkland per 1000 population. LOSs are developed for each of the three park classifications: "Neighborhood Parks", "Community Parks" and "Open Space." As parks are acquired and developed, progress towards meeting the Level of Service Standards is monitored. This gives the City the ability to determine, on an annual basis via the Capital Facilities Plan (CFP), what recreation facilities are to be built. The CFP outlines which new park acquisition and development projects will be undertaken and how they will be financed.

Olympia's park lands are categorized as "Neighborhood Park", "Community Park" or "Open Space." Each category is analyzed independently to ensure that current and future Olympia residents have access to the desired level of each park type. Depending on the level of development at each site, each park is assigned a "percentage developed" rating. The following sections outline the needs assessment for all three categories.

Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood Parks Existing Ratio

There are currently 26 Neighborhood Parks in Olympia totaling 72.39 acres (See Figure 6.1). Note that the acreage of some parks is split into multiple classifications if the park serves multiple functions. Many Community Parks, for example, have a playground component and thus serve the function of a Neighborhood Park. In these cases, two acres of the park are assigned the "Neighborhood Park" classification. Parks that have had an Interim Use and Management Plan (IUMP) implemented (which typically includes an unirrigated play meadow, swings, trails, picnic tables and benches) are considered 25% developed. The 2015 population of Olympia and its Urban Growth Area is estimated at 62,940⁵. **The existing ratio in 2015 of developed Neighborhood Parks per 1000 population is thus .71.**

⁵ Thurston Regional Planning Council: Small Area Population Estimates and Population and Employment Forecast Work Program, 2014.

Figure 6.1

Neighborhood Park Inventory

Park Name	<i>Total Acres</i>	<i>% Developed (2015)</i>	<i>Developed Acres (2015)</i>
Existing Neighborhood Parks			
Olympia			
8th Ave	3.99	0%	0.00
Bigelow	1.89	100%	1.89
Burri	2.32	25%	0.58
Chambers Lake (NP Portion)	2.00	0%	0.00
Decatur Woods	6.27	100%	6.27
Edison St. Parcel (NP Portion)	1.50	0%	0.00
Evergreen	3.99	25%	1.00
Friendly Grove (NP Portion)	4.79	100%	4.79
Grass Lake (NP Portion)	2.47	0%	0.00
Harry Fain	1.34	100%	1.34
Kettle View	4.80	100%	4.80
LBA (NP Portion)	2.00	100%	2.00
Lions	3.72	100%	3.72
Log Cabin Road Park	2.35	0%	0.00
Margaret McKenny	4.16	25%	1.04
McGrath Woods	4.00	25%	1.00
Mission Creek (NP Portion)	2.00	0%	0.00
Olympic Park	0.60	0%	0.00
Priest Point (NP Portion)	2.00	100%	2.00
Stevens Field (NP Portion)	2.00	100%	2.00
Sunrise	5.74	100%	5.74
Ward Lake (NP Portion)	2.00	0%	0.00
West Bay (NP Portion)	2.00	100%	2.00
Woodruff	2.46	100%	2.46
Yauger	2.00	100%	2.00
Yelm Highway Parcel	3.54	0%	0.00
	72.39		44.63

Neighborhood Park Demand Analysis

The 2010 Parks, Arts and Recreation Plan articulated a vision of having a Neighborhood Park walking distance (one-half mile) of all residences. In a random sample survey conducted for this plan, when asked what type of park was most needed, the number one response was “Neighborhood Parks” (see p. 14). For this plan, a GIS analysis was conducted to determine which areas of the community were not yet within walking distance (one-half mile) from a neighborhood park. An analysis of Map 6.1 shows that there are about ten areas (with a

significant number or residences) that are not yet within walking distance to a neighborhood park. As a result, this plan calls for the acquisition of ten new combination neighborhood parks/open spaces to meet this need. The intent would be that each of these approximately 5-acre sites would have two acres dedicated as an active neighborhood park and three acres of forest or other natural area dedicated for passive open space. In this manner, each site would provide active recreation and serve as a neighborhood urban green space, a goal outlined in the Comprehensive Plan.

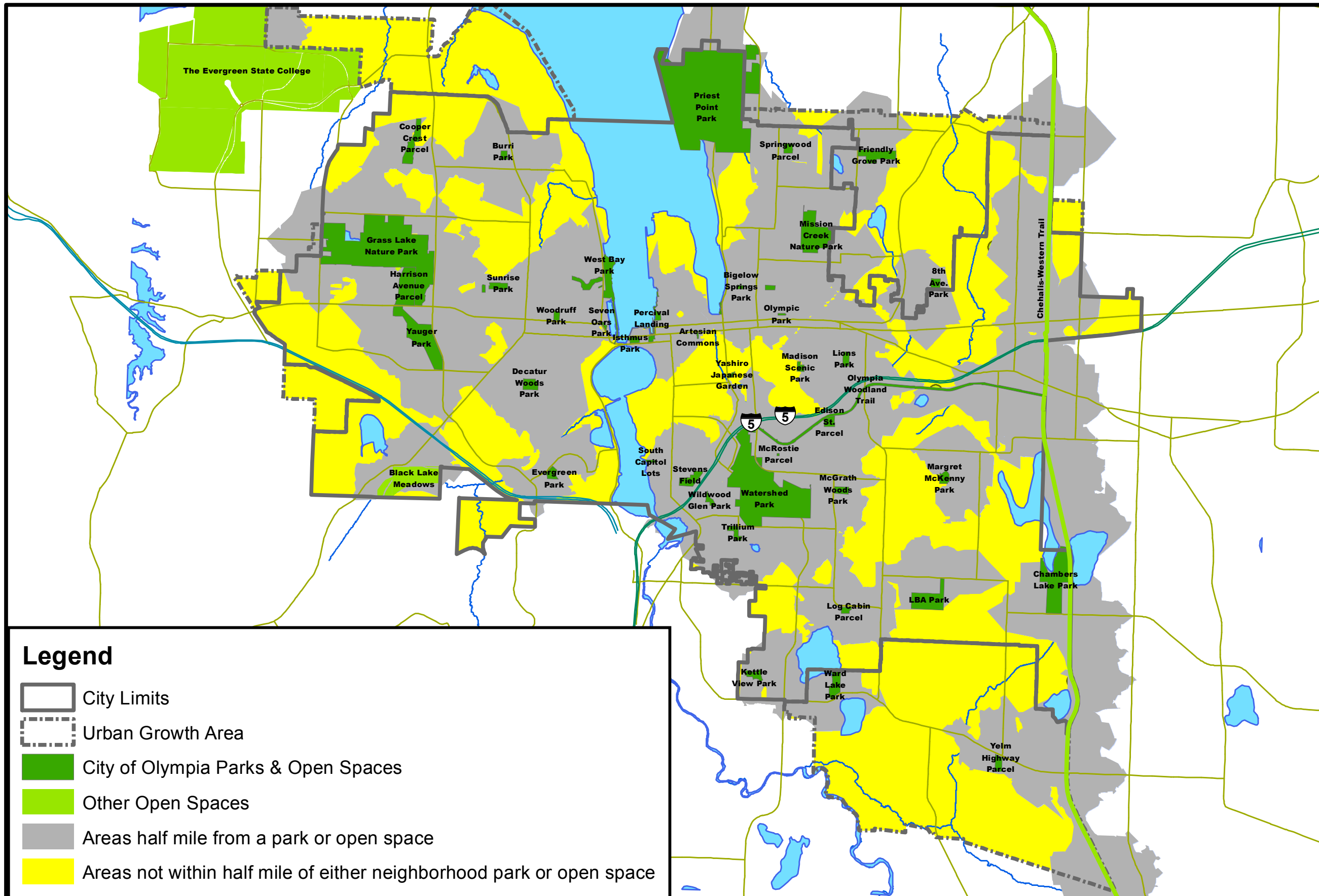
It should be noted that while it remains a goal to have a Neighborhood Park one-half to one-mile of all residences, this does not mean that the service area of Neighborhood Parks is limited to this radius. Since each Neighborhood Park has unique amenities, residents travel throughout the City to experience a variety of them. This was confirmed by a telephone survey of randomly selected residents conducted by Elway Research in 2015 which found that 50% of respondents said they were “definitely” or “probably” willing to travel across town to a Neighborhood Park.⁶ The service area for Neighborhood Parks is thus the entire City and its Urban Growth Area.

Neighborhood Park Level of Service Standard

Currently 41% of the land area of the City and its Urban Growth Area is within walking distance to a neighborhood park (see Map 6.1). ~~The Neighborhood Park Level of Service Standard is to have a neighborhood park within walking distance (one-half mile) of 90% of all areas in the City of Olympia and its Urban Growth Area. (Due to the fact that there will be some small geographic areas just between two parks, it’s not practical to acquire a park to serve those small areas. For that reason the Level of Service is set at 90% not 100%).~~ In order to achieve this service level provide a neighborhood park walking distance to most residences, 10 remaining neighborhood park sites need to be acquired, ~~and are included in the plan, t~~ Three are located in Northwest Olympia, two in Southwest Olympia, three in Northeast Olympia, and two in Southeast Olympia (one of which will be a 2-acre portion of LBA Woods).

The plan does not anticipate developing all neighborhood parks in its 20-year planning horizon; it proposes fully developing five Neighborhood Parks by 2035. At some point in the future when **all** neighborhood parks are developed, however, Olympia will have 92 acres of developed neighborhood parks (See Figure 6.2). (This assumes the new neighborhood parks are two acres in size). With a projected population of 84,400 in 2035, the Level of Service Standard for neighborhood parks is therefore 1.09 acres per 1000 population. (Note that this is an increase from the Level of Service Standard of 0.75 acres per 1000 population expressed in the 2010

⁶ Elway Research, Inc, “City of Olympia Resident Priorities for Parks, Arts and Recreation,” April, 2015, p. 22.



Legend

- City Limits
- Urban Growth Area
- City of Olympia Parks & Open Spaces
- Other Open Spaces
- Areas half mile from a park or open space
- Areas not within half mile of either neighborhood park or open space



The City of Olympia and its personnel cannot assure the accuracy, completeness, reliability, or suitability of this information for any particular purpose. The parcels, right-of-ways, utilities and structures depicted hereon are based on record information and aerial photos only. It is recommended the recipient and or user field verify all information prior to use. The use of this data for purposes other than those for which they were created may yield inaccurate or misleading results. The recipient may not assert any proprietary rights to this information. The City of Olympia and its personnel neither accept or assume liability or responsibility, whatsoever, for any activity involving this information with respect to lost profits, lost savings or any other consequential damages.



Map created 10/6/15
 Please contact the Olympia Parks, Arts and Recreation Department with questions: olympiaparks@ci.olympia.wa.us, (360) 753-8380.

City of Olympia Parks, Arts and Recreation Plan

Park and Open Space Need

Map 6-1

Parks, Arts and Recreation Plan. This increase is due to the increased accuracy of utilizing GIS analysis to determine neighborhood park need.)

Measuring Progress towards Meeting the Neighborhood Park Level of Service Standard

This plan calls for the acquisition of ten new combination neighborhood parks/open spaces. This will result in Olympia having a neighborhood park within walking distance to approximately 90 percent of all residents. Once all of these parks are developed, Olympia will have reached the desired Neighborhood Park Level of Service Standard. While the plan calls for the development of five neighborhood parks during its 20-year planning horizon, this will still leave 17 neighborhood parks either partially or fully undeveloped. As a result, the ratio of developed neighborhood parks to population in 2035 will be slightly lower than it is today (Figure 6.3).

Figure 6.2

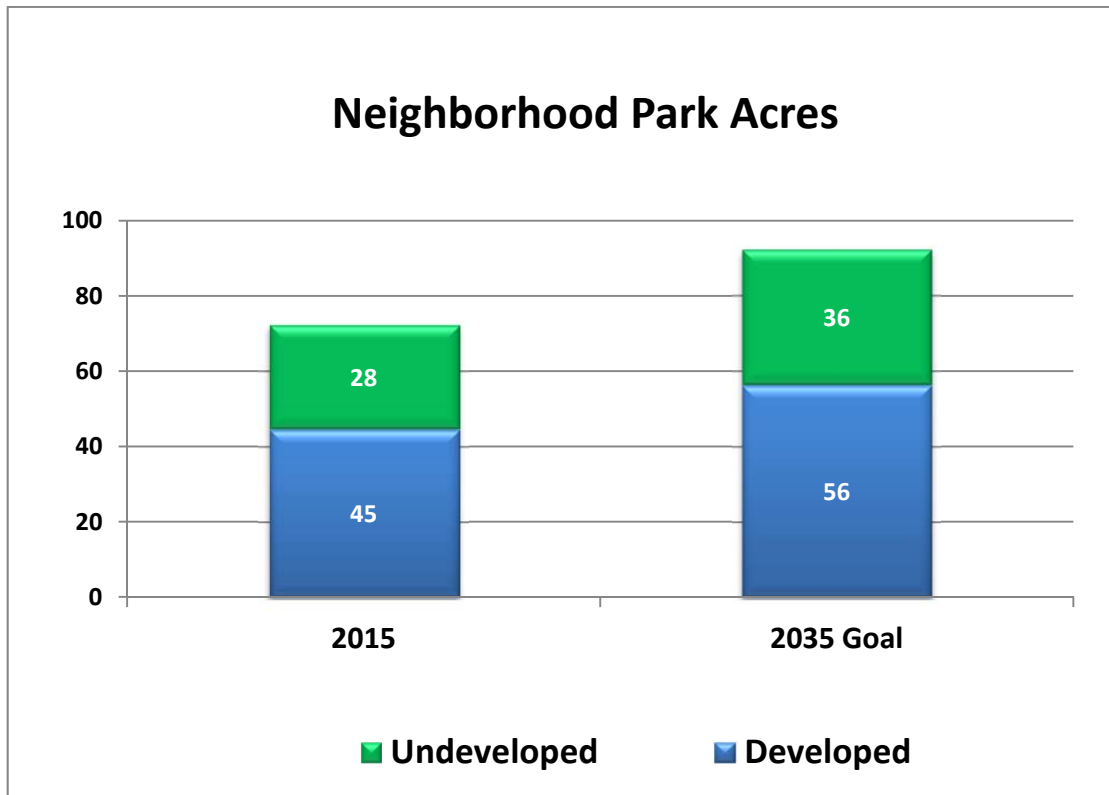
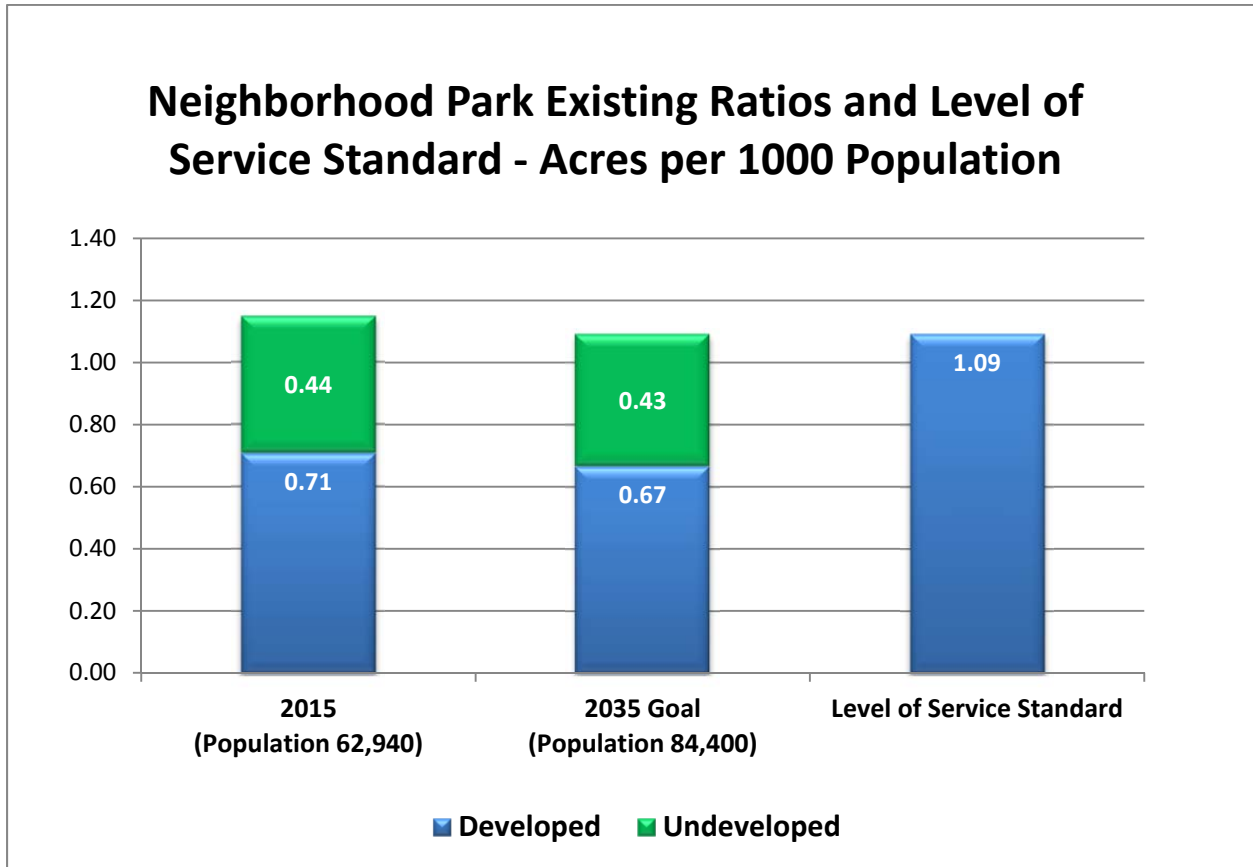


Figure 6.3



Community Parks

Community Park Existing Ratio

There are currently 16 city-owned Community Parks in Olympia totaling 120 acres and an additional eight sites and 51 acres owned by other jurisdictions that share “Community Park” recreational qualities and are included in the Level of Service calculations (See Figure 6.7). Of this acreage, there are 144 developed acres of existing Community Parks. The 2015 population of Olympia and its Urban Growth Area is estimated at 62,940⁷. **The existing ratio in 2015 of developed Community Parks per 1000 population is 2.30 acres per 1000 population.**

⁷ Thurston Regional Planning Council: Small Area Population Estimates and Population and Employment Forecast Work Program, 2014.

Figure 6.4

Existing Community Park Inventory

Park Name	<i>Total Acres</i>	<i>% Dev (2015)</i>	<i>Dev. Acres (2015)</i>
Olympia			
Artesian Commons	0.20	100%	0.20
Chambers Lake (CP Portion)	7.29	0%	0.00
East Bay Waterfront	1.86	100%	1.86
Harrison Ave Parcel (CP Portion)	6.00	0%	0.00
Heritage Park Fountain	1.18	100%	1.18
Isthmus Parcels	2.34	0%	0.00
LBA (CP Portion)	20.61	100%	20.61
Madison Scenic	2.21	100%	2.21
The Olympia Center	1.30	100%	1.30
Percival Landing	3.38	100%	3.38
Priest Point (CP Portion)	25.00	100%	25.00
Stevens Field (CP Portion)	5.84	100%	5.84
Ward Lake (CP Portion)	7.14	0%	0.00
West Bay (CP Portion)	6.42	53%	3.38
Yashiro Japanese Garden	0.74	100%	0.74
Yauger (CP Portion)	28.17	100%	28.17
	119.68		93.87
Other Jurisdictions			
<i>Capitol Campus</i>	20.00	100%	20.00
<i>Centennial Park</i>	0.80	100%	0.80
<i>East Bay Plaza</i>	0.72	100%	0.72
<i>Heritage Park</i>	24.00	100%	24.00
<i>Marathon Park</i>	2.10	100%	2.10
<i>Port Plaza</i>	1.20	100%	1.20
<i>Sylvester Park</i>	1.30	100%	1.30
<i>Ward Lake Fishing Access</i>	0.46	100%	0.46
	50.58		50.58
	170.26		144.45

OPARD also coordinates community recreational use of school district fields. Since school district activities take priority on these fields they are not included in OPARD's Level of Service calculations. They do, however, play an important role in meeting the community's recreational needs.

Community Park Demand Analysis

Rectangular Fields (Soccer, Football, Rugby, Lacrosse, etc)

OPARD programs field use for youth and adult sports in Olympia on its own fields and on school district fields. Current fields utilized for these sports range from full size dedicated soccer/football fields at middle and high schools to outfields of baseball fields. **There are no dedicated soccer/football fields in any Olympia parks** (See Figure 6.5). Currently practice field space is difficult to come by. In the spring, youth soccer practices begin while the youth baseball season is active. Some full-size soccer fields share field space with baseball fields which make those soccer fields unavailable until after the baseball season. In the fall, soccer and football are competing for the same play space. Youth soccer is the fastest-growing sport in the area, primarily due to interest in playing longer than what used to be the traditional “summer season.” There is limited field space remaining on which to program emerging sports like ultimate Frisbee, lacrosse, rugby, or other similar sports.

In addition to lack of space, the quality of the experience for these sports is somewhat diminished due to field conditions from winter play by school programs. Not only is the amount of use detrimental, but the timing of use as well. Because of the lack of field availability, rest and renovation periods are inadequate for turf to heal and become strong. This has resulted in a steady degradation in field conditions. This heavy use is compounded by the inability to renovate the fields at the end of the season due to weather conditions.

In order to meet today’s existing demand for rectangular fields and provide for a quality playing experience, four dedicated rectangular fields would need to be added to the existing inventory. Ideally these four fields would be clustered together which would allow for small tournaments, easier maintenance and more efficient lighting. If clustering cannot be achieved, it would still be important to add these new fields to the inventory. In either case, this would require approximately 25 additional community park acres.

Softball/Baseball Diamonds

Considering both parks and school district fields managed by OPARD, Olympia has 30 youth baseball fields, two full-sized baseball fields, and eight adult softball fields. The peak use of Olympia’s softball/baseball fields occurred in 2001 when 1,972 games were scheduled. The addition of 3 baseball/softball fields at Lacey’s Rainier Vista Park in 2004 and 4 lit, synthetic-infield diamonds at the Regional Athletic Complex in 2008 created a reduction in use of Olympia’s fields as some use migrated to those facilities. Olympia saw a low of 900 scheduled games in 2012. This trend appears to have reversed as the last three years have shown a trend of returning or new leagues at Olympia’s three athletic field complexes, LBA Park, Stevens Field

and Yauger Park. In 2015, 1,550 league games and 12 weekend tournaments were hosted on City of Olympia fields.

The current inventory of softball/baseball fields appears to be adequate for the next twenty years. The popularity of these sports is expected to remain steady and neighboring jurisdictions have increased the overall capacity available in the region. Despite projected population growth, no new softball/baseball fields are likely to be needed during this planning period. In order to remain in good condition and meet modern user expectations there will need to be significant upgrades made to these parks. Examples include installing synthetic turf infields, replacing lighting, and improving accessibility.

Figure 6.5

Existing Athletic Field Oriented Community Park Inventory

Existing Athletic Field Community Parks	<i>Existing Community Park Acres</i>	<i>Dedicated Ball Diamonds</i>	<i>Dedicated Rectangular Fields</i>
Yauger*	28.17	4	0
LBA	20.61	6	0
Stevens Field	5.84	2	0
Yelm Highway Parcel (Undeveloped)	3.54	0	0
Total	58.16	12	0

*Yauger Park hosts two soccer fields in the fall, but a portion of both are on baseball infields.

Other Community Park Amenity Demand

In addition to athletic fields, Community Parks can provide special, community-wide amenities such as disc golf, off-leash dog areas, off-road cycling, freshwater swim beaches, waterfront access, community gardens, etc. Many community parks offer a combination of athletic fields and other amenities. Yauger Park is a good example of this, with a skate court, bicycle pump track, community garden, jogging trail, and Dirt Works in addition to the athletic fields. It is becoming increasingly difficult to fit additional recreational amenities into Yauger Park or any of the other community parks due to lack of space. Many of the amenities most requested by the public are features that best fit into a community park. Lack of space at existing community parks prevents these projects from being realized.

Based on community needs as expressed during the public input for this plan, an additional 15 acres would be needed at a future Community Park site to locate a an off-leash dog area, disc golf course, and additional skate court, and an additional community garden.

Community Park Site Suitability Assessment

In November, 2014, OPARD commissioned an Athletic Complex Community Park Suitability Assessment for five potential community park sites. Rating criteria approved by the Olympia City Council was used to evaluate and rate each of the Candidate Sites. All five of the Candidate Sites were found to be suitable to accommodate an Athletic Complex Community Park. See <http://olympiawa.gov/city-services/parks/opar-plans-and-studies.aspx> for a link to the complete study for more information.

Community Park Level of Service Standard

The Community Park Level of Service standard was determined in the 2010 Parks, Arts and Recreation Plan to be 3.00 acres of developed Community Parks per 1000 population. This remains the proposed Community Park Level of Service Standard for this plan.

Measuring Progress towards Meeting the Community Park Level of Service Standard

This plan calls for 84 acres of community park acquisition and 57 acres of community park development during its 20-year planning horizon. This will result in a ratio of developed community parks to population of 2.63 acres/1000, slightly higher than the current ratio of 2.30 acres/1000 (Figure 6.7)

Figure 6.6

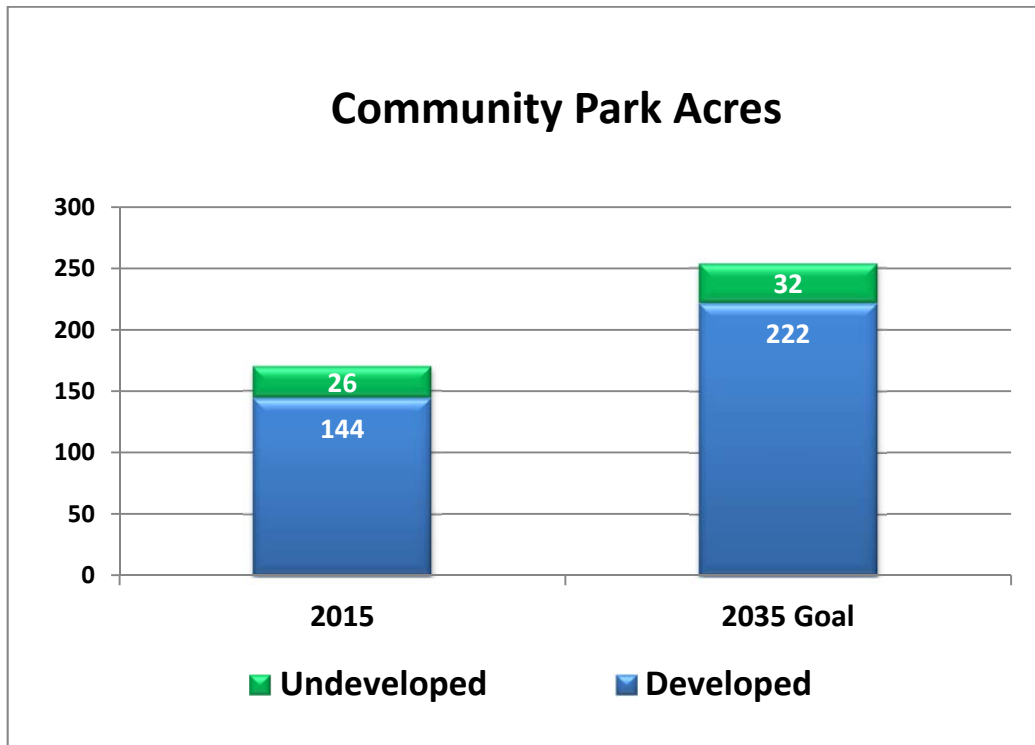
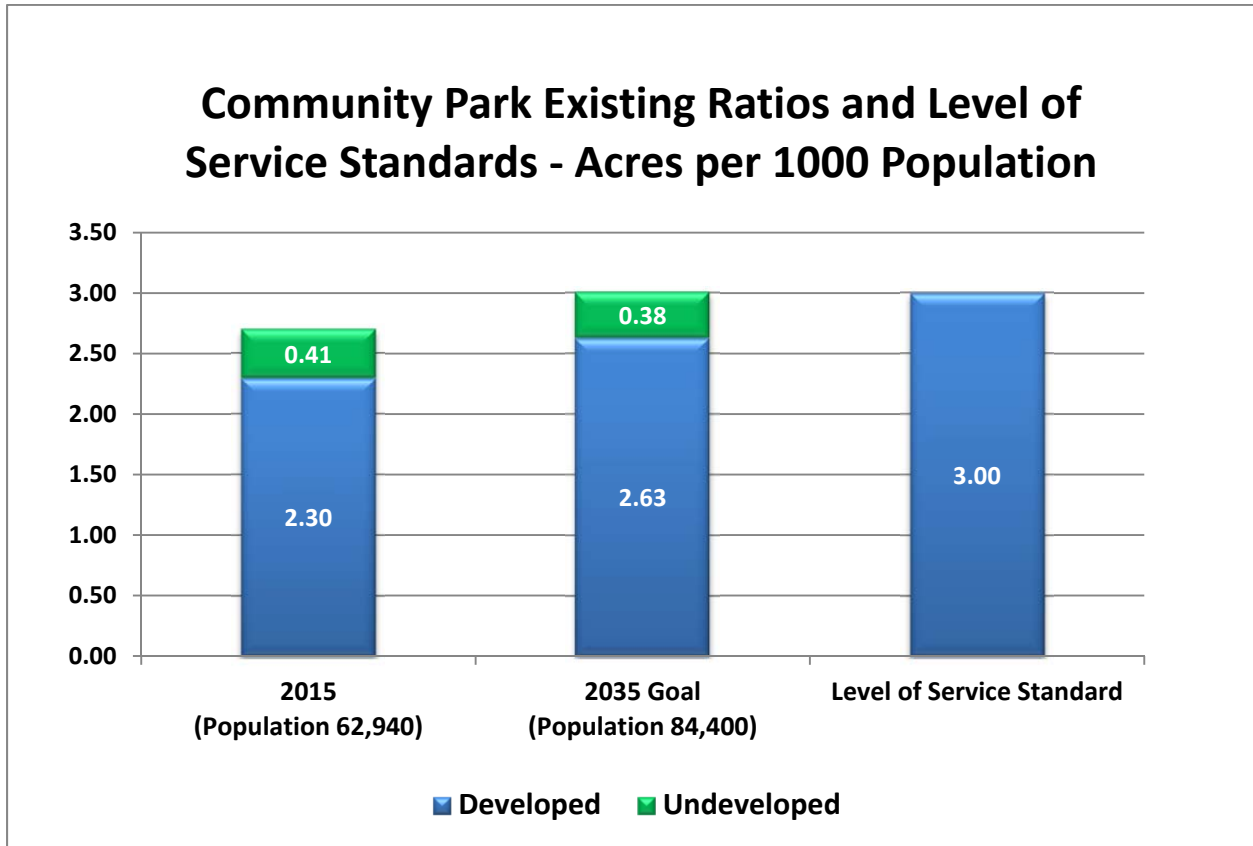


Figure 6.7



Open Space

Open Space Existing Ratio

There are currently 19 city-owned Open Spaces in Olympia totaling 819 acres and an additional five sites and 52 acres owned by other jurisdictions that share “Open Space” qualities and are thus included in the Level of Service Standard calculation (See Figure 6.9). This represents a total of 872 acres. 723 of these acres are considered “developed.” (Note that since one of the main functions of Open Space is for its habitat, visual and environmental values, Open Spaces even without trail development are given a 50% “developed” credit for these functions. Open Space is considered 100% “developed” if the Open Space was acquired solely for these functions.) The 2015 population of Olympia and its Urban Growth Area is estimated at 62,940. **The existing ratio in 2015 of developed Open Space is thus 11.49 acres per 1000 population.**

Figure 6.8
Existing Open Space Inventory

Park Name	Total Acres	% Dev. (2015)	Dev. Acres (2015)
Existing Open Space			
City of Olympia			
Bigelow Springs	1.30	100%	1.30
Chambers Lake (OS Portion)	37.80	50%	18.90
Cooper Crest	13.37	100%	13.37
Edison St. Parcel (OS Portion)	3.02	50%	1.51
Friendly Grove (OS Portion)	9.69	100%	9.69
Garfield Nature Trail	7.41	100%	7.41
Grass Lake (OS Portion)	192.87	50%	96.44
Harrison Ave Parcel (OS Portion)	18.00	0%	0.00
McRostie Parcel	0.23	100%	0.23
Mission Creek (OS Portion)	34.83	100%	34.83
OWT Eastside St. to CWT	32.38	100%	32.38
Priest Point (OS Portion)	286.50	100%	286.50
South Capitol Lots	0.92	100%	0.92
Springwood Parcel (Zabels)	3.19	50%	1.60
Trillium	4.53	100%	4.53
Watershed	153.03	100%	153.03
West Bay (OS Portion)	8.62	28%	2.40
Wildwood Glen Parcel	2.38	50%	1.19
Yauger (OS Portion)	9.60	50%	4.80
	819.67		671.02
Other Jurisdictions			
<i>Chambers Lake Access</i>	1.71	100%	1.71
<i>Chehalis Western ROW</i>	44.99	100%	44.99
<i>I-5 Trail Corridor</i>	4.21	100%	4.21
<i>Port of Olympia Trail</i>	1.22	100%	1.22
	51.85		51.85
	871.80		723.15

Open Space Demand Analysis

There is a strong demand for natural open space areas among Olympia residents. In a random sample survey conducted for this plan, when asked what type of new recreational facility was the highest priority, "Trails" was the number one response followed closely by "Natural open space." (See p. 15) The study also showed that water quality, wildlife habitat, public access and

scenic value were each rated by more than 90% as important reasons to preserve open space. In the neighborhood meetings conducted for the plan, the acquisition of LBA Woods for natural open space was by far the most frequently requested project, followed by “Buy land while it’s still available” and “Buy open space/natural areas.”

There appears to be strong interest for at least three types of open space acquisition:

1. Large open space tracts such as “LBA Woods” or “Kaiser Woods”
2. Trail corridors such as Percival Canyon or West Bay Trail
3. Small open spaces walking distance from all residences

Open Space Level of Service Standard

The Open Space Level of Service standard was determined in the 2010 Parks, Arts and Recreation Plan to be 11.19 acres of developed Open Space per 1000 population. This remains the proposed Open Space Level of Service Standard for this plan and will allow for all three of the desired types of Open Space to be achieved.

Measuring Progress towards Meeting the Open Space Level of Service Standard

The existing ratio of open space currently exceeds the desired Level of Service Standard of 11.19 acres/1000 population. Substantial population growth is projected during the plan’s 20-year horizon. In order to not fall below the desired Level of Service Standard, the open space inventory needs to be substantially increased. The plan calls for 313 acres of open space to be added to the inventory. This will result in a ratio of developed open space to population of 11.61 acres/1000 in 2035, which is slightly above today’s ratio of 11.49 and exceeds the Level of Service Standard.

Figure 6.9

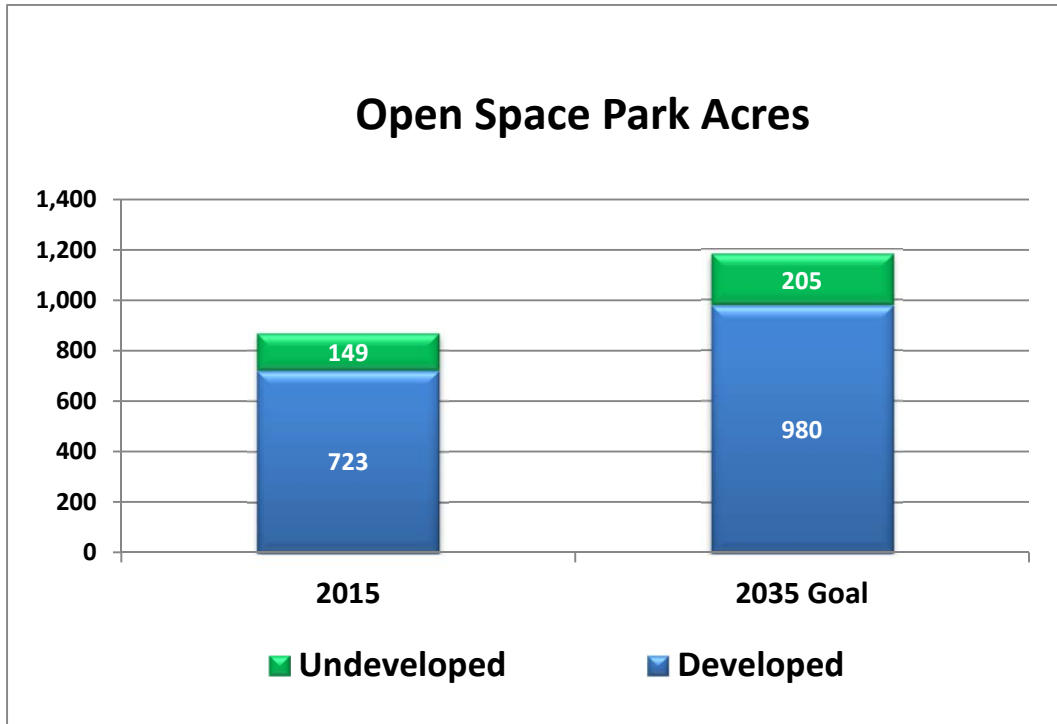
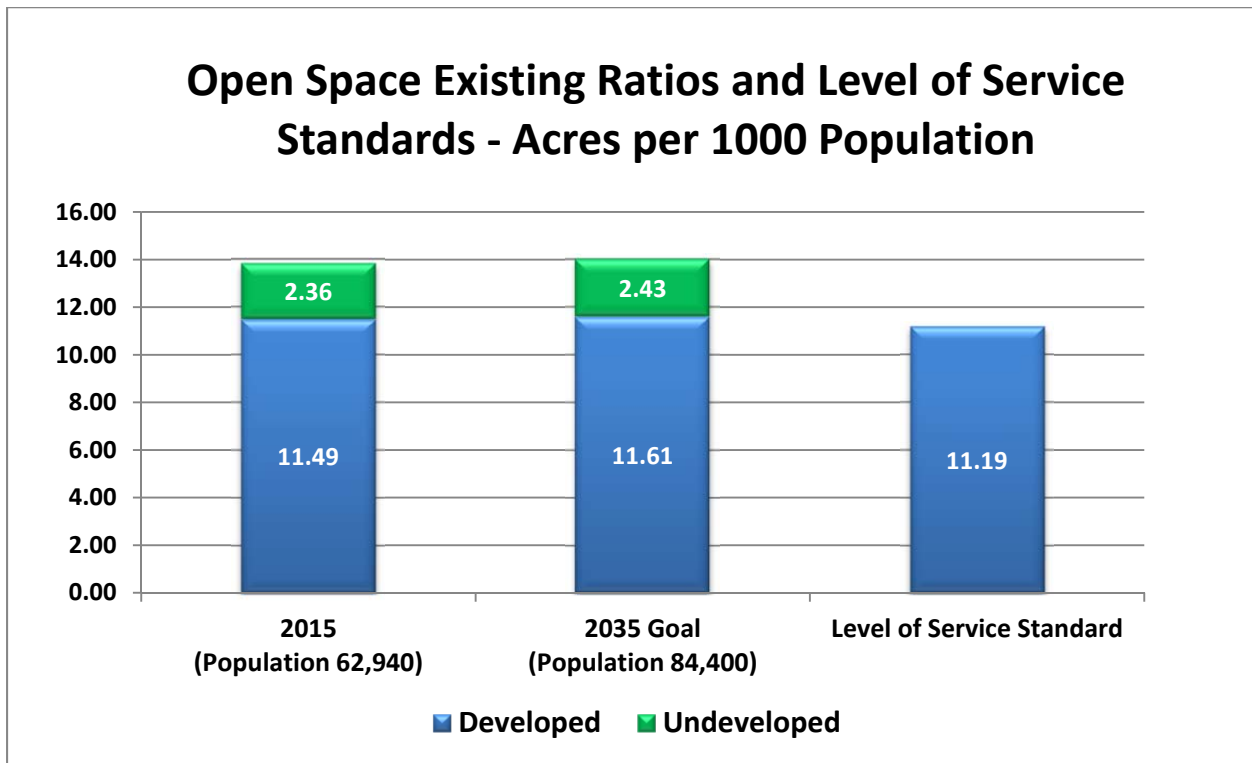


Figure 6.10



Future Refinement of Level of Service Standards

During the public review for this plan, it was suggested that the plan's Level of Service Standards could be further refined by adopting separate standards for downtown and Olympia's two urban corridors. It was also suggested that there be a Level of Service Standard for ballfields separate from the more generic "Community Park" standard. These concepts will be analyzed during this planning horizon.

EXISTING PARKS AND OPEN SPACES – CURRENT CONDITIONS AND PROPOSED PROJECTS

This section provides a brief overview of the general condition and major maintenance needs of each City park. The major maintenance items described are identified and prioritized annually as part of the Capital Asset Management Program (CAMP). This section also identifies new capital projects and other actions that are proposed for each park during the plan's 20-year planning horizon. It also indicates when these actions are proposed for implementation in the plan's 20-year Capital Investment Strategy. Funding for both capital and major maintenance projects is requested annually through the Capital Facilities Plan (CFP) process.

Neighborhood Parks

8th Avenue Park (3000 8th Ave NE)

Soils in this 4-acre undeveloped park are contaminated from past agricultural uses. It is not open for public use as this time.

Proposed Action: *Potential park development (2022-2035).*

Bigelow Park (1220 Bigelow Ave NE)

This 1.9-acre developed park is generally in fair condition. The restroom/shelter is nearing the end of its design life and needs to be replaced. The fencing in the park is in poor condition. The playground was replaced in 2005 and is in good condition.

Proposed Action: *There is \$250,000 budgeted in 2019 to replace the restroom and shelter as part of OPARD's Capital Asset Management Program. There is also \$214,000 for park fencing projects budgeted in 2019. The park's fencing will likely be replaced as part of that project.*

Burri Park (2415 Burbank Ave NW)

Improvements to this 2.3 acre park were made as part of an Interim Use and Management Plan in 2008.

***Proposed Action:** Potential park development (2022-2035).*

Decatur Woods Park (1015 Decatur St. SW)

This 6.3-acre park was developed in 2004, and it is in good condition. No major improvements are planned at this time.

Edison St. Parcel (1400 Block Edison St. SE)

This park is 4.5 acre of which 3 acres are classified as “Open Space” and 1.5 acres as “Neighborhood Park.” The park contains over 400 feet of Indian Creek and is undeveloped.

***Proposed Action:** Potential park development (2022-2035).*

Evergreen Park (1445 Evergreen Park Drive SW)

Improvements to this 4-acre park were made as part of an Interim Use and Management Plan in 2008. The park is in good condition.

***Proposed Action:** Potential park development (2022-2035).*

Friendly Grove Park (2316 Friendly Grove Rd NE)

This 14.5-acre park, constructed in 2002, consists of a 9.7-acre “Open Space” (a wetland and buffer) and a 4.8-acre area classified as “Neighborhood Park.” Overall the park is in good condition but the playground was constructed in 2002 and is nearing the end of its design life.

***Proposed Action:** There is \$265,000 budgeted for playground replacement in 2017 as part of OPARD’s Capital Asset Management Program.*

Harry Fain's Legion Park (1115 20th Ave SE)

This 1.3 acre neighborhood park is in fair condition. The playground was installed in 2005 and is still in good condition. The small shelter is serviceable but starting to show signs of age. No major improvements are planned at this time.

Kettle View Park (1250 Eagle Bend Dr. SE)

This 4.8 acre neighborhood park was opened in 2011 and is in excellent condition except for some drainage problems on the playfield. Staff will assess what it would take to improve the playfield.

Proposed Action: *Prior funds have been allocated for a bike shelter and interpretive signage. In addition, if time and resources allow, maintenance staff will implement drainage improvements to the park.*

Lions Park (800 Wilson St. SE)

This 4-acre developed park is in good shape. The playground was replaced in 2010, and in 2012 the shelter was replaced as well as the restroom roof. The tennis court needs to be resurfaced.

Proposed Action: *There is \$135,000 budgeted for tennis court resurfacing in 2019 as part of OPARD's Capital Asset Management Program. This surfacing project may include Lions Park.*

Log Cabin Road Park (2220 Log Cabin Road SE)

This 2.3-acre neighborhood park was purchased in 2010. It is undeveloped.

Proposed Action: *Potential park development (2022-2035).*

Margaret McKenny Park (3111 21st Ave SE)

Improvements to this 4.2-acre park were made as part of an Interim Use and Management Plan in 2007. The park is in good condition.

Proposed Action: *At the time of this plan's writing, a playground installation project was being planned with prior funding. Potential park development (2022-2035).*

McGrath Woods Park (2300 Cain Rd. SE)

An Interim Use and Management Plan for this 4-acre park was implemented in 2009. The park is in good condition.

Proposed Action: *Potential park development (2022-2035).*

Olympic Park (1300-block Olympic Dr. NE)

This .6 acre area was dedicated as a park as part of a plat in 1925. It currently has an alley running through it and is undeveloped as a park. Since this area has limited potential for use as a park but carries maintenance obligations, the City recently met with adjacent neighbors to propose to them the idea of re-platting the area to incorporate the former park property into their lots.

Sunrise Park (505 Bing St. NW)

In this 5.7-acre park, 4.8 acres are developed and 0.9-acres are undeveloped. The developed portion of the park is in very good condition with a relatively new restroom (2010) and a new playground (2015).

***Proposed Action:** The Plan's "Long Range Options (2022-2035)" section of the Capital Investment Strategy budgets \$200,000 for a new shelter in 2022-2035.*

Woodruff Park (1500 Harrison Ave NW)

This 2.5 acre developed park is in good condition and no major improvements are planned.

Community Parks

Artesian Commons (415 4th Ave E)

This 0.2 acre urban courtyard was designated a city park in 2013. The asphalt surfacing of this park is in poor condition and the park has few amenities at this time.

***Proposed Action:** There is \$60,000 for park improvements budgeted in 2021 as part of OPARD's Capital Asset Management Program.*

East Bay Waterfront Park (313 East Bay Drive NE)

This park contains over 500 feet of Budd Inlet shoreline habitat. The wooden overlook structures at this 1.9-acre developed park have reached the end of their design life and are in need of replacement.

***Proposed Action:** There is \$80,000 budgeted for overlook replacement in 2021 as part of OPARD's Capital Asset Management Program.*

Harrison Avenue Parcel (3420 Harrison Ave NW)

In 2009, the West Olympia Community Visioning Group (CVG) and the City of Olympia began exploring a partnership to purchase and develop a public plaza in West Olympia. Under a Memorandum of Understanding and with a \$5,000 donation of earnest money from the CVG, the City purchased the 24-acre Harrison Avenue Parcel in 2011. In 2012, OPARD partnered with CVG to develop a concept plan for the park which included an amphitheater, environmental learning center, a satellite maintenance center, trails, and open space. The park currently remains undeveloped. A site analysis established that significant developable space exists on the parcel along with several acres of wetlands that connect to the larger Grass Lake wetland complex. The CVG remains active and

invested in a partnership with the city and the City looks forward to continuing its valuable partnership with CVG as it pursues future park development phases in the future.

Proposed Action: *This plan budgets \$1,141,000 in 2016 for a one mile-long paved bicycle/pedestrian trail from the Kaiser Rd. Entrance in Grass Lake Nature Park through the Harrison Avenue Parcel to Harrison Avenue.*

Heritage Park Fountain (330 5th Ave SW)

The mechanical system for the fountain is now approximately 20 years old and suffers from frequent mechanical breakdowns. (See p. 35 for more details).

Proposed Action: *There is \$398,000 budgeted for a fountain mechanical system upgrade in 2017 as part of OPARD's Capital Asset Management Program.*

Isthmus Parcels (505 & 529 4th Ave W)

The City purchased 2.3 acres on the Isthmus for a potential park in 2013. This site is currently undeveloped. (See p. 36 for more details)

Proposed Action: *The Community Renewal Area process, ~~Downtown Strategy~~ and future City-led focus area planning will inform OPARD's level of involvement in the Isthmus area. OPARD supports redevelopment and the continual removal of blight and will likely have a significant role in the Isthmus area based on previous investments and strong community support for expanded parks in this area. The Plan's Capital Investment Strategy identifies \$4.65 million in MPD funds in 2017-2021 to support a high priority project. An Isthmus park development project is one of four projects identified as a high priority project to utilize these funds.*

LBA Park (3500 Amhurst St. SE)

This 22.6-acre developed park is in fair condition. Roofs on several structures need to be replaced as well as park security lighting and a retaining wall between fields 3 and 4.

Proposed Action: *The plan budgets \$580,000 for upgrades to existing fields in 2017. A site has not yet been identified for these upgrades. The Plan's "Long Range Options (2022-2035)" section of the Capital Investment Strategy also budgets \$700,000 for upgrades to existing fields. There is \$60,000 budgeted for a retaining wall and \$100,000 for security lighting in 2019 and \$95,000 for roof replacement in 2021 as part of OPARD's Capital Asset Management Program.*

Madison Scenic Park (1600 10th Ave SE)

This 2.2 acre partially-developed park is in fair condition but does not have many amenities. The hillside trail was improved in 2012 and is in good shape.

Proposed Action: *There are prior funds allocated for a minor park improvement project, the details of which will be determined through a public planning process.*

The Olympia Center (222 Columbia St. NW)

The Olympia Center is home to OPARD and Senior Services for South Sound (SSSS). It contains two fully-equipped and certified commercial kitchens, a large event room with stage and private entrance, a ceramics room, and nine meeting rooms. The Olympia Center has had recent upgrades in flooring, exterior painting, roof and HVAC system. It has also undergone energy efficiency upgrades, reducing the overall carbon footprint of the facility. Aesthetic and technology upgrades are critical to keeping the facility relevant for building tenants and users. There are no major projects planned during this planning horizon.

Proposed Action: *As this facility is going to approach 30 years of operation during this planning cycle, planning should begin for major renovations or replacement of The Olympia Center. Funds have not been identified for this project.*

Percival Landing Park (300 4th Ave W)

Percival Landing is 3.38 acres and is one of Olympia's three marine waterfront parks. It is located on Budd Inlet on the southernmost tip of Puget Sound. This popular park and tourist destination is in the heart of downtown and is a hub for festivals, gatherings, social interaction and public celebrations. The Budd Inlet shoreline at the park provides habitat for juvenile fish and other marine life. The Landing includes a 0.9-mile boardwalk extending along the eastern shoreline of West Bay from the Fourth Avenue Bridge to Thurston Avenue. Built in three phases from 1977 thru 1988, the Landing is deteriorating. In 2011, the City replaced about 700 feet (of approximately 5,000 feet of existing boardwalk) leaving over 4,000 feet of original wooden boardwalk remaining. While annual inspections and follow-up repairs have served as a "Band-Aid" for the past several years, marine engineers have cautioned that these types of repairs will become more and more expensive as the structure ages.

Proposed Action: *This plan budgets \$17,000 for annual inspections and \$140,000 annually for a maintenance reserve fund to be utilized for ongoing repairs. The plan's Capital Investment Strategy identifies \$4.65 million in Metropolitan Park District funds in 2017-2021 to support a high priority project. The plan identifies the Percival Landing Bulkhead Replacement Project as one of four projects that could utilize a portion of these funds. This was proposed to provide a cash match for a \$900,000 state grant. The Plan's "Long Range Options (2022-2035)" section of the Capital Investment Strategy budgets ~~\$9,000~~ \$8,175,000 in 2022-2035 for Phase 2, Section A design and construction.*

Stevens Field (2300 Washington St. SE)

OPARD leases this 13-acre park from the Olympia School District. The park is in generally in good condition; however the outfield fencing is reaching the end of its design life and needs to be replaced.

***Proposed Action:** OPARD has matching funds budgeted and has been selected for a Recreation and Conservation Office grant to replace one of the infields at Stevens Field with a synthetic surface. The plan also budgets an additional \$580,000 for upgrades to existing fields in 2017; a site has not yet been identified for these upgrades. The Plan's "Long Range Options (2022-2035)" section of the Capital Investment Strategy also budgets \$700,000 for upgrades to existing fields. The fencing will also likely be replaced as part of a park fencing project budgeted for 2019 as part of OPARD's Capital Asset Management Program*

Ward Lake Parcel (2008 Yelm Highway SE)

In 2007, the City purchased this 9.1 acre undeveloped site along the shores of Ward Lake to give Olympia its first freshwater swimming access. In addition to 351 lineal feet of freshwater shoreline, this undeveloped park has several acres consisting of a relatively flat upland grassy field. A master plan process in 2012 identified that due to steep slopes and ADA access requirements, full development of the site would cost approximately \$12 million. That same year there was a significant algae bloom causing the lake to be closed to swimming. Due to limited resources, high development costs, and water quality concerns, the project was placed on hold at that time. The Washington Recreation and Conservation Office contributed funds towards the purchase which mandates timely development of the site and limits flexibility to divest the property. In 2014, the Olympia Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee recommended that OPARD move forward with developing the upland area of the site as a community park.

***Proposed Action:** Existing funds remaining from the original master planning process are available to assess whether this property remains the best option for providing an outdoor swimming opportunity in Olympia. There is also \$1 million budgeted in 2021 for a phase 1 development project should OPARD continue to pursue development of this site. The Plan's "Long Range Options (2022-2035)" section of the Capital Investment Strategy also budgets \$9,350,000 in 2022-2035 for a community park project.*

West Bay Park and Trail (700 West Bay Drive NW)

In this 17-acre park, 8.6 acres containing the proposed West Bay Trail corridor are designated "Open Space", 6.4 acres are classified as "Community Park", and 2 acres are classified as "Neighborhood Park." West Bay Phase 1 construction was completed in 2010 and includes a

hand-held boat launch, panoramic viewpoint, trails, landscaping, habitat enhancements, and interpretive exhibits. This portion of the park is in good condition. The remainder of the park is undeveloped.

West Bay Trail is a proposed 1.5-mile trail corridor along the West Bay Shoreline from Deschutes Parkway to Raft Avenue (near the West Bay Marina). This trail would link to the proposed Percival Canyon Trail via Deschutes Parkway. The City currently owns the portion of the corridor between the 5th Avenue Bridge and through the northern portion of West Bay Park (just north of Brawne Avenue). (For more detailed information on this trail corridor, see p. 3-45 of the [Thurston Regional Trails Plan](#).)

The City, Port of Olympia and Squaxin Island Tribe are currently working with a consultant to conduct a habitat and environmental restoration study of West Bay which includes West Bay Park and Trail in the study area. One of the goals of the study is to provide guidance on shoreline restoration that could be incorporated into the next phase of West Bay Park. The City is continuing to clean up environmental contamination on the site and has secured a matching grant from the Department of Ecology to do so.

Proposed Action: *This plan budgets \$450,000 for environmental cleanup and \$300,000 for Phase 2 design in 2017, \$300,000 for a restroom in 2020, and The Plan’s “Long Range Options (2022-2035)” section of the Capital Investment Strategy budgets \$5,000,000 for Phase 2 development in 2022-2035.*

Yashiro Japanese Garden (1010 Plum St. SE)

This 0.7-acre developed park is in fairly good condition although there are some drainage and irrigation issues. While no major improvements are planned during this planning horizon, maintenance staff will pursue solutions to these issues as time and resources allow.

Yauger Park (3100 Capital Mall Dr. SW)

This 39.8-acre developed park is one of Olympia’s three athletic field complexes. The playground was replaced in 2011 and is in good shape. The skate court and lighting systems are showing signs of age however.

Proposed Action: *The plan budgets \$580,000 for upgrades to existing fields in 2017. A site has not yet been identified for these upgrades. The Plan’s “Long Range Options (2022-2035)” section of the Capital Investment Strategy also budgets \$700,000 for upgrades to existing fields. OPARD’s Capital Asset Management Program budgets \$412,000 in 2016 to replace lighting on two fields, \$165,000 in 2021 to add lighting to the Alta St. parking lot, and \$120,000 in 2021 for a skate court rehabilitation and upgrade project.*

Yelm Highway Parcel (3535 Yelm Highway SE)

Soils in this 3.5-acre undeveloped park site are contaminated from past agricultural uses and the site is closed to public use.

***Proposed Action:** The Plan's "Long Range Options (2022-2035)" section of the Capital Investment Strategy budgets \$250,000 for an environmental cleanup in 2022-2035.*

Open Spaces

Bigelow Springs (930 Bigelow Ave NE)

This 1.3-acre open space is in good condition. There is a perennial spring at the park which flows 100 feet through a small stream channel into a catch basin at Bigelow Street. In 2014, neighborhood volunteers rehabilitated the trail system and springs seating area. No major improvements are planned at this time.

Chambers Lake Parcel (4808 Herman Rd. SE)

This 46.2-acre undeveloped park site consists of 36.9 acres of "Open Space", 7.3 acres of "Community Park", and 2 acres of "Neighborhood Park" classification. Over 2000 feet of Chambers Lake shoreline, approximately 20 acres of wetlands and open water, and deciduous forests provide significant aquatic and wildlife habitat at the site. The park is in good condition.

***Proposed Action:** The Plan's "Long Range Options (2022-2035)" section of the Capital Investment Strategy budgets \$2,000,000 in 2022-2035 to develop the park.*

Cooper Crest Parcel (3600 20th Ave NW)

The Cooper Crest Parcel contains a small tributary of Green Cove Creek surrounded by a mature forest. A short nature trail runs through this 13.4-acre open space. The site is in good condition and no major improvements are planned.

Garfield Nature Trail (620 Rogers St. NW)

This 7.4-acre open space is developed with a nature trail through a ravine following Garfield Creek, which outlets to Budd Inlet in the undeveloped portion of West Bay Park. The trail forms an important pedestrian connection to West Bay Park, connecting a large residential neighborhood to the waterfront. The trail is generally in fairly good condition but some of the bridges and boardwalks are showing signs of age.

***Proposed Action:** There is \$155,000 budgeted for boardwalk and bridge replacements throughout the park system as part of OPARD's Capital Asset Management Program. The*

boardwalks and bridges in the park will be assessed as part of this project. As bridges and boardwalks are replaced, efforts will be made to eliminate steps wherever possible to make the trail more barrier-free.

Grass Lake Nature Park (700 Kaiser Road NW)

This 172-acre park, purchased in 1991, consists of 170 acres of open space and 2.5 acres of neighborhood park. The park contains a large wetland complex and a diversity of other habitats that form part of the headwaters of Green Cove Creek. This is the city's most important open spaces for wildlife and aquatic habitat value. It has no developed facilities and fairly primitive, narrow soft-surface trails. The master plan was completed in 1997. A portion of the proposed 10 to 14 mile Capitol to Capitol trail which would connect Capitol Forest with the Washington State Capitol Campus is proposed to pass through the park. (For more detailed information on this trail corridor, see p. 3-61 of the [Thurston Regional Trails Plan](#).)

***Proposed Action:** \$1,141,000 in funding currently exists for a phase 1 development project in 2016 which would allow for the design and construction of a 10-foot-wide, 6,100-foot-long, paved pedestrian pathway from the current Kaiser Road trailhead to Harrison Boulevard. This plan also budgets \$1 million in 2021 for a project which would connect the trail system to Cooper Point Road. These two projects would serve to complete the portion of the Capitol to Capitol trail that runs through the park.*

McRostie Parcel (1415 19th Ave SE)

No improvements are planned for this 0.2-acre undeveloped open space.

Mission Creek Nature Park (1700 San Francisco Ave NE)

In this 36.8-acre park, 32.8 acres are classified as "Open Space" and 4 acres as "Neighborhood Park" classification. The park contains a large portion of the significant wetland complex at the headwaters of Mission Creek and has a mix of young and mature forest in the uplands. The "Neighborhood Park" portion of the park is undeveloped. Improvements to the "Open Space" component were made as part of an Interim Use and Management Plan in 2007. Both portions are in good condition and no major improvements are planned. A habitat assessment for the park was completed in 2015 by Public Works Environmental Services that identified restoration opportunities at the park.

Olympia Woodland Trail (1600 Eastside St. SE)

This paved, multi-use trail extends from the main trailhead at the intersection of Eastside Street and Wheeler Avenue to the Chehalis Western Trail. It is 10 feet wide and 2.5 miles long. The trail follows Indian Creek for a portion of its length and provides a potential habitat connectivity

corridor. Olympia Woodland Trail Phase 3 would extend the trail from the Eastside Street trailhead through the edge of Watershed Park ending at Henderson Boulevard. Phase 4 would extend from Henderson Boulevard to the southwest, paralleling I-5 and terminating at Tumwater Historical Park. The first two phases of the trail were built utilizing strong partnerships with the Woodland Trail Greenway Association, Washington Department of Transportation, and Thurston Regional Planning Council. The City will seek to continue and expand these partnerships moving forward with Phases 3 and 4. (For more detailed information on this trail corridor, see p. 3-41 of the [Thurston Regional Trails Plan](#).)

Proposed Action: *This plan budgets \$350,000 in 2018 for Phase 3 design and the Plan’s “Long Range Options (2022-2035)” section of the Capital Investment Strategy budgets \$4.5 million for Phase 3 construction in 2022-2035. The plan budgets \$5.3 million for open space/trail acquisition in the “Long Range Options (2022-2035)” section of the plan, some of which could be utilized for Phase 3 and/or 4 Right of Way acquisition. The City will pursue partnerships and grants for Phase 4 planning efforts.*

Priest Point Park (2600 East Bay Drive NE)

In this 313.5-acre developed park, 284.5 acres are classified as “Open Space”, 25 acres as “Community Park”, and 4 acres as “Neighborhood Park.” The park contains small “pocket estuaries” where Ellis and Mission Creeks flow into Budd Inlet. The 1.5 miles of undeveloped marine shoreline are unique within the City and provide significant habitat value and public access to Budd Inlet. While the playground and two of the picnic shelters are in good condition, the other two shelters, all of the restrooms, and the park maintenance headquarters have all reached the end of their design lives and are in need of replacement or major renovation. The Open Space is in fair condition. Invasive plants, particularly English ivy, remain a concern and will continue to be addressed via the Parks Stewardship program.

Proposed Action: *As part of OPARD’s Capital Asset Management Program \$124,000 is budgeted for Kitchen #1 (Rose Garden) reconstruction in 2016; \$50,000 for septic system repairs in 2017; \$110,000 for Restrooms 2 & 3 renovation, \$130,000 for replacing Shelter #2, \$130,000 for replacing the shelters in the upper loop and \$190,000 for replacing restroom #1 in 2018, \$55,000 for lighting replacement in 2019; and \$870,000 as partial funding for replacing the maintenance headquarters in 2020. There is also \$155,000 budgeted in 2016 for boardwalk and bridge replacements throughout the park system. The boardwalks and bridges at Priest Point Park will be assessed as part of this project.*

Trillium Park (900 Governor Stevens Ave SE)

This 4.5-acre developed open space is in good condition and no major improvements are planned.

Watershed Park (2500 Henderson Blvd SE)

This 153-acre developed open space is in good condition but the boardwalks and bridges are starting to show some signs of age.

***Proposed Action:** There is \$155,000 in 2016 budgeted for boardwalk and bridge replacements throughout the park system as part of OPARD's Capital Asset Management Program. The boardwalks and bridges in Watershed Park will be assessed as part of this project. An undeveloped portion of the park on the southwest side of Henderson Boulevard has been identified as a potential area for off-road bike trails for which the plan budgets \$200,000 in 2017. The Plan's "Long Range Options (2022-2035)" section of the Capital Investment Strategy also budgets \$500,000 for improvements to the Watershed Park trailhead.*

Wildwood Glen Parcel (2600 Hillside Dr. SE)

This is a 2-acre undeveloped open space and no major improvements are planned.

NEW NEIGHBORHOOD PARK LAND AND DEVELOPMENT

10 Neighborhood Park/Open Space Acquisitions

In order for there to be a neighborhood park within walking distance to nearly all Olympia residents, 10 new combination neighborhood park/open spaces will be acquired. While the exact size and configuration will vary depending on land availability, the concept is that each site would be approximately 5 acres in size with two acres utilized for the active neighborhood park portion and 3 acres of forest or other natural area utilized as a passive open space. This is similar to Decatur Woods, McGrath Woods, Burri and Evergreen parks, all of which have both an active and passive component. In areas where five acres are not available, smaller parcels will be considered.

***Proposed Action:** \$1.7 million is budgeted in 2017 for 5 combination neighborhood park/open space acquisitions. The plan also budgets \$4.5 million for LBA Woods acquisition, a portion of which would serve as one of the combination neighborhood park/open space sites. The Plan's "Long Range Options (2022-2035)" section of the Capital Investment Strategy also budgets \$2 million for the remaining four sites.*

5 Neighborhood Park Development Projects

Olympia currently has eight undeveloped neighborhood park sites and four neighborhood parks that are partially developed with interim improvements. The plan calls for fully developing five neighborhood parks over the plans 20-year planning horizon.

Proposed Action: *The Plan's "Long Range Options (2022-2035)" section of the Capital Investment Strategy budgets \$6.9 million for developing 5 neighborhood park sites.*

Spraygrounds (Water Play Features)

A sprayground is a recreation area for water play that has little or no standing water. While they are not a substitute for a swimming pool, they are enormously popular in warm weather among young children. They provide a fun, outdoor water activity at a fraction of the cost of a pool and without the need for lifeguards as there is no risk of drowning.

Proposed Action: *This plan budgets \$473,000 for a sprayground in 2016 and \$525,000 for a second sprayground in 2018.*

NEW COMMUNITY PARK LAND AND DEVELOPMENT

LBA Woods Acquisition

"LBA Woods" refers to two undeveloped wooded 74-acre and 72-acre parcels adjacent to LBA Park in Southeast Olympia. In July, 2015, the City entered into an option to purchase the 74-acre Morse-Merryman parcel. While a goal is to preserve as much open space as possible, a portion of the site could be utilized for athletic fields. Additional efficiencies are presented by the parcel's location adjacent to the existing developed support facilities at LBA Park. Field investigations indicate that athletic field drainage problems currently being experienced at LBA Park can be solved in a cost-effective manner by draining these fields into a former quarry excavation located nearby on the parcel.

Proposed Action: *This plan budgets \$4.5 million in 2017 for acquisition of the 74-acre Morse-Merryman LBA Woods parcel.*

Future Land Acquisition

In order to protect the City's negotiating position, it is not always possible or desirable to identify specific parcels to acquire for future parks in a parks plan. Each parcel requires a willing seller and considerable negotiation in order to secure a purchase and sale agreement. In

recognition of this, the plan includes a Land Acquisition fund in 2017. This fund is to be utilized for open space and/or community park acquisition opportunities that would further the goals and policies of the plan and help achieve the plan's Level of Service Standards. The City would utilize the following criteria to evaluate potential purchases with this fund (listed in no particular order):

- Willing seller
- Good value
- Good location
- Limited environmental concerns
- Good recreation and/or habitat value
- Property would help achieve park Level of Service Standards or is an important trail corridor
- Property is in an underserved part of the community
- Reasonable development costs
- Reasonable maintenance costs (both while undeveloped and once fully-developed)
- High City Council and community priority

Proposed Action: *This plan includes a Land Acquisition fund in 2017. Some of these funds could go towards the acquisition of athletic-field oriented community park property.*

New Community Park Development

In order to meet both existing and future athletic field needs, the plan calls for both upgrades to existing athletic fields and development of new athletic field community parks (see p. 68 for a detailed community park needs analysis).

Proposed Action: *The plan budgets \$580,000 in 2017 for upgrades to existing athletic fields. The plan budgets ~~\$250,000~~ \$900,000 in 2018 for an athletic field park design and \$900,000 for phase 1 development in 2019. The Plan's Capital Investment Strategy identifies \$4.65 million in MPD funds in 2017-2021 to support a high priority project. Soccer Fields are one of four projects identified as a high priority project to utilize these funds. The Plan's "Long Range Options (2022-2035)" section of the Capital Investment Strategy budgets \$3.5 million in 2022-2035 for an*

athletic park Phase 2 development project including lit, synthetic turf fields and \$700,000 for upgrades to existing fields.

Arts Center

The need for an arts center first became evident in a 1989 Needs Assessment Study for the Olympia Arts Commission. This need has continued to be a topic of public interest with numerous annual requests for exhibition space, working studios, and rehearsal space, as well as requests for venues to gather, learn, and teach.

Over the years, Olympia citizens have shaped a vision for an arts center that is lively, open, and accessible to all segments of the community. It would be a place to view, express, experience, learn, and make all forms of art. Public gallery space could host exhibitions by area artists, youth, or traveling shows of national note or historical significance. Exhibitions would be augmented with strong education and outreach programs and allow for ongoing partnerships with area schools and universities. Central gathering places inside and outside the facility could provide a venue for workshops and rehearsals.

In 2007, a Market and Feasibility Analysis for a Community Arts Center was completed by Economics Research Associates. Based on their findings, an Arts Center of 14,000 square feet is the model most financially sustainable for Olympia based on community need, economic analysis, and case studies of other arts centers. This clearinghouse for arts information and promotion, for education and creation, would include 5,000 square feet of exhibition space, 1,500 square feet of classrooms and workshops, a 250 square foot retail space, and a 2,000 square foot restaurant or café. We envision the Arts Center as the hub of the widely diverse collection of art disciplines and styles in our community. It would be a place where artists go to meet, where children and adults go to learn, where the community comes to view art, and where visitors stop in to be directed to art in our community.

There has also been an ongoing effort to provide workforce artist housing in the community. The Olympia Artspace Alliance was established as a non-profit organization in 2011 to create, foster and preserve affordable live and work space for artists and arts organizations in Olympia. While art centers and artist housing are different structural entities, in some communities, partnerships have allowed arts centers and workforce artist housing to co-exist in the same location.

Proposed Action: *The Plan's Capital Investment Strategy identifies \$4.65 million in MPD funds in 2017-2021 to support a high priority project. An Arts Center is one of four projects identified as a high priority project to utilize these funds. The Plan's "Long Range Options (2022-2035)" section of the Capital Investment Strategy budgets \$1.5 million for an arts center in 2022-2035.*

Increased Arts Programming

OPARD's current Arts Program operates with just 1.25 FTE. In order to build this program and fulfil the goals set forth in the Municipal Arts Plan and the Comprehensive Plan, more staffing will be necessary.

Proposed Action: OPARD will work with the Olympia Arts Commission in 2016 to develop a strategy for evaluating new goals and policies that could be carried out with additional staffing. The Plan's Capital Investment Strategy budgets \$50,000 annually beginning in 2017 for increased arts programming staff.

Recreation/Aquatics Center

~~In the random sample survey conducted for this plan, when asked what the most needed recreational amenity not currently offered was, "swimming facilities" was the number one response. Neither Olympia nor any of its adjacent jurisdictions has a municipal swimming pool.~~

As The Olympia Center approaches 30 years of operation, planning efforts should begin for major renovations or replacement of The Olympia Center. This could include a swimming pool, ice rink, indoor athletic facilities and/or additional recreation amenities.

Proposed Action: The plan budgets \$300,000 in the "Long Range Options 2022-2035" section for this planning effort.

Aquatics Center/Swimming Pool

In the random sample survey conducted for this plan, when asked what the most needed recreational amenity not currently offered was, "swimming facilities" was the number one response. Neither Olympia nor any of its adjacent jurisdictions has a municipal swimming pool. There may be opportunities for OPARD to partner with neighboring jurisdictions, the school district, local health care providers or and/or other partners to make the construction and operation of an aquatics center financially feasible.

Proposed Action: The plan budgets \$100,000 in 2018 for an aquatic center feasibility study.

Community Gardens

Biting into that first juicy tomato grown in the backyard is one of the joys of summertime. With increasing urban density, fewer residents have backyards large enough for a garden or may not have backyards at all. Olympians share the growing nationwide interest in integrating community gardens into their parks systems. Community gardens bring that experience to

more people and benefit the community at large. In 2007, OPARD opened its first community garden at Sunrise Park followed by a second community garden at Yauger Park in 2011. Interest continues to grow for more community gardening opportunities.

Proposed Action: This plan budgets \$1,000,000 for a Phase 1 Athletic Field complex project in 2021. One of the complementary amenities of that project could be a community garden.

Disc Golf

In 2007, OPARD authorized the South Puget Sound Disc Golf Association (SPSDGA) to construct a disc golf course in Yauger Park as a pilot project. While the course was popular and well-used, there were several reported conflicts between disc golf users and athletic field users. As a result, the course was removed in 2011 when the southern section of the park was reconfigured to accommodate stormwater improvements. There has not been a site identified for a new disc golf course at this time but this is a park use that may be compatible in a new community park.

Proposed Action: This plan budgets \$1,000,000 for a Phase 1 Athletic Field complex project in 2021. One of the complementary amenities of that project could be a disc golf course.

Off-Leash Dog Areas

In 2010 Olympia opened its first off-leash dog area at Sunrise Park. The dog area was so popular that it became a victim of its own success. Several adjacent neighbors complained of noise, excessive odor, dust, dander, cigarette smoke, dog feces thrown into their backyards and lack of privacy. OPARD tried to mitigate the impact of the dog area on adjacent neighbors to the best of its ability. Ultimately, in 2013, the decision was made to remove the off-leash dog area and seek a more appropriate site that did not excessively impact adjacent residences. To date, OPARD has not identified an ideal site. ~~All existing parks either have inadequate space or have nearby residences or other conflicting uses.~~

Proposed Action: This plan budgets \$1,000,000 for a Phase 1 Athletic Field complex project in 2021. One of the complementary amenities of that project could be an off-leash dog area (separate from the athletic fields) if the site is suitable. Staff will also continue to assess Olympia's existing park system and any future park acquisitions for potential off-leash dog sites.

Off-Road Bike Park

During the past several years, OPARD has been working closely with the South Sound Bike Park Alliance (SSBPA) to provide off-road biking opportunities in Olympia's parks. In 2015, OPARD

opened its first pump track at Yauger Park. (This small loop trail with dirt berms and rollers is designed for bicycling without the bicyclist pedaling.) The SSBBA has initially identified the portion of Watershed Park on the southwest side of Henderson Boulevard as a good potential site for a mountain bike skills park. Should the City purchase the “Kaiser Heights” property in Southwest Olympia, however, this site might also be a good (or even better) location. Either of these sites would provide a place to mountain bike without having to drive to Capitol Forest or other regional bike parks.

Proposed Action: *OPARD will continue to work with SSBPA to expand the existing off-road bike area at Yauger Park. Existing funds are allocated to conduct a feasibility study for a larger off-road bike facility at another site. The study would include an assessment of potential impacts to adjacent neighbors and ways to minimize those potential impacts. This plan budgets \$200,000 for the construction of an off-road bike park in 2017.*

Pickleball

Pickleball is a sport in which players use solid paddles to hit a perforated plastic ball, similar to a wiffle ball, over a net. The sport shares features of other racquet sports, the dimensions and layout of a badminton court, and a net and rules similar to tennis, with a few modifications. It is rapidly growing in popularity in Olympia and a group of players have been playing several times a week at the courts at Stevens Field and at the Olympia Center. In response to requests from this group, OPARD recently striped two of the outdoor tennis courts at Woodruff Park for pickleball and added striping for an additional indoor court at The Olympia Center.

Proposed Action: *OPARD will continue to monitor the growing popularity of this sport and consider striping additional tennis courts for Pickleball as needed. As neighborhood parks are developed, Pickleball courts will be considered during the design process. This plan also budgets \$1,000,000 for a Phase 1 (non-field) Athletic Field complex project in 2021. Pickleball courts could be considered as amenities for that project.*

Skate Park Expansion

OPARD currently manages an 11,000 square foot skate court at Yauger Park as well as a smaller, beginners skate “node” at Friendly Grove Park. The skate court at Yauger Park is 15 years old and is starting to show signs of age. It is also sometimes at capacity. In order to accommodate the growing numbers of skaters and to be able to provide a state-of-the-art facility, an additional skate court will need to be constructed.

***Proposed Action:** Prior funds are budgeted to add some modern features to the existing Yauger Park skate court. This plan also budgets \$1,000,000 for a Phase 1 (non-field) Athletic Field complex project in 2021. One of the amenities of that project could be a new skate court.*

ADA Transition Plan

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 is a civil rights statute that prohibits discrimination against people who have disabilities. It requires that facilities for public use are designed and constructed to be accessible by people with disabilities. Although all new facilities are ADA-compliant, many of Olympia parks and facilities were built before the ADA was passed in 1990. To ensure full compliance, OPARD will prepare an ADA Transition Plan, an assessment of the park system and prioritization of facilities that may be in need of upgrading.

***Proposed Action:** OPARD will prepare an ADA transition plan and utilize the findings to prioritize ADA upgrades to existing parks.*

NEW OPEN SPACE/TRAIL LAND AND DEVELOPMENT

In the random sample survey for this plan, respondents were asked to rank a series of 13 different potential new projects. The number one response was “Trails” followed by “Natural Open Space.” Clearly Olympia residents have a strong desire for open space and trails in their community.

LBA Woods

“LBA Woods” refers to two undeveloped, wooded 74-acre and 72-acre parcels adjacent to LBA Park in Southeast Olympia. During a series of neighborhood input meetings for this plan, purchasing LBA Woods for open space and trails was by far the number one requested project; it was mentioned by participants at every meeting, and for some meetings it was the predominant theme.

In July, 2015, the City entered into an option to purchase the 74-acre Morse-Merryman parcel to expand its inventory of passive open space and secure additional athletic field-oriented community park acreage, both of which can be accommodated on this site.

***Proposed Action:** This plan budgets \$4.5 million in 2017 for acquisition of the 74-acre Morse-Merryman LBA Woods parcel. The plan also budgets \$100,000 in 2018 for interim trail and parking improvements on the parcel(s).*

Kaiser Woods

“Kaiser Woods” refers to 74-acres of wooded parcels west of Ken Lake in Southwest Olympia formerly proposed for the Kaiser Heights development. In August, 2015, the City entered into an option to purchase the “Kaiser Woods” parcels. “Kaiser Woods” could be a good site for off-road bike trails, pending an analysis of the potential impacts on adjacent neighbors; this area could prove Olympia residents an opportunity for mountain biking within Olympia City Limits.

Proposed Action: *This plan budgets \$800,000 in 2017 to purchase the “Kaiser Woods” parcels.*

West Bay Woods

“West Bay Woods” refers to the area of undeveloped, forested parcels in West Olympia in the Schneider Creek watershed. In late 2014, City Environmental Stewardship staff collaborated with the Olympia Coalition for Ecosystems Preservation (OlyEcosystems) to conduct wildlife habitat enhancement on a 4.5 acre site located near the intersection of Rogers St. NW and Dickinson Ave. NW. This site is of particular value as wildlife habitat because it is some of the last breeding and nesting habitat for the Pacific great blue heron (*Ardea herodias fannini*) found within Olympia city limits. The City has since been working closely with OlyEcosystems to identify other priority parcels for conservation in this area. In addition to habitat preservation, acquisition of some of the parcels in this area could provide good opportunities for people to experience nature in their neighborhood and important trail connections from the neighborhood down to West Bay Drive and West Bay Park.

Proposed Action: *The plan includes a Land Acquisition Fund in 2017. Some of these funds could go towards the acquisition of priority West Bay Woods parcels.*

Neighborhood Park/Open Space Sites

The 2010 Parks, Arts and Recreation Plan put forward a goal of having all residences within walking distance (one-half mile) of a neighborhood park. With the strong value that Olympians put on open space, this plan expands that goal to have both a neighborhood park and an open space within walking distance to all residents. As part of the planning process for this plan, staff conducted a GIS analysis to determine which areas of the community were not walking distance to either a neighborhood park or an open space (See Map 6-1). Through this analysis it was determined that 10 combination neighborhood park/open space sites were needed to achieve this goal.

Proposed Action: This plan budgets \$1.7 million in 2017 to purchase 5 combination neighborhood park/open space sites. The plan also budgets \$4.5 million in 2017 for acquisition of “LBA Woods,” a portion of which would service as the open space for that area. The Plan’s “Long Range Options (2022-2035)” section of the Capital Investment Strategy budgets \$2 million for four additional combination neighborhood park/open space sites.

Land Acquisition Fund

The plan includes a Land Acquisition Fund in 2017 to be utilized for open space or community park acquisition opportunities. See p. 87 for a discussion of this fund.

Long Range Open Space/Trail Acquisitions

The plan identifies funds for 54 acres of as-yet-to-be-identified open space/trail corridors to maintain the plan’s Level of Service Standard for open space.

Proposed Action: The Plan’s “Long Range Options (2022-2035)” section of the Capital Investment Strategy budgets \$5.4 million for open space/trail acquisition. At \$100,000 per acre, this would be approximately 54 acres.

Potential Trail Corridor Projects

The [Thurston Regional Trails Plan](#) identifies several regional trail priorities within the Olympia planning area; these are described below. All of these trails are long-term priorities for the City. When complete, these trails will help foster the goal of an interconnected system of parks and trails, which will result in greater use and appreciation of the parks themselves. Many of these trail corridors would also serve as multimodal transportation options, providing alternatives to driving. It is difficult to plan trail corridor acquisition; all of the routes will require either railroad abandonment or multiple property owners willing to sell.

Capitol to Capitol Trail

The Capitol to Capitol Trail is a proposed east-west route that uses existing, planned and proposed trails and on-street facilities to create a recreational corridor between the State Capitol and the State Capitol Forest. (For more detailed information on this trail corridor, see p. 3-61 of the [Thurston Regional Trails Plan](#).) A portion of this proposed trail corridor runs through Grass Lake Nature Park and is discussed on p. 84.

Chambers Lake Loop Trail

This is a 3-mile recreational trail around the western shore of Chambers Lake that would connect on either end with the Chehalis-Western Trail. (For more detailed information on this trail corridor, see p. 3-29 of the [Thurston Regional Trails Plan](#).)



Downtown Railroad Trail

This proposed 2-mile trail corridor is the railroad right-of-way owned by Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) that runs from Heritage Park through the train tunnel under downtown Olympia, and then along the Union Pacific line to the Tumwater city limits. It then continues on as the proposed East Olympia Trail through Tumwater, eventually connecting with the Chehalis-Western Trail. (For more detailed information on this trail corridor, see p. 3-57 of the [Thurston Regional Trails Plan](#).) This corridor is still used for rail transport, so BNSF would need to abandon this line before it could be pursued as a recreational trail.

Olympia Waterfront Route

Sometimes referred to as “The Big W,” this is a collection of multiple on-street facilities, recreational shared-use trails, parks and sidewalks that would link West Bay Park, Percival Landing, the Port of Olympia, East Bay Park, and Priest Point Park.

Olympia Woodland Trail

Phases I & II of The Olympia Woodland Trail are complete and Phases III & IV remain to be completed. (See p. 84 for a detailed discussion of this trail corridor.)

Percival Canyon Trail

This is a proposed 2.5-mile trail corridor along Percival Creek from Deschutes Parkway to R.W. Johnson Boulevard/21st Avenue. From R.W. Johnson Boulevard, the trail corridor becomes the Black Lake Trail and then the Gate-Belmore Trail. Together, these trails would provide a non-motorized trail connection from Olympia to western Thurston County. They would also link to the proposed West Bay Trail via Deschutes Parkway. The Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroad bed is the preferred alignment for this trail. However, the corridor is actively used for train transport, so acquisition and development of this corridor hinges on abandonment of the rail line. (For more detailed information on this trail corridor, see p. 3-73 of the [Thurston Regional Trails Plan](#).)

West Bay Trail

This is a proposed 1.5-mile trail corridor along the West Bay shoreline from Deschutes Parkway to Raft Avenue (near the West Bay Marina). (See p. 81 for a detailed discussion of this trail corridor.)

The following trails provide important linkages and are thus included in this plan, although they are not identified in the *Thurston Regional Trails Plan*.

Mission Creek Nature Park to Priest Point Park Trail

This proposed 0.8-mile trail corridor would connect Mission Creek Nature Park to Priest Point Park. Mission Creek links these two parks, and ideally much of the trail would be located along the creek corridor. Between the two parks, the creek passes through about 20 private parcels. Since it may be difficult to secure a trail easement through all of these parcels, portions of the trail may have to be located on the street.

Woodard Creek Trail

This proposed 2-mile trail greenway begins at Martin Way and runs northward along Woodard Creek to 26th Avenue. Much of this corridor is owned by Providence St. Peter Hospital and representatives from the hospital have expressed interest over the years in providing a public trail corridor in this area. A link from this trail to 8th Avenue Park should be explored.

Yauger Park to Grass Lake Trail

This proposed 1.3-mile trail would link Yauger Park to Grass Lake Nature Park and then continue north to the Cooper Crest parcel. This project is discussed on p. 84.

Proposed Action: *To ensure that the City is in a position to act on trail corridor opportunities as they may arise, the plan includes a “Land Acquisition Fund” in 2017, some of which could be utilized for the acquisition of trail corridors.*

Neighborhood Pathways Program

Neighborhood pathways are short connections for people walking and biking that connect streets to parks, schools and other streets where no motor vehicle connection exists. These pathways shorten trips for people walking and biking and provide more comfortable, off-street routes. The Neighborhood Pathways Program is implemented by Public Works and was developed as a result of a City Council initiative to improve neighborhood walkability. Since 2010, OPARD typically contributes \$25,000 annually to the program for connections to parks and trails. To date, improved pathways connections to West Bay Park, Trillium Park and

Decatur Woods Park are complete and a project to connect to the Olympia Woodland Trail is planned for 2016.

Proposed Action: *\$25,000 is budgeted annually to contribute towards the Neighborhood Pathways Program focusing on connections to parks and trails.*

Natural Resource Management

As noted on p. 25, one of the challenges facing Olympia's park system is effective management of the over 800 acres of natural areas set aside as open space. OPARD has been working closely with the recently-formed Environmental Services division of the Public Works Department in the natural resource management of several park properties. The Environmental Services division has begun writing natural resource management plans for some of Olympia's parks. These plans will help the department assess whether additional resources may be necessary in order to effectively manage Olympia's open space system.

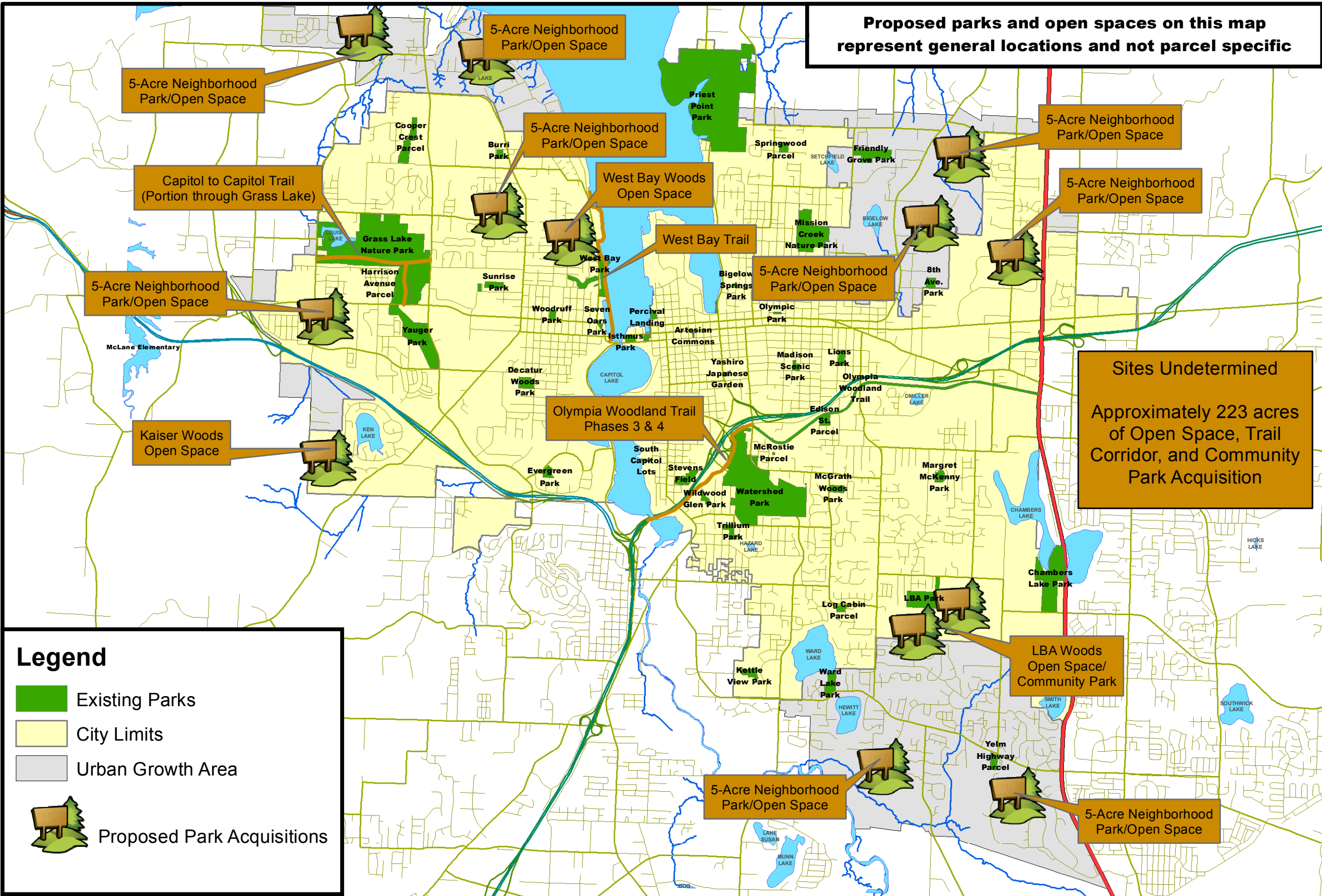
Proposed Action: The Department will continue to develop the partnership with Environmental Services in the management of the natural areas within the park system. OPARD also intends to pursue grants to implement future restoration and habitat work on park properties in partnership with other city departments and local organizations.

EXISTING AND PROPOSED PARKS AND OPEN SPACES MAP

The Existing and Proposed Parks and Open Spaces Map (Map 7-1) graphically represents Olympia's future park system. Some important notes about the map are:

- The map shows proposed park and open space locations. The intent is to show generally where a park or open space should be located. The actual location will be determined based on land availability, acquisition cost, and the property owner's willingness to sell.
- The location and arrangement of the parks is designed to serve the entire Planning Area (including the area within Olympia City Limits and the Urban Growth Area - UGA).
- Names of proposed parks are for reference only and not yet approved by the City Council.
- Proposed improvements for each park and open space are outlined previously in this chapter.

Proposed parks and open spaces on this map represent general locations and not parcel specific



Legend

- Existing Parks
- City Limits
- Urban Growth Area
- Proposed Park Acquisitions



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The City of Olympia and its personnel cannot assure the accuracy, completeness, reliability, or suitability of this information for any particular purpose. The parcels, right-of-ways, utilities and structures depicted hereon are based on record information and aerial photos only. It is recommended the recipient and or user field verify all information prior to use. The use of this data for purposes other than those for which they were created may yield inaccurate or misleading results. The recipient may not assert any proprietary rights to this information. The City of Olympia and its personnel neither accept or assume liability or responsibility, whatsoever, for any activity involving this information with respect to lost profits, lost savings or any other consequential damages.



Map created 12/15/15
Please contact the Olympia Parks, Arts and Recreation Department with questions: olympiaparks@ci.olympia.wa.us, (360) 753-8380.

City of Olympia Parks, Arts and Recreation Plan

Existing and Proposed Parks and Open Spaces

Map 7-1

NEW PROGRAMS

In addition to parks and open spaces, this plan identifies several new programs to be implemented during the next ten years:

New Arts Programs

The [Comprehensive Plan](#) is the City's main tool to shape the direction and development of our community based on extensive public outreach and response. The goals and policies adopted by Council become action plan and work plan items over the next 20 years to achieve the kind of community Olympians say they want. This most recent Comprehensive Plan included new directions for arts in the community such as:

- Encourage art in vacant storefronts.
- Encourage neighborhood art studios.
- Support art installations that produce solar or wind generated energy.
- Help artists, organizations and businesses identify possible locations in commercial areas for studios and exhibition space.
- Establish an "art in city buildings" program that would host rotating art exhibits.
- Establish and promote a theater and entertainment district in downtown Olympia.
- Create a range of opportunities for the public to interact with art; from small workshops to large community events.
- Encourage early arts education opportunities.
- Pursue a regional community arts center.
- Pursue affordable housing and studio/rehearsal space for artists, including support for, or participation in, establishing or constructing buildings or sections of buildings that provide living, work and gallery space exclusively for artists.

Some of these directions are a shift in emphasis, others are new programs. With a staff of 1.25 FTE, these projects are on top of a currently robust work plan and will be addressed incrementally, as time and staffing allow. More aggressive pursuit of these directives can only happen with increased program staffing.

In addition to the Comprehensive Plan and Parks Plan, the Arts Commission also produces their own annual Municipal Art Plan, which proposes projects which would draw from the Municipal Art Fund and provides a 5-year planning horizon for new public art projects.

New Environmental Initiatives

In the last several years, OPARD has embraced a green mindset, implementing environmentally friendly design, achieving LEED certification for the redevelopment of Percival Landing, conducting extensive environmental cleanup at Percival Landing and West Bay Park, implementing a Pesticide-Free Parks Program, and more. OPARD will continue to lead by example by embracing green technology and practices.

Proposed Action: *\$450,000 is budgeted in 2017 to complete environmental cleanup at West Bay Park. OPARD will also explore alternatives to gas-powered equipment, and consider reduced maintenance by gas-powered equipment in planning new parks. The Department will continue to research and utilize other means of vegetation management to further reduce chemical applications and will explore making the Pesticide-Free Parks initiative permanent and expand it to other parks. OPARD will explore the potential for adding edible landscaping to parks, and will continue to explore ways to minimize stormwater runoff in parks. The Department will also pursue LEED certification for future park development projects whenever feasible.*

Maintenance Facility Needs Assessment

Currently all Parks maintenance operations are based at the Priest Point Park maintenance facility. Approximately 20 full time employees and 20 seasonal employees report to work at this facility. Additionally, almost all maintenance equipment is stationed at the park. The maintenance facility at Priest Point Park is outdated, undersized and inadequate to meet the needs of current operations. As the City adds new parks and facilities, the need for maintenance staff, equipment, and materials will only increase.

Proposed Action: *The Department is currently working with a consultant to prepare a planning/feasibility study that will assist the City in identifying the space needs and site requirements for an Operations and Maintenance complex to meet the needs of both Public Works and Parks Maintenance now and into the future.*

BUSINESS PLAN

WHAT IS A BUSINESS PLAN?

The vision created in this Plan for parks, facilities, recreation, and arts is crucial to Olympia. The business of providing and managing the delivery of services the public expects from the Olympia Parks, Arts and Recreation Department is equally critical. Annually, through the City's Operating and Capital budgets, millions of dollars are invested in staff, equipment and supplies to provide facilities and activities which shape the quality of life in Olympia.

The Business Plan has two parts—the **CAPITAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY (CIS)** and **DEPARTMENT PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT**. The CIS forecasts future new facilities and lands needed to serve a growing Olympia community. In addition to new facilities, the CIS will include major facility renovations that are identified through the Department's Capital Asset Management Program. The CIS forecasts park investments out to the year 2035, but projects beyond 2021 are conceptual. Of critical importance is the role the CIS serves in guiding the annual Capital Facilities Plan, which in turn, becomes the OPARD's annual capital budget.

Secondly, the Business Plan is about performance measurement. It includes a description of what services are provided, how the Department is organized to deliver services, and how performance measures are employed to determine the success of the business conducted. The Business Plan is organized around the Divisions in the Department. Within each Division, the public will be able to see what services are provided and how the Department is performing in providing those services. Through a commitment to performance measurement, the Department strives to achieve the following:

- Promote community involvement and actively seek input in the operation of the Department
- Offer quality recreational and educational activities aimed at satisfying the needs of varying age levels and interests
- Maintain and improve the appearance and safety of parks and facilities at the highest level possible within available resources
- Develop data to efficiently manage delivery of quality services to the community
- Serve as a critical partner in planning for growth in Olympia
- Sustain and expand the role of arts in shaping the quality of life in Olympia and community culture.

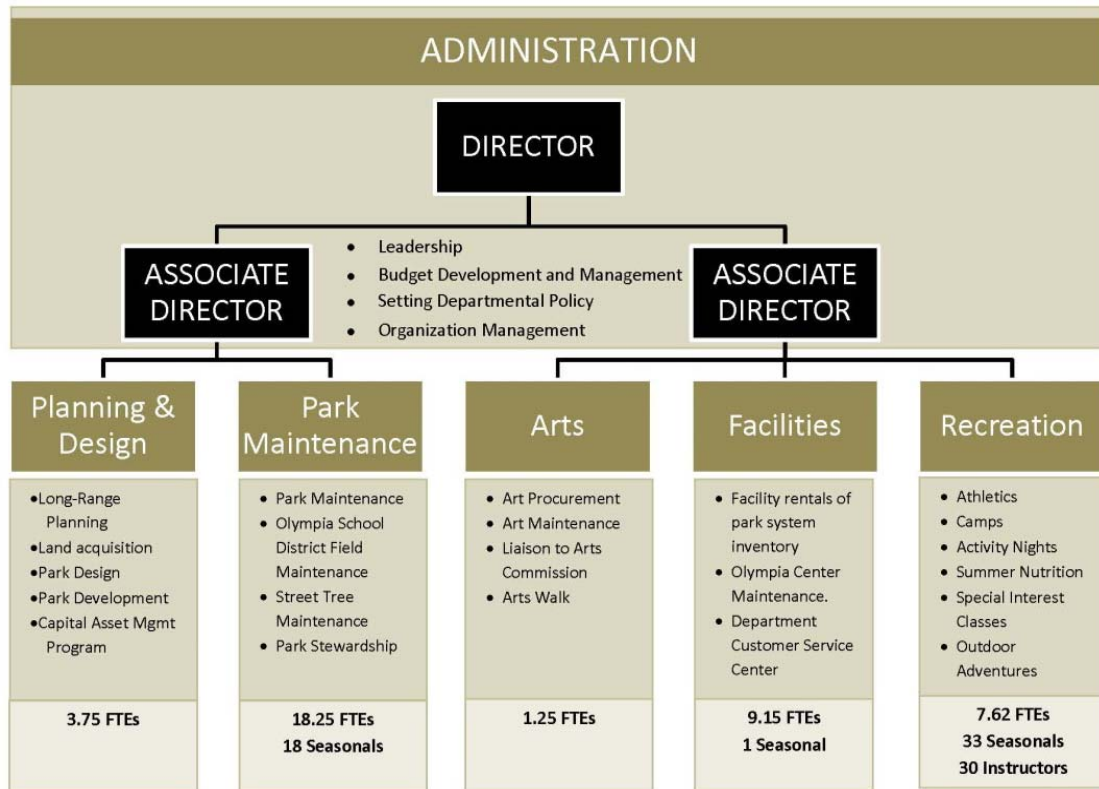
The Department has a priority of using data to assist in making decisions. The establishment of a department annual Performance Report will assist in developing a business culture that clarifies the expectations of staff in a measurable way. This report will include measurable data that is not only important to the business of the department but also acknowledges key metrics defined by the community.

WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

The Olympia Parks, Arts and Recreation Department is organized into six divisions. The organizational chart below shows how the Department is organized and includes key services and current staffing levels.

DIVISION OVERVIEW

The key to successful public service is understanding what the community needs and values,



and the ability to respond with a system of service delivery that meets public expectations within available resources. Outlined below is an overview of each Division and the major areas of service each provides the City.

The **ADMINISTRATION** division is leadership. Leadership is delivered in the form of policy guidance, human resources planning and budget development and management. The Administration Division provides direct support to the City Council, City Manager and City Executive Team. The Administration Division also sets the work program for the Department and establishes the work culture. Members of the Administration Division are conduits to and from the community and serve as communicators of Department direction on major issues.

The **PLANNING AND DESIGN** division is long range facility planning, land acquisition, park design and development, condition assessment and major infrastructure rehabilitation. This Division prepares the *Olympia Parks, Arts and Recreation Plan*, and participates in other long range planning efforts conducted by other Departments. The Division provides policy guidance and direction on all issues related to parks.

The Planning and Design Division is responsible for the Department Capital Budget which is the funding source for turning plans into projects. The Division oversees the revenues and expenses of capital funding and the financial accounting for land acquisition and park construction projects. Once capital funds are secured, staff in this Division work with the community to design and build parks and park amenities. As a result, they track acres of parkland, types and number of park facilities, park amenities, and park condition.

A Capital Asset Management Program (CAMP) has been developed to assess the condition of park infrastructure and prioritize park major maintenance projects to keep parks safe and accessible. The culmination of rating condition and estimating costs for repairs for each park results in a performance measure titled “Facility Condition Index” or FCI. The FCI is a formula where the total cost of repairs (the maintenance backlog) is divided by the current estimated replacement value of the park assets (not including land). The FCI approach is used by the National Park Service and other communities as a way to communicate the overall condition of a park system.

There is a vital relationship between the Planning and Design division and the Park Maintenance division. Olympia, like many communities, has built new facilities without concurrently setting aside the funds for maintenance. In the future, it is critical that each new park project contain both a capital and operations/maintenance cost estimate before a project goes beyond design. Both divisions must commit to securing these funds to ensure that the maintenance backlog doesn’t increase and the FCI for the park system doesn’t slide any lower.

The **PARK MAINTENANCE** division maintains parks so that they are clean, safe and accessible for public use and enjoyment. Over the last year, the Park Maintenance leadership team has invested heavily in the creation of a Park Asset Management Program. This Program is all about understanding the costs involved in maintaining each park in Olympia’s park system.

2016 PARKS, ARTS & RECREATION PLAN

The first step in developing the Park Asset Management Program was to create a Maintenance Management Plan (MMP) for each park. The MMP is a spreadsheet listing 19 maintenance tasks and the frequency, expressed in staff hours per each task, over a calendar year. An example of an MMP for Yaeger Park is shown in Table 1. The MMP methodology will also be used to analyze service levels and maintenance methods to find the most cost-effective ways to maintain parks.

The second step in creating the Park Asset Management Program was to track the actual hours staff spent on park maintenance for an entire year. As a result, we have an excellent understanding of the current labor and expense to maintain each park and our total park

Table 1

Olympia Parks Maintenance Management Program																							
Yaeger Park																							
Annual Task Frequency Schedule																							
Task No.	Task	Inventory	Unit	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Frequency	Production Rate	Unit	Minutes per Unit	Quantity	Total Minutes	Total Hours-Oly Actual	Total Hours-calculated
	Art Maintenance																						
	Building Maintenance	1	park	1		1									1	3	1	park	340	1.00	1,020	17	17
	Electrical/Lighting	1	park			1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			8	1	park	310.5	1.00	2,484	41	41
	Field Preparation	1	park			20	20	20	20	20	20	20				140	1	park	337.5	1.00	47,250	788	788
	Fountain Maintenance	1	park			1									1	2	1	park	210	1.00	420	7	7
	Hardscape Maintenance																						
	Landscape Maintenance	1	park			1	2	4	4	4	4	4				23	1	park	564.26	1.00	12,978	216	216
	Mowing	387,000	sf			1	2	4	4	4	4	4				23	30,000	sf	100	12.90	29,670	495	495
	Natural Resource Management	1	park		1	1										2	1	park	300	1.00	600	10	10
	Park Irrigation	1	park			1	4	4	4	4	4	4				29	1	park	391.03	1.00	11,340	189	189
	Park Roving	1	park	30	28	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	358	1	park	430.3	1.00	154,047	2,568	2,567
	Playground Maintenance	1	park	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	12	1	park	120	1.00	1,440	24	24
	Plumbing/Fixtures	1	park	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	12	1	park	108	1.00	1,296	22	22
	Special Event																						0
	Structure Maintenance	1	park			1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			8	1	park	3150	1.00	25,200	420	420
	Trails Maintenance	1	park	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	12	1	park	1981.5	1.00	23,778	396	396
	Tree Maintenance	1	park				1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	9	1	park	344	1.00	3,096	52	52
	Turf Maintenance	1	park			1	4	4	4	4	4	4	1	1		27	1	park	302.66	1.00	8,172	136	136
	Vandalism	1	park	1	1		1		1	1	1	1	1			8	1	park	255	1.00	2,040	34	34
	Total Hours					5,414																5,414	5413.85
	Total Overhead Hours 54%					2,924																	
	Total Labor & Overhead Hours					8,338																	
	Total Labor & Overhead Costs @ \$33/ Hour					\$275,139																	
	Supervisory at 21% @ \$58/hr					\$101,551																	
	Supplies & Equipment @ 32%					\$120,541																	
	Total Annual Maintenance Cost					\$497,231																	
	High Annual Maintenance Cost (+ 10%)					\$546,954																	
	Low Annual Maintenance Cost (-10%)					\$447,508																	

system.

The final step is to establish a service level for each park. The service level gives the community an understanding of how parks are intended to be maintained. Service levels differ based on the use, liability and aesthetic anticipated for each park. Once the service level for each park is assigned, then the MMP for each park is adjusted to ensure the hours and supplies (and ultimately funding) are sufficient to maintain each park. If funding is not sufficient to maintain each park to the assigned service level, then either the service level needs to drop, hours reduced from one park to cover another, or new funding is provided to makeup what is needed to meet the service level. This analysis is expected to be complete in 2016.

The Park Maintenance division also includes the Park Stewardship Program which provides two key services. The first is Volunteers In Parks which manages hundreds of volunteers every year that contribute thousands of hours to improve parks by pulling ivy in forests, restoring/planting native plants, weeding in parks, and spreading gravel on trails. Volunteerism in parks is a wonderful expression of people’s love for their community and its park system.



The second key service in the Stewardship Program is the Park Ranger function. The Park Ranger’s responsibilities are many, but authority is limited. The OPARD Park Ranger is not a fully commissioned police officer and has no authorization to make arrests. However, the Park Ranger is uniformed and spends a limited amount of time patrolling parks, coordinating with the Olympia Police Department on civil and criminal issues, and reminding park users about park rules.

The **RECREATION** division provides access to recreational opportunities for the community. Recreation has five primary areas of service; Youth, Teen, Athletics, Classes and Outdoor Adventures. Unlike any other division in OPARD, the majority of the recreation activities provided to the community are fee-based in nature, and require a high level of financial self-sufficiency. A successful recreation program requires professional staff, creative marketing and safety awareness.

In 2015, the Recreation Division contracted with a nationally based agency called the “Learning Resources Network” to provide a thorough audit of existing Recreation Division business practices. This audit utilized activity registration data, organizational structure and marketing practices, and compared those results to national benchmarks. The summary of the report is that OPARD Recreation Division is operating at a very high level with three consecutive years of revenue growth. It also highlights clear opportunities for continued growth in the following areas:

1. **Community Engagement** – The recreation program will benefit from improved and consistent connections to the community beyond the staff/customer relationship. Staff time must be dedicated to establishing new market segments, engaging customers in focus groups, developing win/win partnerships and exploring new special events.

Maintaining a customer repeat rate of 40% while increasing New Offerings to 15% are realistic goals for the next five years.

2. **Effective Organization** – Staffing levels must be consistent with the demands of the services being offered. The primary focus of the City’s Recreation Program staff should be on (1) delivery of high quality programs and (2) program development and growth of new programs. An assessment of the capacity of the Customer Service Team and taking advantage of skills and abilities in that work unit will ultimately build a more sustainable program for the City. A Staff Productivity (Total Revenue/Total FTE Engaged in Revenue Generation) goal of \$150,000+ is a reasonable goal that will make Olympia Parks, Arts and Recreation an industry leader.
3. **Marketing Commitment** – A continued emphasis on smart marketing and using industry best practices is important to continue strong registration numbers in the recreation program. In addition, the Department should find additional resources to improve the quantity and quality of marketing materials. A goal of 8% of the recreation budget is a sound and attainable goal to strive towards.

The **FACILITIES** division facilitates access to a variety of reservable facilities in the department inventory. These facilities include athletic fields, park shelters, Artesian Commons Park, The Olympia Center, Percival Landing moorage and the Harbor House. Staff designs and implements policies and procedures that guide the public’s use, including regulations, use prioritization, and fees.

Meeting the customer’s expectations from reservation through event cleanup is a strong focus for the department. Staff and equipment/supply resources must be available to meet the needs of a user before a facility can be considered for public rental. Because of this, facilities (and connected services) available for reservation are reviewed annually and adjustments are made to ensure a good experience for all that are involved.

As with Recreation, marketing is an important function to ensure current and potential customers are aware of the variety of facility rentals provided by the Parks, Arts & Recreation Department. Staff will allocate time in the upcoming plan cycle to find ways to dedicate a minimum of 5% of the overall facility budget to marketing. Currently marketing resources are less than 1% of this division’s budget.



The **ARTS** division creates community identity and civic engagement through public art and Arts Walk. The Arts division manages a growing collection of (currently) 100 individual pieces of public art. This includes acquisition, maintenance and education programming. These artworks, both sculpture and flatwork, are found in public parks and buildings throughout the city. Programs and policy are shaped by the Olympia Arts Commission, a nine-member advisory committee to City Council. Direction is also given by the City's Comprehensive Plan and the Municipal Art Plan, which proposes annual projects which draw from the Municipal Art Fund and provides a 5 year planning horizon for new public art projects. The focus of the division is two-fold:

1. **Public Art**- Olympia's public art programs and purchases are funded through two sources: a \$1 per Capita allocation from the City's General Fund that was initiated in 1990, and a 1% for Art set-aside for City construction projects over \$500,000 in value that are visible and usable by the public. Funds from these sources are deposited in a Municipal Arts Fund. The Municipal Art Plan establishes budgets for new public art projects undertaken by the City, whether in conjunction with new capital projects or independent of them. Projects range from small (less than \$15k) to major (over \$50k) installations involving design teams, and may include visual, literary and performing arts.
2. **Art Walk**- In addition, the twice annual Arts Walk, currently in its 26th year, brings together 100+ downtown businesses and 400+ area artists to celebrate the creativity in our community. Voted "Best Art Event" in 2013 and 2014 by readers of *The Weekly Volcano*, Arts Walk is often credited as a defining event for Olympia, one that invites 10,000+ visitors into our downtown core to engage in the arts, play, shop and dine.

OTHER AREAS OF EMPHASIS

The **SAFE AND SECURE PARKS INITIATIVE** is the highest priority of the Department. Its purpose is to keep Olympia parks, facilities and activities safe. In 2015, the Department initiated the initiative in response to growing trends of vandalism, drug and alcohol use, illegal camping, and threatening behavior occurring in parks. All Department Divisions are currently working together to adjust policies, procedures, and operations in ways that improve safety of our parks and facilities.

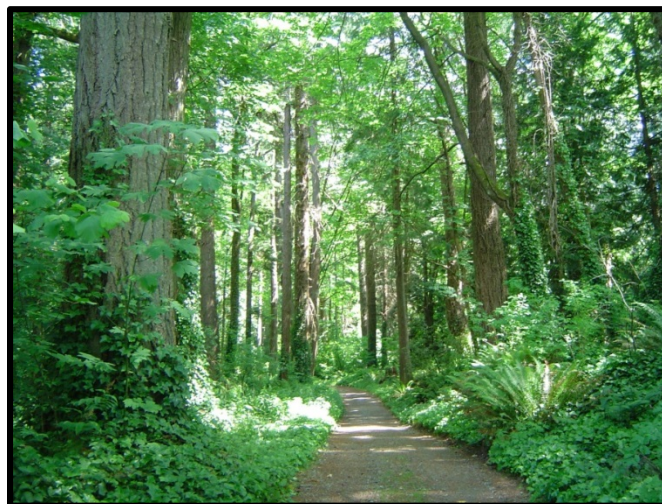
OPARD will continue to be aggressive in pursuing **GRANTS AND DONATIONS** from all available funding sources in order to maximize the public investment in Parks, Arts & Recreation facilities and services. The Department will specifically target County, State, and Federal funding opportunities to enhance projects identified throughout the plan. OPARD will also continue to

work with non-profit agencies such as the PARC Foundation of Thurston County to solicit local funding opportunities, sponsorships, and donations.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY

The Plan's Capital Investment Strategy (CIS) is a table that shows anticipated revenue and proposed capital projects during the Plan's 20-year planning horizon. The first six years of the CIS table (2016-2021) is titled the "Capital Facilities Plan" and includes the year each project is anticipated to be funded. The remaining 14 years (2022-2035) is titled "Long Range Options." Since the Parks, Arts and Recreation Plan is updated every 6 years, it is anticipated that the next plan (anticipated to be completed in 2022) could include a project list that varies from this Plan's list; The community may express different priorities at that time. Other considerations when reviewing the CIS table:

- The table shows OPARD's revenue sources for capital projects: Voted Utility Tax, Non-Voted Utility Tax, Park Impact Fees, SEPA Mitigation Fees, and Metropolitan Park District revenue. General Fund Support is not shown but is the primary source of the Department's operating budget.
- Each revenue stream is shown separately in the table in a slightly different shade of green. Park acquisition projects are highlighted to make them easier to locate.
- The CIS table is based on projected revenue streams, planning-level cost estimates, and land acquisition costs that may vary significantly from actual costs. While every effort has been made to make the figures in this table as accurate as possible, there are many unknowns that could have a significant impact on implementation.



6 Year Capital Facilities Plan (2016-2021)*

Neighborhood Parks Impact Fees & SEPA	Unallocated	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Total
Annual Collections	473,000	176,000	176,000	176,000	176,000	176,000	176,000	1,529,000
Neighborhood Park Sprayground #1 (in 2016 CFP)		(473,000)						(473,000)
Neighborhood Park Sprayground #2				(525,000)				(525,000)
Running Balance	473,000	176,000	352,000	3,000	179,000	355,000	531,000	531,000

Community Parks Impact Fees & SEPA								
Annual Collections	732,500	671,000	671,000	671,000	671,000	671,000	671,000	4,758,500
Artesian Commons Enhancements (in 2016 CFP)		(50,000)						(50,000)
Community Park Land Acquisition (in 2016 CFP)		(557,500)						(557,500)
LBA Woods Option to Purchase Agreement		(125,000)						
Upgrades to existing athletic fields			(580,000)					(580,000)
West Bay Environmental Cleanup			(450,000)					(450,000)
West Bay Park & Trail Phase 2 Design			(300,000)					(300,000)
Athletic Field Community Park Master Plan and Design				(250,000)				(250,000)
Aquatic Center Feasibility Study				(100,000)				
LBA Woods Interim Trail, Parking Improvements				(100,000)				(100,000)
Athletic Field Complex Phase 1 Dev. - Soccer Fields, Dog Park, Skate Court, Disc Golf, Community Garden, Parking					(900,000)			(900,000)
West Bay Park Restroom						(300,000)		(300,000)
Ward Lake Phase 1 Development							(1,000,000)	(1,000,000)
Running Balance	732,500	671,000	12,000	233,000	4,000	375,000	46,000	271,000

Open Space Impact Fees & SEPA								
Annual Collections	1,141,000	253,000	253,000	253,000	253,000	253,000	253,000	2,659,000
Grass Lake Nature Park Phase 1 - Kaiser to Harrison Paved Trail		(641,000)						(641,000)
Kaiser Heights and LBA Woods Option to Purchase		(275,000)						(275,000)
Off-Road Bike Park			(200,000)					(200,000)
Olympia Woodland Trail Phase 3 Design				(350,000)				(350,000)
Grass Lake Nature Park - Trail connection to Cooper Point Road							(800,000)	(800,000)
Off-Street Walking Connection Program (\$25,000/yr)		(25,000)	(25,000)	(25,000)	(25,000)	(25,000)	(25,000)	(150,000)
Running Balance	1,141,000	453,000	481,000	359,000	587,000	815,000	243,000	243,000

Long Range Options (2022-2035)

Neighborhood Parks Impact Fees/SEPA	2022-2035
Annual Collections	2,464,000
2 Neighborhood Park Development Projects	(2,400,000)
Balance	64,000

Community Parks Impact Fees & SEPA	2022-2035
Annual Collections	9,394,000
Community Park Project	(9,000,000)
Community Center Feasibility Study	(300,000)
Running Balance	94,000

Open Space Impact Fees & SEPA	2022-2035
Annual Collections	3,542,000
Open Space/Trail Acq. (approx 6 acres @ \$100K/acre)	(600,000)
Chambers Lake Development	(2,000,000)
Watershed Park Trailhead	(500,000)
Off street walking connections (14 years @\$25K/yr)	(350,000)
Running Balance	92,000

DEPARTMENT PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

The Department is striving to improve its use of performance measures to determine and to communicate levels of success in delivering services to the community. This data-based approach will account for meeting expectations in many different areas: park acres, park condition, recreation activities, and park asset management to mention a few. Performance can be measured in many ways and methods and will likely evolve over the years ahead. The performance measures, outlined below by Division, are a starting point to improve community understanding on how the Department is working to manage public investment in parks, arts and recreation.

The performance measures listed under each Division below are monitored and the results published in the annual Business Performance Report. Some performance measures may be goal oriented and the actual performance goal is noted. Some performance measures are not goal oriented and only measure the actual numeric change on an annual basis.

PLANNING AND DESIGN

Performance measures in this division focus on key services such as: land acquisitions, park levels of service tied to Park, Arts and Recreation Plan and park impact fees, and the Capital Asset Management Program, whose success is expressed by the Facility Condition Index.

- **Total Park Acreage**-measure of total acres of each park type neighborhood, open space and community park acres comprising Olympia’s park system.
- **Neighborhood Park Level of Service (LOS)** - measure of the current level of service for neighborhood parks defined as a ratio of acres per 1000 population. Current LOS is .71 acres per thousand population. The 2035 Goal LOS is 1.09 acres/thousand population.
- **Community Park LOS** - measure of the current level of service for community parks defined as a ratio of acres per 1000 population. The current LOS is 2.304 acres per thousand population. The 2035 Goal LOS is 3.00 acres/thousand population
- **Open Space LOS** - measure of the current level of service for open space parks defined as a ratio of acres per 1000 population. The current LOS is 11.49 acres per thousand population. The 2035 Goal LOS is 11.19 acres /thousand population.
- **Area Walking Distance to a Park – percentage of land within the city and Urban Growth Area located within walking distance (one-half mile) of an open space or neighborhood park.**

- **Developed vs. Undeveloped Parks** – measure the ratio of how many total city park acres are developed vs. undeveloped. Currently there are 1015 acres of park in Olympia’s park system.
- **Miles of Trails** – Measure annually total miles of non-motorized trails managed by OPARD.
- **Facility Condition Index** - measure of park system condition. This measure is derived by dividing the backlog cost of maintenance by the current estimated replacement value of the park assets (not including land).. This rating is a simple way to communicate how well facilities are being maintained, and is used by many other park systems.
- **Major Maintenance Backlog** -based on the FCI above, determine on annual basis the total dollar amount of the deferred maintenance backlog of needed repairs to park features and facilities.

PARK MAINTENANCE

The performance measures in this division focus on asset management service levels and volunteerism.

- **Maintenance Service Level Rating** - measure by a criteria based field inspection how well parks are maintained. A goal of this survey is to determine if the public feels that parks are maintained to the service level assigned.
- **Maintenance Management Plan Actual Hours** - measure of how total actual park maintenance hours were expended on each park compared to the estimated hours identified in each park maintenance management plan.
- **Preventative Maintenance Percentage** – measure how much of the overall park maintenance work effort is preventative and not demand oriented. Basing a park maintenance system on a strong foundation of preventative maintenance will increase the useful life of facilities, which in turn, improves the overall FCI for the park system. This measure will be developed in 2016.
- **Number of Volunteers** - measure total volunteers working in parks.
- **Volunteer Work Hours** - measure the total hours of volunteer activity in parks.
- **Special Events Supported by Parks Stewardship** - measure the total number of special events park maintenance supports annually. This will include major city events like

Harbor Days, as well as park stewardship events such as National Trails Day and Arbor Day.

- **Total Parks Maintenance Expenditure/Acres of Park** –measure on an annual basis, the cost of park maintenance on a per acre basis.

RECREATION

- **New Activity Offerings**-new courses divided by total courses. Tracking new activities is important to show that we are keeping up with trends and, indirectly, eliminating activities that are no longer relevant or exciting to our customers.
- **Participant Repeat Rate**-total of unique individuals registering for two consecutive years divided by total of first year unique individuals. Repeat rate is important to show the number of returning customers. Customer retention is less expensive than recruiting new customers and is an indicator of high quality programs.
- **Activity Cancellation Rate**-cancelled offerings divided by total offerings. This measurement shows whether or not we are offering enough options for our customers. A rate that is too high indicates too many, or not the right, offerings. A rate that is too low indicates we are not offering enough.
- **Brochure: Participant Ratio**-brochures distributed divided by total registrations. Knowing how many registrations are generated by the number of brochures distributed helps us determine if we are marketing to the right customers or potential customers.
- **Cost Recovery Percentage**-final revenue divided by final expenses. This figure helps us be less reliant on general fund resources and, in some circumstances, may be an avenue to help us create new low or no cost programs.
- **Quality Rating**-average rating by survey returns of activity participants.
- **Customer Service Rating**-average rating by survey returns of activity participants. Both the Quality Rating and Customer Service ratings are direct barometers relating to the experience that our actual customer receives. These are the only two subjective measurements but are important to our overall performance.

ARTS

- **Artworks in Public Collection** – Currently the number of works in the public collection stands at 100. This number increases by 3 to 4 new pieces each year. The number is not

only a workload indicator for accession of new works but also maintenance, as an aging collection necessitates more annual and major upkeep each year.

- **Artwork Condition**—Condition reports on public art pieces that result in a positive rating **-**. The goal is that 80% of the artworks examined yearly receive a good or better rating.
- **Businesses and Artists Participating-Registered in Spring Arts Walk** - This number can fluctuate from 115-130 and indicates an investment in the arts and downtown.
- **Businesses and Artists Participating-Registered in Fall Arts Walk** - This number can fluctuate from 85-95 and indicates an investment in the arts and downtown.
- **Participants in Art Classes Offered by OPARD** – Hours of participation by registrants in OPARD-offered classes in cooking, dance & music, and fine arts & crafts.
- **Arts Digest Recipients** – Currently at 944, this measurement indicates the number of engaged artists or arts supporters engaged and interested in our arts programs.
- **Art Maintenance Hours** – This measure indicates annual maintenance hours of the City’s public art collection.

FACILITIES

- **Games Annually Scheduled on City Fields** - measure the number of league games and tournaments scheduled on fields at Yauger, Stevens and LBA
- **Community Use on Olympia School District (OSD) Fields** – measure the number of hours OPARD schedules community use on OSD fields.
- **Community Rental at The Olympia Center** - measure the number of hours annually the community rents rooms at The Olympia Center.
- **Transient Moorage at Percival Landing** – measure the number of nights boaters moor at Percival Landing.
- **Park Shelter Rentals** - measure the number of hours that park shelters are reserved for picnics, weddings and educational programs.
- **Harbor House Rentals** - measure the number of hours the Harbor House at Percival Landing is rented by the community.

- ~~Artesian Commons Park Events~~ – ~~measure the number of events held annually at the Artesian Commons Park.~~

All of the above measurements are work load indicators that can also be used as a tool for maintenance prioritization, additions to inventory and determining our value to customers using each facility type.

OTHER KEY MEASURES

SAFETY AND SECURE INITIATIVE

- ~~Criminal Arrests Reported in Parks~~ – ~~measure total number of reported criminal activities in parks.~~
- ~~Civil Violations Reported in Parks~~ – ~~measure total number of reported civil infractions in parks.~~
- **Encampments Removed from Park Property** - measure total number of encampments posted for eviction in parks.
- Loose Needles Collected from Olympia Park Property - measure the total number of hypodermic ~~needles collected from needle disposal containers and those~~ found left in parks.
- Needles Collected from Sharps Containers – measure the total number of hypodermic needles collected from needle disposal containers.
- Verbal Notifications – measure the total number of verbal notifications given for code violations including illegal dumping and off-leash dogs.
- Encampment Notifications Served – measure the total number of notices served for illegal park encampments.
- Number of Encampments Removed – measure the total number of illegal encampments removed from parks.
- Number of Days Patrolled – measure the total number of days patrolled by the park ranger.

GRANTS AND DONATIONS

- **Grant Applications Submitted** - measure the number of grants applied for by OPARD. This will include grants to the state, county, or federal governments, as well as any other funding agencies whether public, tribal, corporate or non-profit.
- **Grants Received** - measure the number of actual grants received.
- **Acres of Land Donated**-measure the total number of acres of land donated and accepted into the Olympia park system inventory.
- **Total Value of Grant Funds and Donations Received** - measure the dollar amount of grant funds and donations received by the City for parks, arts and recreation facilities or activities.






In summary, the Department is now utilizing data collected through performance measurement to manage work and services in a manner that responds to customers. We can learn through the collections of certain information how to improve services and facilities to meet the changing needs of our community. Performance measurement is an investment building a common understanding of service delivery.

BUSINESS EVALUATION

Performance measures will become routine in OPARD. It will become evident that in doing the public's business, OPARD will embrace data to provide an objective way of measuring progress.

As a companion to this business plan, staff will prepare a separate **Business Performance Report** to inform the community how well we performed. The Business Performance Report will be published annually and document the results of the performance measures listed above. It is hoped that by evaluating performance annually, it will lead to service efficiencies and improvements. This evaluation will also guide the preparation of operating and capital budgets which ultimately determine how the Department meets public expectations. This report will be shared with the general community, City Manager, Park and Recreation Advisory Committee and City Council to demonstrate the progress of the Department.

MORE INFORMATION

- Olympia's [Comprehensive Plan](#) articulates our community's values and vision for the future
- Olympia's [Capital Facilities Plan](#)  shows how park projects will be funded during a six year period
- For a complete list of all of Olympia's parks and trails, see [Parks and Trails](#) 
- For a comprehensive look at regional trail planning, see the [Thurston Regional Trails Plan](#) 
- Information on the City's Public Art Collection can be found at [Public Art](#) 
- In 2007, the Arts Commission participated in an [Arts Center Feasibility Study](#) 
- The [Municipal Art Plan](#) lays out a 5 year horizon for public art.
- To learn more about the City of Olympia's recreational programs and classes, see [Recreation](#) 