

**2016-2021 CFP****OPC Finance Subcommittee - August 21, 2015****Park Questions and Answers****Base Programs**

1. *According to our level of service standards or “Target Outcome Ratios” more park land and development is needed to reach our targets. If the ratio is based on population, do we have a list of areas where additional park land is needed? (see pg. 36)*

Neighborhood Parks-The 2010 Parks, Arts and Recreation Plan adopted the concept of providing a neighborhood park within one half to one mile of every residence. This is the basis for projecting the need to acquire three additional neighborhood parks by 2020. The Plan calls for three parks totaling 11 acres; one park in northeast, one in the southeast and one on the west side. The TOR was then determined by dividing the 2020 neighborhood park inventory by the 2020 population.

Community Parks-The Plan identified a current deficiency of 40 acres of community park land that would accommodate 4 full size soccer fields. To meet the athletic/soccer field needs in 2020, an additional 23 acres was identified. The TOR was determined by dividing the 2020 inventory of community park acreage by the 2020 population.

There is no spatial standard utilized to locate community parks because their location does not depend upon walking distance. The main selection criterion is the availability of parcels large enough to accommodate fields, parking and accessory facilities. In 2015, the Department developed the *Olympia Community Park Feasibility Assessment* which evaluated five potential community park sites.

Open Space-Currently the City must acquire 142 acres every 10 years to keep up with increasing population. In the category of Open Space we are very close to meeting our current Target Outcome Ratio.

**Community Park Expansion**

1. *\$50,000 is requested to fund additional enhancements at the Artesian Commons Park. What type of enhancements will be performed? (pg. 37)*

The specific enhancements have not been identified. Artesian Commons Park is evolving and there are likely to be improvements needed to enhance public use of the space. The enhancements will be reviewed by the Artesian Commons Leadership Committee before proceeding with installation.

2. *\$682,500 is requested for land acquisition. Do we have a list of possible areas where the land may be purchased? (pg. 37)*

In 2015, the Department developed the *Olympia Community Park Feasibility Assessment* which evaluated five potential community park sites. While the 2016 CFP funding request won't be enough to acquire one of the five sites, it could be used for purchasing an option or to supplement other funding sources to purchase a park site.

The Department considers a number of factors when purchasing park property; these may include but are not limited to:

- Price
- Owner willingness to sell
- Location
- Ability to meet park program elements
- Site Suitability
  - Topography
  - Critical Areas
  - Soil Types
  - Access
  - Utilities Availability
  - Potential Mitigation Requirements

Once the Department has identified a property to acquire, details regarding negotiations with property owners are conducted in Executive Session with the Olympia City Council. This preserves the best negotiating position for the City.