



2022-2028 Parks, Arts & Recreation Plan

City of Olympia



February 1, 2022



Prepared by:
City of Olympia Parks, Arts & Recreation

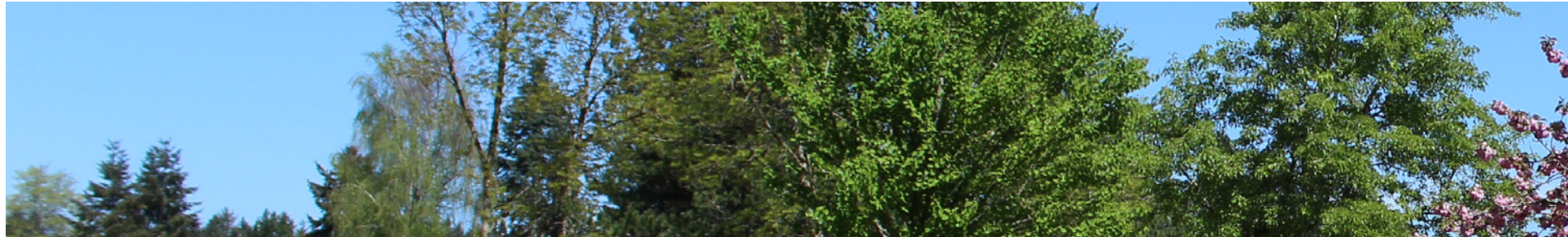
The City is committed to the non-discriminatory treatment of all persons in employment and the delivery of services and resources.

The City of Olympia honors and acknowledges the indigenous people who have stewarded this land since time immemorial and who still inhabit the area today, the Steh-Chass Band of Indigenous people of the Squaxin Island Tribe



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Welcome from Paul Simmons, OPARD Director

Thanks to two voted funding measures in the 2004 Parks and Pathways Utility Tax and the 2015 Olympia Metropolitan Parks District, Olympia Parks, Arts and Recreation (OPARD) has been supported by both stable and predictable funding. This has resulted in several transformational changes to the Department and the services we provided during the 2016-2021 planning cycle.

Over the last six years, more than 19 parcels of land totaling over 368 acres have been set aside for future parks. This has created 265 acres of new open space, eight miles of new trails, and we've set the stage to meet the longstanding need of developing soccer fields at the new Yelm Highway Community Park. The Recreation and Facility Operations Divisions boosted our downtown economy by launching the popular Oly on Ice seasonal skating rink. Recreation also expanded summer day camp offerings and provided critical support to families throughout the COVID Pandemic by offering childcare programs like School Day Olywahoo. The Arts Division worked with community members to establish a vision for a future Creative Campus and Arts Center at the historic Olympia Armory Building and, with the support of the State Legislature, work is underway to transfer the building to the City for that purpose. Our Parks Maintenance team has restored staffing

to pre-recession era levels and the Stewardship Program created dedicated Park Ranger and Volunteer teams.

We have renovated Woodruff Park (Olympia's oldest) by adding a new sprayground, shelter, and full renovation of the tennis courts, which now include Olympia's first dedicated pickleball courts. We opened three new dog parks, added a new playground at Margaret McKenny Park, replaced a playground at Friendly Grove Park, and completed improvements at the Isthmus Park to allow for the seasonal ice rink and pump track. Stevens Field has been updated to include two synthetic turf infields and new field lighting. The 1980's field lights at Yauger Park were replaced and we improved ADA access to field #3 at LBA Park. Additionally, critical upgrades have happened at Percival Landing with the replacement of F Float and a new bulkhead along 4th Avenue and Water Street.

Much of this would not have been possible without the two voted measures that have provided critical, local matching dollars to the 21 grants received by the Department (totaling \$8.2 million). These voted measures have positioned the Department to be aggressive and competitive in many state grant categories.



As we look to the future, we look forward to building on the momentum of the last six years in establishing a comprehensive Parks, Arts, and Recreation system that meets the diverse needs of our growing and evolving community. As you look through the plan, you'll see that we look forward to breaking ground at Yelm Highway Community Park, renovating the Historic Armory Building into a Creative Campus, while also developing new Neighborhood Parks in identified areas of need. We'll expand access to water with a new sprayground at Lions Park and will continue planning efforts focused on an Aquatic Facility. We will keep an eye towards the future by performing an updated vision for Percival Landing to incorporate new Sea Level Rise findings and will also complete the Master Plan for West Bay Park.

All future work will be grounded by the OPARD's new Equity, Inclusion and Belonging Initiative. This effort is focused on improving equity throughout the culture of our organization and the services we provide to the community. We also look forward to coordinating with the City's new Climate Program Manager to improve how our Department can proactively help our community adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change.

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 Planning and Design Manager Laura Keehan 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 collaborating closely with community members as we make this plan a reality.

Sincerely, 

Paul Simmons
Parks, Arts and Recreation Director



Woodruff Park Sprayground

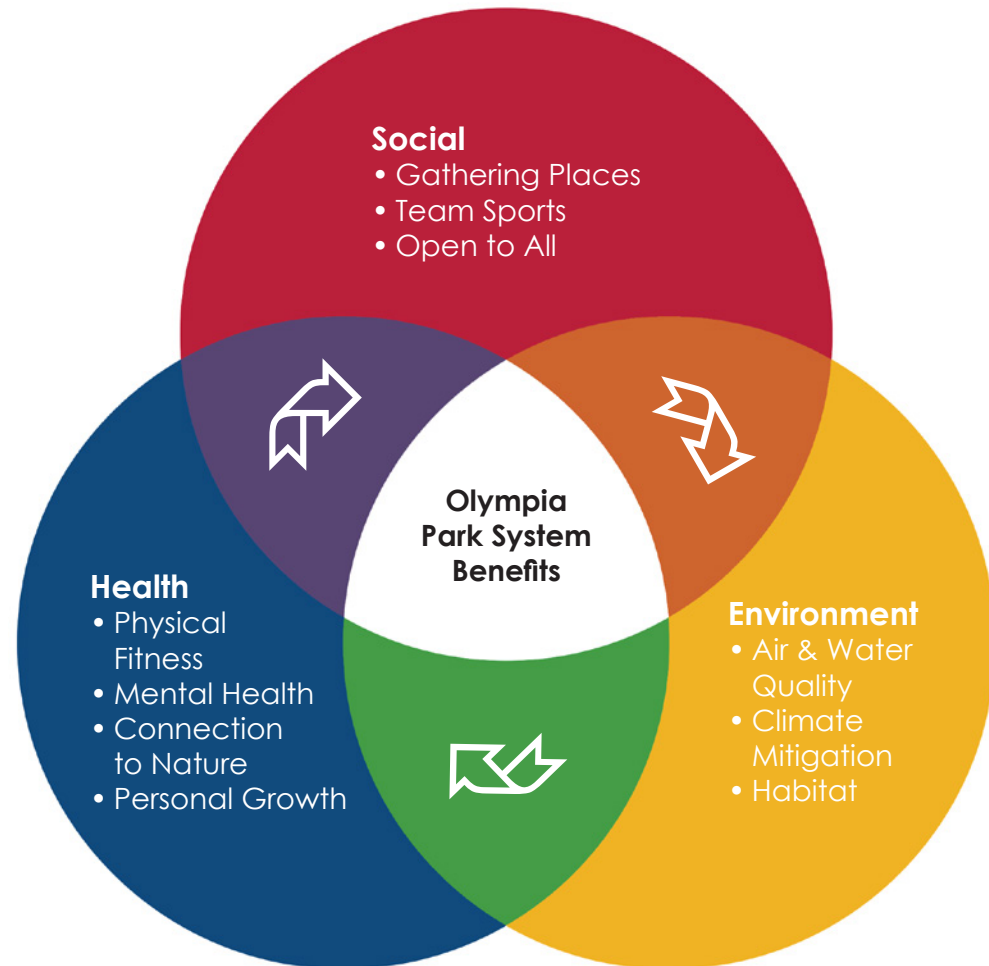


Executive Summary

In 2020, as work began to update this Plan, the importance of parks for Olympians was in many ways more visible than ever before. With COVID-19 precautions mandating the need for social distancing and the closure of many workplaces and businesses, parks became one of the few viable places for people to go outdoors for physical and mental health. City streets and neighborhoods were noticeably quieter, but parks were continuously busy. In fact, in a random sample survey completed in preparation of this Plan, 53% of Olympians report visiting Olympia parks once a week or more. This level of park usage necessitates an ongoing high level of maintenance of park amenities and natural areas, as well as new investments in park land and recreation facilities to meet our growing population.

Olympia and its urban growth area are expected to grow by almost 18,000 people in the next 20 years. Olympia’s park system offers multiple benefits to residents and increases individuals’ quality of life (illustration at right). Continued land acquisition, development and additional maintenance resources are important to address this growth.

The following is an overview of the major capital elements of this plan (for a complete list of all projects and projected costs, see the Capital Investment Strategy in [Chapter 7](#)).





Land Acquisition

Since the last update to this Plan, OPARD has acquired 350 additional acres of park land to add to the park system. That represents over a 25% increase in Olympia’s total park land inventory.

This plan calls for approximately 40 acres of land acquisition over the 20-year planning horizon*. This includes:

- Four combination neighborhood park/ open space parks (approximately 20 acres)
- Land Acquisition Fund for Community and Open Space park opportunities (approximately 20 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 40-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 40-acre goal will need to be adjusted.*

Park and Facility Development

This plan provides for a variety of park development projects to meet residents’ recreation and park needs as Olympia’s population grows over the next twenty years. The following are a few highlights:

- Aquatic Facility design
- Armory Creative Campus (Arts Center)
- Five Neighborhood Park developments
- Inclusive Playground at Priest Point Park
- Yelm Highway Community Park Phase 1
- Rebecca Howard Park

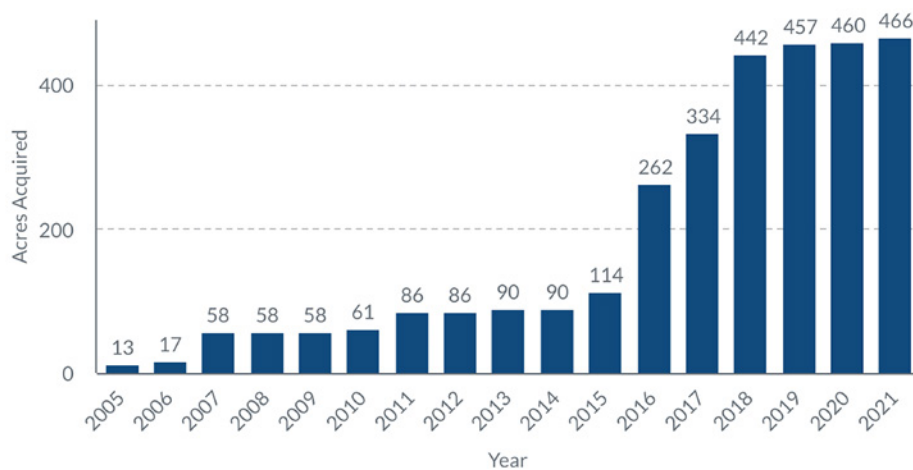


Juneteenth 2021 celebration at the Rebecca Howard Park (formerly Fertile Grounds).



Path to 500 Acres (Park Land Added Between 2005 and September 1, 2021)

PARK NAME	DATE ACQUIRED	ACRES	PARK NAME	DATE ACQUIRED	ACRES
Evergreen	2005	3.99	Springwood Drive Parcel	2015	3.19
East Bay Viewpoint	2005	0.10	Yew Avenue Parcel	2016	2.98
Karen Fraser Woodland Trail - Multiple Parcels	2005-2020	44.46	Kaiser Woods Parcel	2016	67.68
8th Avenue	2006	3.99	LBA Woods	2016/2017	131.13
Kettle View	2007	4.80	West Bay Woods	2016/2017	2.75
Ward Lake	2007	9.14	Lilly Road Parcel	2018	4.89
West Bay	2007	17.04	Yelm Highway Parcel	2018	83.01
Grass Lake Expansion	2007/2015	29.01	Kaiser Road Parcel	2019	10.00
Heritage Park Fountain Expansion	2007	0.07	28th Avenue Parcel	2019	5.08
Madison Scenic	2007	2.21	Kaiser Woods Access Parcel	2020	2.51
Log Cabin Parcel	2011	2.35	18th Avenue Parcel	2021	5.98
Harrison Avenue Parcel	2011	24.00	Rebecca Howard Park	2021	0.34
Park of the Seven Oars	2011	0.90			
Isthmus Parcel	2013	2.34			
				TOTAL Acres Added Since 2004 Funding Measure Passed	463.94
				Acres Needed to Reach 500	36.06



Important Note: Following the release of the draft of this plan on September 1, 2021, additional acres were added to the park system and will be incorporated into the next plan update. The properties include: Black Lake Meadows (45.0 acres), Taylor Wetland (40.8 acres), Indian Creek (3.3 acres), and Yauger Wetland (8.4 acres).

The term "parcel" is used when a park is undeveloped and/or has not yet gone through an official naming process.



Park Maintenance

The Plan places a strong emphasis on both maintaining the existing park infrastructure and 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 for maintenance of existing assets.
- Additional maintenance staff for new land and added amenities.
- Investments in infrastructure to support additional staff and equipment.
- Percival Landing maintenance reserve and annual inspection fund.



BMX bike competition at the grand opening of the Pump Track at Isthmus Park.



Chapter 1: Introduction

City of Olympia Parks, Arts & Recreation stewards 53 parks, which serve as community gathering places, contribute to a neighborhood's character and sense of place, and make positive impacts on our environment. We offer hundreds of recreation classes, camps, and programs each year, which build community, improve individual health and support the local economy. We make investments in public art that contribute to a creative, vibrant community, with Olympia's bi-annual Arts Walk events celebrating the arts as a defining characteristic of our community.

Our Mission & Values

We enrich lives by connecting people with quality experiences. We do this by providing our community with proven, innovative and reliable services.

Our Department values represent the culture of our employees and how we strive to operate. We use these values as standards to guide our decisions, programs and customer service. We are proud to be:

Innovative	Respectful	Professional
Dedicated	Inclusive	Responsive

Goals and Policies

In 2014, the City of Olympia developed a Comprehensive Plan that guides the work of all departments. This is a living document, with updates made as our work and needs of the community evolve. The goals and policies outlined in the Comprehensive Plan are a key component to decision-making as part of this long-range planning process for our Department. In 2023 we will be updating the Parks, Arts and Recreation section of the Comprehensive Plan. The full list of updated goals and policies can be found in [Chapter 8](#) of this plan.





Who We Are and What We Do

The Olympia Parks, Arts and Recreation Department is organized into five divisions. The organizational chart at right shows how the Department is structured 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 services that meet public expectations within available resources. Outlined below is an overview of each Division and the major areas of service each provides the City.

Administration

The Administration Division provides leadership, which is delivered in the form of policy guidance, human resources planning and budget development and management. The Administration Division delivers direct support to the City Council, City Manager and City Executive Team. The Administration Division also sets the vision 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 the Department direction on major issues.

Planning & Design

The Planning and Design Division is responsible for long range facility planning, land acquisition, park design and development, condition assessment and major infrastructure rehabilitation. This Division leads and 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 issues related to parks, often through consultation with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee (PRAC). The Division also provides advisory committee staffing to the Olympia Metropolitan Park District

Advisory Committee, which reviews the adequacy of the funding levels established in the *Interlocal Cooperative Agreement between the City of Olympia and the Olympia Metropolitan Park District*.

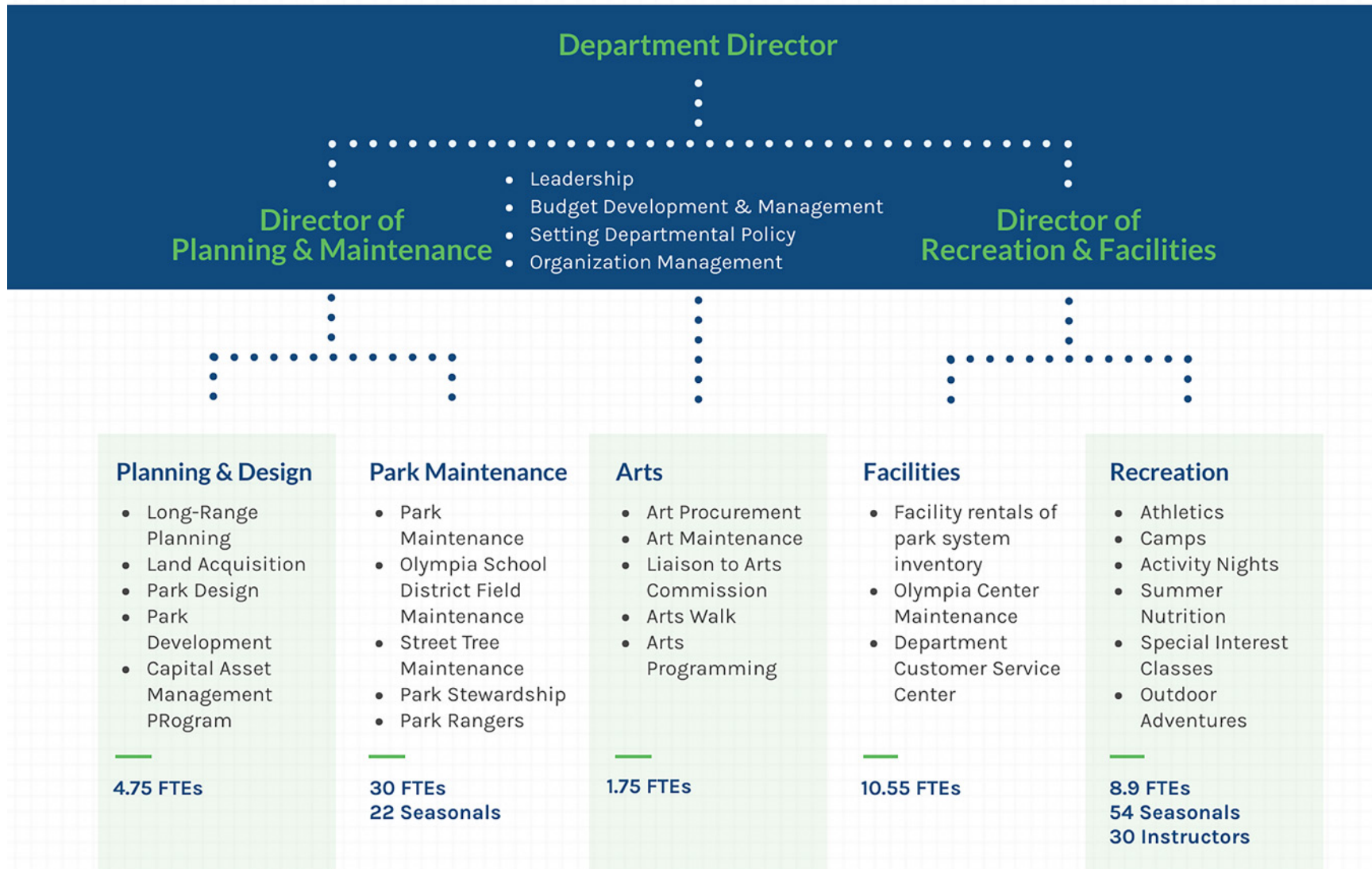
The Planning and Design Division is responsible for the Department’s Capital Budget which is the funding source for turning plans into projects. The Division oversees the revenues and expenses of capital funding and the financial accounting for land acquisition and park construction projects. Once capital 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 amenity contributes to 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 to communicate the overall condition of a park system, similar to giving an overall letter grade to Olympia’s park system infrastructure.

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 and operations. 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 are committed 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.



ADMINISTRATION





Park Maintenance

The Park Maintenance Division strives to provide clean, safe, and welcoming parks for all visitors. The Division is responsible for maintaining park properties, street trees and school district fields. This includes park shelters, signs, playgrounds, turf, landscaping, restrooms, sport fields, sport courts, natural areas, trails and pathways, utilities, solid waste, parking lots, trees, and public art. Park Maintenance is also responsible for addressing park safety, responding to vandalism, providing education and managing volunteers.

Over the last year, the Park Maintenance leadership team has invested heavily in implementing a new park asset management program. This program is designed to effectively maintain park assets by tracking preventative, routine, and reactive maintenance and monitoring costs, asset life cycles and conditions routinely. OPARD intends to utilize this data as one of the tools to predict future capital projects and plan for resources needed to implement and maintain park assets to current service levels.

The Park Stewardship Program falls under Parks Maintenance. Stewardship staff help ensure we have safe, clean, accessible parks for all, while stewarding natural resources and creating meaningful experiences.

Through coordination of the Volunteers in Parks program, Park Stewardship staff provides opportunities for community members be an active part of maintenance and habitat restoration in parks. In addition, Park Stewardship staff develop and offer environmental education opportunities and perform other outreach related to enhancing the park experience.

Park Rangers patrol and respond to safety or rule violation concerns on park property and provide hospitality services for park visitors. While voluntary compliance is their primary goal, Rangers have authority to issue legal notices for various rule violations. Rangers regularly coordinate with other City outreach programs to tackle complex problems successfully.

Olympia has:

-  53 Parks
-  1,367 Park Acres
-  24 Miles of Trails
-  4.5 Miles of Shoreline
-  12 Full Playgrounds
-  12 Baseball/Softball Fields
-  134 Community Garden Plots
-  131 Pieces of Public Art
-  8 Reservable Shelters
-  35 Boat Moorage Slips
-  25 Sport Courts
-  2 Water Play Features
-  3 Dog Parks
-  10,000+ Annual Rec Participants



Recreation

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, most 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 2020, the Recreation Division contracted with “Learning Resources Network” (LERN), which is a nationally recognized organization that specializes in reviewing recreation programs, to provide an updated audit of our existing 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 the Recreation Division continues to operate at a very high level, with continuing activity expansion and revenue growth. While the depth of the recommendations is too long to list here, the following summary highlights improved planning strategies as the core opportunity for continued growth:

- **Three-Year Vision Statement.** This statement articulates what OPARD Recreation wants to look like in a three-year window and is intended to guide internal decision making. It should include:
 - A listing of accomplishments we intend to complete.
 - Financial goals (revenue and cost recovery) and measurables (selected benchmarks). This vision statement is a declaration of OPARD Recreation’s objectives, intended to guide internal decision-making.
- **Three-Year Improvement Plan.** The areas of improvement actions split out over the three years that need to be completed to reach the Three-Year Vision. Examples of areas to consider improvement would be finances/budgeting, program development, needs assessments, pricing, marketing & communication systems, and program evaluations.
- **One-Year Business Plan.** A detailed plan, including improvement actions to be completed during the year. Areas to consider for inclusion in this plan include new sections such as Program Area Plans and a Staff Responsibility Chart.



Youth Recreation Programs



Facilities

The Facilities Division facilitates access to a variety of reservable facilities in the Department inventory. These facilities include athletic fields, park shelters, 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 customers' 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 Gym at The Olympia Center.



Plum Street Village art project.

Arts

The Arts Division creates community identity and civic engagement through public art and Arts Walk. Work includes art acquisition, maintenance and programming. The Arts Division manages a growing collection of individual pieces of public art, currently numbering 131. These artworks, both sculpture and flatwork, are found in public parks, infrastructure and buildings throughout the City. Additionally, the Arts Division administers programming such as Grants to Arts & Cultural Organizations and the Poet Laureate program, and loaned artwork exhibitions such as the Percival Plinth Project. Programs and policy are shaped by the Olympia Arts Commission, a nine-member advisory committee to City Council. Program direction is also provided by the City's Comprehensive Plan. Annually, City Council approves the Municipal Art Plan, which outlines projects that draw from the Municipal Art Fund and provides a five-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. **Arts 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. An award-winning event, Arts Walk is often credited as a defining experience for Olympia, one that invites 10,000+ visitors into our downtown core to engage in the arts, play, shop and dine.



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.
- **Commits the Department to a new initiative to identify goals and strategies to address historic harm to communities of color and systemic racism in parks, arts and recreation.** This includes new efforts to advance equity and inclusion in all aspects of the Department's work and for all marginalized community members.
- **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 Parks, Arts and Recreation Department 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 to guide arts programs and associated capital projects, including acquisition of public art, and development of the Armory Creative Campus.
- **Identifies new services and facilities.** New parks, arts, and recreation services and facilities are included in this plan.
- **Provides direction for restoring and protecting natural areas within the park system.** The plan contains goals and policies for habitat enhancement, volunteer stewardship engagement, and environmental education.
- **Provides direction for promoting respectful and safe park use.** The plan contains goals and policies for meeting the community's expectations related to park safety.
- **Identifies maintenance and operations needs.** The plan contains goals and policies for addressing the current maintenance backlog and for maintaining future acquired land and facilities.
- **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 and farmland preservation 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 framework for performance reporting as we implement parks, arts and recreation services.** This framework measures progress towards key metrics that assist Department staff in meeting goals and objectives outlined in this plan.
- **Commits Olympia's parks, arts and recreation facilities and services to be part of climate mitigation and adaptation solutions.** This plan commits the Department to prepare for climate impacts and reduce local greenhouse gas emissions.



Chapter 2: Report on the Last Plan

As we go forward, we build on the past. The last six years have brought changes to our programs and services based on the blueprint presented in the 2016 Parks, Arts and Recreation Plan, City budgets, and community need.



The Armory lit up at night as an impromptu community art installation.



Department Performance Measurement

In the 2016 Parks, Arts, and Recreation Plan, staff proposed performance metrics for the first time to help track progress toward achieving the Plan’s goals. Our Department publishes an Annual Performance Report which overviews significant accomplishments achieved throughout the year, as well as progress on 33 performance measures. A snapshot of some key performance measures influencing the Department from 2015-2020 are described below, a full accounting can be seen in OPARD’s Annual Performance Reports.

In 2020 staff completed a process to re-evaluate OPARD’s performance metrics. The new metrics are detailed in [Chapter 9](#) and will be used moving forward.

Park Stewardship Program

Since the last plan, the Park Stewardship program has evolved towards meeting Department goals and community expectations around volunteering, environmental education, natural resource management and park safety. As a direct result of additional full-time equivalent (FTE) staffing resources since the last plan, volunteer opportunities, environmental education and ranger presence in parks increased. A complement of three full-time Park Rangers has facilitated development of strategies and partnerships to address larger community safety issues that impact parks.

- 2016-2019: Volunteer hours averaged 8,376 annually.
- 2016-2019: Average number of volunteer participants annually was 2,428.
- 2016-2019: Special events averaged 40.5 annually.
- 2016-2019: Volunteer opportunities averaged 160 annually.
- 2016-2019: Environmental education events averaged 35 annually.
- 2016-2019: Increased staffing by adding 4.5 FTEs.
- Ranger patrols increased from four hours a week to 70+ hours per week.

2020 excluded from averages below due to impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Parks Operations and Maintenance

Since the last parks plan, the Parks Operations and Maintenance Division restored 4.25 permanent maintenance positions that were cut in the previous recession. As the parks system grew via acquisition and development, parks maintenance focused on strategically increasing resources by adding two FTEs to support continued growth of the parks system, increase levels of service, and address the maintenance backlog.

- 2016-2019: Maintenance and stewardship labor hours increased 56.7%.
- 2016-2019: FTEs increased by 6.25 in Parks Maintenance (4.25 positions restored, two new positions).
- 2016-2019: The average annual maintenance expenditure per acre was \$3,061.



Parks Planning & Design

Park land acquisition has been a focus of the Planning and Design Division for many years. One of the goals of the 2016 Plan (and this 2022 Plan) is to provide a park within ½ mile (10-minute walk) of all residences. Another primary focus has been progress on major maintenance projects to reduce the backlog and increase accessibility across the park system.

Over the last six years:

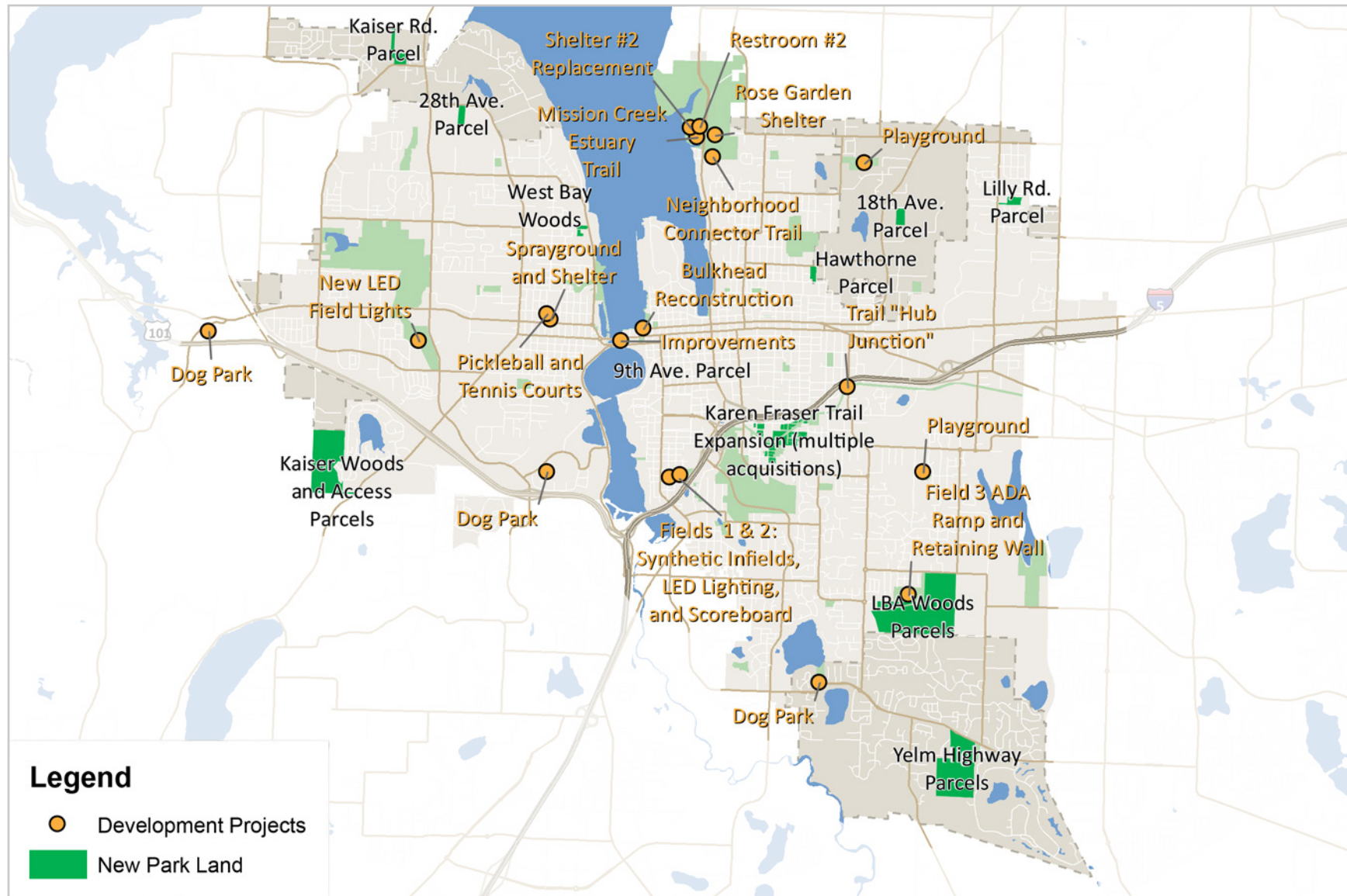
- Olympia’s park land increased by 25%, with an increase of 350 acres.
- The percentage of Olympia’s land area within ½ mile (10-minute walk) of a park increased from 41% to 63%, a gain of 22% (See [Map 5.1](#)). We will continue progress toward this goal by acquiring land in key locations and creating more access points at existing parks.
- We dedicated \$750,000 annually to major capital maintenance projects, allowing us to make progress on the \$7.2 million backlog.
- \$200,000 of dedicated funding was added to the annual capital budget (beginning in 2018) to address identified Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) deficiencies in our park system.

Figure 2.1 - Park Facilities and Trails Constructed Since 2016

- Priest Point Park Mission Creek Estuary Trail (2016)
- Karen Fraser Woodland Trail “Hub Junction” bicycle roundabout (2016)
- Stevens Field #1 Synthetic Infield & LED Lighting (2017/2018)
- Priest Point Park Rose Garden Shelter (2017)
- New Field Lights at Yauger Park (LED) (2017)
- Isthmus Park Improvements (2018)
- Margaret McKenny Park Playground (2018)
- Priest Point Park NE Neighborhood Connector Trail (2018)
- Woodruff Park Sprayground & Shelter (2019)
- Percival Landing Bulkhead Reconstruction (2019)
- Priest Point Park Shelter #2 Replacement (2019)
- Friendly Grove Park Playground (2020)
- Woodruff Park Pickleball and Tennis Courts (2020)
- LBA Field #3 ADA Ramp and Retaining Wall (2020)
- Priest Point Park Restroom #2 (2020)
- Stevens Field #2 Synthetic Infield, Lighting & Scoreboard (2021)
- Ward Lake Dog Park (2021)
- McLane Dog Park (2021)
- Evergreen Park Dog Park (2021)



Map 2.1 - Land Acquisitions and Park Projects Since 2016





Recreation

As a result of recommendations to improve our tracking and analysis of metrics, the Recreation Division established multiple performance measures that are aligned with industry standards. In all cases, the Department has either maintained or improved metrics that are key indicators of overall business health. **2020 excluded from averages below due to impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic.*

- New program offerings increased an average of 13% each year.
- Customers repeating registration year to year averages 38% annually.
- Average quality rating by activity participants is 4.5 out of 5.
- Average customer service rating by participants is 4.7 out of 5.
- Recreation participation hours increased an average of 5.5% annually.
- Recreation program cost recovery annual average of 76.6%.

Arts Program

Public art and events are core components of the Arts Program and opportunities to engage in the arts is a goal shared across the Department. Since 2016:

- 22 artworks were added to the public collection, an increase of 20% (see [Figure 2.2](#)).
- 87% or more of artworks reviewed during annual condition reports are rated at “good or better.”
- The number of businesses and artists registered for Spring and Fall Arts Walk averaged 292 in the spring, and 185 in the fall.
- Annually, on average 1,448 people participated in art classes offered by OPARD.
- The ARCH Digest newsletter added 171 recipients, an increase of 17%.



Senior pickleball is a popular activity.



Figure 2. 2 - Public Art Added to Collection

PIECE TITLE	LOCATION	ARTIST	YEAR ADDED
Scenes from Westside	Harrison & Black Lake	Don Freas	2016
Arts Walk Cover 52 - The Oregon Coast	City Hall	Jenn Kliese	2016
Arts Walk Cover 53 - Cellist	The Olympia Center	Brian Wayne Jansen	2016
Dignity in Labor	State Ave & Capitol Way	John Vanek	2016
Joie de Vivre	Heritage Park Fountain	David Varnau	2017
Arts Walk Cover 54 - Aquapia	City Hall	Loralin Toney	2017
Arts Walk Cover 55 - Street Love	City Hall	Evan Clayton Horback	2017
Aqueous	The Olympia Center	Cyrra Robinson	2018
Growing II	Woodruff Park	Jesse Swickard	2018
Music Out Loud - Bert Wilson	5th Ave at Capitol Way	Michele A. Burton	2018
Music Out Loud - Steve Munger	4th Ave by Chestnut	Nathan Barnes	2018
Music Out Loud - Verne Eke	The Washington Center	Jennifer Kuhns	2018
Arts Walk Cover 56 - Mom and Peace	City Hall	Laura Yu	2018
Arts Walk Cover 57 - Fire & Ice	City Hall	Mark Larson	2018
Philosopher	LBA Woods	Kevin Au	2018
Pig Listening in a Story Place	LBA Park	Nancy Thorne-Chambers	2019
The Giant and I	City Hall	Nathan Robles	2019
Arts Walk Cover 58 - Mother Nature	City Hall	Darcy Goedecke	2019
Arts Walk Cover 59 - Held Dear	City Hall	Faith Hagenhofer	2019
Arts Walk Cover 60 - Fluttering	City Hall	Laurel Henn	2020
Arts Walk Cover 61 - Peace	City Hall	Chiyo Sanada	2020
Girl Reading in a Story Place	LBA Park	Nancy Thorne-Chambers	2020
Art Crossing - Guardians	West Bay Drive	Lin McJunkin & Milo White	2020
Great Blue Heron	Heritage Park Fountain	Joe Seymour	2020
Telephone of the Wind	Priest Point Park	Corey Dembeck	2021
Art Crossing - Unity	Eastside St.	Andrea Wilbur-Sigo	2021
A Story Place	LBA Park	Nancy Thorne-Chambers	2021



Map 2.2 - Public Art Projects Since 2016 Plan Adopted

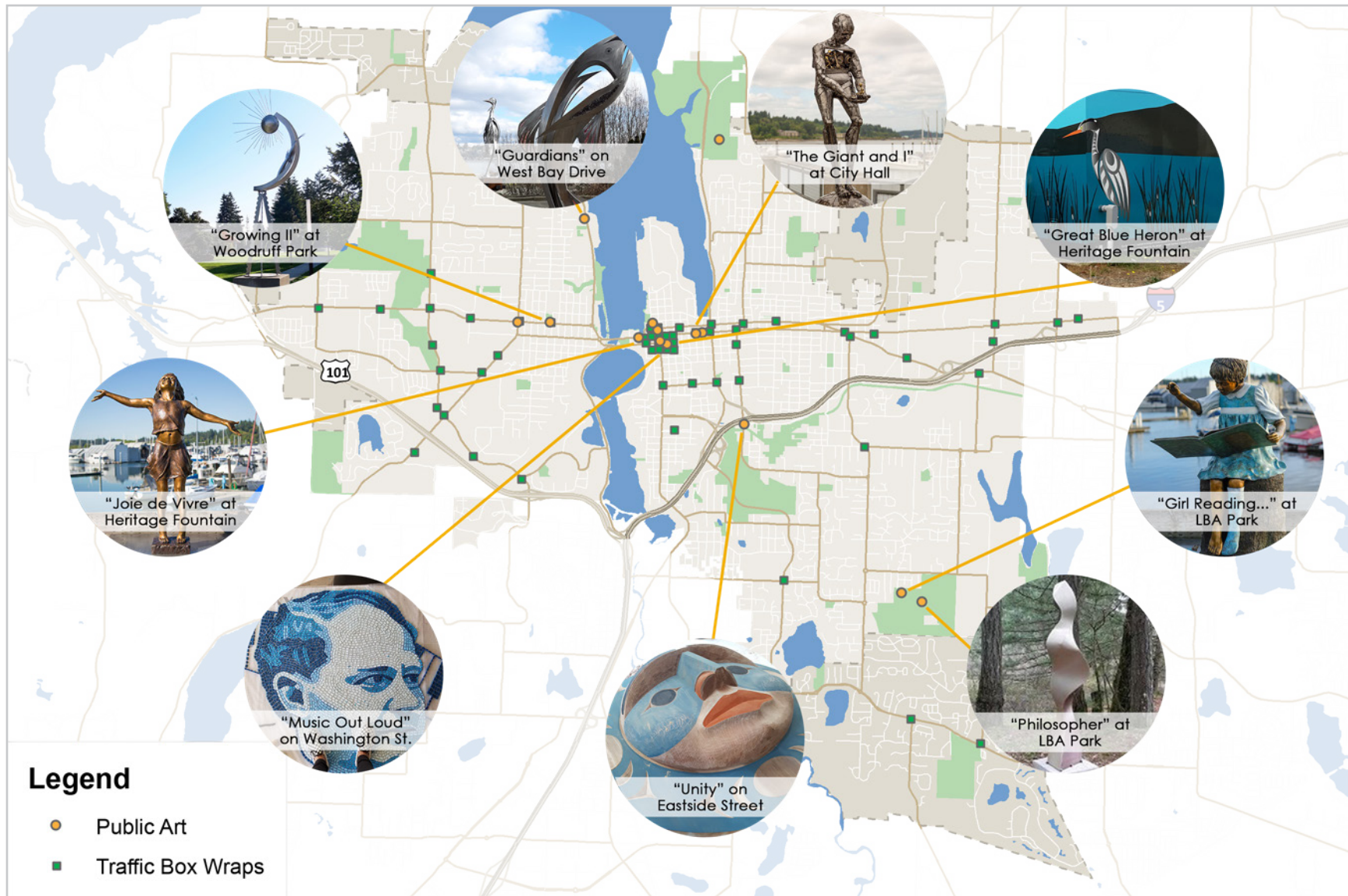




Figure 2.3 - Grants & Donations Received

Since the last plan was adopted in 2016, the Department has secured over \$8 million in grants and donations. Two generous community members also donated 4.43 acres of park land to the City. These funds and land donations will benefit the community members of Olympia through enhanced amenities, greater access to nature and a more beautiful urban landscape.

PROJECT	AGENCY	AMOUNT	DATE
West Bay Park Environmental Clean-up	Washington State Department of Ecology	\$698,331	2016
Percival Landing Environmental Clean-up	Washington State Department of Ecology	\$300,000	2016
Kids Canopy Climb Gear Project	Nisqually Tribe	\$1,000	2016
Mission Creek Trail at Priest Point Park	REI Co-op	\$20,000	2016
Karen Fraser Woodland Trail Expansion	Private Community Members	4.43 acres	2017
Ellis Cove Trail Improvements	REI Co-op	\$15,000	2017
Stevens Field #1 Synthetic Turf	Washington Recreation and Conservation Office	\$192,826	2018
West Bay Woods Acquisitions	Washington Recreation and Conservation Office	\$164,927	2018
Kaiser Woods Acquisition	Washington Recreation and Conservation Office	\$516,170	2018
Woodruff Park Sprayground and Picnic Shelter	Washington Recreation and Conservation Office	\$446,380	2018
LBA Woods Morse-Merryman Rd. Parcel Acquisition	Washington Recreation and Conservation Office	\$1,000,000	2018
Northeast Neighborhood Connection Trail	REI Co-op	\$10,000	2018
Teen Adventure Challenge	Dawkins Trust	\$5,000	2018
Lions Park Sprayground	Washington Recreation and Conservation Office	\$500,000	2019
LBA Woods Boulevard Rd. Parcel Acquisition	Washington Recreation and Conservation Office	\$1,000,000	2019
Grass Lake Nature Park Trail Construction	Washington Recreation and Conservation Office	\$467,990	2019
Percival Landing Bulkhead	Washington Department of Commerce	\$921,500	2019
Stevens Field #2 Synthetic Turf and Lights	Washington Recreation and Conservation Office	\$349,999	2019
Kaiser Woods Mountain Bike Park Project	REI Co-op	\$5,000	2019
Karen Fraser Woodland Trail	National Environmental Education Foundation	\$2,200	2019
Summer Nutrition Program	Dawkins Trust	\$5,000	2020
Yelm Highway Acquisition	Washington Recreation and Conservation Office	\$1,000,000	2021
LBA Park Field #2 Renovations	Washington Recreation and Conservation Office	\$350,000	2021
Lilly Road Acquisition	Washington Recreation and Conservation Office	\$333,533	2021



Changes in Programs & Services

Extensive changes have been made in activities and services since 2016. The most significant are listed below:

Arts

- Increased use of social media, online public input forums and online application processes.
- Installed 57 traffic box wraps at intersections all over Olympia
- Established the Poet Laureate Program, with three Poets Laureate to date.
- Increased Arts Program staff from 1.25 to 1.75 FTE in 2017, increasing program capacity.
- Developed a working group in 2017, bridging ARCH (Arts, Cultures and Heritage) services, to amplify their presence in the community.
- Approved the Olympia Art Crossings master plan in 2017, providing a blueprint for eight public art projects in neighborhoods across the City.
- Since 2018, an annual seasonal art maintenance staff person keeps the community's collection of public art cleaned and maintained.
- Since 2019, seventeen grants have been awarded through the Grants to Arts and Culture Organizations program, expanding the reach of our services.
- Downtown Olympia became the third certified Creative District in Washington State in 2019.
- After thirty years of Arts Walk, a dedicated events website was launched in 2020, artswalkoly.com, streamlining registration and the participant experience.
- With the signing of the 2021 State budget, Governor Inslee directed the Washington State Military Department to transfer the Armory to Olympia at no cost, for use as "a community asset, dedicated to using the arts to support community development, arts education and economic development initiatives."

Recreation and Facility Operations

- Moved operational tasks out of Recreation and into a team of staff dedicated to Facility Operations.
- Shifted the Associate Director (now Director of Recreation and Facilities) from management tasks to increased time spent in generating new opportunities and partners.
- Began a shift from a formula-based pricing structure to a hybrid of formula and market based.
- Identified and implemented new program delivery methods including remote programming.
- Identified new programs, like the seasonal ice rink (Oly on Ice).
- Identified new revenues, like sponsorships for Oly on Ice.
- Adapted programming to meet the emerging needs during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Increased marketing budget, including the addition of a new Marketing Specialist position (¾ time).
- Improved our cost recovery to 75% in most years.
- Developed quarterly targets to improve staff productivity and accountability.
- Improved the safety and security at The Olympia Center, including contracting a security guard for 12 hours per day.
- Opened Lions and Friendly Grove park shelters for reservations.
- Increased scheduling at Stevens Field after installing two synthetic infields and lighting on Field #2.



We Have Three Full-Time Park Rangers on Staff.

Safety

- Launched the Safe and Secure Parks Initiative.
- Developed new policies and guidance including Trespass Policy and De-escalation Guidelines.
- Increased staff safety training.
- Park Ranger program development and addition of three FTEs.
- Increased park ranger patrolling presence to seven days a week.
- Collaborated with first responders to improve emergency response on trails.
- Encouraged positive park use through programming and outreach.
- Crime Prevention Through Environmental and Design (CPTED) evaluations and training.
- Implemented several CPTED upgrades including visibility, access control, and maintenance.
- Installed needle collection boxes in restrooms.
- Increased seasonal staffing at Percival Landing.
- Increased lighting in several parks.
- Installed cameras in problematic locations.
- Developed partnerships with OPD and service providers.
- Created an off-leash dog education campaign.



Stewardship & Maintenance

- Increased stewardship opportunities, including large public volunteer events.
- Increased outreach and environmental education through the Stewardship program.
- Developed virtual environmental education activities.
- Planned strategic invasive plant management based on data collection.
- Established plant nursery for propagating and storing restoration plants.
- Partnered with Timberland Regional Library to offer Story Trail books at multiple locations.
- Partnered with Water Resources Environmental Services on habitat plans and restoration projects (Mission Creek, Grass Lake, LBA Woods and Priest Point).
- Created routine volunteer opportunities for disadvantaged youth and young adults.
- Increased downtown holiday lighting.
- Expanded Pesticide Free Parks Initiative to all parks.
- Became a “Bee City USA” in 2021.
- Implemented the Smoke Free Parks Initiative.
- Increased Stewardship Program staff by two FTEs.
- Implemented new volunteer management software.
- Re-developed a Street Tree Maintenance program and added two FTEs.
- Created and implemented a Street Tree Maintenance Manual.
- Restored seasonal trail maintenance crew.
- Restored seasonal landscape crew.
- Increased frequency of restroom cleanings and trash removal.
- Began to transition away from fossil fuel-based equipment to electric. Created monthly Department e-newsletter about new capital projects, volunteer opportunities and recreation classes.



Volunteers help with the upkeep of our local parks.

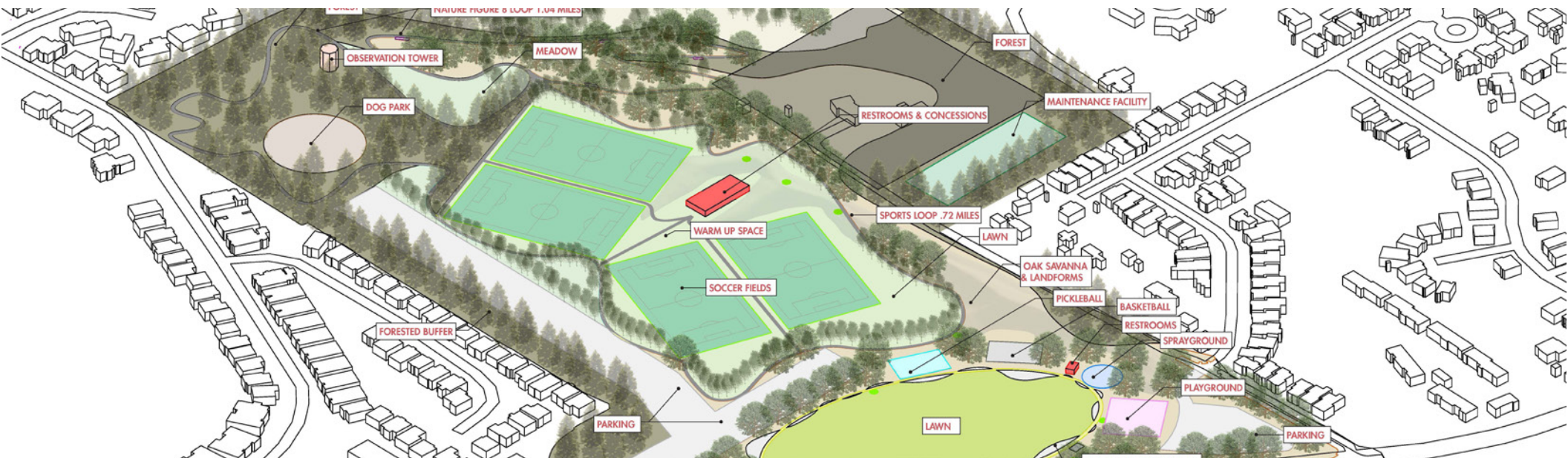


Setting the Stage for the Future: Planning Projects

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 2016 have included:

- [Olympia Art Crossings Project \(2017\)](#)
- [ADA Assessment and Transition Plan \(2017\)](#)
- [Karen Fraser Woodland Trail Phase III Route Feasibility Analysis \(2017\)](#)
- [ARCH \(Arts, Cultures and Heritage\) Profile \(2018\)](#)
- [West Bay Park Recreation, Trail and Restoration Analysis Report \(2019\)](#)
- [Armory: Creative Campus Concept Plan \(2020\)](#)
- [LBA Woods Trail Improvement Plan \(2020\)](#)
- [Kaiser Woods Park Design \(in-progress\)](#)
- [Yelm Highway Community Park Master Plan \(in progress\)](#)
- [Regional Aquatic Facility Feasibility Study \(in progress\)](#)
- [Armory Conceptual Design and Business Plan \(in progress\)](#)

Specific information about how the above planning efforts inform upcoming projects can be found in [Chapter 6](#) “Proposed Projects.” Specific reports listed above are available upon request.



Yelm Highway Community Park Master Plan Concept Draft.



Chapter 3: OPARD Today

Today's Parks, Arts and Recreation Experience

Olympia Parks, Arts and Recreation provides the community with a wealth of experiences. You can hike the Watershed Trail, keep cool at the Woodruff Park Sprayground, 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 and Recreation experience!

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



Neighborhood Parks, Community Parks and Open Space Parks

Reflecting the community's need for both solitude and social gathering spaces, options 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, pickleball courts to playgrounds, our park system is full of fun, beauty and diversity. And Olympians love their parks. In the random sample survey conducted for this plan, 83% of respondents had visited a park in the past 12 months.

This plan utilizes three classifications for the City's 1,367 acres of park land: 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 habitat.



The Yauger Park Shelter is a popular community gathering space.



“Neighborhood Park” Classification Definition

Neighborhood parks are typically small and are designed primarily for non-supervised, non-organized recreation activities. Facilities found in neighborhood parks include items such as playgrounds (for 2-12 year olds), picnic areas, restrooms and open grass areas for passive and active use. Amenities may also include items such as trails, tennis courts, basketball courts, skate courts, public art and community gardens.

“Community Park” Classification Definition

Community parks are specifically designed to serve a large portion of the community, usually as athletic field complexes or sites with other unique uses such as a waterfront or garden focus. Examples of special-use oriented community parks include Yashiro Japanese Garden and Percival Landing.

Athletic field complexes are designed for organized activities and sports, although individual and family activities are also encouraged. They can vary in size, but ideally are large enough to accommodate at least four fields and supporting facilities (such as restrooms and parking) which allows for tournament play. Olympia’s three existing developed athletic field complexes are LBA Park, Yauger Park and Stevens Field. In 2018, the City purchased the 83-acre Yelm Highway Community Park site and is currently in the process of developing a master plan for the site. a Preliminary Phase I concept includes three full-sized synthetic rectangular fields as well as other recreational amenities such as an off-leash dog area, community gardens, pickleball courts, playgrounds, sprayground, basketball courts and walking trails.

“Open Space Park” Classification Definition

Open space parks are defined as primarily undeveloped land that is set aside to protect the special natural character of Olympia’s landscape. Open space areas 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 improves water and air quality, as well as provide climate benefits in the form of carbon sequestration. 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 is typical. Some sites can be appropriate for more active recreational activities such as running or biking. Parking and trailhead facilities such as restrooms, information kiosks and environmental education facilities are also appropriate.

Figure 3.1 identifies Olympia’s existing Neighborhood Park, Community Park, and Open Space inventory. Note that some parcels serve multiple uses and are classified accordingly.



Figure 3.1 - Existing Park Sites

PARK NAME	CLASSIFICATION	DATE ACQUIRED/LEASED	ACRES	PARK NAME	CLASSIFICATION	DATE ACQUIRED/LEASED	ACRES
8th Avenue Parcel	Neighborhood	2006	3.99	Log Cabin Parcel	Neighborhood	2010	2.35
18th Avenue Parcel	Neighborhood	2021	5.98	Madison Scenic	Community	1989	2.21
28th Avenue Parcel	Neighborhood/Open Space	2019	5.08	Margaret McKenny	Neighborhood	1999	4.16
Bigelow	Neighborhood	1943	1.89	McGrath Woods	Neighborhood	1998	4.00
Bigelow Springs	Open Space	1994	1.30	Mission Creek	Neighborhood/Open Space	1996	36.83
Burri	Neighborhood	1997	2.32	The Olympia Center	Community	1987	1.30
Chambers Lake	Neighborhood/Community/Open Space	2003	47.09	Olympic	Neighborhood	1925	0.60
Cooper Crest	Open Space	2003	13.37	Park of the Seven Oars	Community	2011	0.90
Decatur Woods	Neighborhood	1988	6.27	Percival Landing	Community	1978	3.38
East Bay Viewpoint	Community	2005	0.10	Priest Point	Neighborhood/Community/Open Space	1906	313.50
East Bay Waterfront	Community	1994	1.86	Rebecca Howard Park	Community	2021	0.34
Edison Street Parcel	Neighborhood/Open Space	1997	4.52	South Capitol Lots	Open Space	1994	0.92
Evergreen	Neighborhood	2005	3.99	Springwood Drive Parcel	Open Space	2015	3.19
Friendly Grove	Neighborhood/Open Space	1997	14.48	Stevens Field	Neighborhood/Community	1963	7.84
Garfield Nature Trail	Open Space	1900	7.41	Sunrise	Neighborhood	1988	5.74
Grass Lake	Neighborhood/Open Space	1900	195.71	Trillium	Open Space	1989	4.53
Harrison Avenue Parcel	Community/Open Space	2011	24.00	Ward Lake	Neighborhood/Community	2007	9.14
Harry Fain's Legion	Neighborhood	1933	1.34	Watershed	Open Space	1955	153.03
Heritage Park Fountain	Community	1996	1.33	West Bay	Neighborhood/Community/Open Space	2007	17.04
Isthmus Parcel	Community	2013	2.34	West Bay Woods Parcel	Open Space	2016	2.75
Kaiser Road Parcel	Neighborhood/Open Space	2019	10.00	Wildwood Glen Parcel	Open Space	1999	2.38
Kaiser Woods Parcel	Open Space	2016	70.19	Woodruff	Neighborhood	1892	2.46
Karen Fraser Woodland Trail	Open Space	2002	67.02	Yashiro Japanese Garden	Community	1990	0.74
Kettle View	Neighborhood	2007	4.80	Yauger	Neighborhood/Community/Open Space	1978	39.77
LBA	Neighborhood/Community/Open Space	1974	153.74	Yelm Highway Parcel	Neighborhood/Community/Open Space	2000	86.55
Lions	Neighborhood	1946	3.72	Yew Avenue Parcel	Open Space	2016	2.98
Lilly Road Parcel	Neighborhood	2018	4.89	TOTAL			1367.36

Important Note: Following the release of the draft of this plan on September 1, 2021, additional acres were added to the park system and will be incorporated into the next plan update.



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 (See Figures 3.2 and 3.3).

Figure 3.2 - Other Jurisdictions' Parks within Olympia and Olympia's Urban Growth Area

PARK NAME	PARK CLASSIFICATION	OWNER	ACRES
Heritage Park	Community	State of Washington	14.66
Sylvester Park	Community	State of Washington	1.57
Marathon Park	Community	State of Washington	2.90
Centennial Park	Community	State of Washington	0.84
Capital Gateway Park	Community	State of Washington	0.61
Capitol Campus	Community	State of Washington	25.67
I-5 Trail Corridor	Open Space	State + City of Olympia	5.44
Chehalis Western Trail	Open Space	Thurston County	64.50
Chambers Lake Access	Open Space	Thurston County	2.70
Port Plaza	Community	Port of Olympia	1.37
Billy Frank Jr. Trail	Open Space	Port of Olympia	4.43
East Bay Plaza	Community	LOTT Clean Water Alli	1.07
Ward Lake Fishing Access	Community	WDFW	0.65
West Central Park	Community	Private	0.50
West Bay Woods (OCEP Portion)	Open Space	Non-Profit	10.29
Black Lake Meadows	Open Space	City of Olympia PW	43.80
Avonlea Park	Neighborhood	City of Lacey	5.34
Interpretive Park	Open Space	State of Washington	17.79
Evergreen State College Trails	Open Space	TESC	192.63
TOTAL			396.76

Figure 3.3 - Olympia School District Fields and Playgrounds

SCHOOL NAME

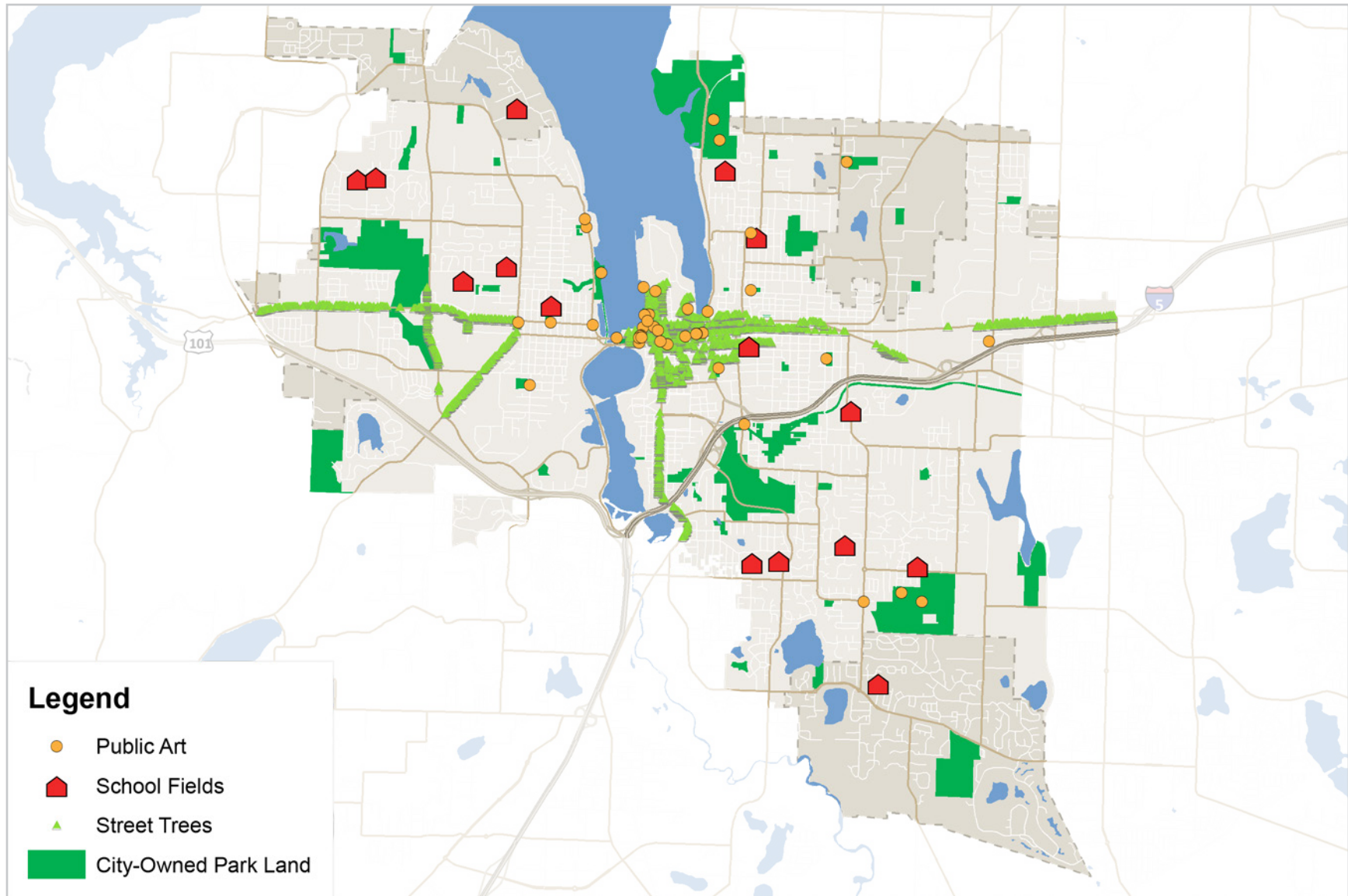
LP Brown Elementary	McLane Elementary	Centennial Elementary
Garfield Elementary	Madison Elementary	Lincoln Elementary
Hansen Elementary	Roosevelt Elementary	McKenny Elementary
Pioneer Elementary	Avanti High School	Marshall Middle School
Jefferson Middle School	Capital High School	Olympia High School
Olympia Regional Learning Academy		Washington Middle School



Sylvester Park is a Washington state-owned park within Olympia.



Map 3.1 - Parks, School Fields, and Street Trees Maintained by Olympia Parks, Arts & Recreation





Park Operations and Maintenance

Our Parks Maintenance staff take great pride in maintaining Olympia's park system, keeping parks safe, clean and welcoming. Under a joint use agreement with the Olympia School District (OSD), parks staff also maintain 36 fields at 17 schools. We take care of roughly 2,500 street trees in public right-of-way as well. Support is also provided as needed to other City departments on projects in areas such as arboriculture, irrigation, electrical, landscaping and carpentry. [Map 3.1](#) shows the wide scope of properties and facilities maintained by Parks Maintenance staff

Maintenance Scheduling and Work Order Management

In 2020, Parks implemented a new asset management software system, called "Asset Essentials," for managing park infrastructure. This new program has both a mobile and desktop platform, making it efficient for field and office staff to create, manage and complete work orders. The program captures labor costs and tracks preventative, routine and reactive maintenance, asset conditions and life cycles. While still in the infancy stage, this program is proving to be effective in improving the way we manage, maintain and invest in our parks.

Capital Asset Management Program (CAMP)

Homeowners recognize that annual maintenance is necessary to protect the investments they have made in their homes. Similarly, capital improvements in park facilities need to be maintained. Capital assets are a structure, improvement, piece of equipment or other major park facility, including land, that has a useful life of at least five years. Aging facilities require replacement of roofs, outdated equipment and utilities. Driveways, parking areas, sport courts and trails require resurfacing to keep them safe and accessible. CAMP is the tool we utilize to monitor the condition of park capital assets, identify and prioritize needed major repairs or replacements and schedule these projects. If we don't prioritize maintenance, park facilities might have to be closed or removed to safeguard the public.

Having a sustainable, predictable maintenance fund for parks is as important as building new facilities. It is critical that we identify and fund future maintenance projects, concurrently with new construction. In this way, the community will have uninterrupted access to its public recreation facilities and the City can avoid large, unanticipated costs. We inspect and rate the condition of a third of our park assets each year and utilize this information, along with maintenance history, to update and reprioritize the list of CAMP projects.

Thanks to the passage of the Metropolitan Parks District in 2017, we now dedicate \$750,000 each year to addressing major maintenance of existing infrastructure. We also dedicate \$200,000 per year to fixing identified ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) deficiencies in existing parks. Currently, the backlog of CAMP projects is \$7.2 million (not including Percival Landing, which is an expensive and unique facility and therefore tracked separately). While projects are completed each year, new needs also arise, which is expected when managing a parks system that dates to the late 1800's.



Natural Resource Management

The Parks, Arts & Recreation Department is responsible for managing 1,367 acres of park land, which includes 24.08 miles of trails, 850 acres of open space, and over four miles of waterfront. These properties are rich with wildlife and thousands of trees that absorb rainfall and carbon dioxide, providing environmental benefits to Olympia’s residents. These areas protect some of the City’s most important streams, wetlands, riparian areas, marine shorelines, mature forests and ecological functions. We hold the dual tasks of preserving the delicate balance between active and passive recreation uses, while being sensitive to the needs of the living infrastructure and habitat these areas provide.

We recognize our role in the City-wide efforts to mitigate climate change, which includes preserving our area’s natural resources, reducing carbon emissions, reducing waste, conserving water use and increasing canopy coverage in our urban forests. We work in partnership with other City departments and local organizations to stay informed about the latest science and best practices related to climate mitigation and adaptation.

Integrated Pest Management and Pesticide Free Parks

The City Council adopted an Integrated Pest Management Plan for park facilities in 2006. Since its implementation, our Department has reduced reliance on chemicals once thought to be critical to maintaining parks. We eliminated the use of glyphosate (Roundup) in 2019 and only used a very limited amount of synthetic fertilizer at some parks. Also in 2019, OPARD designated all parks to be “Pesticide Free,” with exceptions made for health and safety hazards and county mandated removal of noxious weeds (when manual or non-pesticide methods are not effective). In 2020 our Department took the lead on pursuing a Bee City USA designation for Olympia, which involves focusing on improving bee habitat, including planting pollinator species and reducing use of pesticides.



Park Maintenance Staff Member using a flame weeding tool.



Springwood Drive showcases our state flower.

Habitat in Olympia's Parks and Open Spaces

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 essential 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 large upland areas with native vegetation and mature forests and smaller forested habitats scattered across the City. Each of these natural areas provides habitat for a variety of species. These areas also play a vital role serving as natural infrastructure that improves our water and air.

OPARD works in partnership with Public Works Environmental Services Division (ESD) on natural resource management and habitat restoration of several park properties. ESD provides habitat planning expertise through assessments of park properties. The Departments collaborate to implement prioritized restoration with staff and volunteers.

Park Stewardship

The Park Stewardship program includes Volunteers in Parks, Environmental Education and Park Rangers. The program ensures safe, clean and accessible parks for all, manages natural resources through stewardship and creates meaningful volunteer experiences for the community. The Park Stewardship program develops connections with underrepresented people in the community to foster a welcoming and inclusive environment for all park visitors.



Volunteers in Parks

OPARD has a long history of active community volunteerism. Volunteers bring a range of benefits to the Department such as natural area restoration, park advocacy, and partnerships with diverse community organizations. Roughly 8,000 volunteer hours are contributed annually to improve Olympia's parks. The Volunteers in Parks (VIP) program includes staff-led volunteer work parties, Park Stewards and the Adopt-a-Park programs. Staff-led work parties occur weekly and are open to all skill levels and abilities. Park Stewards work independently at a park of their choosing, with support and guidance from staff. The Adopt-a-Park program encourages local neighborhood organizations and other community groups to steward and host park work parties. Volunteer projects include litter pick up, invasive plant removal, native plantings and trail work. We are creating future volunteer opportunities, such as a Dog Park Stewards program, to provide a welcoming environment for park visitors.

Environmental Education

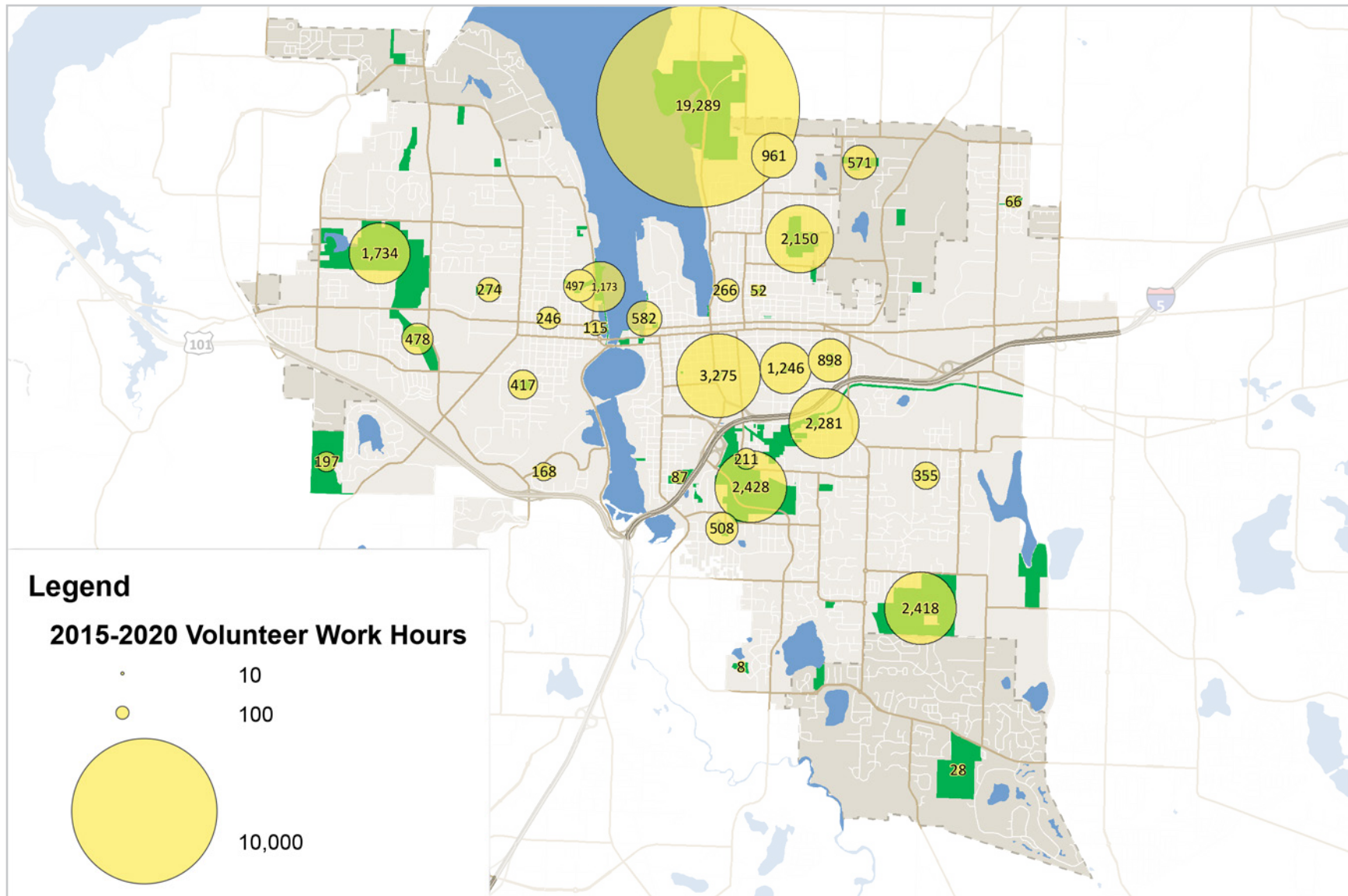
Through the Environmental Education program, Parks can complement other City-wide programs by creating free and low-cost learning opportunities. Typically, our curriculum focuses on forest ecology and habitats. Lessons also include practicing attainable individual behavior changes that contribute to conservation, stewardship and climate change mitigation. We offer this programming to schools, service clubs, LOTT Clean Water Alliance's WET Science Center, Hands on Children's Museum and other local organizations. We host programs at our parks and visit other locations to share our curriculum. In addition, we have events like Arbor Day, Kids to Parks Day, and Junior Ranger Adventures where we provide free or low-cost educational resources to the community.



Volunteers are integral to our Park Maintenance program.



Map 3.2 - Volunteer Hours





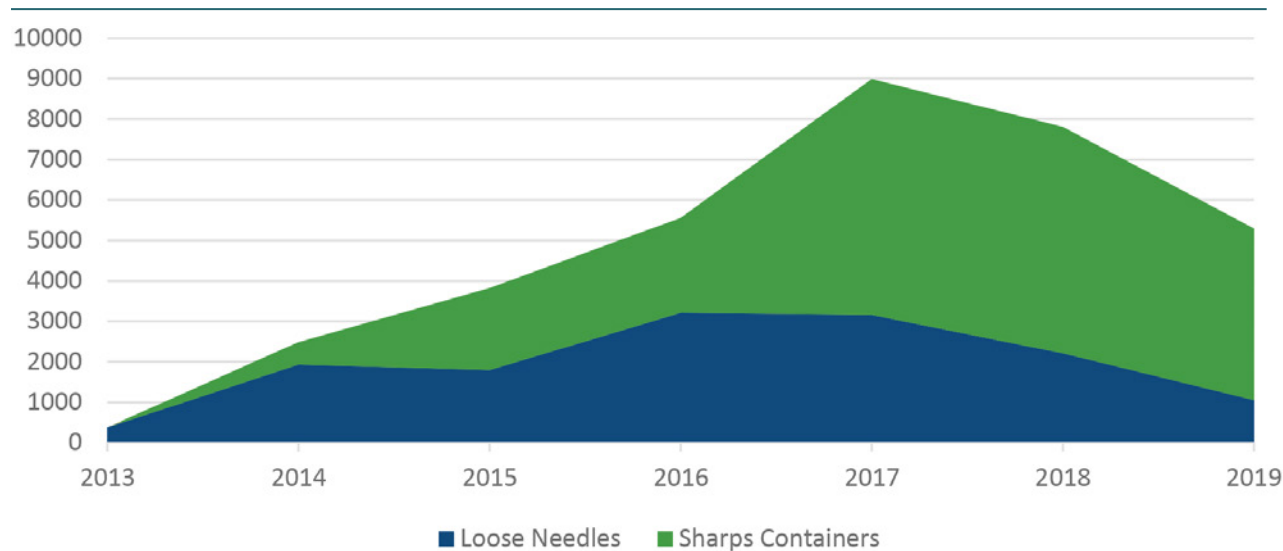
Park Rangers

The intent of the Park Ranger program is to achieve voluntary compliance with park rules at the lowest level of intervention necessary. A majority of their work is based on simple education and communication. Training in crisis intervention, trauma-informed care and verbal de-escalation has been essential in achieving this goal.

The Park Ranger program has grown to three, full-time positions, providing a daily presence in parks. Rangers have thoughtfully developed strategies to address rule violations, safety and crime prevention in parks. A key piece of their success is relationship building with park users, community partners and other City departments. By initiating and nurturing those relationships, they can effectively respond to complex problems negatively impacting parks.

Collecting data to measure progress is also an important change that has informed policy decisions and program development. For example, a notable public safety concern, the number of loose needles in parks, has consistently declined since 2017 (Figure 3.4). Strategies used for this issue include working with health officials to install needle boxes, as well as training staff on appropriate handling and disposal. Rangers identify problem locations, proactively patrol and provide trend information about illegal drug activity to law enforcement. Most importantly, Park Rangers foster relationships with people who are experiencing crisis, connecting them with services and providing clear expectations about behaviors in parks. We have also developed legal tools to temporarily exclude people for consistently compromising the safety of other park users.

Figure 3.4 - 2019 Needle Collection Data





Safety in Parks and Programs

The launch of the Safe and Secure Parks Initiative in 2014 was the start of a Department-wide intentional effort to address safety concerns from the public and staff. This led to changes in policies, operations, and training in our parks and facilities as well as in our programs. Passage of the OMPD by voters in 2017 provided resources for the development of focused programs, such as Park Rangers and contracted security at The Olympia Center as well as additional training for employees.

Safety strategies have now become part of the conversation in every aspect of Parks, Arts and Recreation.

Examples include:

- Integration of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) into planning and maintenance activities.
Example: Park parking lot design and enhancements to help prevent vehicle prowls.
- Data collection, tracking and analysis.
Example: Tracking and analysis of data on hypodermic needles deposited in park restroom collection boxes.
- Routine communication internally and externally on safety issues.
Examples: Regular meetings with Olympia Police Department and comprehensive staff training on a variety of participant/visitor safety issues.
- Collaboration with community partners to identify and respond strategically to safety issues in parks and programs.
Examples – Installation of emergency signage/location on trails and training Olympia Center tenants to properly use security resources.
- Monitoring local, regional and national trends that impact parks and recreation.
Examples - As climate changes and wildfires are more prevalent, OPARD is creating and implementing a wildfire prevention strategy. OPARD is creating positive use of park space by partnering with local non-profits to engage at-risk youth with reduced cost or free activities and positive mentoring.
- Increased and improved training for recreation staff to ensure safe and welcoming access for all participants.
Example – Partnering with local LGBTQ+ agencies to train summer camp staff so that participants of the LGBTQ+ community feel safe participating in our services.
- Launched an Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging committee within the Department to enhance safety, inclusivity and welcoming environment for underrepresented community members in our parks and services.
Examples – In 2021, a committee was established with a three-year goal to develop a Department Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Plan. Developing relationships with advocacy groups such as South Sound Parent to Parent and Women of Color in Leadership.



The Department makes a conscious effort to look at opportunities to program in our parks. By providing positive activity in parks, it discourages unsafe or illegal behaviors from taking place in those locations.

Moving forward, OPARD is committed to fostering a culture of safety internally and externally. OPARD will continue to use data to make informed decisions and monitor progress.



West Bay Park is one of our key waterfront parks, with a perfect view of the Capitol dome.



The Giant and I by Nathan Robles

Arts and Events

From its inception, the City of Olympia's Arts program has endeavored to support and promote our vibrant arts community. Olympia is home an engaged population of artists and arts organizations active in music, literary, performance, media and visual arts. Olympia offers award-winning theater, music performances from indie to symphony, the Procession of the Species, and a strong visual, literary and performing arts community that ranges from emerging artists to those with nationwide representation.

Both the Olympia Arts and Events program and the Olympia Arts Commission, a nine-member advisory board appointed by the City Council, have worked on behalf of the arts in our community for over 30 years. Because there are no other municipal programs of this type in neighboring jurisdictions, 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 and Municipal Art Fund. In addition, to develop the public art collection, the City has a policy of setting aside one dollar per person and 1% of 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 and City service partnerships, volunteers, a granting program 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 public participation in selection processes, 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 30-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. 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. A new event web platform, launched in spring 2021, streamlines the applications process, provides multiple ways for viewers to engage and plan for their experience and elevates the online presence to better match the vibrancy of the event.



Arts Walk is a beloved community event in Olympia.



Traffic Box Wrap by Laurel Henn

Public Art

OPARD's Arts program, with a collection of 131 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. We acquire works through a variety of methods including commissions, incorporating art into infrastructure through design teams, temporary works and direct purchases.

The Arts Commission identifies future projects through their annual Municipal Art Plan, the annual budget and spending plan for the Municipal Art Fund. The plan 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 community member, 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.
- Art pieces are 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. The [Percival Plinth Project](#) is a loaned sculpture exhibition that includes a purchase prize of one piece based on public vote. Annually, the winning sculpture moves to City Hall for one year, before moving to permanent installation at another location within the City.



The [Traffic Box Mural Wrap Project](#), with a total of 57 wraps to date, has easily become one of our most visible and appreciated programs, with a public selection component as well. [Olympia Art Crossings](#) is guided by a Master Plan to place unique public art at eight major “gateways” throughout the City, informed by neighborhood counsel, and lit by solar power.

ARCH

In early 2017, the City launched a [study](#) to assess the City’s commitment to Arts, Culture and Heritage (ARCH). That effort has resulted in an interdepartmental team representing Parks, Arts and Recreation, Economic Development, Community Planning and Development, and Executive Administration. Under this umbrella, initiatives supporting Arts, Cultures and Heritage gain a new platform by working in collaboration:

- In 2019, Olympia received the third certified [Creative District](#) in the State of Washington, supporting our creative economy.
- During the first few months of COVID, ARCH provided funding to the Olympia Artspace Alliance for [Artists on Board](#), to fund nine murals on boarded up storefronts in downtown Olympia.
- ARCH also worked with the Olympia Downtown Alliance to fund the [Promising Notes Concert Series](#), which is a collection of 13 songs performed by local musicians, recognizing the challenges to the industry brought by COVID.
- Weekly ARCH Digest e-mails serve as a virtual clearinghouse for information on local and regional arts, heritage and culture events and opportunities.



West Olympia Gateways by Lin McJunkin and Milo White



Armory

On May 18, 2021, Governor Inslee approved the 2021 Washington State Capital Budget, which directed the Military Department to transfer the Olympia Armory at no cost to the City of Olympia, “for use as a community asset dedicated to using the arts to support community development, arts education, and economic development initiatives.”

Development of the Armory comes at a pivotal moment in our community, to better support the arts, heritage, culture, workforce development, equity and inclusion, and low-income and/or artist live/work housing. Building acquisition is a milestone in the community’s thirty-year quest for an arts center. Development of the space is a high priority for the Department with the potential to inform future budget decisions and staffing levels.

A working vision is to repurpose the Olympia Armory for use as a Creative Campus – a cultural anchor for building community through the arts.





Recreation

Our recreation programs promote physical and mental well-being, bring community members together in a positive, supportive, and fun atmosphere while creating memorable experiences for individuals and families. We offer traditional programs such as sports leagues, youth camps and clinics, and special interest classes that have all remained popular over the years. We also adapt to emerging recreational needs as they arise. An annual workplan that supports both three-year goals and a 10-year vision is conducted to ensure we are considering new community initiatives and interests.

Each year as many as 400 teams participate in OPARD’s sports leagues, over 4,000 community members take a leisure recreation class, and over 1,500 youth participate in our camp programs. Studies cite a strong correlation between participation in recreational programs and a reduction in both health care costs and crime.¹ 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 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.

¹ “The Health and Social Benefits of Recreation,” California State Parks Planning Division, 2005, parks.ca.gov/planning



Parks, Arts & Recreation

Spring
Summer
2021



Experience It!

Sunshine and Summertime

- Summer Camps | p. 4
- Virtual Classes | p. 29-44
- Golf Classes | p. 43
- Community Events | p. 47



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. Programs include summer and school break day camps for elementary aged youth, 6 to 11 years old and seasonal outdoor adventure camps and trips. 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. We prioritize physical and emotional safety for both participants and staff.

OPARD's 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 children 18 and younger 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 & Tween Programs

Teen activities include fee-based programming for 12-17-year-olds through trips, camps and classes and after-school activities such as skateboarding, paddleboard and kayaking as well as special events such as Middle School Activity Nights. The fun includes summer traditional and outdoor-based overnight camps and day camps like "Especially for Teens," which includes travel to different locations daily including Wild Waves, Experience Music Project, Pacific Science Center, Ape Caves, Ocean Shores, Westport and sporting events. Leader in Training programs, for ages 12-15, are also provided as a bridge for youth who either may still need supervision or are interested in gaining experience for potential employment in the future.

In addition to direct services provided by OPARD as identified above, the Department has partners that serve this age demographic as well. A recent example are the contracted services with The Bridge Music Project that targets the teen-aged community members and has hosted a variety of events to include song writing workshops, live performances and adult-youth mentoring.



Our Teen & Tween Program offerings continue to expand.



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 ages 18 to 50. Youth sports camps and clinics are appropriate for 6-11-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 residents 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. Staff can also provide technical expertise to new or inexperienced tournament or league directors who host competitive and recreational play on our fields.

Leisure Recreation Classes

Lifelong learning and recreational activities are taught through a variety of classes, which appeal to people of many interests, skill levels, and talents. Most leisure and recreation classes happen at The Olympia Center. Classes are available to youth, adults, families and seniors 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.

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.



Athletic and Leisure Recreation classes support health and wellbeing.



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. And during our inclement weather months, the Department has made available offerings such as fly-fishing courses and bike maintenance workshops.

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 another benefit of participating in these activities. Outdoor recreation enthusiasts who are 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. Historical 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 and Camp Cascadia. 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. In addition to these historical offerings, OPARD has expanded with popular programs such as wilderness skills camps, classes that teach shelter building, and survival principles for youth.

Families can enjoy sea kayak tours and classes, river raft trips, local hiking excursions and seasonal snowshoeing tours. 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 community members. OPARD provides a combination of dedicated and rentable space to SSSS for senior programming at The Olympia Center. Any rates charged to Senior Services are discounted, as determined by their annual lease agreement. While SSSS provides 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-market general program offerings to seniors who are most likely to take advantage these services. OPARD will continue to partner with SSSS to make sure that there are senior recreation opportunities that meet the desires of this growing segment of our population.

Specialized Recreation

OPARD partners with Thurston County Parks and Recreation to provide programs to meet the recreational needs of community members with different abilities in the Olympia/Thurston County area. These programs give those 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 offering these services on a regional scale and will continue to support this multi-jurisdictional partnership when funding is available.



Momoyo Crane has been attending Women’s Fitness since the 1990’s.



Ina's Fund – Recreation Program Scholarships

Our Recreation Scholarship Fund was re-named in 2021 to reflect a generous donation provided by a former, longtime Parks, Arts and Recreation Department employee, Ina Fennell. Upon Ina's passing, she left a substantial contribution specifically earmarked for our scholarship program. This 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 be accessible to 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 most of our fitness and enrichment classes at this location. Senior Services for South Sound also schedules nearly 10,000 hours of activities each year. Between these two agencies, community members from of all ages 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 community can enjoy The Olympia Center 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 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 ages 6 to 12, based out of Woodruff and Lions Parks. 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 reduce 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 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:

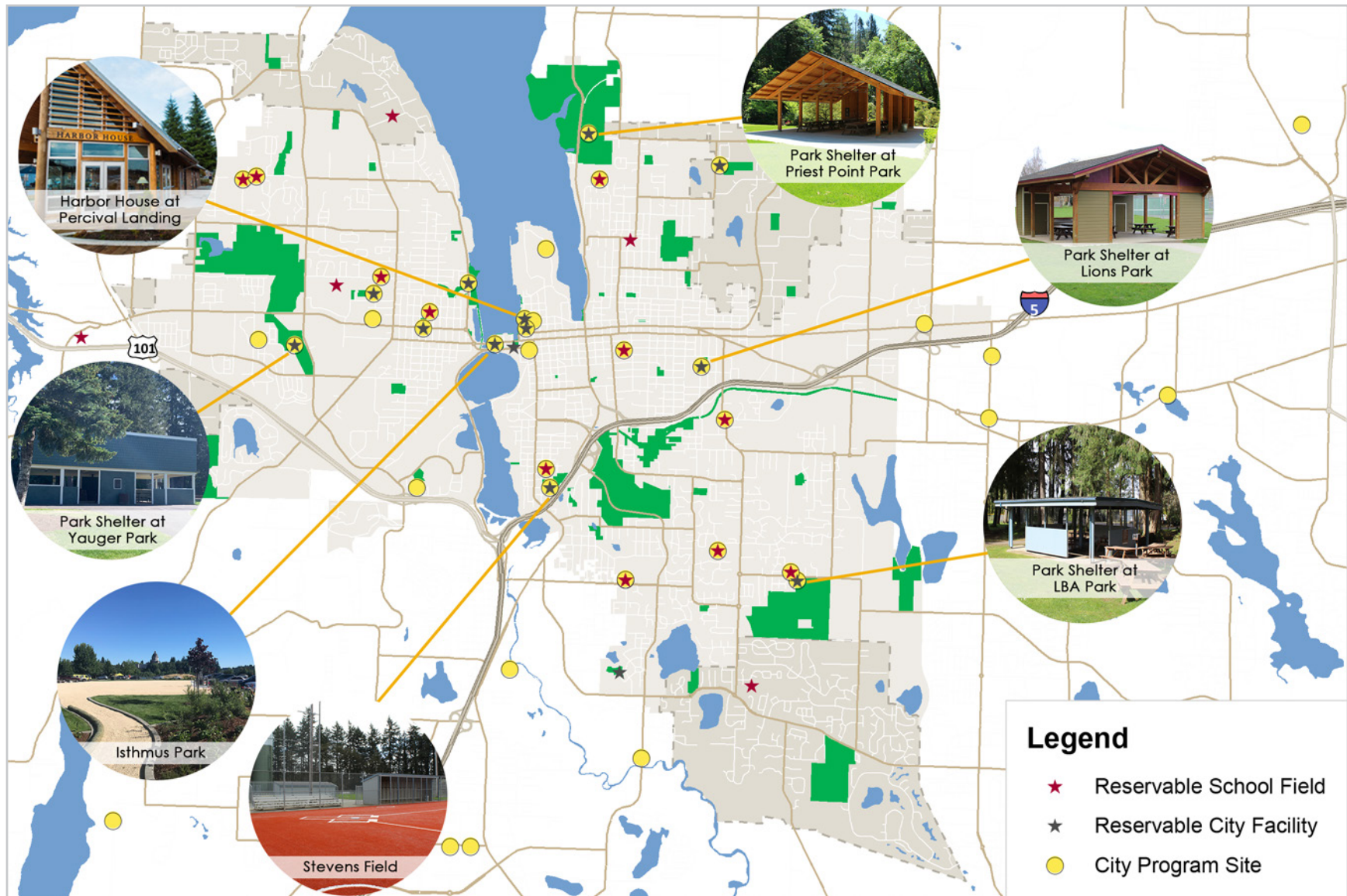
- **OPARD manages athletic field scheduling for both City and School District fields.** This results in a fair and manageable system for field use that provides access for the variety of user groups in the community.
- **OPARD maintains both City and School District Fields.** OPARD provides regular mowing, preventive maintenance and demand maintenance throughout the growing season on all fields accessed by the community. While the City contributes most of the staffing 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.





Map 3.3 - Current Recreation and Facilities





Chapter 4: Community Involvement



In 2020, Summer Day Camp participants helped give their input on the future of our Parks and Programs.

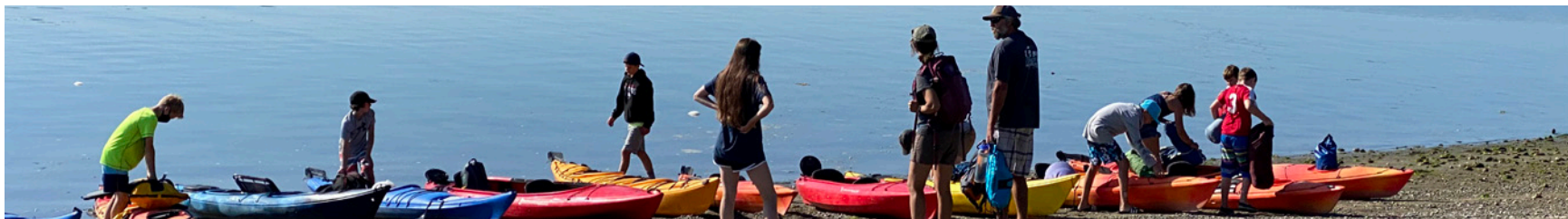


Methods of Outreach

One of the primary goals of this plan update is to reflect the needs of Olympia's residents. Only through public involvement can 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 Parks, Arts and Recreation Plan update has the unique distinction of being the first (and hopefully only) update undertaken during the restrictions and complications of a global pandemic. Online public engagement became more important than ever as social distancing and the closure of most indoor public places significantly limited the ability to obtain in-person input. Despite these challenges, there have been multiple opportunities for the public to engage in this process. This plan update has been based on community input that was gathered in the following ways:

- [Parks, Arts & Recreation Survey #1](#)
 - Paper copies available August 2020 at 17 Free Lunch Sites at schools (in English, Spanish and Vietnamese)
 - Available online at Engage Olympia September-October 2020
- "Design Your Dream Park" activity and mini-survey with Youth Summer Day Camps in August 2020
- [Engage Olympia Ideas Tool](#) (bi-weekly questions from October 2020 through February 2021)
- [Random sample survey of Olympia residents January](#), February 2021
- Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee meeting on random sample survey results, April 15, 2021
- City Council Work Session, April 27, 2021
- Arts Commission, May 13, 2021
- Olympia Planning Commission, June 7, 2021
- Coalition of Neighborhood Associations, June 14, 2021
- Public made aware of draft plan's availability and public comment period via media releases, emails to Engage Olympia registrants, Department newsletter, and posting on the City of Olympia's webpage, September 1, 2021
- Draft plan available on Engage Olympia webpage, September 1, 2021
- A public comment period for the draft plan, September 1 - 27, 2021
- An online public meeting on the draft plan, September 9, 2021
- Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee review, September 16, 2021 and October 21, 2021
- Olympia Arts Commission review, October 14, 2021
- Olympia City Council Review and Public Hearing [Winter 2022]





Equity, Inclusion and Belonging

We acknowledge the fundamental truth that historical injustice and oppression have impacted the lives of marginalized communities for centuries. We also acknowledge the power and influence the Department has to impact the daily lives of our residents, and the power to shape policies and practices that reduce inequities stemming from institutional and structural racism and oppression.

Garnering ideas, input and feedback from community members is always a challenge, as people have busy lives and schedules. These factors are often compounded for members of communities that also face racism, income challenges, and mental or physical disabilities. In short, the time and capacity to take a survey, attend a public meeting or write a comment letter is a privilege not accessible by all.

To help facilitate input from the often-underrepresented members of our community, OPARD tried some new outreach methods during this planning process (within the restrictions of what was allowed during the COVID-19 pandemic), including:

- Survey #1 was available online and paper copies were distributed at 17 Free Summer Lunch Sites in the Olympia School District.
 - Surveys were available in English, Spanish and Vietnamese.
 - Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee (PRAC) members visited some of the sites to encourage participation in the survey and planning process.
- Youth engagement (5-11-year-olds) through a short park survey and “Design Your Dream Park” exercise garnered ideas from some of our most enthusiastic park users—kids!
- Development of a GIS analysis that looked at demographic parameters such as residents’ race, income and the number of multifamily dwellings within a ½ mile of Olympia’s undeveloped park land. These characteristics were used to help prioritize which of Olympia’s 18 undeveloped parks could be the first to be developed, based on the population living nearest to those parks and their proximity to other developed parks in the system (more details in [Chapter 6](#)).
- Staff training led by Media Island International on “Parks in Our Community: what are some of the ways we can make parks more inviting for Black community members and their families?”
- Meeting with South Sound Parent to Parent, a network of families who have experienced the unique joys and challenges of parenting children with special needs. Ideas for inclusive elements in parks were shared with staff for both existing and future parks.

These efforts are first steps in deepening engagement with underrepresented community members. Creativity, innovation and relationship building will continue within OPARD beyond this planning process as we endeavor to better provide a parks, arts and recreation system where ALL Olympians feel they belong.

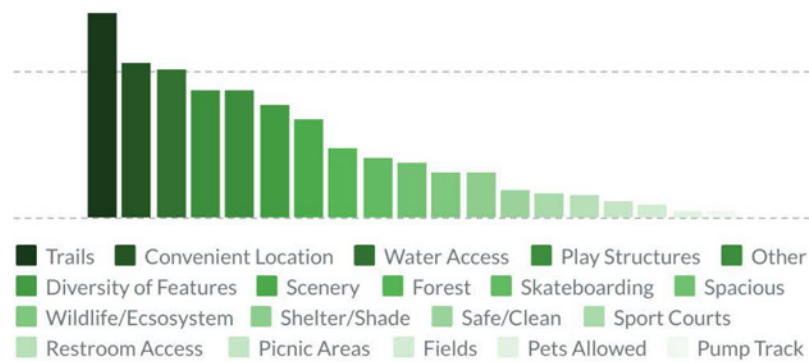


Surveys and Feedback

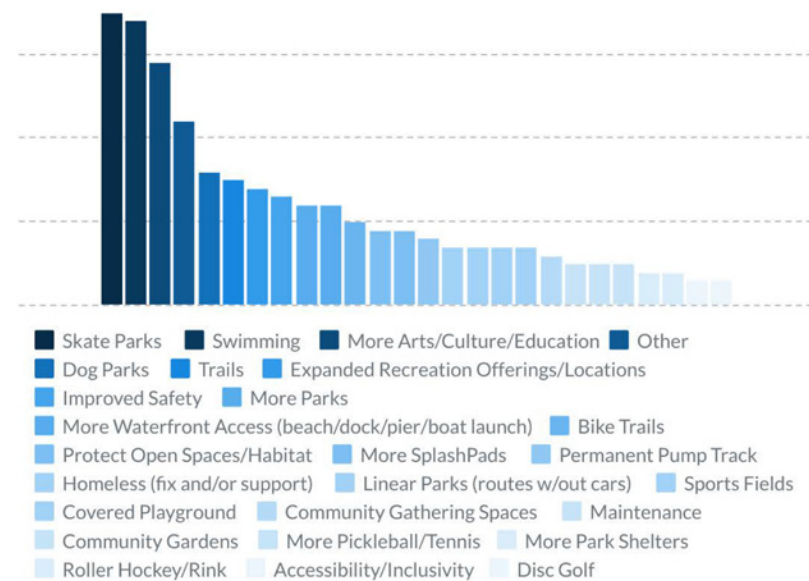
Engage Olympia

From September 2020 through October 2020 the City provided an online survey on [Engage Olympia](#) asking community members to explain what they liked about Olympia’s existing parks, arts and recreation amenities and what they’d like to change or add more of in the future. Paper copies of the same survey were also available in three languages (English, Spanish, Vietnamese) at 17 Free and Reduced Lunch sites during the month of August 2020. This allowed easy input from busy parents of school-aged children. There was strong participation with 252 surveys completed either online or at the school sites. A summary of the responses can be found in the [Appendix](#).

What You Love About Our Parks



What You Wish OPARD Would Provide in the Future






Ideas Tool on Engage Olympia

From Fall 2020 – Winter 2021, staff posed open-ended questions on [Engage Olympia](#) using the “Ideas Tool,” asking community members for their ideas for the future. We asked seven questions and received 63 responses. Community members could then “like” the ideas that resonated with them.

CLOSED: This brainstormer has concluded.

emilyofolympia
4 months ago

Conservatory Greenhouse



Have a greenhouse filled with tropical plants and cacti that do n...

Share 0

olygal86
4 months ago


Sunscreen & hand sanitizer stations

Would love to see free, public sunscreen and hand sanitizer stati...

Share 1

emilyofolympia
4 months ago

Flower Garden




Create a beautiful English flower garden full of annuals and pere...

Share 0

Olympia
7 months ago

Fairy tale or gnome forest



We have a lot of playgrounds. We don't have a lot of imaginative ...

Share 1

Take_a_Gander
5 months ago


Off-Leash Dog Park

I really enjoy the Lower Woodland Park off-leash dog area in Seat...

Share 0

KWilso
7 months ago

Traffic Garden




A traffic garden is a set of small sized streets where children ...

Share 7

Ian Killelea
7 months ago

We need a new skatepark.



What Olympia really needs for the youth, teens, and adults in the...

Share 8


V8ness8
7 months ago

Natural playgrounds similar to the one at NW Trek and Tacoma Nature Center or Westmoreland Park in Oregon

Share 2

MirandaHolmes
7 months ago

Themed Playground



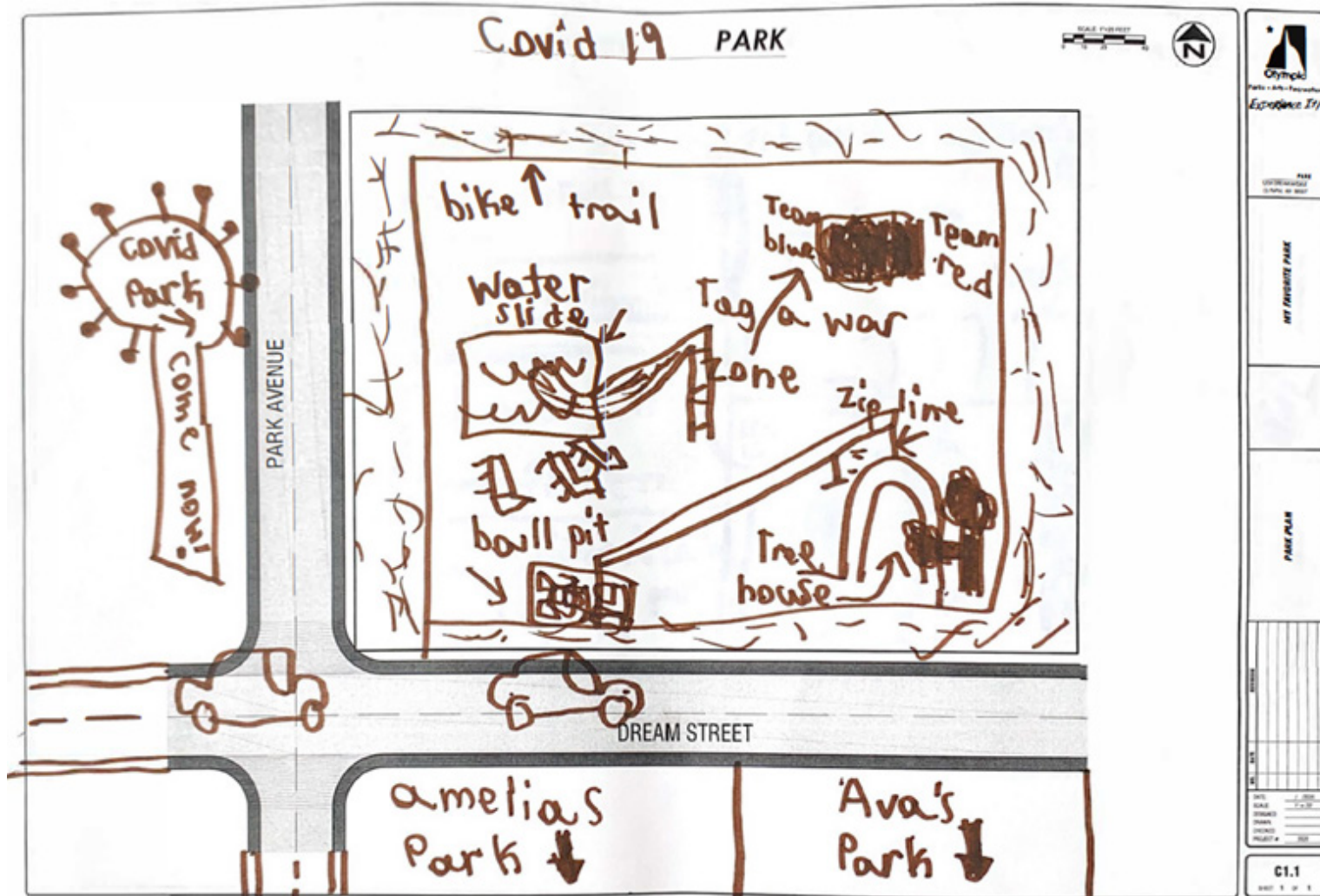
olygal86
4 months ago

Indoor or fully covered playground



Day Camp Dream Parks

In August 2020, we created a mini-survey and planning activity for our OPARD Summer Day Camps. 29 youth participated, ages 5-11. LBA was their favorite City of Olympia Park, with the zipline being a big factor! They'd like to see more (faster) ziplines in parks, as well as giant slides, concessions, treehouses and wild animals. We also asked them to design their dream parks and got some wonderful ideas.





Random Sample Survey

The City contracted with ETC Institute, a survey firm that specializes in needs assessments for parks and recreation agencies nationwide. A six-page survey was mailed to a random sample of residents in Olympia and Olympia's Urban Growth Area in January 2021. Respondents could either fill out the paper survey or complete the survey online. After five weeks, 515 surveys were submitted, which resulted in a margin of error of +/- 4.3% at the 95% confidence interval. To obtain a representative sample, ETC Institute made sure the random sample's demographic characteristics matched that of Olympia's. An abbreviated summary of the results follows, see the [Appendix](#) for the full report.

83% of respondents report visiting a City park in the last year.

- 53% say they went to a City park at least once a week in the last year.
- 81% say they went at least once per month in the last year.

More than one in four (26%) had participated in a City recreation program within the last two years.

The physical condition of Olympia's parks rates very high.

- Most respondents rated their condition as "Excellent" (25%) or "Good" (59%)
- Only 2% of respondents rated their condition as "Poor".

42% of respondents said there are parks in Olympia in which they do not feel safe.

- A dozen specific parks were mentioned, headed by our downtown parks and Olympia's trail corridors.
- About half of respondents (51%) had visited the Olympia Center in the past two years.
 - 15% had visited at least five times.
 - 55% considered it to be a "safe facility"; 7% said unsafe; 38% had no opinion.

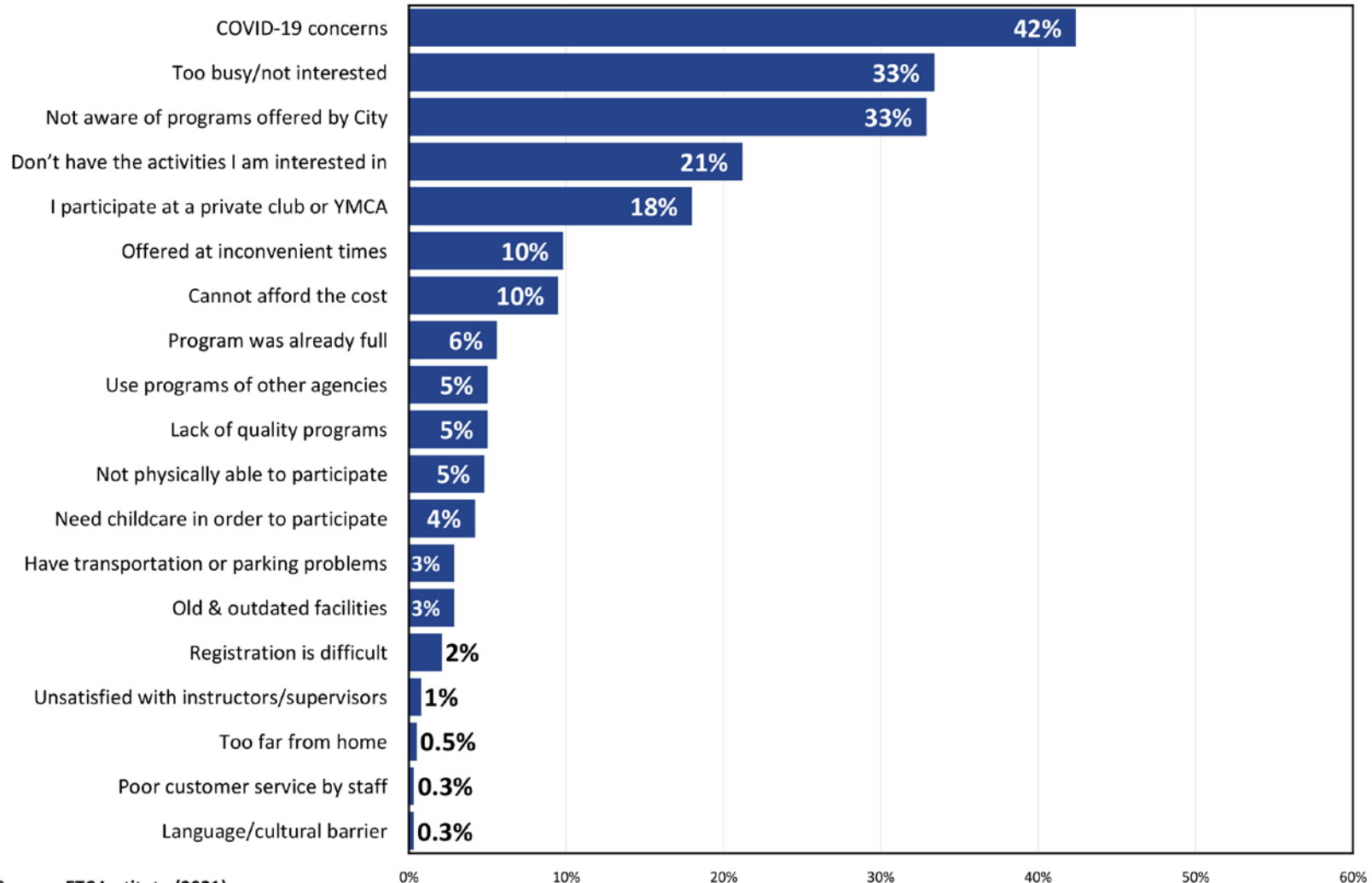
Trails, a swimming pool, restrooms, natural open spaces and park maintenance were ranked as the top priorities for the Department.

- These items were ranked at the top of multiple questions that asked respondents to identify what is most important to them and their top priorities.



Q20a. If your household has not participated in any City of Olympia recreation programs during the last 2 years, what are some reasons you do not participate?

by percentage of respondents who answered "no" to Question 20 (three choices could be selected)

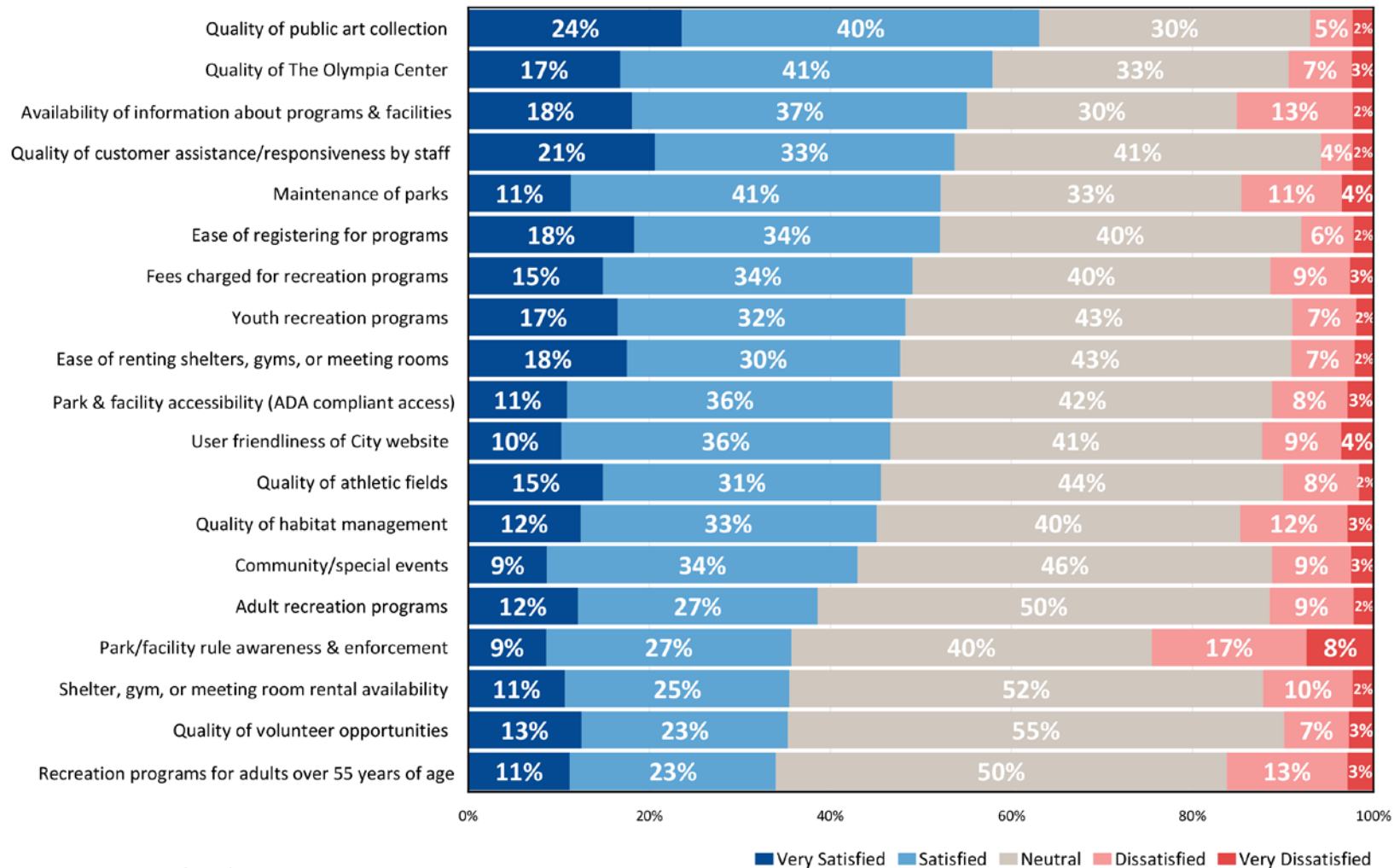


Source: ETC Institute (2021)



Q9. Please rate your satisfaction with the following City of Olympia Parks, Arts, and Recreation services.

by percentage of respondents using a 5-point scale, where 5 means “very satisfied” and 1 means “very dissatisfied” (without “don’t know”)

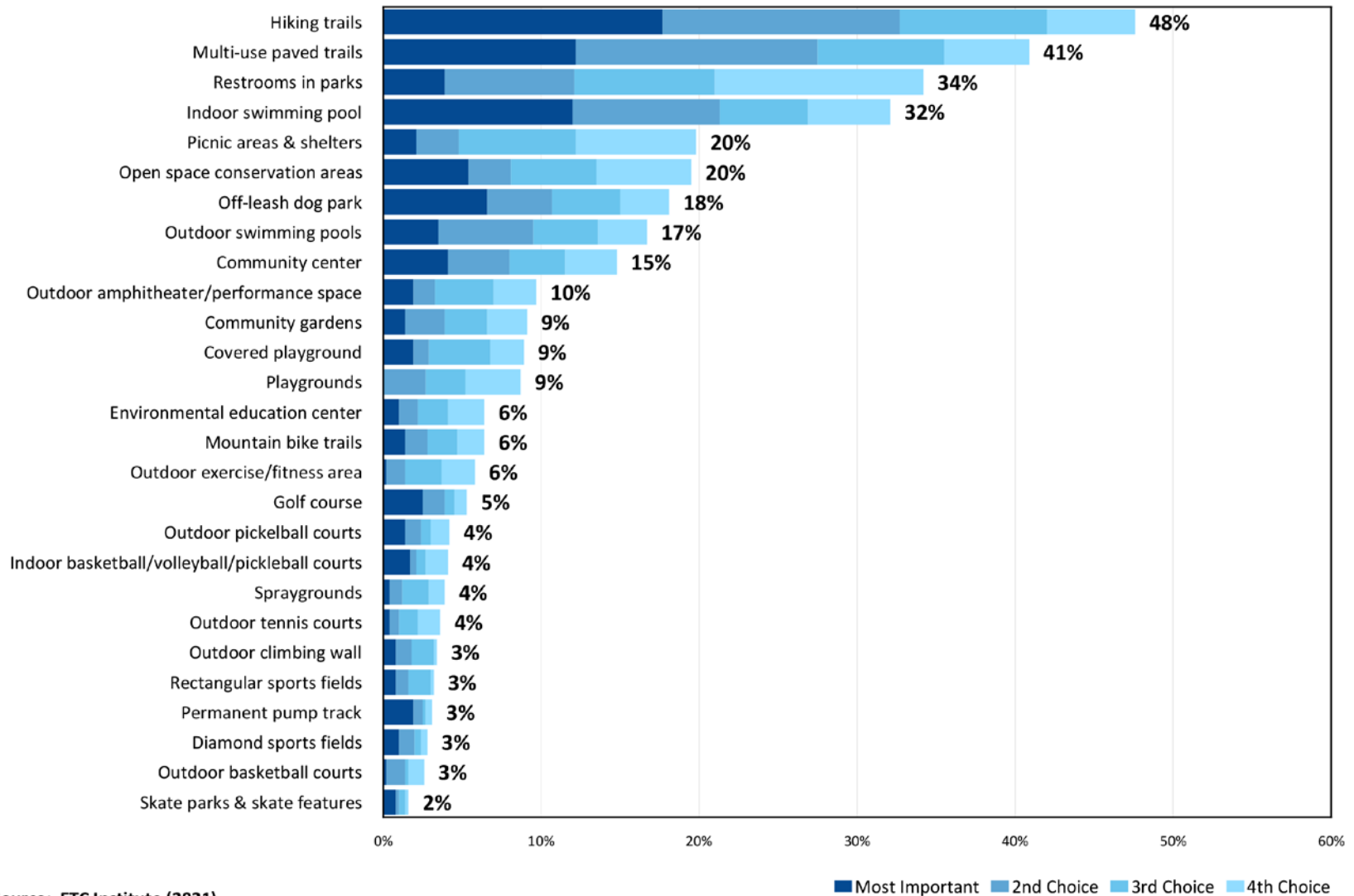


Source: ETC Institute (2021)



Q8. Facilities/Amenities That Are Most Important to Households

by percentage of households who selected the items as one of their top four choices





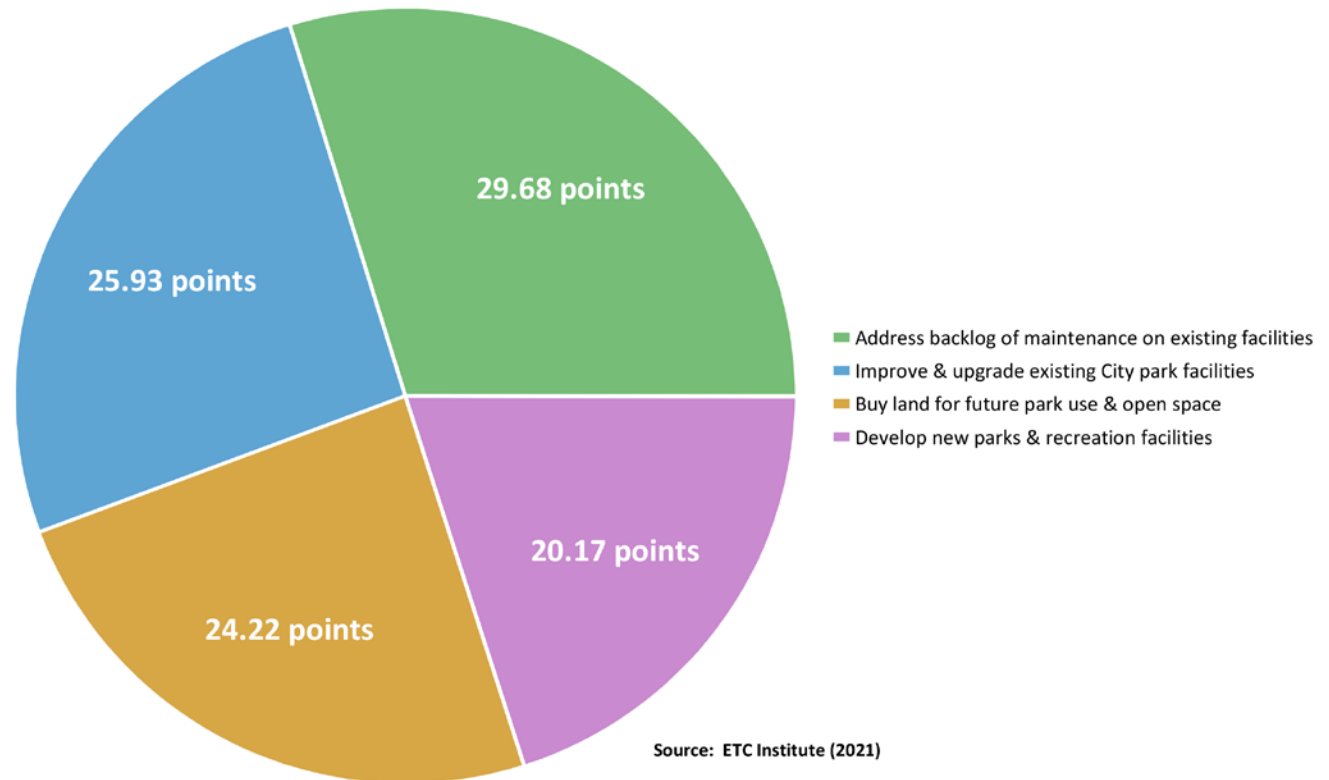
Community Input Summary

The community favors a balanced approach to maintaining existing facilities, upgrading those facilities, buying new park land, and developing new parks. The Capital Investment Strategy in [Chapter 7](#) reflects this approach. Looking at the results of the various public input methods outlined above, one begins to see some common themes:

- Maintenance of existing facilities is of high importance
- An indoor or outdoor swimming pool is a high need
- Open space/natural areas/trails to provide habitat value and access to nature are highly valued
- Hiking trails and multi-use trails are a top priority
- The public values restrooms in parks and would appreciate more
- Not all members of the public feel safe at all times and at all parks

Q2. If you were going to distribute 100 points to indicate your priorities for the Parks, Arts and Recreation Department, how many points would you give to each of the following?

by percentage of respondents





Challenges: Balancing Priorities in a Changing Community

Our world continues to change at a record pace. Change offers both challenge and opportunity. Major challenges that could have an impact on our services in the coming years are described below. This plan endeavors to incorporate public preferences and desires, while also addressing identified challenges and opportunities on the horizon.

Public Needs to Feel Safe and Secure in Parks and Facilities

Like other communities and parks departments across the country, Olympia Parks has been affected by larger societal issues (like the housing crisis, substance misuse, and mental health challenges) that result in safety concerns for park, facility and program users. While the strategies enacted since the last plan have been effective in reducing the incidence of unsafe behavior in parks, facilities and services, there is still work to do to create a welcoming environment where all visitors feel safe and that they belong.

Significance for the Plan

Focus resources on community-wide and location-specific crime trends impacting parks. Nurture partnerships with organizations that support community safety and help disenfranchised individuals. Continue purposeful outreach to park users and neighbors, including streamlining and advertising access to park rangers.



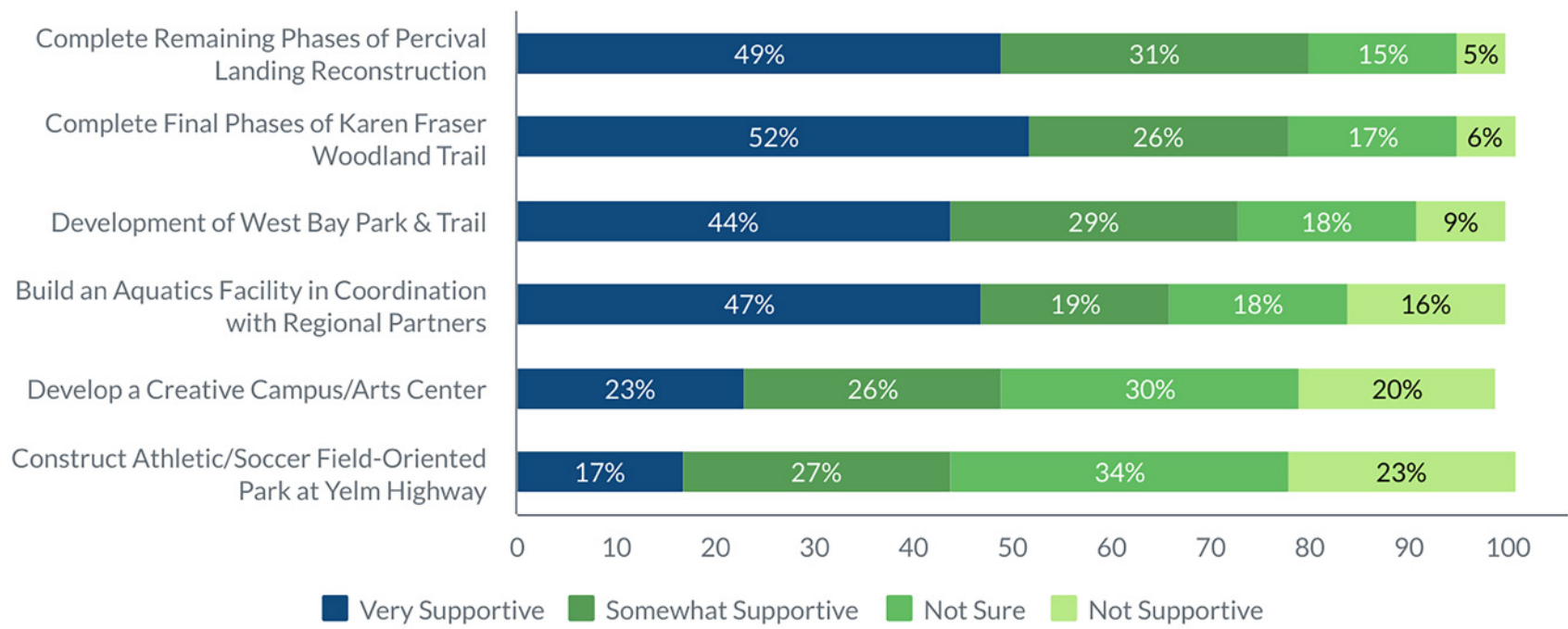
Public Demand for New Parks Exceeds Resources

Many of the most desired new park projects in Olympia will cost tens of millions of dollars each. These “mega projects” include Percival Landing reconstruction, completing the final two phases of the Karen Fraser Woodland Trail, developing West Bay Park and Trail, developing the Armory Creative Campus, and developing an athletic/soccer field complex at the Yelm Highway park site. When surveyed about which one of these projects was the most important, all six projects had broad support from the majority. The mega projects that are existing facility expansions are more familiar to people than the new facilities on the horizon (Figure 4.4).

Significance for the Plan

Even with revenue from the 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 and more resources are needed to achieve these community goals.

Figure 4.4 -- Random Sample Survey Results – Support for Large Projects



Source: ETC Institute, 2021



Population Growth Creating Demand for New Park Land

Today, Olympia’s population is estimated at 54,150. Another 12,640 residents live outside the City limits, but within Olympia's Urban Growth Area (UGA). The total combined population in 2020 is estimated to be 66,790. During the next twenty years, the population of Olympia and its UGA are expected to grow to 84,400, an increase of over 17,000 people. Figure 4.5 illustrates the population forecasts to 2045.

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 area is to plan for areas that are anticipated to be annexed into the City.

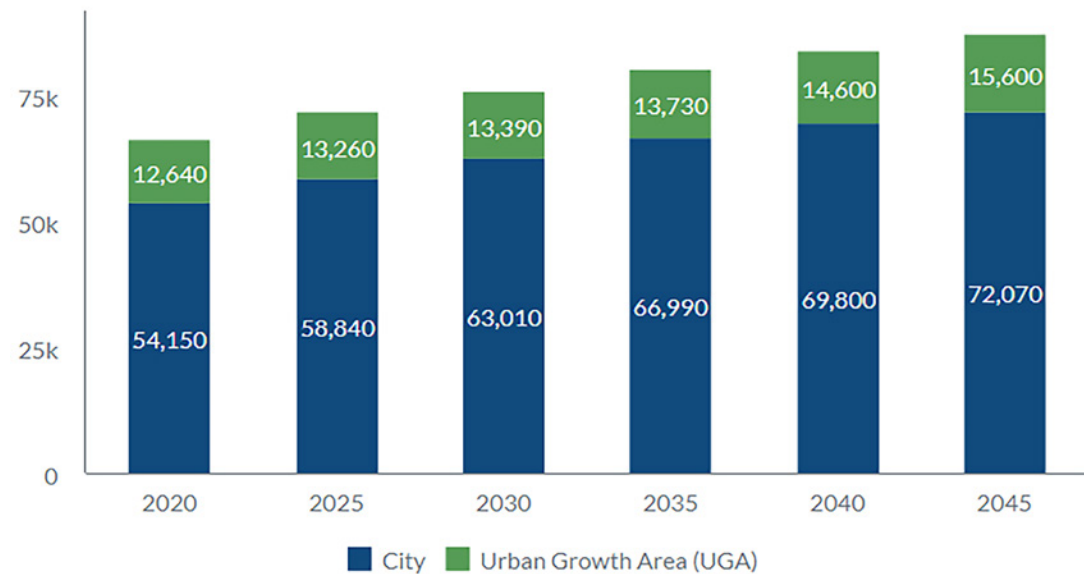
Significance for the Plan

Increases in population will drive the demand for more facilities, programs, maintenance and services. With increasing population growth, the availability of land for parks, open space, and trails will decrease. A large 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.

The recent COVID-19 pandemic resulted in more frequent use of our parks by Olympians, with 53% of residents using parks more than once a week.

As density increases and more residents are living in households with limited yard space, there is a greater reliance on parks for recreational activities that might otherwise happen at home. Parks are important for spaces like community gardens, off-leash dog areas, open grassy play areas and urban forests. Acquiring and developing parks near areas with more multi-family units is a factor considered in the Equity Analysis for Prioritization of Future Park Development (see [page 106](#)). Acquisition funding is included in the Capital Investment Strategy ([Chapter 7](#)) to purchase park land on pace with population growth.

Figure 4.5 – Population Estimates Olympia Park Service Area



Source: Thurston Regional Planning Council: Population Estimates and Forecast, 2020



The Harbor House at Percival Landing

Percival Landing Needs to be Re-visioned

Percival Landing, built in three phases from 1977-1988, 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. In 2019, a new bulkhead was installed in the area near 4th Avenue and Water Street. In addition to the deterioration the Landing is facing in a harsh marine environment, Olympia’s Sea Level Rise Response Plan completed in 2019 found that portions of the Landing will be impacted to varying degrees over the coming years. Annual inspections and temporary repairs have kept the Landing open and safe for the past several years. Marine engineers estimate that the cost of these 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, draws thousands of visitors and residents annually and is a significant economic draw for Downtown. A re-visioning process will need to take place with the community to decide how to rebuild Percival Landing to be safe and resilient from sea level rise. Replacing Percival Landing will be expensive and will need to happen in phases as funding allows. (See [p. 100](#) for more information on Percival Landing).



Climate Change Impacts and Action

Climate change impacts have increased in Olympia and will continue until significant strides are made, locally and globally, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Climate-related impacts to Olympia's parks include sea level rise in downtown, increased risk of wildfires in our forested parks, proliferation of invasive species as native habitats are disrupted by drought and temperature changes, trail erosion and tree failures as more frequent and intense rainfall events increase, and cancellation of outdoor recreation and sports activities due to wildfire smoke causing unhealthy air quality.

Significance for the Plan

In 2021, Olympia City Council accepted the Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan, which is a guide for action to reduce local contributions to climate change for the entire Thurston County region. Over the next couple of years, we will identify and implement climate actions specific to our parks and Department operations to help meet the greenhouse gas emission reductions identified in the regional plan.

The Immediate Need to Undo Institutional Injustice in Parks, Arts and Recreation Services

Equity, inclusion and belonging need to be centered in our Department's culture, systems, and operations. We recognize our equity journey will present challenges and we commit to the responsibility to face these challenges while building the capacity and accountability resources to embed equity, inclusion and belonging in our daily practices and decision making.

We will perform an analysis of the political, economic, sociodemographic, technological, legal, and environmental challenges facing our work. We then commit to developing solutions and mitigating strategies for the challenges.

Significance for the Plan

During this Plan update process, we have made it a top priority to focus on how to better include those who have been historically underrepresented. This work is just the beginning. An ongoing Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Initiative has been launched to examine all aspects of the Department's work. A first step will be to understand who is not being well served by our facilities, programs and services. We will consider all who have been historically underrepresented, such as due to race, religion, gender, sexual identity, age, and mental and physical disabilities. This work is underway and will continue throughout the planning horizon.

Conclusion

Olympia and its community members have changed since 2016 when the last Parks, Arts, and Recreation Plan was developed. From an increase in population, to taking climate actions, and a renewed focus and commitment towards equity these changes have great significance to the programs and facilities that we will provide during the next 20 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.



Chapter 5: Park and Facility Needs Assessment

Background

While our long-range Parks, Arts and Recreation Plan looks at a 20-year horizon, it is reviewed and updated every six years. During this process, we assess our parks and facilities to ensure that our Department is on track to meet the community's needs.

Level of Service standards (LOSs) are the primary means of measuring progress toward meeting park needs. LOSs are the ratio of developed park land per 1,000 population. LOSs are developed for each of the three park classifications: Neighborhood Parks, Community Parks and Open Space Parks. As parks are acquired and developed, progress towards meeting the Level of Service standards is monitored. Our Capital Facilities Plan (CFP) in [Chapter 7](#) outlines which new park acquisition and development projects we can move forward on and how they will be financed. When these tools are reviewed together annually, the City can determine what park and recreation facilities are to be built.

Each classification of park 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 classifications.



Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood Parks Existing Ratio

There are currently 30 neighborhood parks in Olympia totaling over 89 acres (See Figure 5.1). A full definition can be found on [page 31](#). 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 also 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 2021 population of Olympia and its Urban Growth Area is estimated at 67,852.² As of 2021, **the existing ratio of developed neighborhood parks is 0.78 acres per 1,000 population.**

² Thurston Regional Planning Council: Small Area Population Estimates and Population and Employment Forecast (2018 Update)

Figure 5.1 - Existing Neighborhood Parks (NP)

PARK NAME	TOTAL ACRES	% DEVELOPED	DEVELOPED ACRES	PARK NAME	TOTAL ACRES	% DEVELOPED	DEVELOPED ACRES
28th Avenue (NP Portion)	2.00	0%	0.00	Log Cabin Parcel	2.35	0%	0.00
18th Avenue	5.98	0%	0.00	Margaret McKenny	4.16	75%	3.12
8th Avenue	3.99	0%	0.00	McGrath Woods (IUMP)	4.00	25%	1.00
Bigelow	1.89	100%	1.89	Mission Creek (NP Portion)	2.00	0%	0.00
Burri (IUMP)	2.32	25%	0.58	Olympic	0.60	0%	0.00
Chambers Lake (NP Portion)	2.00	0%	0.00	Priest Point (NP Portion)	2.00	100%	2.00
Decatur Woods	6.27	100%	6.27	Stevens Field (NP Portion)	2.00	100%	2.00
Edison Street (NP Portion)	1.50	0%	0.00	Sunrise	5.74	100%	5.74
Evergreen (IUMP)	3.99	50%	2.00	Ward Lake (NP Portion)	2.00	0%	0.00
Friendly Grove (NP Portion)	4.79	100%	4.79	West Bay (NP Portion)	2.00	100%	2.00
Grass Lake (NP Portion)	2.47	0%	0.00	Woodruff	2.46	100%	2.46
Harry Fain's Legion	1.34	100%	1.34	Yauger	2.00	100%	2.00
Kaiser Road Parcel (NP Portion)	2.00	0%	0.00	Yelm Highway (NP Portion)	2.00	0%	0.00
Kettle View	4.80	100%	4.80	Avonlea Park (City of Lacey)*	5.34	100%	5.34
LBA (NP Portion)	2.00	100%	2.00	TOTAL	94.60		53.05
Lions	3.72	100%	3.72	*Avonlea Park is a City of Lacey park right on the border with the City of Olympia. Since it is walking distance to Olympia residents, it is included in Olympia's inventory.			
Lilly Road Parcel	4.89	0%	0.00				



Neighborhood Park Demand Analysis

Olympia has had a longstanding goal of having a park within a ½ mile (10-minute walking distance) of all residences. The 2016 Plan targeted ten areas of the City for new neighborhood parks, and six have since been purchased. Neighborhood parks remain a priority for our community, with 41% of random sample survey participants identifying them as a top priority for the Department.

An analysis of [Map 5.1](#) shows that there are four areas (with a significant number of residences) that are not yet within walking distance to a park. As a result, this plan calls for the acquisition of four new combination neighborhood parks/open spaces to meet this need. Each of these roughly 5-acre sites would have approximately two acres designed for neighborhood park use and approximately three acres of forest or other natural areas dedicated for open space. Each site would provide active recreation and serve as a neighborhood urban green space, a goal outlined in the Comprehensive Plan (PR 3.1).

While it is our goal to have a park within 1/2 mile (10-minute walk) of all residences, this does not mean that the service area of neighborhood parks is limited to this radius. Since they each have unique amenities, residents travel throughout the City to experience a variety of them, with 56% of our 2021 random sample survey respondents saying they were “very” or “somewhat” likely to travel across town to a neighborhood park. The service area for neighborhood parks is thus the entire City and its Urban Growth Area.



Friendly Grove Park had a playground upgrade in 2020.



Neighborhood Park Level of Service Standard

Currently, 64% of the land area of the City and its Urban Growth Area is within walking distance to a park (see [Map 5.1](#)). To provide a neighborhood park within walking distance to most residences, four additional sites need to be acquired. One is in Northwest Olympia, one in Southwest Olympia, one in Northeast Olympia and one in Southeast Olympia ([see Map 6.1](#)).

We don't anticipate being able to develop all neighborhood parks within the next 20 years, so this plan proposes fully developing five neighborhood parks by 2041 and partially developing two neighborhood parks. When all neighborhood parks are eventually developed, Olympia will have 102.6 acres of developed neighborhood parks (see Figure 5.2) if each one is about two acres. With a projected population of 85,100 in 2041, the Level of Service standard for neighborhood parks is therefore 1.21 acres per 1,000 population. This is a slight increase from the Level of Service standard of 1.09 acres per 1,000 population in the 2016 Parks, Arts and Recreation Plan.



Kettle View Park serves Southeast Olympia.



Figure 5.2 - Neighborhood Park Acres

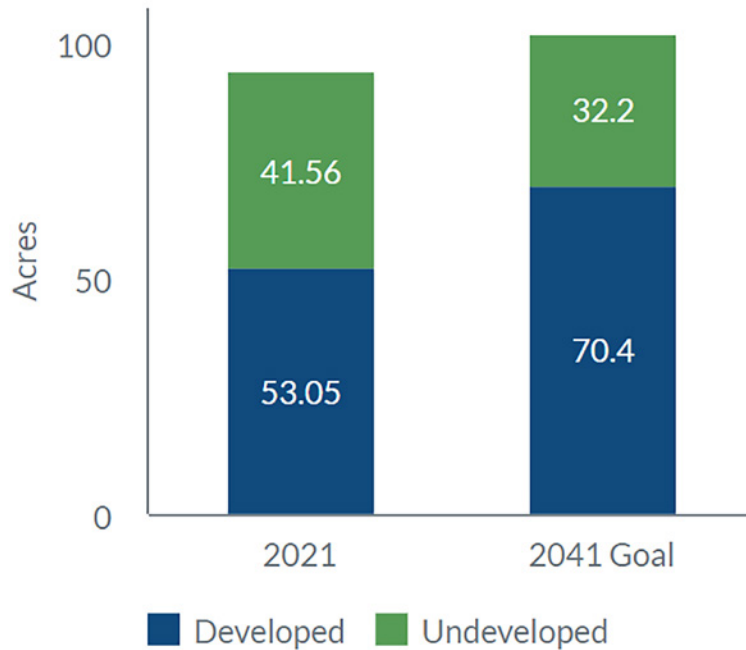
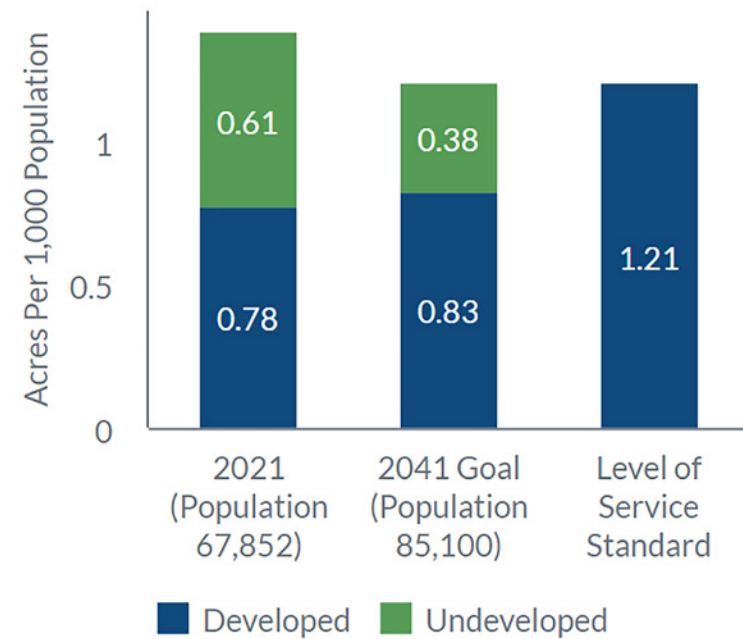


Figure 5.3 - Neighborhood Park Existing Ratios and Level of Service Standard

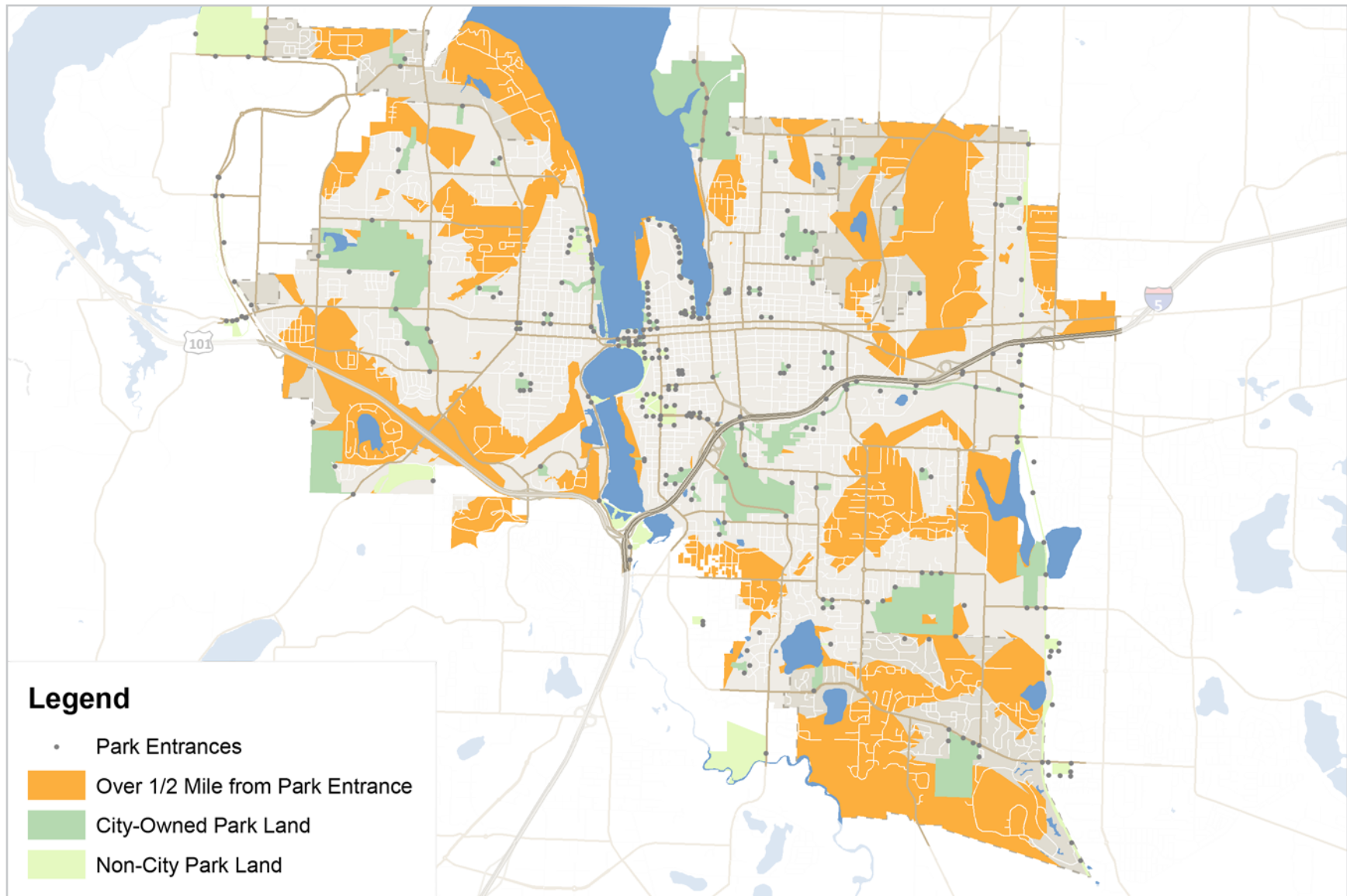


Measuring Progress towards Meeting the Neighborhood Park Level of Service Standard

Acquiring four new combination neighborhood parks/open spaces will meet our goal of having a park within walking distance to most residents. Once all neighborhood parks are developed, Olympia will have reached the desired Neighborhood Park Level of Service Standard. The proposed development of five neighborhood parks during the plan’s 20-year planning horizon will result in a developed park ratio slightly higher in 2041 than in 2021, keeping us slightly ahead of current pace with population growth (Figure 5.3).



Map 5.1 - Park and Open Space Needed





Community Parks

Community Park Existing Ratio

There are currently 19 City-owned community parks in Olympia, totaling over 185 acres. A full definition can be found on [page 31](#). An additional ten sites (50 acres) owned by other jurisdictions within Olympia share “community park” recreational qualities and are included in the Level of Service calculations (see Figure 5.4, 5.5 and [5.7](#)). Of this acreage, there are 148 developed acres of existing community parks.

The 2021 population of Olympia and its Urban Growth Area is estimated at 67,852.³ **The existing ratio in 2021 of developed community parks is 2.18 acres per 1,000 population.** OPARD also coordinates community recreational use of Olympia 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.

³Thurston Regional Planning Council: Small Area Population Estimates and Population and Employment Forecast (2018 Update)

Figure 5.4 - Existing Community Parks (CP)

PARK NAME	TOTAL ACRES	% DEVELOPED	DEVELOPED ACRES	PARK NAME	TOTAL ACRES	% DEVELOPED	DEVELOPED ACRES
Chambers Lake Parcel (CP Portion)	7.29	0%	0.00	Yauger (CP Portion)	28.17	100%	28.17
East Bay Viewpoint	0.10	100%	0.10	Yelm Highway Parcel (CP Portion)	64.55	0%	0.00
Easy Bay Waterfront	1.86	100%	1.86	TOTAL CITY OWNED CP	185.52		97.95
Harrison Avenue Parcel (CP Portion)	6.00	0%	0.00	Other Jurisdictions within Olympia			
Heritage Park Fountain	1.33	100%	1.33	Capitol Campus	25.67	100%	25.67
Isthmus Parcel	2.34	50%	1.17	Capital Gateway Park	0.61	100%	0.61
LBA (CP Portion)	20.61	100%	20.61	Centennial Park	0.84	100%	0.84
Madison Scenic	2.21	100%	2.21	East Bay Plaza	1.07	100%	1.07
The Olympia Center	1.30	100%	1.30	Heritage Park	14.66	100%	14.66
Park of the Seven Oars	0.90	100%	0.90	Marathon Park	2.90	100%	2.90
Percival Landing	3.38	100%	3.38	Port Plaza	1.37	100%	1.37
Priest Point (CP Portion)	25.00	100%	25.00	Sylvester Park	1.57	100%	1.57
Rebecca Howard Park	0.34	50%	0.17	Ward Lake Fishing Access	0.65	100%	0.65
Stevens Field (CP Portion)	5.84	100%	5.84	West Central Park	0.50	100%	0.50
Ward Lake (CP Portion)	7.14	25%	1.79	TOTAL OTHER JURISDICTIONS CP	49.84		49.84
West Bay (CP Portion)	6.42	53%	3.38	TOTAL COMMUNITY PARK	235.32		147.79
Yashiro Japanese Garden	0.74	100%	0.74	ACREAGE IN OLYMPIA			



Community Park Demand Analysis

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

Our Department facilitates field use for youth and adult sports in Olympia on our own fields and on school district fields. Current fields utilized for sports like soccer, football, rugby and lacrosse range from full-size, dedicated soccer/football fields at middle and high schools to outfields of baseball fields. There are NO dedicated rectangular fields in any Olympia parks (See [Figure 5.5](#)).

Currently, practice field space is difficult to come by and doesn't meet the current demand. 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 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." The primary youth soccer association in our City, Olympia United, has slowed the marketing of their programs as they know they cannot realistically accommodate more players or teams until the field inventory increases. Limited field space also makes it challenging to program other emerging and/or growing sports like ultimate Frisbee, lacrosse and rugby.

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.

To meet the current demand for rectangular fields in Olympia and provide for a quality playing experience, four dedicated rectangular fields need to be developed. Ideally these four fields would be clustered together, which would allow for small tournaments, easier maintenance and more efficient lighting. Adding these fields would require approximately 25 community park acres. It is highly likely that four more fields will need to be added over the next 20 years, for a total of eight new fields in this planning horizon. Coordinated development of fields with schools or housing developments could result in efficiencies for the City and its partners.

Softball/Baseball Diamonds

Including both parks and school district fields managed by our Department, Olympia has 34 youth baseball fields, two full-sized baseball fields, and four adult softball fields. Peak use of softball/baseball diamonds occurred between 1992-2002. At that time, it was typical that all inventory at Yauger Park, LBA Park and Stevens Field was scheduled at maximum capacity Monday through Friday evenings. Due to the increase of competitive level complexes around western Washington, tournament frequency and sizes have declined across the state. The addition of three



baseball/softball fields at Lacey’s Rainier Vista Park in 2004 and four lighted, synthetic infield diamonds at the Regional Athletic Complex in 2008 created a reduction in use of Olympia’s fields.

More recently, in 2019 a total of 2,030 combined league and tournament games were hosted on City of Olympia fields, up from 900 games in 2012. There were 17 individual tournaments hosted in 2019, up from 12 in 2015. The current inventory of softball/baseball fields will likely be surpassed by community need during the next twenty years. The popularity of these sports is expected to remain steady, but population growth will naturally apply pressure on our resources. The City is also aware that eight fields currently used by local baseball organizations may be converted to other use during this six-year planning horizon. These fields, located on Port of Olympia property in Tumwater, serve youth baseball teams from Tumwater, Lacey and Olympia. A loss of eight fields would be a significant shock to the system and should be monitored closely.

In addition, to remain in good condition and meet modern user expectations, there will need to be continued upgrades made to these parks. Examples include installing synthetic turf infields, replacing lighting, backstops and fencing, and improving accessibility.

Other Community Park Amenity Demand

In addition to athletic fields, community parks can provide special, community-wide amenities such as off-leash dog areas, off-road bicycling, 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, community garden, jogging trail, and Dirt Works Demonstration Garden in addition to the athletic fields. Initial concepts for the Yelm Highway Community Park include an off-leash dog area, a community garden, a skate park, nature trails, picnic shelters, playgrounds, a sprayground, a running loop, a climbing structure, pickleball courts, full-sized basketball courts, and a bike skills course. These amenities address many of the recreation needs expressed by the public in the recent random sample survey.

Figure 5.5 - Existing Athletic Field Oriented Community Park Inventory

PARK NAME	ACRES	DEDICATED BALL DIAMONDS	DEDICATED RECTANGULAR FIELDS
Yauger	28.17	4	0*
LBA	20.61	6	0
Stevens Field	5.84	2 (synthetic)	0
Yelm Highway	63.01	0	0
TOTAL	117.63	12	0

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



Community Park Level of Service Standard

The Community Park Level of Service standard was determined in the 2010 and 2016 Parks, Arts and Recreation Plans to be 3.00 acres of developed community parks per 1,000 population. This remains the proposed Community Park Level of Service standard for this plan (Figure 5.7).

Measuring Progress towards Meeting the Community Park Level of Service Standard

This plan calls for 20 acres of community park acquisition and 52 acres of community park development during its 20-year planning horizon. This will result in a ratio of developed community parks to population of 2.35 acres/1,000, slightly higher than the current ratio of 2.18 acres/1,000 (Figure 5.7).

Figure 5.6 - Community Park Acres

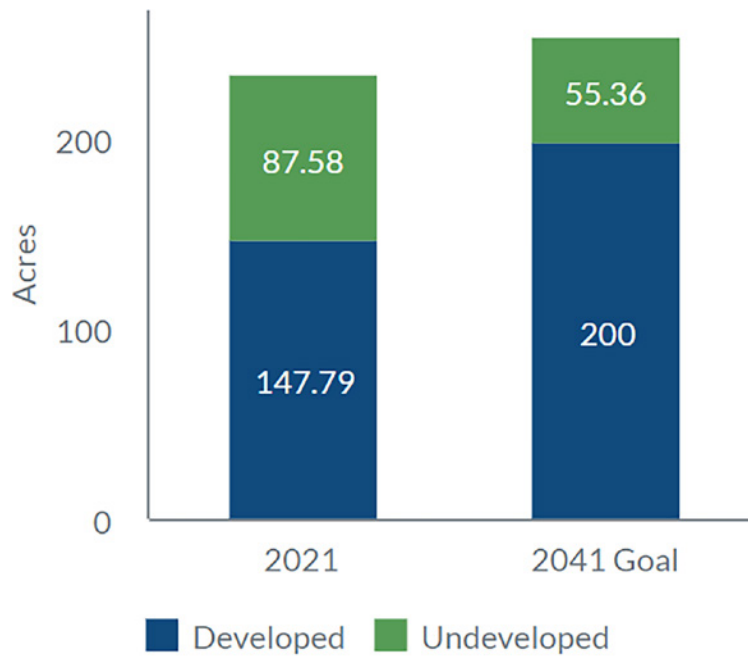
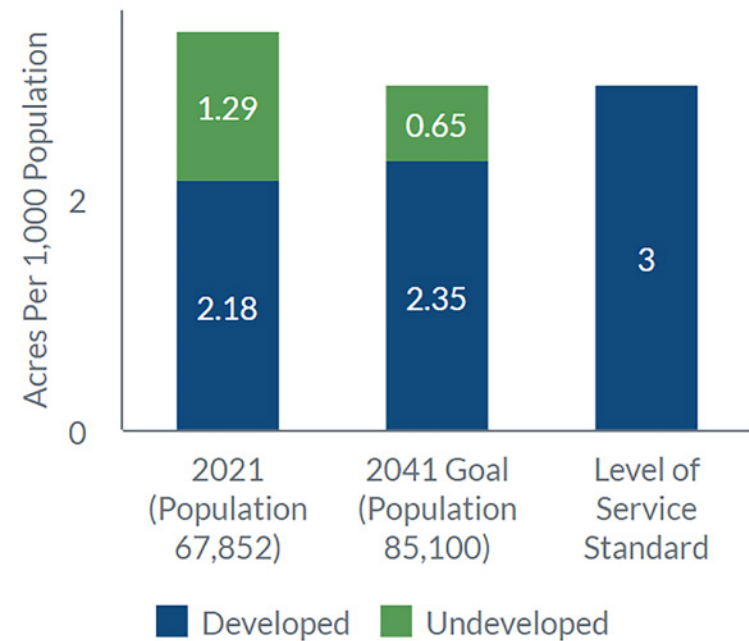


Figure 5.7 - Community Park Existing Ratios and Level of Service Standard





Open Space Parks

Open Space Park Existing Ratio

There are currently 26 City-owned open space parks in Olympia, totaling 1,093 acres. A full definition can be found on [page 31](#). An additional eight sites and 342 acres owned by other jurisdictions within Olympia share “open space” qualities and are included in the Level of Service standard calculation (see [Figure 5.8](#) and [Figure 5.9](#)). This represents a total of 1,434 acres. Of these, 1,191 acres are considered “developed.” Since some of the main functions of open space are its habitat, visual and environmental values, even without trail development, these parks are considered at least 50% “developed.” Open space is considered 100% “developed” if it was acquired solely for these functions. The 2021 population of Olympia and its Urban Growth Area is estimated at 67,852. **The existing ratio in 2021 of developed open space parks is 17.55 acres per 1,000 population.**



Harrison Avenue Parcel will serve as an Open Space and Trail Connection to Grass Lake Nature Park.



Figure 5.8 - Existing Open Space Parks (OS)

PARK NAME	TOTAL ACRES	% DEVELOPED	DEVELOPED ACRES	PARK NAME	TOTAL ACRES	% DEVELOPED	DEVELOPED ACRES
28th Avenue (OS Portion)	3.08	50%	1.54	Trillium	4.53	100%	4.53
Bigelow Springs	1.30	100%	1.30	Watershed	153.03	100%	153.03
Chambers Lake Parcel (OS Portion)	37.80	50%	18.90	West Bay (OS Portion)	8.62	28%	2.40
Cooper Crest	13.37	100%	13.37	West Bay Woods	2.75	50%	1.38
Edison Street Parcel (OS Portion)	3.02	50%	1.51	Wildwood Glen Parcel	2.38	50%	1.19
Friendly Grove (OS Portion)	9.69	100%	9.69	Yauger (OS Portion)	9.60	50%	4.80
Garfield Nature Trail	7.41	100%	7.41	Yelm Highway Parcel (OS Portion)	20.00	50%	10.00
Grass Lake (OS Portion)	193.24	50%	96.62	CITY OF OLYMPIA TOTAL	1092.58		849.35
Harrison Avenue Parcel (OS Portion)	18.00	50%	9.00	<i>Other Jurisdictions within Olympia</i>			
Yew Avenue Parcel	2.98	50%	1.49	<i>Billy Frank Jr. Trail</i>	<i>4.43</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>4.43</i>
Kaiser Road Parcel (OS Portion)	8.00	50%	4.00	<i>Black Lake Meadows</i>	<i>43.80</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>43.80</i>
Kaiser Woods Parcel	70.19	50%	35.10	<i>Chambers Lake Access</i>	<i>2.70</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>2.70</i>
LBA (OS Portion)	131.13	75%	98.35	<i>Chehalis Western Trail</i>	<i>64.50</i>	<i>10%</i>	<i>64.50</i>
Mission Creek (OS Portion)	34.83	100%	34.83	<i>Evegreen State College Trail System</i>	<i>192.63</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>192.63</i>
Karen Fraser W.T. (Eastside to Chehalis W.T.)	31.20	100%	31.20	<i>Interpretive Park</i>	<i>17.79</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>17.79</i>
Karen Fraser W.T. (Adjacent Parcels)	35.82	50%	17.91	<i>I-5 Trail Corridor</i>	<i>5.44</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>5.44</i>
Priest Point (OS Portion)	286.50	100%	286.50	<i>West Bay Woods (Non-Profit Ownership)</i>	<i>10.29</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>10.29</i>
South Capitol Lots	0.92	100%	0.92	TOTAL OTHER JURISDICTIONS OPEN SPACE	341.58		341.58
Springwood Parcel	3.19	75%	2.39	TOTAL OPEN SPACE IN OLYMPIA	1434.16		1190.93



Open Space Park Demand Analysis

There is a strong demand for natural open space areas among Olympia residents. In the random sample survey conducted for this plan, when asked what their recreation needs were, “hiking trails,” “multi-use paved trails,” and “open space conservation areas” were three of the top five responses. When asked to prioritize potential park improvement projects, after addressing the maintenance backlog, the top responses were “construct more walking, hiking and biking trails” and “acquire natural open space such as forested, stream and wetland areas.” To this end, several trail development projects are proposed over the next twenty years. Also, OPARD will look for opportunities to acquire open spaces, potentially with partners if pursuing acquisitions outside City limits and UGA boundaries.

Open Space Park Level of Service Standard

The Open Space Park Level of Service standard was determined in the 2010 and 2016 Parks, Arts and Recreation Plans to be 11.19 acres of developed open space per 1,000 population. This remains the proposed Open Space Level of Service standard for this plan.

Measuring Progress towards Meeting the Open Space Park Level of Service Standard

Substantial population growth is projected during this plan’s 20-year horizon; 15 acres would need to be acquired annually over the next twenty years to maintain the existing ratio, which is likely unachievable due to a lack of availability of undeveloped land within the City and Urban Growth Area. However, recognizing that open space acquisition opportunities may arise, and that the public has a strong interest in open space parks, the plan calls for adding 12 acres to the inventory. This will result in a ratio of developed open space to population of 15.96 acres/1,000 in 2041, which is below today’s ratio of 17.55, but still substantially exceeds the Level of Service Standard of 11.19.

Figure 5.9 - Open Space Acres

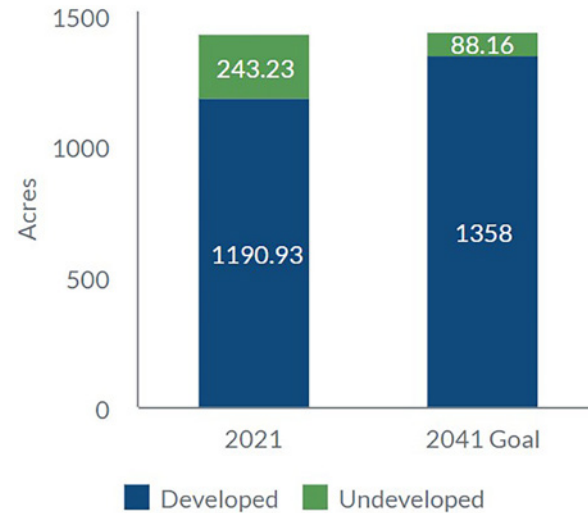
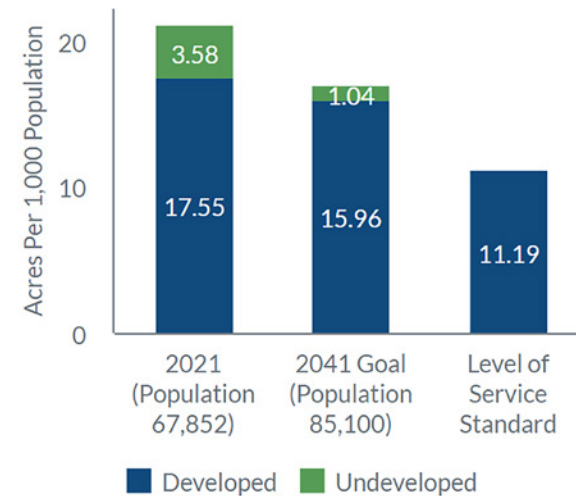


Figure 5.10 - Open Space Existing Ratios and Level of Service Standard





Chapter 6: Proposed Projects



One of several concept drawings for the lap pool area of a future Regional Aquatic Center.



Existing Parks and Open Spaces - Current Conditions & Proposed Projects

This section provides a brief overview of the general condition and major maintenance needs of each City park. We identify and prioritize major maintenance items annually as part of the Capital Asset Management Program (CAMP). We also identify proposed new capital projects or other actions for each park in this section and indicate when these actions are proposed for implementation in the plan's 20-year Capital Investment Strategy in [Chapter 7](#). Funding for both capital and major maintenance projects is requested annually through the Capital Facilities Plan (CFP) process. Please note that due to their unique nature and the opportunities they provide to our community, we have pulled our downtown parks into their own section within this chapter.

Neighborhood Parks

8th Avenue Park (3000 8th Ave NE)

This parcel was purchased in 2006 for a future neighborhood park. Soils in this four-acre undeveloped park are contaminated from past agricultural use. It is currently not open for public use at this time, however this park site ranks highly (5th) in terms of park need in the Equity Analysis for Future Park Development (Figure 6.2).

Proposed Action: Clean-up and park design is planned for 2027 with subsequent park development to follow in the [“Long Range Options \(2028-2041\).”](#)

18th Avenue Parcel (2803 18th Ave NE)

Purchased in 2021, this 5.98-acre parcel is in the Olympia Urban Growth Area and currently consists of open grass areas with scattered deciduous trees.

Proposed Action: This parcel was purchased for a future neighborhood park. No development planned during this planning period.

28th Avenue Parcel (2539 28th Ave NW)

This 5.08-acre parcel was purchased in 2019 and is undeveloped. It is mostly forested with conifers and generally slopes toward 28th Avenue NW.

Proposed Action: This parcel was purchased for a future neighborhood park. No development planned during this planning period.

Bigelow Park (1220 Bigelow Ave NE)

This 1.9-acre developed park is in fair condition. The playground was replaced in 2005 and is in good condition.

Proposed Action: No major capital projects planned at this time.

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. In 2020, the half-court basketball pavement and walking paths at the park were reconstructed due to tree root damage.

Proposed Action: This park ranked 7th in the Equity Analysis for Prioritization of Future Park Development ([Figure 6.2](#)) and is planned for full neighborhood park development in the [“Long Range Options \(2028-2041\).”](#)



Decatur Woods Park (1015 Decatur St. SW)

This 6.3-acre park was developed in 2004, and it is in good condition. The wood playground equipment is showing signs of age.

Proposed Action: The playground equipment and playground surfacing are planned to be replaced through CAMP in 2025. Inclusive play features will be considered for this location.

Edison Street Parcel (1400 Block Edison St. SE)

This park is 4.5-acres, of which three 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: This parcel was purchased for a future neighborhood park. No development planned during this planning period.

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 was further improved in 2021 with a one acre off-leash dog area and replacement of the crushed rock pathways with accessible, paved walking paths.

Proposed Action: A playground and restroom are planned for 2025 to complete this neighborhood park.

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. The tennis court was resurfaced in 2017 and the playground and playground surfacing were replaced in 2020.

Proposed Action: The plan identifies funding in 2026 for enhancements to the skate feature such as a cover or redesign.



Example of a recent playground installation at Margaret McKenny Park.



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 fair condition. The small shelter is serviceable but starting to show signs of age. In 2018 the roof was replaced, and the electrical lighting was upgraded to LED.

Proposed Action: No major capital projects planned at this time.

Kaiser Road Parcel (3135 31st Ave NW)

Purchased in 2019, this 10-acre parcel is in Olympia's Urban Growth Area. The site is undeveloped and contains a portion of a wetland in the southwest corner of the property. A mature conifer forest comprises the northern portion of the site.

Proposed Action: This parcel was purchased for a future neighborhood park. No development planned during this planning period.

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 drainage problems on the playfield. The Olympia United Soccer Club has expressed interest in working with OPARD to implement field improvements that would allow the field to be programmed for youth soccer.

Proposed Action: OPARD Engineering staff will develop a proposed drainage solution and cost estimates so the Department can assess if it's a viable project and if so, potential next steps.

Lilly Road Parcel (1100 Lilly Rd NE)

Purchased in 2018, this 4.89-acre parcel is undeveloped. The site is generally flat and consists of grassy areas and scattered trees.

Proposed Action: This site ranked as the site most in need of a neighborhood park according to the demographic metrics used in the 2021 undeveloped parks equity analysis (Figure 6.2). Development of this neighborhood park is planned for 2026, dependent on successful grant applications. Possible amenities could include a playground, restroom/shelter, half-court basketball, pickleball courts, and walking loop.

Lions Park (800 Wilson St. SE)

This four-acre developed park is in good condition. The playground was replaced in 2010, and in 2012 the shelter was replaced, as was the restroom roof. The tennis courts are in fair condition.

Proposed Action: A sprayground, as well as improvements to the parking area and on-street parking on Wilson Street, will be completed in 2022.



Draft concept drawing for the future Lions Park Sprayground.



Log Cabin Parcel (2220 Log Cabin Road SE)

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

Proposed Action: This park is planned for future neighborhood park development in the [“Long Range Options \(2028-2041\).”](#)

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. In 2018 a playground and asphalt pathways were installed. The park is in good condition.

Proposed Action: No major capital projects planned at this time.

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 fair condition.

Proposed Action: No major capital projects planned at this time.

Olympic Park (1300-block Olympic Dr. NE)

In 1925, this 0.6-acre, undeveloped area was dedicated as a park as part of a plat and currently has an alley running through it, with limited potential for use as a park. The City has made adjacent neighbors aware that we would be supportive of a neighborhood-led effort to re-plate the area to incorporate the property into their lots. To date, neighbors have not taken the City up on the offer.

Proposed Action: No major capital projects planned at this time.



Sunrise Park had a new playground installed in 2015.

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 good condition with a restroom that was built in 2010 and a playground installed in 2015. This site also hosts a community garden with 55 beds.

Proposed Action: Minor trail repairs using CAMP funds are planned for 2022.

Woodruff Park (1500 Harrison Ave NW)

This 2.5-acre developed park is in very good condition. In 2019, a sprayground and shelter were built, and the restrooms, parking and pathways received ADA upgrades. In 2020, two tennis courts were replaced and two were converted into four pickleball courts.

Proposed Action: No major capital projects planned at this time.



Community Parks

Harrison Avenue Parcel (3420 Harrison Ave NW) – contiguous with Grass Lake Nature Park

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 extent of wetlands and wetland buffers on the site halted pursuit of implementing this vision.

Proposed Action: 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 will be constructed in 2022. This multi-modal trail is a segment of the proposed Capitol-to-Capitol Trail and will allow for ADA access into Grass Lake Nature Park.



A new trail from Harrison Avenue will extend to Grass Lake Nature Park.

LBA Park & Woods (3500 Amhurst St. SE)

This park consists of a 22.6-acre developed athletic field-oriented community park that is in fair condition. In 2016, after overwhelming community support, a 73.89-acre wooded parcel was added to the park, and in 2017 an additional adjacent 59.00-acre wooded parcel was also purchased.

An access ramp and associated retaining wall was constructed in 2020 to provide ADA access to Field 3. Also in 2020, a trail improvement plan was developed with the community to inform new trail connections to the recently purchased LBA Woods properties and formalize and improve the existing informal user trails. Trail improvements are underway with Washington Trails Association staff-led volunteer trail work parties and will likely finish in 2022.

Proposed Action: Field #2 will undergo full renovation in 2023. Additional improvements and repairs to all the fields for drainage, irrigation and turf reconditioning are planned over the next six years, as well as replacement of the shelter.

Madison Scenic Park (1600 10th Ave SE)

This hillside park offers a place to walk, park benches to sit on, picnic areas, wildflowers and a great viewscape of Olympia, the Capitol building and the Black Hills beyond. 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: No major capital projects planned at this time.



Park of the Seven Oars (Olympic Way)

Inspiration for this public art installation comes from an 1890's Bigelow family photograph of seven women in a row, oars at attention, on the shell scattered shores of Priest Point Park. The oars have historical significance for both the native people and early settlers of the area. The weaving patterns on the benches and walls were made by members of the Chehalis Tribe. The 2011 reconstruction of the 4th Avenue bridge caused the 0.90-acre site to be moved to the water side of the street taking advantage of the expansive water views. Historic interpretation references the history of the 4th Avenue bridge, and early tribal use of the area.

Proposed Action: Maintaining the publicly shared water vista is an ongoing process, requiring periodic view protection maintenance of the landscaping. No major projects are planned.

Stevens Field (2300 Washington St. SE)

OPARD leases this 13-acre park from the Olympia School District. The park is in good condition. In 2017 a synthetic infield was added to Field #1 and the metal halide field lights were replaced with more energy efficient LED lights in 2018. Field #2 received a synthetic infield and new LED lights in 2021.

Proposed Action: No major capital projects planned at this time.

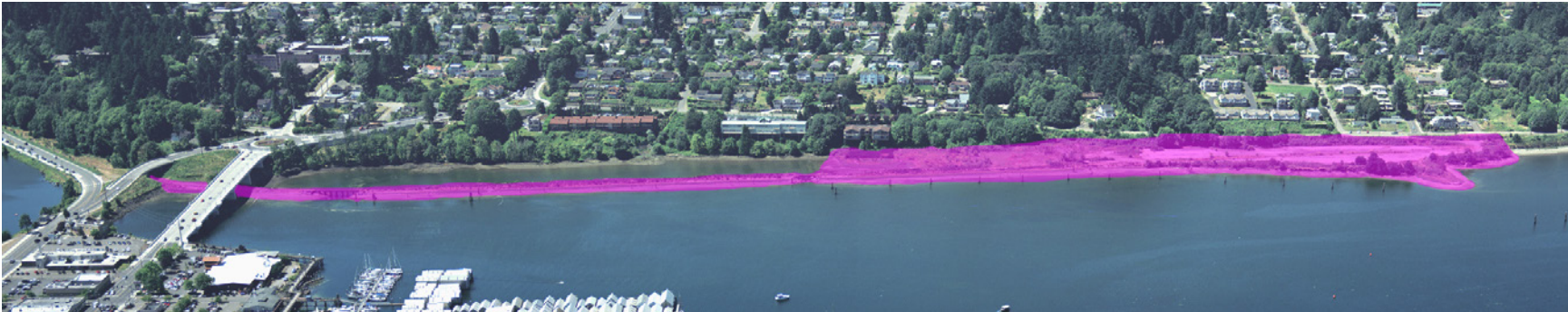


A new off-leash dog area was developed at Ward Lake Park in 2021.

Ward Lake Park (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 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. The site was minimally developed with a gravel parking area and perimeter fencing. In 2021, additional fencing was added to allow for off-leash dog use.

Proposed Action: The City will continue to explore options for future development of this park. Any future water access development will be costly and likely require additional funding measures and grants to construct.



Aerial view of West Bay Park.

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 two acres are classified as “neighborhood park.” 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. The City is continuing to develop environmental contamination clean-up plans on the site and has secured a matching grant from the Department of Ecology to do so.

West Bay trail is a proposed 1.5-mile trail corridor along the 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 owns the portion of the corridor from the 5th Avenue bridge through the northern portion of the park. (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 conducted a habitat and environmental restoration study of West Bay, which includes the park and trail area. The study provides guidance on shoreline restoration that could be incorporated into the next phase of park development. In 2018, the Department launched a planning process, in coordination with the Squaxin Island Tribe, to develop a master plan. The planning process was paused in 2019 due to uncertainties about trail locations and pending the results of the Capitol Lake/Deschutes Estuary decision. The technical studies and community input received during the planning process can be found in the resulting [Recreation, Trail and Restoration Report](#) (2019). The best available science on sea level rise will be used to design any future improvements to this park.

Proposed Action: This plan budgets funds for continued environmental contamination investigation and remediation in coordination with the Department of Ecology. Funds are also set aside to complete the park master plan in 2022 and Phase 2 design in 2025. Future development is identified as one of several High Priority Projects in the “Long Range Options (2028-2041)” and would necessitate grants and likely a funding measure.



Yashiro Japanese Garden (1010 Plum St. SE)

This 0.7-acre developed park is in fair condition due to soil drainage issues and deteriorating concrete and stucco walls. The koi pond needs repairs to the base of the pond. Maintenance staff continue to manage the poor drainage issues, outer wall, and pond, as time and resources allow.

Proposed Action: No major capital projects planned at this time.

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 was remodeled in 2016 and new LED lights were installed on Fields #2 and #3 in 2017.

Proposed Action: Design is almost complete and construction will occur in 2022 to rebuild the backstops, dugouts and pathways at the park. The project is already funded through CAMP and ADA program funds. The plan budgets CAMP funds for rehabilitation of the Alta Street parking lot in 2027. Also in 2027, the plan identifies Community Park funding for possible addition of adult exercise equipment, a basketball court, and potentially an additional small picnic shelter. In 2028 LED lights will be added to Fields #1 and #4, and scoreboards will be replaced at all four fields. Open Space funds are planned for a paved bicycle and pedestrian trail to connect the Grass Lake Trail at Harrison Avenue south through Yauger Park in the ["Long Range Options \(2028-2041\)."](#)

Yelm Highway Parcel (3535 Yelm Highway SE)

In 2000, OPARD purchased 3.24 acres at the southwest corner of Yelm Hwy and Wiggins Rd SE. In 2018 OPARD then purchased 83 acres to the west from the Zahn family for the purposes of an athletic field-oriented community park. OPARD launched a master planning process for the community park in 2019. The project was temporarily put on hold in 2020 due to the global pandemic and a request from the Olympia School District to co-locate a secondary school on the site. As of the writing of this plan, the City Council has not yet reached a decision as to whether to partner with the school district at the site. OPARD is moving forward with a Phase 1 design located in the southern section of the site that could be constructed with or without a school location on the property. Current uses on the site include a 7-acre lifetime estate for Mr. and Mrs. Zahn, and strawberry fields and a berry stand that is leased to Spooners Berry Farms. Preliminary concept designs for the future park include rectangular fields, playgrounds, walking loops, pickleball and basketball courts, skate park, off-leash dog area, community gardens, and associated support facilities.

Proposed Action: The plan budgets funds for completing the master plan and design drawings for Phase 1 improvements in 2022/23. Construction of Phase 1 is slated for 2024 and partially relies on successful grant funding from the State Recreation and Conservation Office.



Open Space Parks

Bigelow Springs (930 Bigelow Ave NE)

This 1.3-acre open space park 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 and in 2021 added two benches.

Proposed Action: No major capital projects 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 two acres of “Neighborhood Park” classification. Over 2,000 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. In 2018 and 2019 staff and volunteers planted native plants in the meadow area to improve habitat and reduce mowing.

Proposed Action: The Plan’s [“Long Range Options \(2028-2041\)”](#) section of the Capital Investment Strategy budgets funds for a first phase of park development to include a trail and small parking area.

Cooper Crest (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.

Proposed Action: No major capital projects planned at this time.

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 in fairly good condition, but some of the bridges and boardwalks are showing signs of age and the steep slopes create maintenance challenges.

Proposed Action: No major capital projects planned at this time.

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. It has no developed facilities and primitive, narrow soft-surface trails. The master plan was completed in 1997. A portion of the proposed 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: Permitting is underway and construction is planned in 2022 for the one-mile bicycle and pedestrian trail segment that will connect a parking area/trailhead on Kaiser Road to Harrison Avenue. A portion of the trail will cross a wetland on a pin-pile boardwalk. This trail constitutes the first segment of the planned Capitol-to-Capitol trail.



Kaiser Woods Parcel (4300 Park Drive SW)

The Department purchased 67.68 acres of this forested property west of Ken Lake in 2016 for a future open space park. In 2019 staff began a master planning process in coordination with Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance and the community to develop possible mountain bike and hiking trail concepts for the undeveloped park. Adjacent neighbors on Park Drive SW expressed concern that the only vehicle access to the park was from Park Drive.

The master planning process was put on hold to explore additional vehicle access points to the property and in 2020 OPARD purchased 2.51 acres of narrow property to the south of Kaiser Woods that provides access from Black Lake Blvd. The parcels contain an existing gravel logging road and were purchased from Manke Timber in conjunction with an easement to allow the timber company logging access on the road when needed.

Proposed Action: Completion of the master plan and preparation of design drawings and permitting will occur in 2022. Construction is planned for 2023.

Karen Fraser 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. The trail (formerly Olympia Woodland Trail) was renamed in 2017 to honor Senator Karen Fraser’s service to the community.

Karen Fraser Woodland Trail Phase 3 would extend the trail from the Eastside Street trailhead through 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. Route feasibility studies have been completed for both remaining phases. 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](#).)

In 2016 in a joint effort between Thurston County, Olympia and Lacey, the “Hub Junction” bicycle roundabout was constructed. The Hub is at the intersection of the Olympia Karen Fraser Woodland Trail, Lacey Karen Fraser Woodland Trail and Thurston County Chehalis-Western Trail. The area includes the roundabout itself, the information kiosk, a garbage can, benches/seating area, and signage.

From 2017 to 2020 OPARD acquired several wooded, undeveloped parcels adjacent to the Woodland Trail either through donation, purchase, or tax sale from Thurston County. In total 24.11 acres were acquired. These forested properties contain steep topography and provide a nature experience along the trail for trail users.

Proposed Action: This plan identifies Phase 3 & 4 construction as High Priority Project in the [“Long Range Options \(2028-2041\)”](#) and would likely necessitate grants and/or a funding measure to implement.



Mission Creek Nature Park (1700 San Francisco Ave NE)

In this 36.8-acre park, 32.8 acres are classified as “open space” and four acres as “neighborhood park” classification. The park contains a large portion of the significant wetland complex near 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. Restoration and habitat improvements are ongoing with volunteers and staff.

Proposed Action: No major capital projects planned at this time.

Priest Point Park (2600 East Bay Drive NE)

In this 314-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. The four picnic shelters and one restroom building are in very good condition. The playground, two of the restrooms, and the park maintenance headquarters have all reached the end of their design lives and need replacement or major renovation. The open space is in fair condition with some trails in need of repair. 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 funds are budgeted during the six-year planning period for trail repairs, remodel of the Carpenter Shop, assessment of the existing septic system, remodel of Restroom 3, and replacement of

the playground and playground surfacing. As part of the playground replacement in 2026, OPARD proposes to expand the existing playground footprint and replace equipment with inclusive playground equipment that serves all children. The Department will seek grants and local partnerships to help support this project. Also underway is work with the Squaxin Island Tribe to choose a name that better reflects its history and the importance of the land to the Coast Salish people.



An inclusive playground at Priest Point is planned for 2026.

Trillium Park (900 Governor Stevens Ave SE)

This scenic, forested ravine was protected through the efforts of the Governor Stevens Neighborhood Association and the generosity of landowners. In the late 1980's and early 1990's, property owners donated land to preserve this open space. This 4.5-acre developed open space is in good condition.

Proposed Action: No major capital projects planned at this time.



Volunteer Trail Restoration Work has been integral to the development of West Bay Woods.

Watershed Park (2500 Henderson Blvd SE)

In the late 1800's, wells were first established on the Watershed property and for decades it was the City's primary water source. The park's trail system provides one of the City's best walking experiences in a temperate rain forest canopy along Moxlie Creek. This 153-acre developed open space is in good condition, but many of the 20 wooden boardwalks and bridges are starting to show some signs of age.

Proposed Action: There are CAMP funds budgeted in 2022 for boardwalk and bridge replacements using more durable materials.

West Bay Woods (1200 Hays Ave NW)

In 2016 OPARD purchased a 1.14-acre parcel along the wooded slopes above West Bay Drive. In 2017 an adjacent 1.61-acre parcel was purchased and added to the open space area known as West Bay Woods. The Olympia Coalition for Ecosystem Services (OCEP) purchased the first parcels of West Bay Woods a few years prior to preserve an existing heron rookery. This community non-profit has since purchased multiple adjacent parcels along the same slope. OPARD also holds a conservation easement over one of the OCEP-owned properties.

In addition to habitat preservation, this area provides good opportunities for people to experience nature in their neighborhood and important trail connections for the northwest neighborhood down to West Bay Drive and West Bay Park. Parks Stewardship and OCEP regularly partner on volunteer stewardship events at the site.

Proposed Action: No major capital projects planned at this time.

Wildwood Glen Parcel (2600 Hillside Dr. SE)

This is a two-acre undeveloped open space.

Proposed Action: No major capital projects planned at this time



Olympia's Downtown Parks

Downtown is Olympia's center of economic and social activity. It is where residents and visitors go to eat, shop, be entertained, and play. It is also increasingly where more Olympians call home. Olympia's downtown park needs are unique from other neighborhoods, thus requiring their own analysis. This section will explore the existing downtown park inventory and analyze what additional parks and recreation amenities will be needed downtown in the next 20 years.

Demographics

In the past five years, downtown has added 850 new residential units representing an estimated 1,700 new downtown residents. There are now approximately 2,950 people living in downtown Olympia. Additionally, hundreds more downtown residential units are in the permit pipeline; Olympia appears well on its way to achieving the 5,000 new downtown residents by 2035 targeted in its Comprehensive Plan.

A recent market report on Olympia's downtown population conducted by the National Recreation and Park Association noted that the median age of residents downtown is 47. Approximately 7% of downtown residents are 19 or younger, 52% are 20-54, and 43% are over 55. Over 90% of downtown residents are renters.





Existing City-Managed Downtown Parks

Heritage Park Fountain (330 5th Ave SW)

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 in part 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.

The fountain is approximately 25 years old and is in fair condition. In 2016, the control system was replaced and in 2019 the water shooters were replaced. Several of the remaining mechanical components are reaching the end of their design life and will need to be replaced as they wear out. The crushed marble surfacing around the fountain perimeter is becoming increasingly challenging to maintain. Replacement marble material is no longer available and managing weeds that grow through the marble is difficult now that the Department has gone pesticide-free. The crushed marble is also frequently tracked into the fountain, causing damage to the mechanical system.

In 1995, the City purchased the both the neighboring GHB building and in 2007 the building where Little Da Nang restaurant was located, 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 will be considered in the planning process to re-vision Percival Landing.

Proposed Action: There is \$100,000 budgeted for a project to replace much of the crushed marble with turf in 2023 as part of OPARD's Capital Asset Management Program (CAMP).

Isthmus Park (505 & 529 4th Ave W)

In 2013, OPARD purchased the former County Health and Thurston County Housing Authority properties totaling 2.3 acres. The derelict buildings were demolished in 2015. In 2018, interim improvements were made to the park. The park is now home to Oly on Ice, Olympia's seasonal ice-skating rink from late fall through December. The park also hosts a seasonal pump track, a continuous loop of bumps and banked turns that you ride not by pedaling, but by "pumping." From mountain bikes to BMX's, kids' bikes, scooters and skateboards, a pump track is a playground for all ages and abilities.

The Isthmus Park occupies a high visibility, key location downtown. Thousands of vehicles pass by each day, it links Percival Landing with Heritage Park, and is adjacent to hundreds of new downtown residents. It is clearly a park with great unrealized potential and it has been a challenge finding additional seasonal activities to activate the space.

Proposed Action: The relationship of the Isthmus parcels with Percival Landing should be considered as part of the upcoming Percival Landing re-visioning process. The Olympia Downtown Strategy calls for an Isthmus Master Plan which would include the park property, as well as the larger Isthmus area, and help shape potential permanent park improvements.



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 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 approximately 5,000 feet of existing boardwalk, leaving over 4,000 feet of original wooden boardwalk remaining), the construction of the Harbor House restroom/multi-use space and extensive shoreline restoration. F-Dock and its associated gangway were replaced in 2015. A 2019 project replaced a 400-foot section of bulkhead along 4th Ave and Water Street with new steel sheet pile wall.

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 expensive as the structure ages. According to the Percival Landing Boardwalk and Docks 2020 Facility Condition Assessment Report, near-term repairs that should be completed in two to five years are estimated to cost approximately \$3 million.

The bulk of costs for the near-term repairs are the replacement of the D and E floats. These floats provide an opportunity for guest moorage, allowing boaters to spend the day in downtown Olympia. In recent years they have also been saddled with abandoned derelict vessels which has been costly and time-consuming for the Department to manage. A cost-benefit analysis of keeping or removing D and E floats should be performed prior to further investment.

Additionally, the findings of the 2019 Olympia Sea Level Response Plan have made it clear that a re-visioning of this area and the Percival Landing Master Plan to consider future sea rise are necessary before further significant investment occurs on the Landing.

A re-imagined Percival Landing integrated with a reengineered shoreline can play a crucial role in protecting downtown Olympia from sea level rise. This could also include an opportunity to allow for more community events and tourism, improve water quality and shoreline habitat in Budd Inlet and strengthen Olympia’s connection to the marine environment.

Proposed Action: This plan budgets \$10,000 for annual inspections and \$50,000 for a more in-depth structural inspection every five years. In December 2021, boardwalk and structural repairs on the Landing will be completed. In 2022, funds are available for a Percival Landing Re-visioning project to revisit the Landing’s master plan in light of new information regarding the effect of sea level rise on the Landing. Future phases of reconstruction of Percival Landing are beyond current resources and will likely require new and substantial funding sources.



Percival Landing Park is due for re-visioning to adapt to the impacts of future sea level rise.

East Bay Waterfront Park (313 East Bay Drive NE)

This two-acre park on the southern shoreline of East Bay offers scenic views of Swantown Marina and the Olympic Mountains. This park contains over 500 feet of Budd Inlet shoreline habitat and is leased to the City by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources. The wooden overlook structures at this 1.9-acre developed park reached the end of their design life and were removed in 2018. The park now consists of grassy areas with benches and scattered trees.

With spectacular waterfront views, East Bay Waterfront Park has unmet potential. Unfortunately, illegal activity has made this park feel unwelcome for much of the public. We will continue to monitor usage of the park and park rangers make daily visits to the park to address nuisance behaviors.

Proposed Action: This site is in good condition and no major improvements are planned.



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.



A Recreation Center Study is planned for 2026.

Proposed Action: A Recreation Center Study is planned for 2026 to determine options for future replacement/ renovation of The Olympia Center. The study could assess and analyze factors such as space usage and programming, parking and accessibility, and coordination with Senior Services for South Sound’s future needs. With population growth, options for an additional recreation center, dedicated senior center or smaller satellite type centers should also be analyzed.

The City of Olympia has partnered with Puget Sound Energy for a Community Solar Project at The Olympia Center. This project comes at no cost to the City and expands access to renewable energy by allowing income-eligible customers and their service providers in Olympia to participate in the growth of renewable energy at no cost. Construction and implementation for this project is scheduled to be completed in 2022.



Rebecca Howard Park (911 Adams St SE)

This small, 0.34-acre park is in the southeast area of downtown, adjacent to the Olympia Timberland Library. The property, formerly known as The Commons at Fertile Ground, was purchased as a park in 2021. The property contains a single-family house and surrounding garden beds that were previously used by various non-profits. This parcel has frequently been the site of illegal activity including overnight camping, drinking and illegal drug use.

Although it is a small site, its proximity to the library creates a wonderful opportunity for a strong relationship between these two community spaces, with the park space hosting outdoor events programmed by the library and other organizations. Actively programming this space may help to curb illegal activity.

This is a newly acquired park with a developing vision. Current community discussions have focused on the site for a future park centered on peace and healing around race and equity. As our community addresses the issues of equity and social justice, a “Peace and Healing Park” has the potential for being a space for community gatherings and healing.

Proposed Action: Completion of a Master Plan for the park in 2022 with renovation of this downtown park planned for 2024.

Existing Downtown Parks Managed by Other Jurisdictions

In addition to the parks downtown managed by the City, there are several other downtown parks and park-like spaces managed by other jurisdictions that provide recreation amenities:

Heritage Park

This 24-acre park encircling Capital Lake is owned and managed by the Washington State Department of Enterprise Services.

Sylvester Park

Sylvester Park is owned and managed by the Washington State Department of Enterprise Services. It is a 1.3-acre park with walking paths and a gazebo bandstand. The site hosts Music in the Park and other community gatherings.

East Bay Public Plaza

This 0.7-acre plaza in front of the Hands-On Children’s Museum is owned and managed by the Port of Olympia. OPARD is responsible for the opening, closing and cleaning of the restrooms during the summer season.

Port Plaza

This 1.2-acre plaza adjacent to Percival Landing is owned and managed by the Port of Olympia.

Several music and other events are programmed at the site during summer months.

Billy Frank Jr. Trail

This crushed rock trail, approximately one mile in length, follows the western edge of East Bay from Marine Drive to the NorthPoint viewing area on the northern tip of the Port Peninsula. It is owned and managed by the Port of Olympia. The Olympia Area Rowing/OPARD Boathouse is located along this trail.

Centennial Park

Centennial Park is a 0.8-acre wooded park on Union Avenue between Franklin St. and Washington St. It is home to a coastal redwood tree that is more than 100 years old and in 1988 was declared by the Washington State Legislature as “the tallest tree in Olympia.”



Downtown Parks Needs Analysis

As outlined above, Downtown Olympia is currently home to 11 parks, five of which are managed by the City, and six of which are managed by other jurisdictions. Downtown Olympia is also home to The Olympia Center. These parks total approximately 42 acres and provide the following amenities:

- Water play features (2)
- Grass play fields (2)
- Walking paths (approximately 3.5 miles)
- Playground
- Viewing tower
- Picnic tables
- Benches
- Performance spaces
- Guest boat moorage
- Ice skating rink (seasonal)
- Pump track (seasonal)
- Indoor gym and meeting/event spaces

Passive Recreation

Downtown serves as the center of the Olympia Waterfront Route, a proposed pedestrian/multi-use trail along the Olympia Waterfront that would connect West Bay, Percival Landing, the Port Peninsula and Priest Point Park. While parts of the Route are already in place (such as Percival Landing and the Billy Frank Jr. Trail), OPARD should work closely with Public Works Transportation and the Port of Olympia to strategize the completion, signage, and marketing of the Route.

Active Recreation

Apart from the Percival Landing playground, the two water features downtown, and seasonal amenities at Isthmus Park, there are few opportunities for active recreation downtown. While active recreation

amenities such as ballfields and even tennis courts are likely too space-intensive to be realistic downtown additions, others such as half-court basketball, pickleball, or table tennis can fit in a small footprint and should be considered. Even very small off-leash dog areas can fit into tight urban spaces as evidenced by the 1,000 square foot public off-leash dog area at Amazon’s headquarters in Seattle.

The following recreation amenities should be considered for downtown:

- Half-court basketball
- Pickleball
- Outdoor exercise equipment
- Table tennis
- Corn hole
- Off-leash dog run
- Soccer mini pitch (very small artificial turf or hard surface field surrounded by a rebound board system with integrated goals)



Amazon Headquarters Dog Park in Seattle.



This mix of activities would appeal to a range of ages and abilities, providing multiple opportunities for active recreation to downtown residents.

In an intensively developed park, these amenities can fit into a space one quarter-acre in size as illustrated in the following table:

Figure 6.1 - Potential Park Amenities

AMENITY	DIMENSIONS	ft. ²
Pickleball Court	30' x 60'	1,800
Soccer Mini-Pitch	33' x 50'	1,650
Half-Court Basketball	28' x 48'	1,344
Dog Run	20' x 50'	1,000
Exercise Equipment	20' x 20'	400
Cornhole	8' x 40'	320
Table Tennis	12' x 20'	240
Total Amenities		6,754
Pathways, Seating @ 50%		3,377
Total Space Needed		10,131

While it might be possible to locate one or two of the smaller amenities listed above at an existing downtown park, most of these features would require the acquisition of a new downtown park one-quarter acre in size. A recent appraisal for a vacant lot downtown put the cost of vacant downtown property at \$50 per square foot. At this price, we estimate that a park large enough to accommodate the above amenities would cost at least \$500,000. The Olympia Downtown Strategy identifies the Southeast Downtown neighborhood (the area roughly bounded by Plum and Washington streets and 7th and 15th avenues) as the downtown area most in need of a park; ideally the new park would be in this area, but with a scarcity of downtown property available, other areas will also be considered.



Permanent Table Tennis is a great option for small parks.



A soccer mini-pitch can be placed in a small, downtown park.



New Neighborhood Park Land and Development

Four Neighborhood Park/Open Space Acquisitions

For there to be a park within ½ mile (10-minute walking distance) to most Olympia residents, four new combination neighborhood park/open spaces will need to be acquired. While the exact size and configuration will vary depending on land availability, the concept is that each site would be roughly five acres in size with two acres utilized for the active neighborhood park portion and three acres of forest or other natural area utilized as a passive open space. This is similar to Decatur Woods, Burri and Margaret McKenny 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 the six-year CFP for four combination neighborhood park/open space acquisitions.

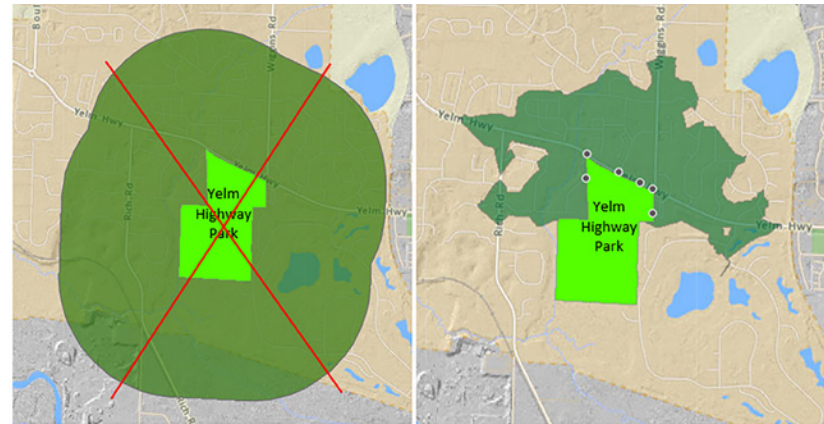
Seven Neighborhood Park Development Projects

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

Proposed Action: The Plan's Capital Investment Strategy (Figure 7.2) plans for either full or partial development at the 8th Avenue parcel, Burri Park, Chambers Lake parcel, Evergreen Park, Lilly Road parcel, Log Cabin Road parcel, and the neighborhood portion of Yelm Highway parcel within the 20-year planning window.

Equity Analysis for Prioritization of Future Park Development

For the first time, this plan is including an Equity Analysis as one method of determining which parks should take priority for development. We started by calculating park service areas, which are areas within a ½ mile along the streets and trails (residents can't walk through private property to reach a park).



No: ½ Mile "As the Crow Flies"

Yes: ½ Mile Using Street and Trail Network

We then looked at the demographic characteristics of the people who live within ½ mile of undeveloped or potential park entrances. Because we're a City with a small geographic area, we needed to use more general variables. The analysis looked at equity-associated demographic parameters, prioritizing serving lower income, non-white and Hispanic, older and younger residents, and those in multi-family housing since they are less likely to have their own yard space.



Using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) software, the Department developed a tool to assess and score needs and give equal weight to each of the four parameters (Poverty, Race, Age, Multi-family housing prevalence). Each potential park was given a score of 0-4 for each parameter. When the scores for each parameter were added together, a total score was derived for each service area (see Figure 6.2). The maximum possible score (equating to the area of highest need) was 16. If an undeveloped park's service area is already being served by a nearby developed park, then often the park ranks lower on the list for future development because residents already have a nearby (within ½ mile) developed park.

Figure 6.2 - Quintile Analysis

Using a quintile method to assess the service area characteristics, the following ranking of undeveloped parks was generated. The interactive map and methodology are available at bit.ly/undeveloped_parks.

UNDEVELOPED PARK	TOTAL SCORE
Lilly Rd Parcel	16
Evergreen	15.5
Yelm Highway	15
Rebecca Howard	12.5
8th Ave Parcel	12
Grass Lake	12
Burri	11.5
McGrath Woods	10
Mission Creek	8
Log Cabin Parcel	8
West Bay	7.5
Edison Parcel	7.5
Kaiser Rd Parcel	6
Ward Lake	5.5
Isthmus	0
28th Ave Parcel	0
18th Ave Parcel	0
Chambers Lake Parcel	0



Aerial view of future Yelm Highway Community Park site.



New Community Park Land and Development

Future Land Acquisition

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 to secure a purchase and sale agreement. In recognition of this, the plan includes a Land Acquisition fund. This fund is to be used 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 utilizes 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 to acquire additional park land property as opportunities arise.

New Community Park Development

To meet both existing and future athletic field needs, the plan calls for both upgrades and major maintenance to existing athletic fields and development of a new athletic field community park at the Yelm Highway Community Park site.

Proposed Action: The plan budgets CAMP funds annually over the next six years to address major maintenance needs at LBA and Yauger parks. The plan also budgets funds to complete the Yelm Highway Community Park Master Plan, prepare design documents for Phase 1 park development, and construct Phase 1 at Yelm Highway Park in the six-year planning period. Phase 1 is envisioned to include 1-2 rectangular fields, as well as supporting facilities and other active and passive recreational amenities. A Phase 2 park development is included in the plan’s [“Long Range Options \(2028-2041\).”](#)



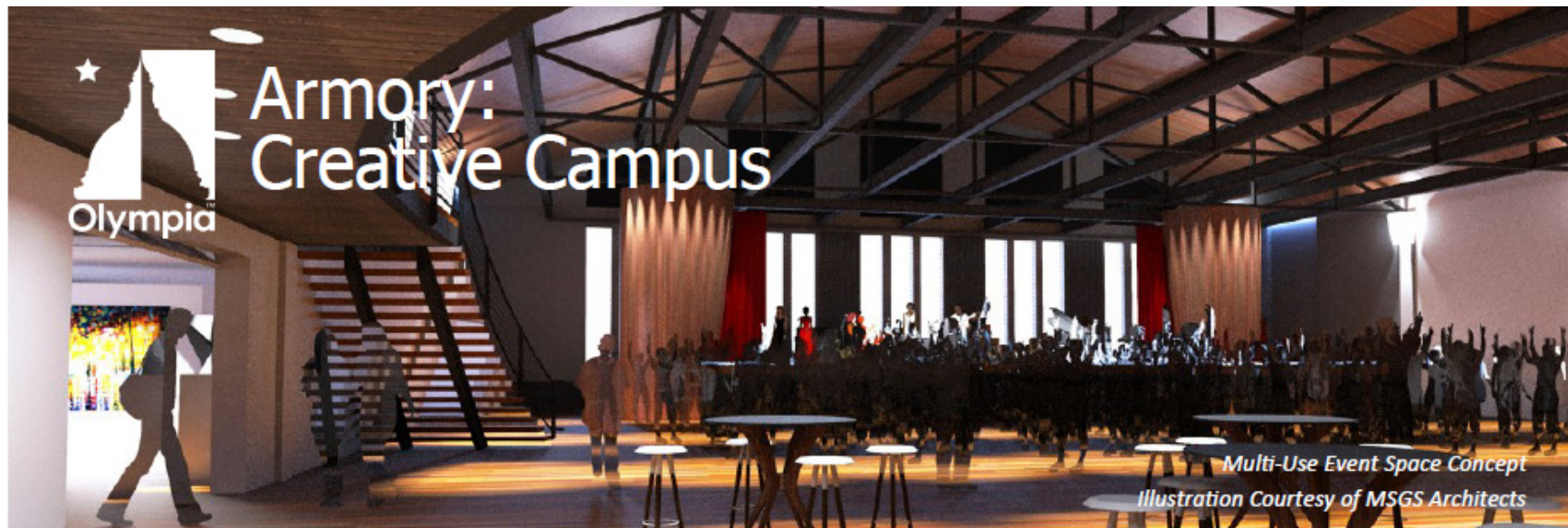
Armory Creative Campus

The need for an arts center first became evident in a 1989 Needs Assessment Study for the Olympia Arts Commission. Since that time, eight additional studies and City planning documents have identified this as a continuing community need with numerous annual requests for exhibition space, working studios, and rehearsal space, as well as requests for venues to gather, learn, and teach.

Olympia's Armory is a 50,000 square foot facility that the City of Olympia plans to use as a dedicated space for strengthening community building and economic development through the arts. The historic Art Moderne building, designed by Joseph Wohleb (1939) has been used by the National Guard since 1943 and is on the City's historic register. In 2021, the Military Department was directed

to transfer the Armory to the City of Olympia when they vacate the building in early 2022.

The location and timing of the opportunity are fortunate. Olympia was recently awarded one of the first certified Creative District designations by the state of Washington. The Armory is located adjacent to this new district and can serve as an anchor for this growing hub through creativity, innovation, affordable space to support artists, nonprofits, creative industry and entrepreneurs, and workforce housing. In addition, the Eastside Neighborhood has identified the Olympia Armory as a desired community center. The City has launched a process to develop a Conceptual Design and Business Plan, identifying community need and current and emerging strategies for the Armory to address community development through the arts in Olympia.



Multi-Use Event Space Concept for the Armory: Creative Campus.



The working vision of the Armory Creative Campus is to support the arts as integral to Olympia’s way of life; encourage community growth through creativity and innovation; use the arts to connect people, ideas, and place, while operating from an equity framework. This vision will continue to be shaped with the community’s evolving needs and hopes to guide it.

Proposed Action: The Plan’s Capital Investment Strategy identifies \$250,000 in 2022 for Armory design. From 2023 through 2041 the CIS annually sets aside \$250,000 that can be used toward debt service for Armory Phase 1 construction.

Recreation Center

The City of Olympia operates one community center, which was opened in 1987. The facility was developed to support community meeting and recreation needs, as well as to host the Olympia Senior Center and related activities. As with any community, population growth (Olympia has more than doubled in population since The Olympia Center was built) and service requirements have evolved (Senior Services for South Sound needs are expanding/active recreation space is difficult to find) and this facility, in current form and function, is challenged to meet today’s needs. Especially those needs of active Olympians. As The Olympia Center approaches 30 years of operation, planning efforts need to begin for major renovations or replacement of The Olympia Center. This could include a swimming pool, indoor athletic facilities and/or additional recreation amenities.

Proposed Action: The plan budgets \$200,000 in 2026 for this planning effort. The study could assess and analyze factors such as space usage and programming, parking and accessibility, and coordination with Senior Services for South Sound’s future needs. With population growth, options for satellite community centers should also be analyzed.

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. An Aquatics Center Feasibility Study was completed in 2021 to determine potential partners and preferred amenities.

Proposed Action: The plan budgets \$500,000 in 2024 to prepare design documents for an Aquatic Center. The Capital Investment Strategy identifies Aquatic Center construction as one of several projects in the “Long Range Options (2028-2041)” where projected costs exceed available funding.

Maintenance Facility Needs Assessment

Currently all Park Maintenance operations are based at the Priest Point Park maintenance facility and have grown since the last parks plan. Approximately 30 full time employees and 22 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, per the Maintenance Facility Needs Assessment. As the City adds new parks and facilities, the need for maintenance staff, equipment and materials will only increase.

Proposed Action: The Department is exploring options to create satellite facilities as part of new development. This would help alleviate some of the immediate need for space while the Department continues to work with Public Works on a co-location option at the City’s Maintenance Center.



Community Gardens/Agri-park

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. In 2007, OPARD opened its first community garden at Sunrise Park followed by a second community garden at Yauger Park in 2011. Recent interest in a possible Agri-park by some members of the community has spurred the inclusion of an Agri-park Feasibility Study in this plan.

Proposed Action: This plan budgets \$75,000 for an Agri-park Feasibility Study in 2022. Phase 1 development at Yelm Highway Community Park in 2024 could include a community garden as a complementary amenity to the other athletic field and community park features.



Sunrise Park was the first Community Garden in a City of Olympia park and sets the stage for future gardens and agri-parks.



Community Boating Center

Access to the water is a fundamental expectation for our community. This is especially true of saltwater access, as there are several publicly available locations to access the beach. However, there is limited public access to non-boat owners to actually experience being OUT on the water independently.

OPARD has partnered for several years with both the Olympia Yacht Club (for sailing classes) and Olympia Area Rowing (for Department-hosted kayaking programs). Neither of these sites provide a functional space that allows the public to rent a kayak, paddleboard or sailboat. A partnership forged between organizations such as the Olympia Yacht Club, Olympia Area Rowing, Supporters of Community Sailing, The Port of Olympia, and the City of Olympia could provide for a dynamic instructional and water access experience that would enhance equitable access for community members that desire to get out on the water but otherwise don't have the financial or storage means to do so.

Proposed Action: Stay involved in community conversations about a Community Boating Center that are underway with local organizations and The Port of Olympia.

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.

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. Adjacent neighbors complained of noise, odor, and lack of privacy. OPARD tried to mitigate the impact of the dog area on adjacent neighbors to the best of its ability. 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. In 2021, OPARD opened three off-leash dog areas of varying sizes and in locations across the City (Ward Lake Park, Evergreen Park and adjacent to McLane Elementary School).

Proposed Action: An off-leash dog area is a use envisioned at the future Yelm Highway Community Park site and may be included in Phase 1 park development depending on grants and funding available. Funds are planned in 2027 to construct enhancements to the three dog parks based on lessons-learned after operating the facilities for a few years.

Off-Road Bicycle Park

Mountain biking has been one of the fastest growing sports nationally and regionally in recent years. Currently the Olympia park system does not include any designated mountain biking trails. Master Plan development is underway at Kaiser Woods Park and includes mountain bike trails, along with trails for hiking.

A small bicycle pump track was built at Yauger park in 2015, and a seasonal pump track was purchased in 2019 and installed at the Isthmus Park. While fun and good for learning, these small pump tracks do not provide the same experience as mountain bike trails.

Proposed Action: OPARD will solicit public feedback on a revised master plan concept for Kaiser Woods in 2022. This plan includes funding in 2022 and 2023 to complete design and fund construction.



Pickleball

Pickleball is a sport in which players use solid paddles to hit a perforated plastic ball, like a whiffle 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 like tennis, with a few modifications. It is rapidly growing in popularity and, according to *The Economist*, it is the fastest growing sport in the U.S. (Jan. 30, 2021 edition). In 2020, Olympia opened its first dedicated pickleball courts (four courts) at Woodruff Park. Pickleball lines are striped on tennis courts at Stevens Field and LBA Park.

Proposed Action: As parks are developed, dedicated Pickleball courts will be considered during the design process. This plan also budgets funds for a Phase 1 Athletic Field complex project at Yelm Highway Community Park in 2024. Pickleball courts are likely amenities for that project, as well as at a future neighborhood park at the Lilly Road parcel. Because of the numerous community requests for Pickleball lines on tennis courts, the Department will add painted lines on the remaining tennis courts in Olympia parks (as time and resources permit) to allow for both uses on courts. Court courtesy signage will also be developed to promote sharing and time limits on courts.

Skate Park

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 over 25 years old and while remodeled in 2018 and still used, is considered outdated by many in the skating community. 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: This plan also budgets funds for a Phase 1 Athletic Field complex project in 2024 at Yelm Highway Community Park. 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 physical disabilities or mobility challenges. Although all new facilities constructed are ADA-compliant, many of Olympia's parks and facilities were built before the ADA was passed in 1990. In 2017, OPARD commissioned an assessment of our park system to identify all ADA deficiencies in existing parks. The assessment is used to guide our capital investments in ADA upgrades annually.

Proposed Action: Annually OPARD dedicates \$200,000 toward addressing deficiencies identified in the 2017 ADA Assessment. It will take approximately 16 years to correct all the deficiencies. This work supports the Department’s Equity, Inclusion and Belonging initiative.

Restrooms

Restrooms ranked as a high priority park amenity in this plan’s random sample survey. Many of Olympia’s parks already have restroom facilities, but for those that do not, we will look to add a restroom when future park upgrades are scheduled. Restrooms will be added to new park developments when at all feasible.

Proposed Action: Opportunities to add restrooms to existing parks and new park developments will be explored as park projects are developed.



Olympia's skate community is eager for upgrades.



New Open Space/Trail Land and Development

Neighborhood Park/Open Space Sites

The 2010 Parks, Arts and Recreation Plan put forward a goal of having all residences within ½ mile (10-minute walking distance) of a neighborhood park. With the strong value that Olympians put on open space, the 2016 plan expanded that goal to ideally 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 within a 1/2 mile to either a neighborhood park or an open space (see Map 6.1). Through this analysis it was determined that four additional combination neighborhood park/open space sites were needed to achieve this goal.

Proposed Action: This plan budgets \$1.7 million in the six-year CFP to purchase four combination neighborhood park/open space sites. Ideally these sites would contain area conducive to both active and passive recreation, similar to Margaret McKenny and Decatur Woods parks. In addition to land acquisition, the plan includes development of several parks that include open space areas, such as the Lilly Road parcel, 8th Avenue parcel and Log Cabin Road parcel.

Land Acquisition Fund

The plan includes a Land Acquisition fund to be utilized for open space or community park acquisition opportunities when they arise.

Proposed Action: The plan budgets over \$2.6 million in the six-year CFP for general land acquisition purposes which could include community or open space parks. The Plan's ["Long Range Options \(2028-2041\)"](#) section of the Capital Investment Strategy budgets approximately \$1 million for park land acquisition.



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 and in many cases are also identified in the [Olympia Transportation Master Plan](#). 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 one-mile portion of this proposed trail corridor, which runs through Grass Lake Nature Park, will be constructed in 2022 and is discussed further on [p.94](#).

Chambers Lake Loop Trail

This is a three-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 two-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 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. Proposed actions related to segments of this waterfront route can be found in the West Bay Park and Percival Landing sections of this plan.

Karen Fraser Woodland Trail

Phases I & II of the Karen Fraser Woodland Trail are complete, and Phases III & IV remain to be completed. ([See page 95](#) 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 nonmotorized 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.93 for a detailed discussion of this trail corridor.)

Additional Trail Corridors

The following trails provide important linkages so are 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.

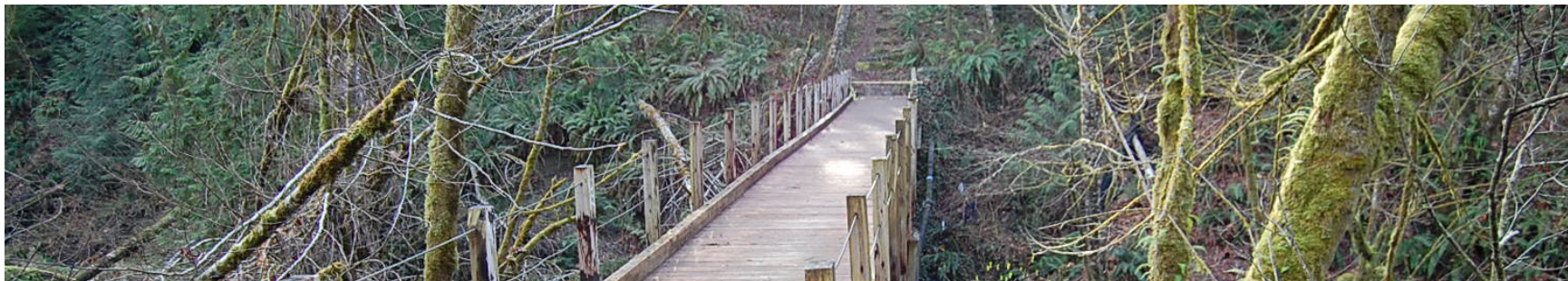
Woodard Creek Trail

This proposed two-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 provide a generally north-south trail through Yauger Park and Grass Lake Nature Park and then continue north to the Cooper Crest parcel. This trail is also identified in the [Olympia Transportation Master Plan](#).

Proposed Action: This plan identifies funding in the “[Long Range Options \(2028-2041\)](#)” to construct a portion of this trail from the Harrison Avenue Grass Lake trail terminus south to and through Yauger Park.





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 pathway connections to West Bay Park, Trillium Park, Decatur Woods Park and Karen Fraser Woodland Trail are complete.

Proposed Action: \$25,000 is budgeted annually to contribute towards the Neighborhood Pathways Program focusing on connections to parks and trails. The Department will also look for opportunities to pursue pathways to park land that increase the number of residences within a ½ mile (10-minute walk) to a park.

Natural Resource Management

As the land manager for over 1,000 acres of natural areas set aside as open space in the park system, OPARD devotes significant effort to manage these important habitat areas. OPARD has been working closely with the Environmental Services Division of the Public Works Water Resources 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 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. The Stewardship program will remain committed to providing habitat restoration volunteer opportunities. 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 6.1](#)) graphically represents Olympia’s existing and future park land. Some important notes about the map are:

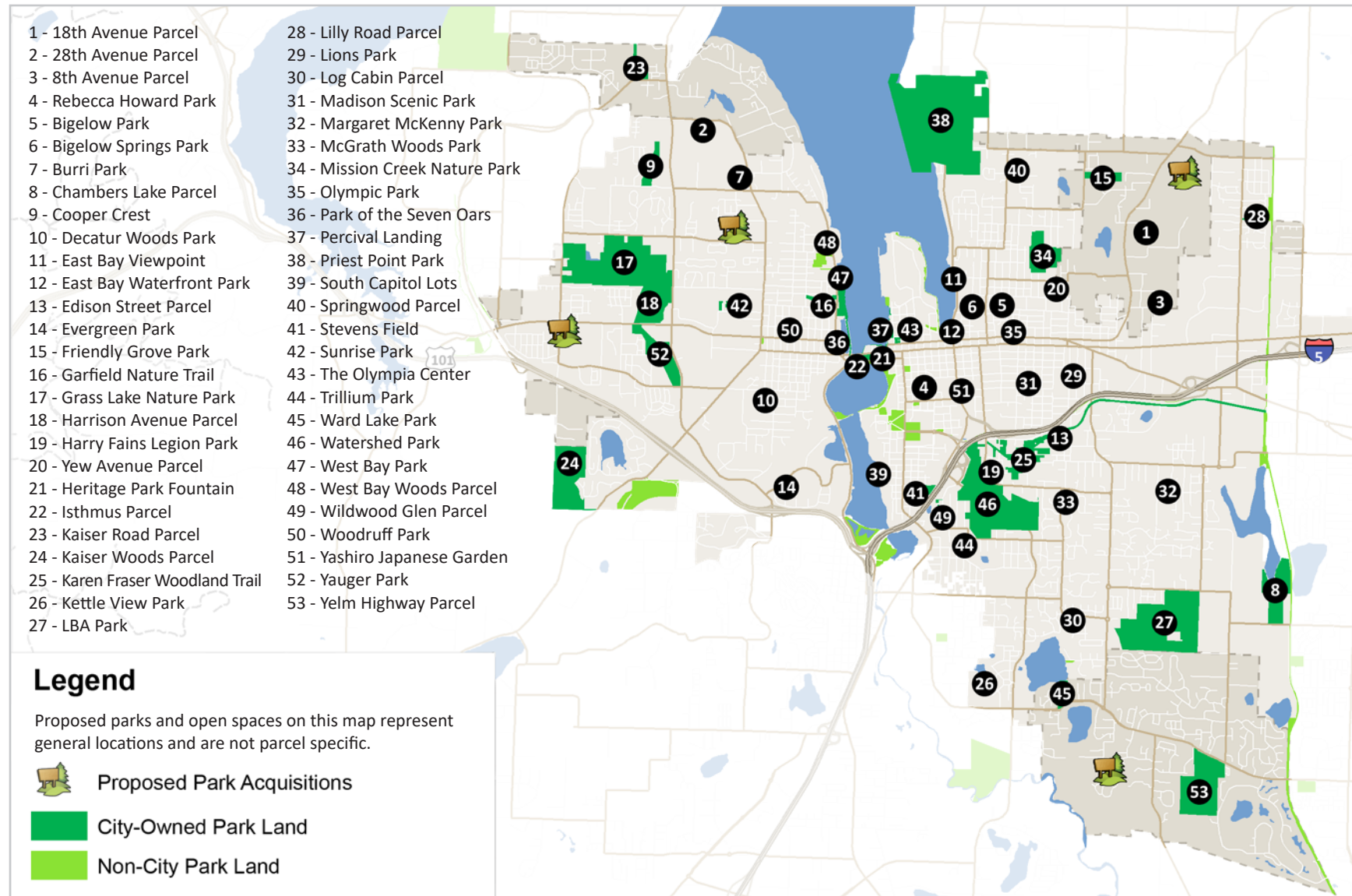
- The map shows proposed park and open space locations. The intent is to show generally where a park or open space should be located. The actual location will be determined based on land availability, acquisition cost, and the property owner’s willingness to sell.
- The location and arrangement of the parks are 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.



Our goal is to acquire four new 5-acre combination neighborhood/open space parks.



Map 6.1 - Existing and Proposed Parks and Open Spaces





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 at The Armory Creative Campus

City ownership and adaptive re-use of the Armory building provides the opportunity to engage our entire community around arts programming and space needs. Building on nine City planning initiatives, the working vision of the Armory Creative Campus has four key components:

Community Life

Create unifying community culture through shared arts and cultural experiences.

- Space for gatherings, traditions and events
- Arts classes and creative experiences for the whole community
- Preservation of historic building for sense of place and community continuity.

Operating from an Equity Framework

We operate from a social justice framework to work towards equity through accessibility and inclusion in partnership with community members.

- Bridge barriers to access—financial, geographic, cultural
- Adapt to emerging needs of underserved groups and individuals
- Provide affordable artist live/work space

Connecting People, Ideas, and Place

Art breathes life into the places we live, helps promote a sense of belonging, and encourages shared understandings between diverse people and ideas.

- Community led public art projects & initiatives
- Culture of belonging & inclusivity
- Growth through partnerships
- Hub for growth and Creative District cultural anchor

Growth through Creativity and Innovation

Create opportunities for individuals, organizations and the economy.

- Innovative programs in traditional & emerging forms
- Skill building, workforce development and access to specialized equipment
- Organization Incubator

Proposed Action: Currently, the Parks, Arts & Recreation Department is working with a consultant to launch a community-based process to develop a conceptual design and business plan to bring together community need, partners, programming and space within the Armory building. This phase also includes bringing the building up to code and is the first step to realize the full potential of the Armory Creative Campus within our community.



Climate Resilience and Other Environmental Initiatives

OPARD recognizes that as one of the largest land managers in the City, the Department has a responsibility to lead environmental initiatives. From programs to operations to design and developments, OPARD is committed to being environmentally responsible and incorporating climate resilience measures while providing recreational opportunities to the public. Staff throughout the Department actively seek ways to mitigate environmental impacts through innovative and collaborative processes. The following are examples of environmentally-focused initiatives that have recently been developed or are on the horizon:

Programs:

- Implemented criteria to receive membership to Bee City USA, a national organization that brings communities together to conserve native pollinators by providing healthy habitats.
- Partnering with local schools and non-profits like the Puget Sound Estuarium's "Meet at the Beach" summer program for environmental education programming.
- Participating on the City's internal

Climate Mitigation Team and Green Team.

Operations and Land Management:

- Developing a street tree planting and watering strategy with the City's Urban Forester to replant vacant tree wells.
- Replaced some vehicles and equipment with electric and will continue to do so when feasible.
- Expanded the Pesticide Free Parks Initiative to all parks.
- Pursuing further waste reduction strategies such as expanding recycling and composting where feasible.
- Instituted restoration and monitoring of areas disturbed by unauthorized use.
- Established nursery space for native plant cultivation.
- Exploring opportunities to expand water conservation practices that utilize technology and strategic plantings that require less watering.
- Identifying more opportunities to plant edible landscaping in parks.

Planning & Development:

- Developed a partnership with Public Works Environmental Services group

to collaboratively analyze, plan and implement riparian habitat restoration, enhancement and maintenance.

- Currently working on wildfire prevention strategies and best practices.
- Constructed spraygrounds with recirculating water systems.
- Acquired land for open space and habitat conservation.
- Incorporating Low Impact Development standards and practices for all new park development.
- Installed artwork with solar powered lighting.

Proposed Action: Climate change is impacting many aspects of parks operations and planning. From water consumption to more complex issues like forest ecology, planting zones migration, and habitat loss, these issues will need to be addressed through comprehensive strategies. OPARD will also be part of the City-wide Climate Mitigation efforts and continue to lead by example by embracing green technology and practices. The Department will also pursue LEED certification for future park development projects whenever feasible.



Equity, Inclusion and Belonging

In 2021 OPARD launched an Equity, Inclusion and Belonging Committee. The committee is comprised of staff from all aspects of the Department. Committee members will work collaboratively to evaluate current practices, identify needs, and develop performance measures around diversity, equity and inclusion.

New initiatives include:

- Development of a GIS-based equity analysis for prioritization of future park development.
- Building and strengthening community partnerships with organizations like Community Youth Services and Olympia School District’s Transitions Program that serve underrepresented segments of Olympia’s population.
- Training staff on implicit bias, anti-racism practices, and LGBTQ+ awareness.
- Participating in WRPA (state organization) Equity, Inclusion and Belonging Committee.
- Developing equity and inclusion goals and metrics for the Department.
- Pursuing sustainable recreation scholarship funding to serve lower income residents.
- Providing additional free environmental education events.
- Paid work-study program for individuals facing barriers to meeting criteria for seasonal positions.
- Installation of sensory gardens designed to enhance park visits for people experiencing disabilities

Proposed Action: OPARD will develop an Equity, Inclusion and Belonging plan within the next 3 years. In 10 years OPARD strives to be an industry leader in equity and inclusion where all people feel safe and are provided equitable access to engage in parks, arts and recreation services.

Accessibility & ADA

The accessibility work done by the Department is a facet of the new Equity, Inclusion and Belonging initiative started in 2021. Each year the Department invests \$200,000 in Capital Projects to address ADA deficiencies in the parks system. Some of the completed projects include paved pathways, restroom modifications, dugout alterations, accessible parking stalls, and inclusive play features.

To better serve the community, OPARD continues to strengthen partnerships with community groups like South Sound Parent to Parent and the Olympia School District. This provides valuable insights and opportunities to enrich the whole community. On the horizon, Park Stewardship is applying for a grant to install sensory gardens and make playground improvements. Parks is also working on a map of inclusive amenities and researching all-inclusive playgrounds. In 2025 we hope to redevelop the Priest Point Park playground to be all-inclusive.

Proposed Action: In 16 years OPARD strives to have fully implemented the ADA Transition Plan. Additionally, an all-inclusive playground is planned for development in 2026 at Priest Point Park. Other accessibility improvements may also be identified and developed through the Equity, Inclusion and Belonging initiative.



ADA Upgrades to Restroom #2 at Priest Point Park.



Chapter 7: Capital Facilities Plan

What is a Capital Facilities 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 Capital Investment Strategy (CIS) forecasts future new facilities and park lands needed to serve a growing Olympia community. In addition to new facilities, the CIS includes funding for major facility renovations that are identified through the Department’s Capital Asset Management Program (CAMP). The CIS forecasts park investments out through the year 2041, but projects from 2028 through 2041 are conceptual. Of critical importance is the role the CIS serves in guiding the annual Capital Facilities Plan, which in turn, becomes OPARD’s annual capital budget.

Each year, the City updates its Capital Facilities Plan (CFP). The CFP shows the projects we plan to build and the revenue we plan to spend. Revenue projections are updated annually, and the CIS Table (Figure 7.2) is consulted to build the annually updated CFP.



Draft ideas for potential park amenities at the future Lilly Road Park.



Funding Sources and Projections

The Capital Budget has five sources of funding in addition to grant opportunities. Each of the funding sources has parameters around how the money can be used. The following is an overview:

Park Impact Fees are one-time charges imposed on residential development activity to raise revenue for the construction or expansion of park facilities needed to serve new growth and development. As such, these funds cannot be used to address maintenance or existing deficiencies in our park system.

Park SEPA Mitigation Fees are similar in function and purpose to Park Impact Fees, but are assessed to new residential development in Olympia’s Urban Growth Area. The SEPA (State Environmental Policy Act) Mitigation Fee can only be assessed when a project is subject to SEPA, which is more than nine dwelling units in the Urban Growth Area. Projects with nine dwelling units or fewer do not pay a Park SEPA Mitigation Fee.

Voted Utility Tax from the Parks and Pathways Funding Measure that was passed by voters in 2004 to increase the tax on private utilities (telephone, electricity, natural gas) by 2% for park land acquisition, development and maintenance.

Non-voted Utility Tax is used for park land acquisition at 1% of utility taxes. This tax is set to sunset by 0.5% in 2025 and the remaining 0.5% in 2029.

Grants are an important part of our funding strategy. Biennially the Department applies for grants from the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office for acquisition and development projects. These are competitive grants and typically require at least at 50% local match. The Department has historically been very successful

and \$8.2 million in grant funds were obtained in the last six years. The Department on occasion also applies for local county grants, grants from non-profits/foundations and Federal grants when proposed projects and grant parameters are a good fit.

Olympia Metropolitan Park District (OMPD) was approved by Olympia voters in 2015, which initiated funding in 2017. The OMPD Board approves a budget and levies a property tax assessed to properties located within City limits. For 2021, the Board levied \$4.4 million in property taxes. The tax rate is approximately \$0.54 per \$1,000 of assessed value. A portion of OMPD revenues is used for capital projects (approximately \$1.9 million), with the remainder allocated to the operating budget.

What is the OMPD?

The OMPD is a voter-approved junior property taxing district with special taxing authority for the management, control, improvement, maintenance, and acquisition of parks, pathways, boulevards, recreational facilities, programs, and services. The OMPD includes the entire area within the municipal boundaries of the City of Olympia as they currently exist, as well as how they may exist as the result of future annexations. The OMPD is governed by the Olympia Metropolitan Park District Board consisting of the Olympia City Council serving in an ex-officio capacity.



Figure 7.1 - Funding Sources

FUNDING SOURCE	TYPICAL ANNUAL REVENUE	USE OF REVENUE
Grants	\$350,000-\$1M/biennially	Land acquisition and park development
Impact Fees	\$800,000	New park development and projects that add capacity to parks
Metropolitan Park District (property tax)	\$1,900,000	Major maintenance (CAMP), ADA upgrades, Percival Landing inspection/repairs, and new park development
Non-Voted Utility Tax	\$850,000	Land acquisition
SEPA Mitigation Fees	\$0-\$425,000	New park development and projects that add capacity to parks
Voted Utility Tax	\$1,700,000	Land acquisition and maintenance/development of acquired properties



Rose Garden Park Shelter at Priest Point Park.



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 ([Figure 7.2](#)). The first six years of the CIS table (2022-2027) is titled the “Capital Facilities Plan” and includes the year each project is anticipated to be funded. The remaining 14 years (2028-2041) is titled “Long Range Options.” Since the Parks, Arts and Recreation Plan is updated every six years, it is anticipated that the next plan (anticipated to be completed in 2028) 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 because it is the primary source of the Department’s operating budget and does not fund the capital budget.
- Each revenue stream is shown separately in the table in a slightly different shade of green.
- 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.

Highlights

The Capital Investment Strategy outlines a plan to accomplish many of the community’s requests and long-term goals. The following are a few highlights:

- Development of five neighborhood parks over the next twenty years
- Acquisition of four neighborhood park sites and community and open space parcels as available
- Armory design and debt service for development
- Yelm Highway Community Park Phase 1 construction
- Inclusive playground at Priest Point Park construction
- Rebecca Howard Park construction
- Aquatic Center design

Already Funded Projects

Several projects are underway and will be completed during this plan’s review period or later in 2022. These projects have already received funding and do not appear on the CIS Table for that reason:

- Grass Lake Nature Park Trail (Kaiser Rd to Harrison Ave) construction
- Lions Park Sprayground construction
- Kaiser Woods Park (trails and parking area) construction
- Percival Landing Master Plan Re-visioning
- Yelm Highway Community Park Master Plan
- Yauger Park field and ADA improvements



Unfunded Projects

Unfortunately, funding is not adequate to complete all of the projects requested by residents in this planning horizon. The following is a list of the fully or partially unfunded projects:

- Covered playground (as playgrounds are developed, opportunities to provide some cover will be explored)
- Ropes course/canopy zip line
- Madison Scenic Park small performance platform and hillside slide
- Karen Fraser Woodland Trail Phase 4 (Henderson Blvd to Capitol Lake) construction
- Aquatic Center construction
- West Bay Park, restoration and trail construction
- Percival Landing Phase 2 construction
- Parks maintenance facility
- Development of nine neighborhood parks

The Department will look for grants and partnership opportunities that may make these projects feasible in the future. For large-scale projects such as Percival Landing, Karen Fraser Woodland Trail Phase 4, West Bay and an Aquatic Center, a funding measure may be needed.



A Regional Aquatic Center Feasibility Study was completed in 2021 (draft concept plan pictured).



Figure 7.2 - Parks Arts and Recreation Plan Capital Investment Strategy (2022-2041)

6 Year Capital Facilities Plan (2022-2027)

2% Voted Utility Tax	Fund Balance	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Revenue	982,000	1,766,274	1,782,895	1,799,787	1,816,955	1,834,404	1,852,141	11,834,456
Debt Payment - \$16M Bond (2020)		(1,012,513)	(1,005,263)	(1,007,013)	(1,012,263)	(1,005,763)	(1,008,013)	(6,050,825)
Land Acquisition		(700,000)	(500,000)					
Maintenance Staff for new land & projects			(300,000)	(500,000)	(700,000)	(700,000)	(700,000)	(2,900,000)
Off-Street Walking Connection Program		(25,000)	(25,000)	(25,000)	(25,000)	(25,000)	(25,000)	(150,000)
Evergreen Park Playground and Restroom					(700,000)			(700,000)
8th Avenue Parcel Clean-up and Park Design							(750,000)	(750,000)
Running Balance	982,000	1,010,762	963,394	1,231,169	610,861	714,503	83,631	
Est. Revenue from Potential SE Annexation				251,459	251,459	251,459	251,459	1,005,836
Neighborhood Park Development							(1,000,000)	
Running Balance of Annexation Funds	0	0	0	251,459	502,918	754,377	5,836	

Non-Voted Utility Tax	Fund Balance	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Non VUT (1/2%) Revenue		421,426	425,629	429,899	434,239	438,649	443,131	2,592,971
Non VUT (1/2%) Revenue or year-end funds		421,426	425,629	429,899	434,239			1,711,192
Park Land Acquisition					(2,604,163)			
4 Neighborhood Park Acquisitions					(1,700,000)			
Est. Revenue from Potential SE Annexation				62,155	62,155	62,155	62,155	248,620

Metropolitan Park District	Fund Balance	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Revenue (projections based on \$.54/\$1000 assessed value)		4,926,658	5,123,724	5,328,673	5,541,820	5,763,493	5,994,033	32,678,402
Operating Budget Support		(3,083,658)	(3,255,724)	(3,460,673)	(3,631,820)	(3,895,493)	(4,126,033)	(21,453,402)
Percival Landing								
Maintenance Reserve Fund		(150,000)	(150,000)	(150,000)	(150,000)	(150,000)	(150,000)	(900,000)
Annual Inspections		(8,000)	(8,000)	(8,000)	(8,000)	(8,000)	(8,000)	(90,000)
Major Maintenance (CAMP)		(725,000)	(750,000)	(750,000)	(750,000)	(750,000)	(750,000)	(4,475,000)
ADA Upgrades		(200,000)	(200,000)	(200,000)	(200,000)	(200,000)	(200,000)	(1,200,000)
High Priority Project								
Armory Design		(250,000)						(250,000)
Armory Phase I Construction (debt service)			(250,000)	(250,000)	(250,000)	(250,000)	(250,000)	(1,250,000)
Yelm Highway Community Park Phase I Construction		(500,000)	(500,000)	(500,000)				(1,500,000)
Inclusive Playground at Priest Point Park					(500,000)			(500,000)
Lilly Road Park Development						(500,000)		(500,000)
Downtown Active Park Development							(500,000)	(500,000)
Administrative OMPD Costs		(10,000)	(10,000)	(10,000)	(10,000)	(10,000)	(10,000)	(60,000)
Running Balance		0	0	0	0	0	0	
Est. Revenue from Potential SE Annexation				533,521	538,856	544,245	549,687	2,166,309
Operating Budget Support				(160,056)	(161,657)	(163,273)	(164,906)	(649,893)
Pickleball Courts				(350,000)				(350,000)
Skate Feature Enhancement (Friendly Grove Park)						(700,000)		(700,000)
Dog Park Enhancements							(400,000)	(400,000)
Downtown Active Park Development							(50,000)	(50,000)
Running Balance of Annexation Funds		0	0	23,465	400,664	81,635	16,416	

Long Range Options (2028-2041)

2% Voted Utility Tax	2028-2041
Revenue	25,929,974
Debt Payment - \$16M Bond (2020)	(12,112,406)
Maintenance Staff for new land & projects	(9,800,000)
Off-Street Walking Connection Program	(350,000)
8th Avenue Parcel Development	(3,650,000)
Running Balance	0
Est. Revenue from Potential SE Annexation	3,520,426
Log Cabin Parcel Development	(3,500,000)
Running Balance of Annexation Funds	20,426

Non-Voted Utility Tax	2028-2041
Non VUT (1/2%) Revenue	886,261
Park Land Acquisition	(886,261)
Est. Revenue from Potential SE Annexation	124,310

Metropolitan Park District	2028-2041
Revenue	83,916,459
Operating Budget Support	(60,075,037)
Percival Landing	
Maintenance reserve fund	(2,100,000)
Annual inspections	(104,000)
Major Maintenance (CAMP)	(9,750,000)
ADA Upgrades	(1,800,000)
High Priority Project	
Armory Phase I Construction (debt service)	(3,750,000)
Karen Fraser Woodland Trail Phase III Development	(4,500,000)
Aquatic Facility Development [^]	(20,000,000)
Karen Fraser Woodland Trail Phase IV Development [^]	(25,000,000)
Maintenance Facility [^]	(2,500,000)
Percival Landing Phase II [^]	(20,000,000)
West Bay Park, Restoration and Trail [^]	(46,000,000)
Administrative OMPD Costs	(140,000)
Balance	1,697,422
Est. Revenue from Potential SE Annexation	7,695,621
Operating Budget Support	(2,308,686)
Add to high priority projects above	(5,386,935)
Balance of Annexation Funds	0

[^] Project requires substantial funding beyond OMPD funding. Project cost is an escalated-estimate based on available studies and requires further scoping at time of development.



6 Year Capital Facilities Plan (2022-2027)

Neighborhood Parks Impact Fees & SEPA	Fund Balance	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
<i>Annual Collections</i>	545,000	142,000	142,000	142,000	142,000	142,000	142,000	1,397,000
Lilly Road Park Development						(1,000,000)		(1,000,000)
Running Balance	545,000	687,000	829,000	971,000	1,113,000	255,000	397,000	
<i>Est. Revenue from Potential SE Annexation</i>				7,055	7,125	7,197	7,269	28,645

Community Parks Impact Fees & SEPA	Fund Balance	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
<i>Annual Collections</i>	625,000	544,000	544,000	544,000	544,000	544,000	544,000	3,889,000
Agripark Feasibility Study		(75,000)						(75,000)
Yelm Highway Community Park Phase I Construction		(553,000)	(585,000)					(1,138,000)
Rebecca Howard Park Development		(500,000)		(500,000)				(1,000,000)
Aquatic Facility Design					(500,000)			(500,000)
Community Center Study (The Olympia Center)						(200,000)		(200,000)
Yauger Park Improvements (adult exercise equipment, expanded parking, basketball court, lights, shelter expansion)							(930,000)	(930,000)
Running Balance	625,000	41,000	0	44,000	88,000	432,000	46,000	
<i>Est. Revenue from Potential SE Annexation</i>				25,314	25,568	25,823	26,081	102,787

Open Space Impact Fees & SEPA	Fund Balance	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
<i>Annual Collections</i>	151,000	214,000	214,000	214,000	214,000	214,000	214,000	1,435,000
West Bay Park Phase II Clean-up and Design					(1,000,000)			(1,000,000)
Springwood Parcel Access							(400,000)	(400,000)
Running Balance	151,000	365,000	579,000	793,000	7,000	221,000	35,000	
<i>Est. Revenue from Potential SE Annexation</i>				9,130	9,221	9,313	9,406	37,071

Long Range Options (2028-2041)

Neighborhood Parks Impact Fees/SEPA	2028-2041
<i>Annual Collections</i>	1,988,000
Burri Park Development	(1,988,000)
Balance	0
<i>Est. Revenue from Potential SE Annexation</i>	145,372

Community Parks Impact Fees & SEPA	2028-2041
<i>Annual Collections</i>	7,616,000
Yelm Highway Community Park Phase II Development	(7,462,000)
Balance	0
<i>Est. Revenue from Potential SE Annexation</i>	521,629

Open Space Impact Fees & SEPA	2028-2041
<i>Annual Collections</i>	2,996,000
Grass Lake Connection to Yauger Park	(900,000)
Chambers Lake Development	(500,000)
Karen Fraser Woodland Trail Phase III Development	(1,414,000)
Balance	182,000
<i>Est. Revenue from Potential SE Annexation</i>	188,128

*DISCLAIMER: This plan is based on projected revenue streams, planning level cost estimates and land acquisition costs that may vary significantly from actual revenues and 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.



Chapter 8: Goals and Policies

The following goals and policies guide the work and priorities of the Department. These goals and policies are largely similar to those listed in the 2014 [Olympia Comprehensive Plan](#). Updates are primarily focused on the areas of equity, inclusion and belonging, as well as climate change mitigation and adaptation priorities. Following the approval of this Plan update, staff will update the Comprehensive Plan for consistency.

- **GR1 Unique facilities, public art, events, and recreational programming encourage social interaction, foster inclusive community building, and enhance the visual character and livability of Olympia.**
 - PR1.1 Continue to provide extraordinary parks and community activities that contribute to our high quality of life and attract tourism and private investment to Olympia.
 - PR1.2 Design City parks, arts and recreation activities and facilities so they are used and enjoyed by as many residents as possible.
 - PR1.3 Be responsive to emerging needs for activities, 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 community 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, and other mutually beneficial partnerships, between the City and the Olympia School District to provide recreation facilities and programming for the community.
 - PR2.4 Pursue 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 vibrant park system that meets current and future community needs.**

- PR3.1 Provide parks in close proximity (within ½ mile) to all residents.
- PR3.2 Ensure that Olympia’s park system includes opportunities for its residents to experience nature.
- 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 that will serve residents in Olympia and its Urban Growth Area.
- PR3.5 Beautify entry corridors to our City and our neighborhoods through art installations, 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.



Karen Fraser Woodland Trail



- **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, bicycling and other forms of non-vehicular access for recreation and transportation purposes by linking parks to multi-modal 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 Pursue a phased approach to 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](#) and [Olympia Comprehensive 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.
 - PR5.7 Incorporate the [Olympia Sea Level Rise Response Plan](#) findings into future design for Percival Landing reconstruction and West Bay Park construction.



West Bay Drive Sidewalk Art



Percival Plinth Project

- **GR6 Olympia’s parks, arts and recreation system investments are protected.**
 - PR6.1 Continue to improve the Parks Asset Management Program to ensure park infrastructure remains functional and safe.
 - PR6.3 Design, maintain and operate facilities to prevent damage by misuse and encourages the intended use.
 - 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, streets, roundabouts, public buildings, alleys and other public spaces and facilities.**
 - 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.
 - PR7.5 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 Encourage interactive/experiential art.
 - PR7.12 Consider opportunities for public art projects in response to current community issues.



- **GR8 Arts in Olympia are supported.**
 - PR8.1 Pursue a community arts center at the historic Olympia Armory building.
 - 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 affordable, and inclusive 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 and grant opportunities to arts and culture organizations.
 - PR8.7 Support the Creative District in downtown and Olympia’s art economy in general.
 - 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.
 - 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.
 - PR9.5 Enhance recreation opportunities for people with physical and mental disabilities.
 - PR9.6 Provide opportunities for community youth to access healthy food options and community households to grow their own produce.
 - PR9.7 Provide opportunities for people to enjoy and connect with nature in Olympia’s parks.
- **GR10 Community members gather and recreate together.**
 - PR10.1 Provide recreational opportunities for all residents.
 - PR10.2 Work towards providing recreation programs that are affordable and available to all Olympians.
 - PR10.3 Provide parks and programs to serve people of all ages, and with many different abilities and interests.
 - PR10.4 Develop programs and design park facilities that encourage activities people can do together regardless of their age.
 - PR10.5 Provide convenient, safe, active, outdoor recreation experiences suited for families.



Youth Recreation



- **GR 11 Olympia Parks, Arts and Recreation is an industry leader in equity and inclusion, where ALL people feel safe and are provided equitable access to engage in parks, arts and recreation services.**
 - PR 11.1 Develop an Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Plan for the Department.
 - PR 11.2 Identify and address procedural, distributional, structural and cultural inequities in the Department and the work that we do.
 - PR 11.3 Set performance metrics to hold us accountable toward reaching our goals.
 - PR 11.4 Conduct an equity analysis and utilize equity measures when prioritizing park development projects to target areas of highest need.
 - PR 11.5 Apply an equity analysis to all budget development and management decisions.
 - PR 11.6 Apply an equity analysis to the Department's demographic make-up and strategize proactive approaches to recruit a more diverse candidate pool when hiring. This will result in a team that is representative at all levels and reflects the community's demographics at a minimum. If it's not representative of the community at large, strategize proactive approaches to recruit a more diverse candidate pool when hiring.
 - PR 11.7 Seek to reduce barriers to access and participation whenever possible.
- **GR 12 Olympia's park system is resilient and provides climate mitigation and adaptation benefits.**
 - PR 12.1 **Connect** an urban trail system to enable car-free transportation to parks and other resources.
 - PR 12.2 **Cooling** – Restore and plant native vegetation and trees. Maintain and support Olympia's street trees to help cool streets and neighborhoods.
 - PR 12.3 **Absorb** – Conserve forested areas that provide carbon sequestration and use best practices for stormwater management.
 - PR 12.4 **Protect** habitat, restore natural areas, manage shorelines, and plan for climate change impacts.
 - PR 12.5 **Educate** – about environmental stewardship and conservation including climate change impacts and solutions.
 - PR 12.6 **Inspire** – inspire community members to act by leading through example in environmental stewardship, visible changes in the way we do business and how we plan for the future.



Community Gardens



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.



Chapter 9: Performance Measures

Department Performance Measurement

In 2020 OPARD staff, led by staff from the Olympia Office of Performance and Innovation, performed an analysis to refine and streamline the Department's performance metrics. The purpose of the project was to develop a Department performance dashboard and metrics to inform data-centered decisions, improve ability to tell data stories, improve performance, and demonstrate progress towards achieving the community's vision.

The performance measures, outlined 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 measures are monitored regularly, and the results published in OPARD's Annual Report. Additionally, an effort is underway to upload the City's performance measures to an online data dashboard that allows for easy access and interaction by the public.

It is important to note that the global Covid-19 pandemic negatively impacted several of the performance metrics in 2020. Mandated social distancing and 'stay at home' orders resulted in the closure or shortened hours of The Olympia Center and the cancellation of numerous recreation classes and activities. The Department adapted to online and distanced recreation activities as much as possible, however reductions in metrics compared to prior years did occur in some cases.



DEFINITIONS

Status	Status Definition	Data Trend Definition
	On Track: Met Target or Trending Near Target	Better: Data Trend is at, or Moving Towards Target
	Needs Improvement: Target Not Met, Needs Focused Attention	Same: Data Trend is Not Better or Worse
	Concerning: Below Target, Needs Immediate Attention	Worse: Data Trend is Below Target and Not Improving
TBD		Not enough data points to identify trend

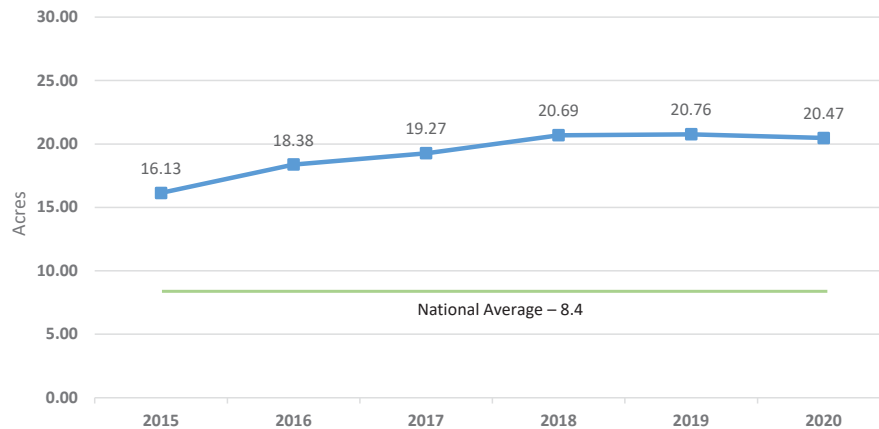


Planning & Design Division



Parks, Arts and Recreation Planning & Design

Acres of Park Land per 1,000 Residents



Data Source: Parks Planning & Design

Why This Measure Matters

Having adequate park land for residents helps prevent overcrowding, allows for a diversity of park and recreation uses, and facilitates easy access for all residents across the City.

What's the Story

- At the end of 2020, Olympia had 1,361 acres of park land (includes developed and undeveloped park land) and a population of 66,790 within the city and Olympia UGAs, which is OPARD's service area.
- According to the National Recreation and Park Association, the median acres of park land per 1,000 residents for similarly sized cities is 8.4 acres/1,000 residents.
- Olympia exceeds the national average with 20.5 acres/1,000 residents.
- Olympians continually prioritize the acquisition of additional park land. Twice in recent years the Olympia voters have passed funding measures that prioritize parks. A goal was set to acquire 500 acres of park land between 2004-2024. To date 450 acres of park land have been acquired.
- OPARD will continue to add additional parks to the system as population grows in order to maintain the same high level of service and to ultimately reach the goal of having a park or open space within ½ mile of all Olympians.
- Link to map: [Olympia's Park System](#).

Focus Area/Outcome

Neighborhoods

Distinctive Places and Gathering Spaces

Status

Trend

Flat

Performance Measure

Down by 0.29 acres per 1,000 residents

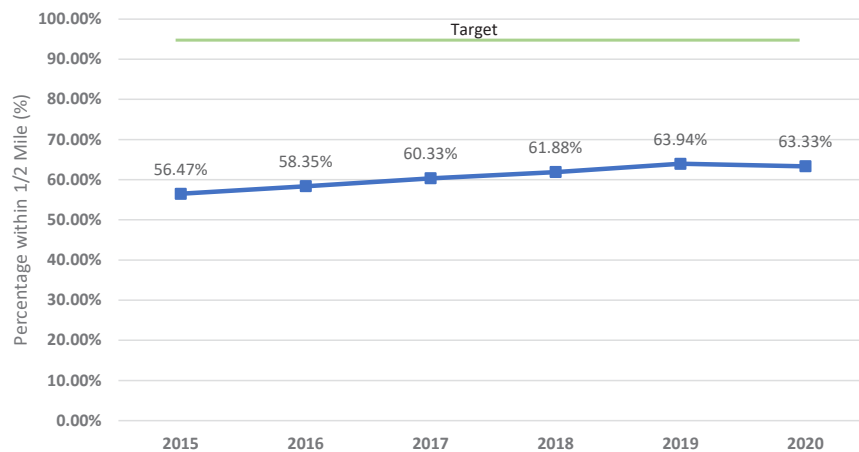
Target

Additional 50 acres by 2024, resulting in 19.5 acres/1,000 residents



Parks, Arts and Recreation Planning & Design

Percentage of Land in Olympia Within 1/2 Mile of a Park or Open Space



Data Source: Parks Planning & Design

Why This Measure Matters

Having a park or open space within close proximity to every residence allows Olympians to easily and frequently visit parks for health, social gathering and connection to nature purposes.

What's the Story

- Olympians recognize the importance of easy access for everyone to parks and open space areas.
- Olympia voters have twice passed park funding measures that emphasized the acquisition of park land.
- Each year the department works to acquire new park land in areas of the city and Olympia UGAs that don't have a park or open space within a half mile (i.e., 10-minute walk).
- Land acquisition can be challenging, particularly when trying to find good park sites available from willing sellers at a fair price. For this reason, in addition to land acquisition we will attempt to find new access points to existing parks. For this reason, each year the department tries to increase this metric by at least 1%.
- Ultimately, the long-term target is that wherever you live in the city you will have a park within 1/2 mile. However, there are some areas of the city that may not realistically have a park within a half mile, e.g., portions of the Port Peninsula.
- According to the Trust for Public Land, the current national average is 55%.
- An extensive GIS street network mapping project resulted in a slight decrease in 2020 even though percentage of park land increased.
- To see the areas still in need of a park within a 1/2 mile, view this map: <\\calvin\Parks\Planning and Design\ADMINISTRATION\Plans and Studies\Action Plan\2019 Neighborhood Park and Open Space Need v2.pdf>

Focus Area/Outcome

Neighborhoods

Distinctive Places and Gathering Spaces

Status

Trend

Flat

Performance Measure

Down 0.61% since 2019

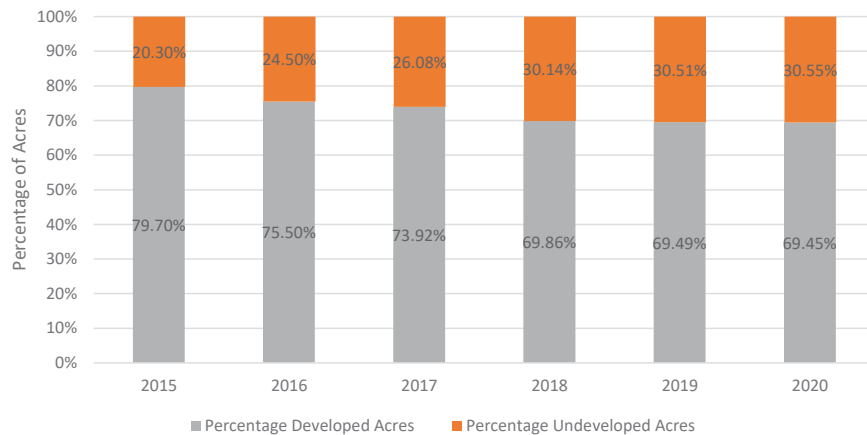
Target

95% of land within City and Olympia UGA will be within 1/2 mile of a park or open space.



Parks, Arts and Recreation Planning & Design

Percentage of Developed vs. Undeveloped Park Acres



Data Source: Parks Planning & Design

Why This Measure Matters

For many years, Olympia has prioritized the acquisition of park land over the development of park spaces. This graph shows this relationship and trend over time.

What's the Story

- An undeveloped park is defined as a neighborhood park, community park, or open space park for which a master plan has not been fully implemented. In other words, Priest Point Park is considered 100% developed even though much of the park is minimally developed open space with trails.
- Currently 30.55% of Olympia's park land is undeveloped, meaning future capital improvements are likely needed.
- While acquisition of new park land will always remain important as population grows, residents also have recreation needs that are unmet in the current park system.
- In recent years OPARD has focused much of its funding on acquisition of new park land rather than development of park land.
- The acquisition of additional park acreage has resulted in the ratio of developed to underdeveloped park land to stay about the same even as some parks have been developed.
- Over time, OPARD hopes to develop more acres of the park system so that parks are more usable for the community for active and passive recreation purposes.

Focus Area/Outcome

Community Livability

Recreation opportunities for everyone

Status

Trend

Flat

Performance Measure

Percentage of undeveloped parks increased 0.04% from 2019

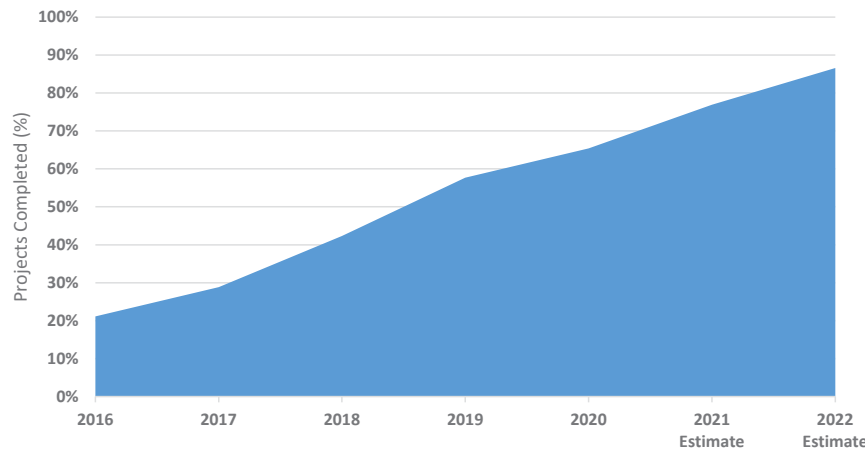
Target

100% Developed



Parks, Arts and Recreation Planning & Design

Percent of Park Capital Projects Completed from Parks Plan



Data Source: Parks Planning & Design

Why This Measure Matters

Completing the projects prioritized by the community in the 2016 Parks Plan demonstrates how the Department works toward implementing the community's vision.

What's the Story

- Every six years a prioritized list of park development projects is developed for the Parks Plan. This metric measures how many capital projects have been completed from the list.
- Over the last five years the department has completed 65% of the capital projects listed in the 2016-2021 Parks Plan.
- This represents 34 of the 52 listed projects and includes such completed projects as the Woodruff Park sprayground, acquisition of LBA Woods, a new bulkhead at Percival Landing, and a playground installation at Margaret McKenny Park.
- The Project List is derived from public input during the Parks Plan process and can be viewed on page 112 of the 2016 Parks Plan: www.olympiawa.gov/parksplan.
- Over the next two years (2021 and 2022), we are on track to complete another eleven of the listed projects, which will bring us to 87% of the projects completed from the Parks Plan.
- Although OPARD attempts to complete all of the projects listed in the Parks Plan 6-year Capital Investment Strategy by the end of the 6-year planning period, it is very difficult to reach 100% because capital projects are complex and rely on many outside factors such as permitting, fluctuations in revenue funding, and construction cost fluctuations to name a few.
- The Parks Plan is currently being updated and a new plan and project list will be adopted in early 2022.

Focus Area/Outcome

Community Livability

Recreation opportunities for everyone

Status

Trend

Better

Performance Measure

Up from 58% in 2019 to 65% in 2020

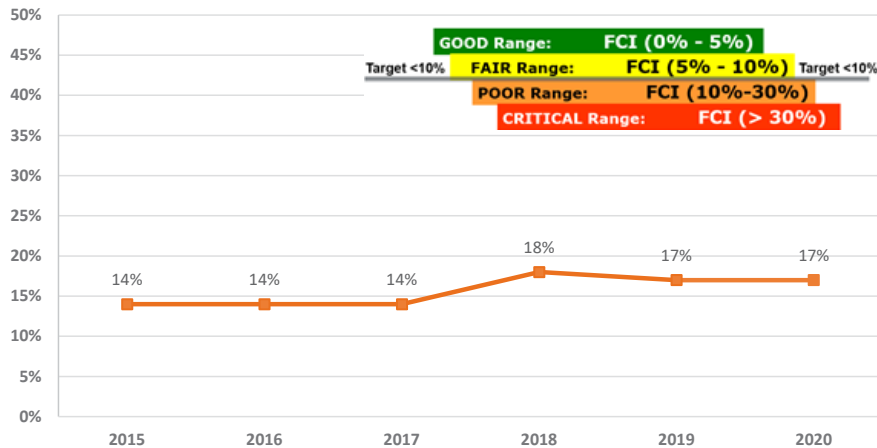
Target

85%



Parks, Arts and Recreation Planning & Design

Facility Condition Index (FCI) Rating



Data Source: Parks Planning & Design

Why This Measure Matters

Having a well maintained park system keeps our facilities safe and open to the public; and, ensures that the infrastructure attains its design life.

What's the Story

- The Department's Capital Asset Management Program (CAMP) includes a regular inspection and criteria-based prioritization process for maintaining park infrastructure. One-third of all park infrastructure is inspected annually.
- The overall condition of the park system infrastructure is expressed in a Facility Condition Index (FCI) rating. The FCI shows what percentage of park infrastructure needs major maintenance. The FCI excludes Percival Landing and trails.
- The FCI is determined by dividing the projected cost of needed system-wide repairs, also referred to as 'maintenance backlog' (\$7.2M) by the current replacement value of all assets in the system (\$42M).
- Voters approved passage of the Olympia Metropolitan Park District in 2015. \$750,000 is dedicated annually to CAMP.
- Due to the large maintenance backlog, it is slow to move the needle.
- In 2018, staff added ballfields to the list of park capital assets, which caused the FCI to worsen even though \$750,000 in repairs were completed. Ballfields account for approximately \$3.6M of total maintenance backlog.
- In 2020, the LBA Park access ramp to Field #2 was constructed, the Friendly Grove Park playground/surfacing was replaced, Burri Park basketball court was resurfaced, and Woodruff Park tennis courts were resurfaced in coordination with the construction of new pickleball courts.

Focus Area/Outcome

Economy

Sustainable Quality Infrastructure

Status



Trend

Worse

Performance Measure

Flat from 2019 to 2020

Target

FCI <10%

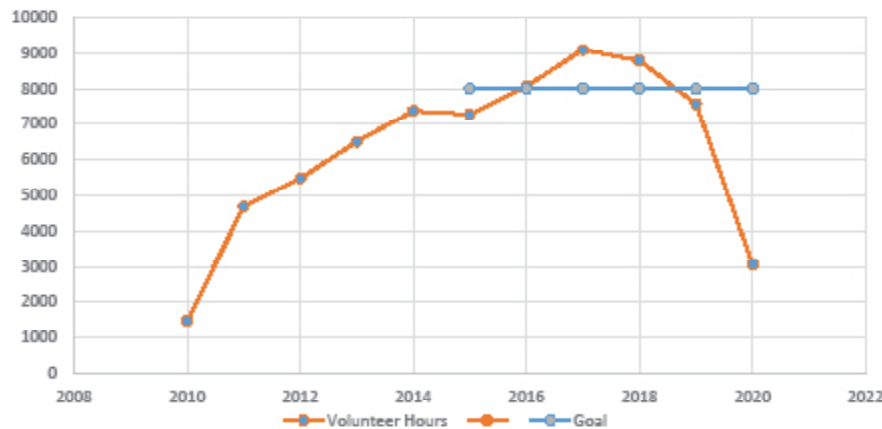


Park Maintenance & Stewardship Division



Parks, Arts & Recreation Parks Maintenance - Stewardship

Park Stewardship Volunteer Hours



Data Source: OPARD Park Stewardship

Why This Measure Matters

Through quality volunteer experiences, we create a culture of stewardship in Olympia to preserve our natural areas.

What's the Story

- As a strategy to accomplish non-essential tasks outside of staff capacity, Parks volunteers have been helping to control invasive plant species, plant native vegetation, build & maintain trails and watch over parks for over 20 years.
- From 2010-2016, OPARD starting adding dedicated staff to manage volunteers and promote other stewardship activity, such as environmental education. The 8,000 hour goal was established in 2015 as a benchmark based on projected program growth.
- Since 2017, permanent staff positions have been created that support twice-weekly work parties as well as independent stewards and Adopt A Park groups.
- In 2019, hours were slightly below the goal. In previous years, about 1,000 hours were connected to grant funding, which is not guaranteed. In addition, several other organizations have recently developed similar volunteer programs which is most likely impacting our numbers.
- The 2020 hours were significantly impacted by the global pandemic, with work parties suspended or limited for the majority of the year.
- This year and beyond, we will be looking at the value volunteers bring to the community beyond the number of hours and value of labor. For example, we have started tracking invasive plant removal by volunteers, we will continue to prioritize inclusion & outreach to youth and we will research ways to track how volunteering impacts behaviors related to environmental stewardship.

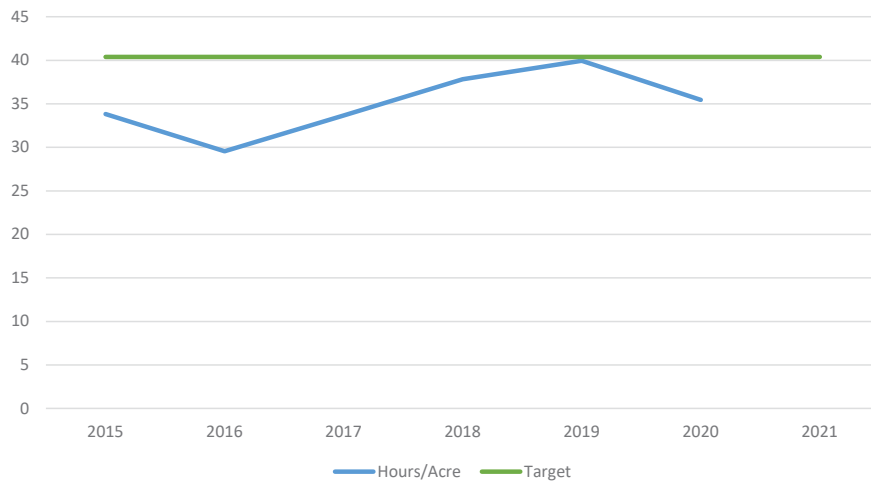
<p>Focus Area/Outcome</p> <p>Environment</p> <p>A Daily Connection to Nature</p>
<p>Status</p>
<p>Trend</p> <p>SAME</p>
<p>Performance Measure</p> <p>2019 hours were down slightly, due to fewer grant-funded projects and weather</p>
<p>Target</p> <p>8,000 Park Stewardship Volunteer Hours per Year</p>



Parks, Arts and Recreation

Parks Maintenance

MAINTENANCE HOURS PER ACRE



Why This Measure Matters

Maintenance hours per acre is a measure that contributes to evaluating if the staffing levels are keeping pace with acquisition.

What's the Story

- Park maintenance responsibilities includes park structures including public art, playgrounds, turf, landscaping, street trees, bathrooms, sport fields, natural areas, trails/pathways, safety, parking lots, utilities, solid waste management, vandalism, education, and volunteer management.
- During the 2008 recession Parks Maintenance lost several FTEs and seasonal positions. Positions declined each year through 2014.
- Starting in 2015 the department worked to restore positions and shore up the maintenance budget. Then in 2016, 155 acres of land was acquired which caused the trend to dip.
- In 2017 two new programs were added with staffing, which caused the hours/acre to increase, however these resources are not dedicated to work on parks maintenance, but rather the new services areas of safety and street tree maintenance.
- While not all park land requires the same level of maintenance, this measure gives us a general idea of the progress made in relation to acquisition.
- Currently the parks system has 1,362 acres. With an increase in both development and acquisition the hours/acre trend should increase to maintain service levels and address the backlog of deferred maintenance.
- Filling the existing vacant positions would help to increase the hours/acre and address deferred maintenance.
- If the positions remain vacant (due to COVID-19 impacts), the backlog of deferred maintenance will grow and service levels will drop.
- To improve data and manage workflow, a new work order system designed for parks maintenance is in the process of implementation.

Focus Area/Outcome

Economy

Sustainable Quality Infrastructure

Status



Trend

Slightly Increasing

Performance Measure

Performance is up slightly and holding steady for now.

Target

Increase

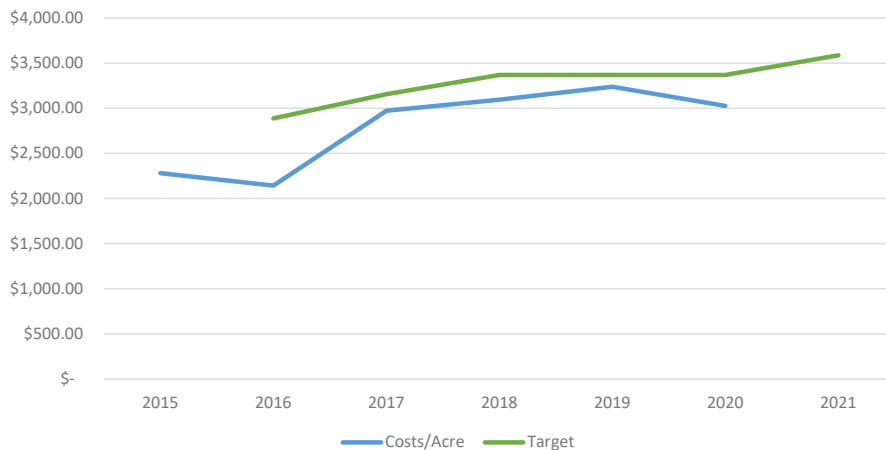


Progress Report

Parks, Arts and Recreation

Parks Maintenance

MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS COST PER ACRE



Data Source: Expense data from Accounting Software

Why This Measure Matters

While not all park acres costs the same to maintain, this measure gives us a general idea of the expenses in relation to park acreage.

What's the Story

- Park maintenance responsibilities includes park structures including public art, playgrounds, turf, landscaping, street trees, bathrooms, sport fields, natural areas, trails/pathways, safety, parking lots, utilities, solid waste management, vandalism, education, and volunteer management.
- This measure is the total yearly expenditures for maintenance and stewardship divided by the total park acreage. The goal is to stay within budget and increase cost per acre with development and rising costs of operations.
- Many factors influence the outcome such as development of parks, new programs or services and acquisition.
- The department has a commitment to stay within budget, so when costly emergencies arise, maintenance and equipment replacement is deferred in order to not go over budget. A dedicated emergency fund would prevent parks maintenance from having to defer routine maintenance in order to stay within budget.
- The target each year will likely see a minimum increase of 2% to account for personnel, benefits, utilities, services and supply cost increases.
- In 2015 the Maintenance division implemented efficiencies by reducing utility use by installing more efficient irrigation control systems in several parks and upgrading electrical lighting to LED. This led to significant savings.
- The dip from 2015 to 2016 is due to the acquisition of 155.4 acres without much of an increase in expenditures.
- In 2017 two new programs were added; a tree crew to focus on street tree maintenance and a Park Ranger program was launched for safety and security in parks. These costs account for the sharp increase in cost per acre.

Focus Area/Outcome

Economy

Sustainable Quality Infrastructure

Status

Trend

Increasing

Performance Measure

The cost per acre is increasing toward the target.

Target

Increase with development

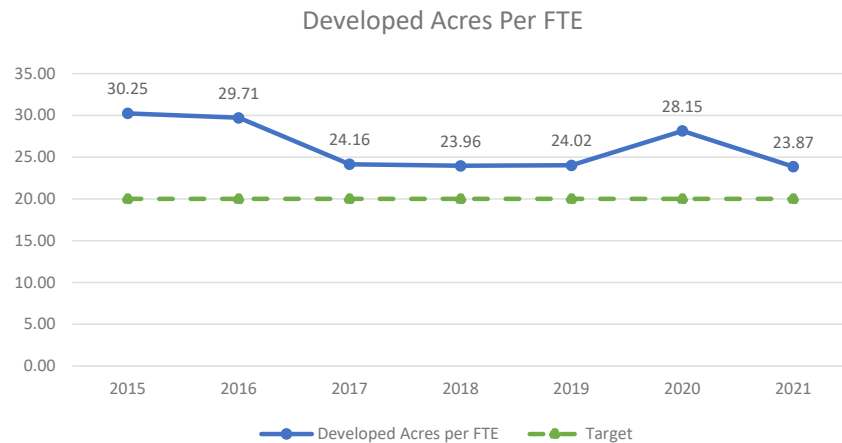


Progress Report

Parks, Arts and Recreation

Parks Maintenance

DEVELOPED ACRES PER FULL TIME MAINTENANCE EMPLOYEE



Data Source: Expense data from Accounting Software

Why This Measure Matters

This measure looks at developed acres, which require more resources, in relation to FTEs and FTE equivalents (seasonal and part-time) in the maintenance division.

What's the Story

- Park maintenance responsibilities includes park structures including public art, playgrounds, turf, landscaping, street trees, bathrooms, sport fields, natural areas, trails/pathways, safety, parking lots, utilities, solid waste management, vandalism, education, and volunteer management.
- General standard 18-20 maintained acres per FTE and FTE equivalent per ICMA. Best practices are 12 acres per FTE.
- Our goal is to have 20 developed acres per FTE and FTE equivalent to maintain our levels of service on our current parks' portfolio.
- In 2017 we added two new service programs to invest in downtown and address safety concerns. Parks hired several personnel for those programs which resulted in a decrease in the acres/FTE. The programs include a Street Tree Program (focuses on downtown core) and Park Ranger Program (emphasis on downtown parks).
- As our department develops more land, particularly with amenities that require more labor hours such as aquatic facilities, the target would be adjusted to have fewer developed acres per FTE.
- Future development plans include: a third spray ground, 3 dog parks, a paved multi-model trail, a mountain bike park, a regional sports complex, and a neighborhood park.

Focus Area/Outcome

Economy

Sustainable Quality Infrastructure

Status

Trend

Increasing

Performance Measure

Performance data and goal are growing apart as more property is acquired and developed.

Target

The target is 20 acre per FTE



Arts Division



Parks, Arts & Recreation - 2020 Arts Program

Public Art Geographic Accessibility



Data Source: City Arc GIS Dec Report

Why This Measure Matters

A vibrant and livable community includes art that is accessible to all citizens. Ensuring public art is within a 1/2 mile of each resident helps make this a reality.

What's the Story

- Public art is an integral tool for creating distinctive spaces to gather and connect. The City art collection grows in partnership with community members and partners to ensure works are relevant and unique to our residents.
- In June 2020, the city and found that 44.7% of Residents live within a 1/2 mile of public art. This means that 55.3% of residents are not within walking distance of one of the 125 permanent or temporary public art works.
- The addition six new artworks in that time brings the balance to 50%.
- In alignment with City and department values the goal is to have public art within a 1/2 mile of 100% of residents by 2030.
- Strategies toward this goal include adding public art to the City's 43 parks. Currently, 10 parks have a permanent public art on display including site-specific projects developed in park design, as well as donated and purchased works.
- Additionally City will continue to purchase one sculpture a year through the Percival Plinth Project, a steady source of community selected outdoor sculpture since 2011; and the emerging Art Crossings project expanding permanent works to include eight new large-scale commissioned pieces throughout the City.
- Temporary projects create added opportunities. 57 traffic box wraps adorned with vinyl wraps of artwork by local artists provide a helpful bridge and short-term solution to our long-term goal with 10 new boxes installed each year.
- Creative ways to deepen our community's connection to Olympia will continue to include both temporary and permanent projects that speak to our community's values and unique way of life.

Helpful Links:

- Olympia's Public Art Inventory: [Link](#)
- Traffic Box Wraps: [Link](#)
- Percival Plinth Project: [Link](#)
- Olympia Art Crossings: [Link](#)

<p>Focus Area/Outcome</p> <p>Neighborhoods</p> <p>Distinctive Places and Gathering Spaces</p>
<p>Status</p>
<p>Trend</p> <p>BETTER</p>
<p>Performance Measure</p> <p>45%</p> <p>+ 1 permanent per year</p> <p>+ 3-10 temporary per year</p>
<p>Target</p> <p>100% of residents will live within 1/2 mile of Public Art.</p>

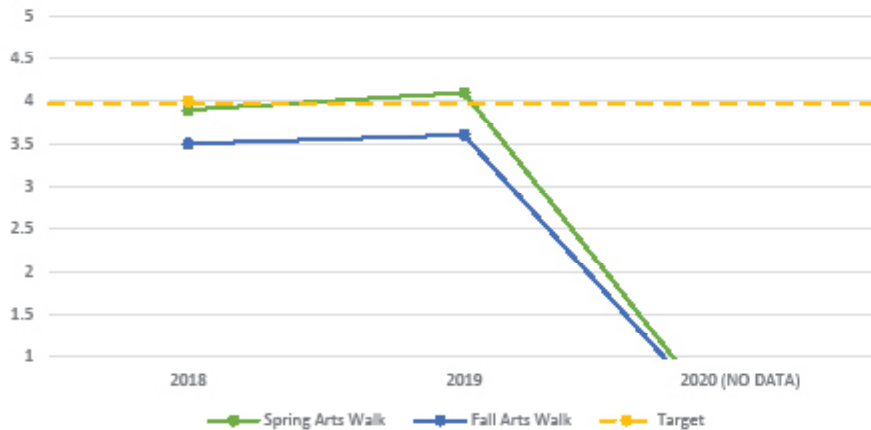


Progress Report

Parks, Arts & Recreation - 2020

Arts Program

Quality of Arts Experiences



Data Source: City-wide semi-annual Arts Walk surveys

Why This Measure Matters

Arts experiences like Arts Walk are important to residents. This community treasure draws thousands of people to downtown twice a year and is a key indicator of engaging arts experiences in Olympia.

What's the Story

- Post-event surveys help develop informed improvement strategies on the quality of programming. In 2018 Arts Walk quality ratings hovered under the department benchmark (fall 3.5; spring 3.9): 4 out of 5 based on national recreation industry standards. Spring with a slightly higher trend due the longstanding partnership with Procession of the Species as part of the April event.
- Community feedback led to strategies like enhanced street closure activities (pop-up skate park and food trucks); expanded promotion (innovation awards) and event photography; and added infrastructure (event shuttle & expanded sponsorships). These improvements resulted in higher 2019 quality ratings, with the spring event reaching 4.1, and the fall event having a small increase to 3.6.
- With COVID-19, the cancelled spring event and modified fall event has had a tremendous impact on 2020 data, and it may be into 2022 before trends recover.
- Improvement is needed and is being addressed. The development of an interactive online event platform in 2020 will create continued staff efficiencies and enhance attendee event experience into future years. Ongoing strategies include building on enhanced activities and expanding partnerships to grow the events.
- Key stakeholders to keep informed are department and City decisionmakers, artists, community partners like the PBIA and ODA and registered organization and artistic partners.
- Additional data is needed to better understand the quality experience of arts programs and events and the wider impact and quality of the full range of programs offered.

Helpful Links:

Arts Walk: [Link](#)

Focus Area/Outcome

Downtown

Engaging Arts & Entertainment Experiences

Status

Trend

BETTER

Performance Measure

2019 slightly improved from 2018

Target

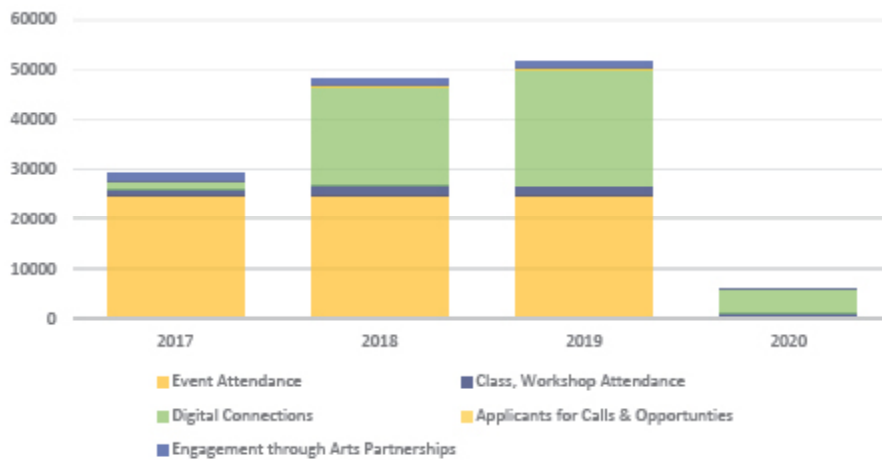
4 out of 5



Parks, Arts & Recreation - 2020

Arts Program

Annual Participation in Arts Programs



Data Source: Program records

Why This Measure Matters

Participation in arts events, programs and classes indicate a culture of community engagement and a helpful measure of success for programs and events.

What's the Story

- There has been a growth trend in recent years. 2017 arts participation was 29,205, increasing to 48,156 in 2018 and to 51,768 participants in 2019.
- The 65% increase from 2017-2018 was due to the introduction of online voting for the Traffic Box Wraps which had a roughly 18,000 increase in participation through social media. Additional factors were increases in class registration, and better data collection methods.
- 2020 proved a difficult year for community engagement across all areas.
- Ongoing strategies towards maximizing participation include providing a variety of ways for the community to connect with the arts, at a level that is most accessible to them. These include free and fee-based programs, in person and online, as well as targeting a wide range of interests and needs.
- Program participation target growth rate is roughly 2% or the same as the population growth.
- Ongoing strategies are to ensure program participation reflects the diversity of the community. This requires better assessing participant data to ensure programs are reaching underserved individuals including marginalized groups and people of color. In 2019 online voting shifted to Engage Olympia to better track this information.

Focus Area/Outcome

Community Livability

Recreation opportunities for everyone

Status

Trend

SAME

Performance Measure

3-year trending increase

Target

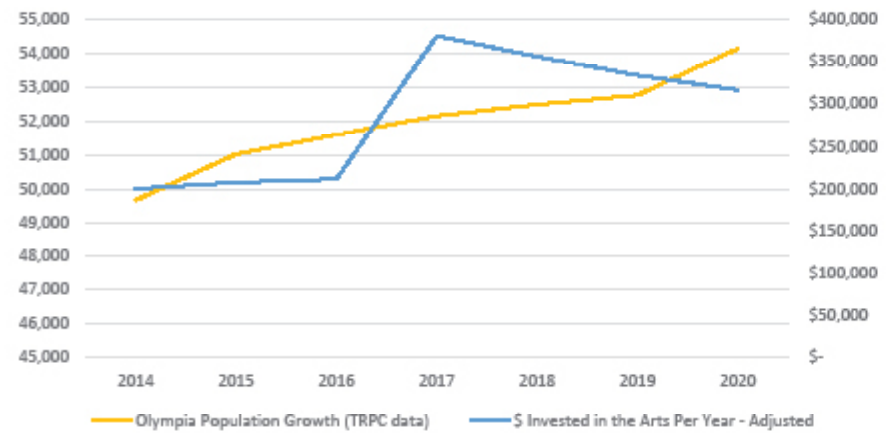
2% increase per year



Parks, Arts & Recreation - 2020

Arts Program

City Investment in the Arts Based on Population



Data Source: Budget and program records and Thurston Regional Planning with 2% est. increase for 2020

Why This Measure Matters

Benchmarking Olympia's investment in the arts based on population sets a baseline from which to grow.

What's the Story

- In 2017 the municipal art fund was restored after being redistributed to offset the 2007-2009 recession. This budget restoration resulted in key growth years for the arts in Olympia, allowing the hire of a 0.75 FTE and the addition of 0.5 FTE arts maintenance support. This roughly doubled arts staffing for the City. The first staffing increase since 2008.
- The increase created capacity for new programs including the Poet Laureate, Traffic Box Wraps, Arts Crossing Public Art Project, City Hall Exhibitions, Music Out Loud and Grants to Arts & Culture Organizations. As well as the improvement of ongoing programs and strategic capacity for arts staff to participate in City initiatives like Arts, Cultures and Heritage (ARCH).
- To keep current levels of service a preliminary goal is to maintain a minimum investment in the arts of \$7.31 per capita moving forward. This would help keep programs on par with City population growth, this does not factor for inflation which would require an additional 1%-2% budget increase per year to maintain existing services.
- Opportunities for growth include making a strategic assessment of comparable arts programs to better understand national best practices in investment for the arts and the return on investment communities see through economic growth, livability, social equity, and thriving creative ecosystems.

Focus Area/Outcome

Downtown

Connections to our Cultural & Historic Fabric

Status

Trend

Same

Performance Measure

SAME

Target

Maintain \$7.31 investment in the arts per capita, per year.

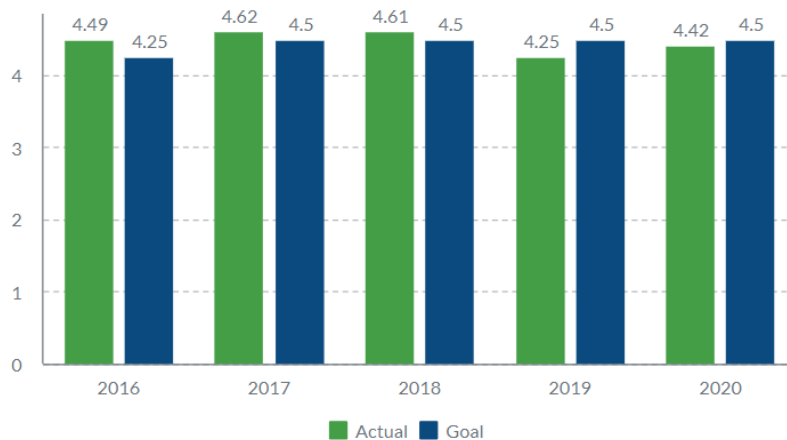


Recreation & Customer Service Division



Department Recreation

Activity Quality Rating



Data Source: OPARD SurveyMonkey of customers.

Why This Measure Matters

Customer feedback ensures we're responsive to customer needs and shows the level of quality programming.

What's the Story

- The industry standard is 4+, our goal is 4.5+ out of 5.
- The ratings tell us we are providing valued recreation activities across our department for community members, who we hope become repeat customers.
- Honest feedback from customers will help guide our efforts to maintain quality and innovative recreation services.
- This feedback is shared with instructors and administrative/development staff.
- Activity Quality Rating guideline:
 - 5 = Excellent
 - 4 = Good
 - 3 = Satisfactory
 - 2 = Unsatisfactory
 - 1 = Poor
- Our Recreation Core Values: Fun experiences
Passionate people
Positive attitudes
Reliable services
Resourceful employees

Focus Area/Outcome

Community Livability

Recreation opportunities for everyone

Status

Trend

Better

Performance Measure

.17 increase from 2019

Target

4.5+ out of 5



Progress Report

Department Recreation

Customer Service Rating



Data Source: OPARD SurveyMonkey of customers.

Why This Measure Matters

The feedback we receive helps us gauge how best to train staff to ensure customer expectations are met if not exceeded. Excellent ratings equal repeat customers and great word of mouth!

What's the Story

- The industry standard is 4+, our goal is 4.5+ out of 5.
- Have exceeded target each of the past 5 years.
- Have increased rating each of the past 5 years.
- All OPARD departments rely on a friendly and knowledgeable staff providing high levels of hospitality.
- Continued training for front line staff to ensure they are fully aware of quality service expectations and are well informed of department offerings and resources.
- Recreation Team Core Focus: We enrich lives by connecting people with quality experiences through proven and innovative services.
- Customer Service Rating guideline:
 - 5 = Excellent
 - 4 = Good
 - 3 = Satisfactory
 - 2 = Unsatisfactory
 - 1 = Poor

Focus Area/Outcome

Community Livability

Recreation opportunities for everyone

Status

Trend

Better

Performance Measure

.04 increase from 2019

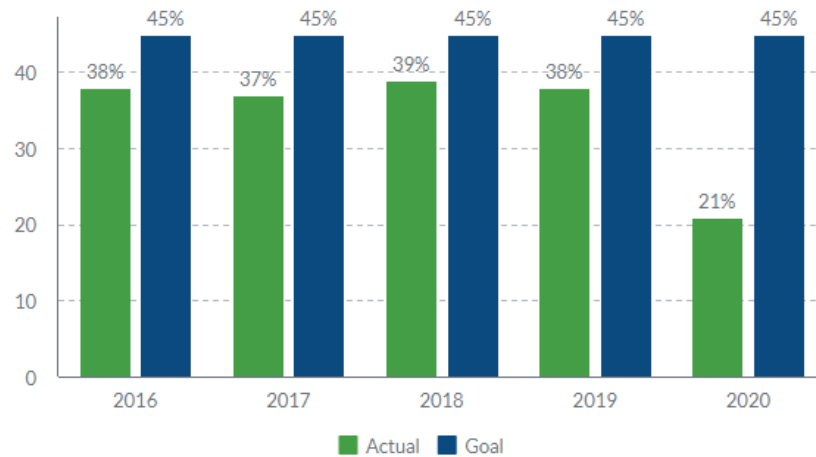
Target

4.5+ out of 5



Department Recreation

% of Returning Registrants



Data Source: Annual LERN Data Review

Why This Measure Matters

Helps us gauge customer retention which is important for continued growth and a good indicator of valued programs.

What's the Story

- Measures the percentage of customers who registered two years prior who returned the following year.
- The industry standard is 30 – 50%, our goal is 45%.
- We are consistently in the industry standard range but have not reached our goal of 45% in past five years.
- In sports leagues, this only accounts for the team manager who registered the team and not rostered players.
- Strengthens positive relationships with the community.
- Saw a large decrease in 2020 due to COVID-19 cancellations of numerous programs.

Focus Area/Outcome

Community Livability

Recreation opportunities for everyone

Status

Trend

Same

Performance Measure

17% decrease from 2019

Target

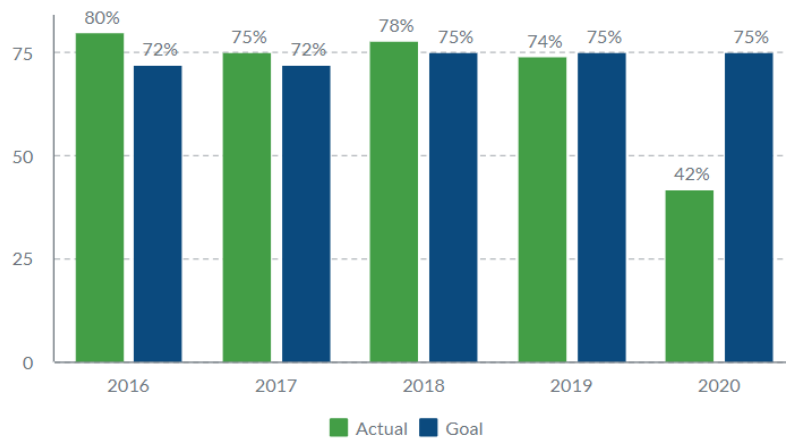
45%+



Progress Report

Department Recreation

Recreation Cost Recovery %



Data Source: Annual Budget Actual Reports

Why This Measure Matters

Allows us to see if we are offering sustainable programs that are valued by the Community.

What's the Story

- Measures the total of all activity revenues divided by the totals of all activity expenses supported by the related revenues.
- Industry standards are 70%, many recreation programs are much less. 2020 was impacted by the pandemic restrictions. Most of our in-person programs and activities were canceled due to health and safety guidelines. We were able to recoup some cost through in-person daycare/camps, field reservations and virtual programs.
- This metric is one indicator of customer's trust in our programs and activities.
- Cost neutral or better programs allow the department to continue to offer sustainable, innovative and new programs.
- A higher cost recovery protects the recreation program from economic downturns, but it is important to consider a balance within our rate structures with an equity lens ensuring programs are accessible and welcoming for all in our community. A healthy and well promoted scholarship program is one tool to ensure accessibility for individuals and families with lower income.

Focus Area/Outcome
Community Livability
 Recreation opportunities for everyone

Status

Trend

Same

Performance Measure
 After four years of 74%+, we dropped to 42% in 2020

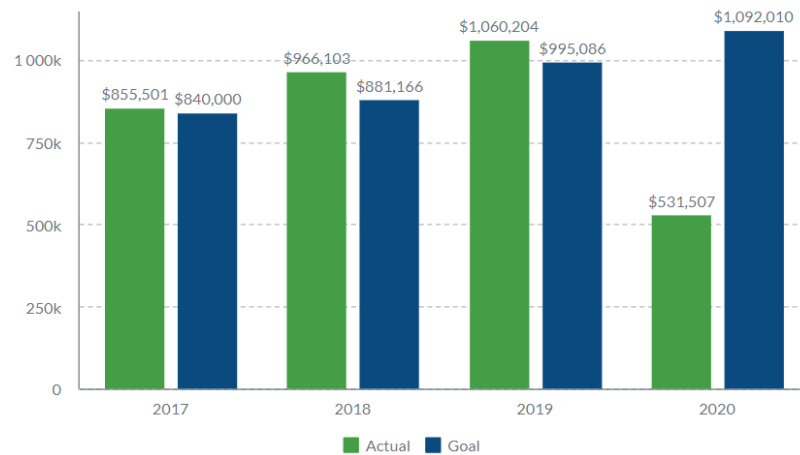
Target

60% for 2021
 75% for 2022



Department Recreation

Recreation Gross Revenue Generated



Data Source: Annual Budget Actual Reports

Why This Measure Matters

We want to ensure the community has a variety of exceptional recreation opportunities with affordable rates.

What's the Story

- Revenue helps show the value of the program/activity to the customer.
- Customers willing to pay the price of doing business leads to sustainable programming and also allows for other resources to be used for subsidized programs.
- Goal is to increase revenue 3% from previous year. We realized a 13% improvement in 2018 and saw a 10% jump in 2019, before taking a (-50%) hit in 2020 due to the pandemic. Our 2021 goal is to recover to a level that equals 65% of 2019.
- Consulted with the Learning Resources Network (LERN) in 2015 and 2020. Results of those reviews suggest the department implement a strategic business model that includes an annual business plan, 3 and 10 year visions, and key benchmarks to help increase revenue annually.

Focus Area/Outcome

Community Livability

Recreation opportunities for everyone

Status

Trend

Same

Performance Measure

Showed steady increases from year to year prior to 2020

Target

65% of 2019

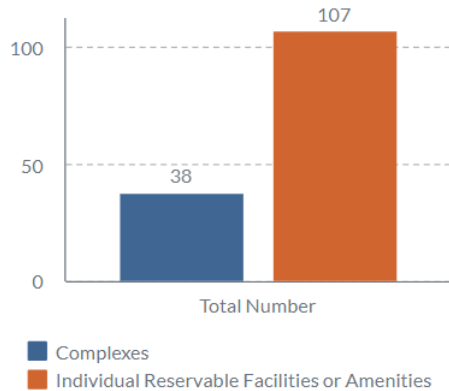


Facilities Division



Parks, Arts and Recreation Facilities

Reservable Facilities



Data Source: OPARD. List of reservable facilities inventory.

Why This Measure Matters

This slide is provided as reference for the reader to understand which facilities develop the metrics in this section. Connecting people with memorable experiences begins with providing affordable, safe and clean facility options.

What's the Story

- Boat Moorage: 34 spots
- City Fields:
 - LBA Park – 6 fields
 - Stevens Field – 2 fields
 - Yauger Park – 4 fields
- Neighborhood Fields, One modified rectangle at each:
 - Friendly Grove
 - Kettle View
 - Lions
- OSD Fields, 18 schools:
 - 15 ballfield diamonds
 - 20 rectangle or modified rectangle
- Park Shelters:
 - Friendly Grove – 1
 - LBA – 1
 - Lions - 1
 - Priest Point – 4
 - Yauger - 1
- The Harbor House
- The Olympia Center:
 - 12 Rooms, including two larger Multi-Purpose
 - 1 gymnasium
 - 2 Kitchens
- Community Gardens *not included in total numbers*
 - Sunrise Park – 57 plots
 - Yauger Park – 75 plots

Focus Area/Outcome

Community Livability

Recreation opportunities for everyone

Status

Information purpose only

Trend

N/A

Performance Measure

Information purpose only

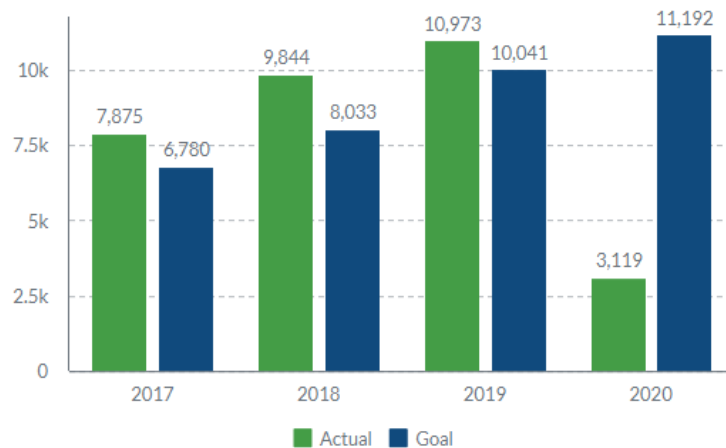
Target

N/A



Parks, Arts and Recreation Facilities

Reserved Hours: TOC, Harbor House, Park Shelters



Data Source: OPARD ActiveNet Reports

Why This Measure Matters

Reserved hours drives our revenue and tells us if the community feels they have affordable, safe and clean facility options for use.

What's the Story

- Graph is community use hours and does not include Boat Moorage, Ballfield, Senior Services, or Internal reservations.

- Harbor House reserved hours:

2018	1310
2019	1326
2020	228

- Park Shelters reserved hours:

2018	3785
2019	3701
2020	1046

- Olympia Center reserved hours:

2018	4749
2019	5946
2020	1845

- Boat Moorage reserved nights:

2018	514
2019	493
2020	392

- OSD field use reserved hours:

2018	9877
2019	8982
2020	2024

- Senior Services hours at TOC:

2018	9937
2019	10702
2020	3790

Focus Area/Outcome

Community Livability
Recreation opportunities for everyone

Status



Trend

Better

Performance Measure

2018 saw a 23% increase. 2019 also passed the target with 5% increase

Target

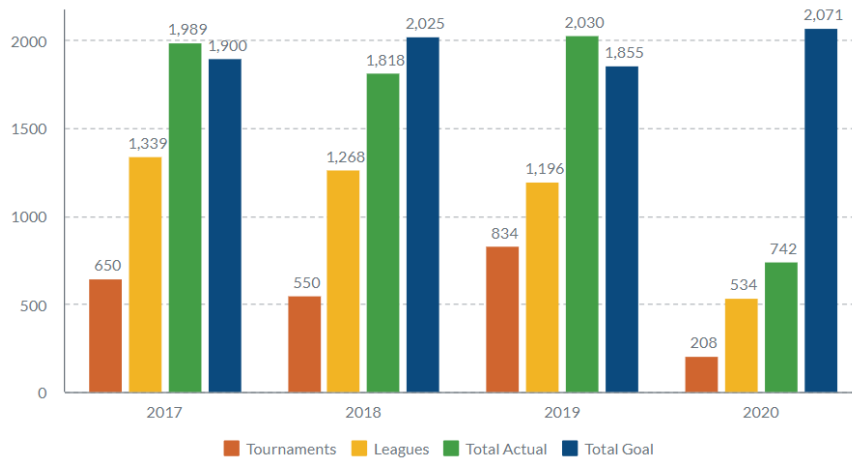
Had been 2% growth from previous year's actual.

Adapted to 33% growth from 2020



Parks, Arts and Recreation Facilities

of Games on City Fields



Data Source: OPARD. Field schedule Excel spreadsheet.

Why This Measure Matters

The Facility Operations program is responsible for the scheduling and prepping of ballfields that helps promote active lifestyles and support community wellness

What's the Story

- Parks staff provide game ready city fields at LBA Park, Stevens Field and Yauger Park for numerous youth and adult sports organizations including baseball, fastpitch, slowpitch and soccer groups.
- Quality facilities are vital for the growth of sports leagues and tournaments in our community.
- Park improvement projects, land acquisition and development are also an important role in the process.
- \$79,728 revenue from City Field rentals in 2019.
- \$32,138 revenue from City Field rentals in 2020.
- Spring 2020 leagues were canceled across the board due to COVID-19 restrictions. Summer and fall leagues were offered but pandemic related restrictions reduced offerings and participation.
- Scheduled 9,056 hours of community use on OSD fields in 2019.
- Scheduled 2,024 hours of community use on OSD fields in 2020.

Focus Area/Outcome

Community Livability

Recreation opportunities for everyone

Status



Trend

Better

Performance Measure

Prior to 2020, trend was more tournament games and less league games

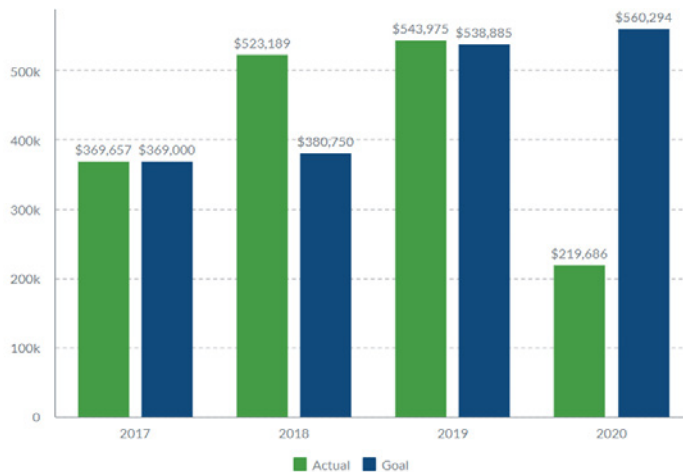
Target

2% growth from previous year's actual



Parks, Arts and Recreation Facilities

Gross Revenue Generated



Data Source: OPARD ActiveNet Reports

Why This Measure Matters

Facility use revenue plays a vital role to the success of OPARD, and helps strengthen community enrichment and the local economy.

What's the Story

- Key funding sources in Facility Operations include TOC room reservations including the Harbor House, Oly on Ice, boating moorage, general leases and other contributions or grants.
- The Olympia Center and Harbor House constitute about 40% of Facility revenue, while Athletic Field reservations bring in around 33%. Park Shelter Rentals typically establish another 10%.
- Significant community service partners include Senior Services for South Sound, the Olympia Farmers Market, and the Sandman Foundation.
- Oly on Ice, our temporary seasonal ice rink in downtown Olympia, opened in 2018.
- Closures/cancellations, including Oly on Ice, had tremendous negative impact on revenue in 2020 due to pandemic response.
- Will continue emphasis on making hospitality a priority.

Focus Area/Outcome

Community Livability

Recreation opportunities for everyone

Status

Trend

Better

Performance Measure

Several years of surpassing goal ended in 2020. 50+% revenue lost due to pandemic guidelines

Target

3% growth from previous year's actual



Appendix

The following documents and references were utilized in helping to shape the long-range plan for Olympia Parks, Arts and Recreation.

- [2020 Random Sample Survey Report](#)
- [2020 Engage Olympia Public Survey Report](#)

Other Information

- [City of Olympia's Comprehensive Plan](#)
- [Thurston Regional Trails Plan](#)
- [Armory Creative Campus Concept Plan](#)
- [Municipal Art Plan](#)
- [Olympia Sea Level Rise Response Plan](#)
- [Olympia Parks ADA Audit—2017](#)
- [Olympia Crossings: An Art Plan for City Gateways](#)
- [2013 Habitat and Stewardship Strategy](#)



School Day Olywahoo! (a temporary program during the pandemic)

2022-2028 Parks, Arts & Recreation Plan

City of Olympia

February 1, 2022