

# Parks, Public Health, Arts, Parks and Recreation

**Commented [SN1]:** Required add: urban forestry canopy survey  
Optional add: Big "W" trail  
ArCH, Creative District, Inspire Olympia Goals & Policies?



Extraordinary parks, arts and recreation provide opportunities for meaningful life experiences.

**Formatted:** Adjust space between Latin and Asian text, Adjust space between Asian text and numbers

## What Olympia Values:

*Olympians value the role parks, open space, recreation and art play in our lives; as these contribute to our sense of community, and to our physical, spiritual, emotional, environmental and economic well-being.*

**Commented [SN2]:** Based on survey comments

## Our Vision for the Future:

*A healthy, fun, welcoming, safe and enriching place to live for all Olympians.*

**Commented [SN3]:** Heard the public want inclusive and safe in the vision. Added "welcoming" and "for all Olympians"

Read more in the Community Values and Vision chapter

**Commented [SN4R3]:** 01/05 public comment to add the word "safe"

## Introduction

Olympia's great parks, vibrant arts community, and many recreation and enrichment programs ~~enrich~~ enhance our lives and strengthen our connection to the community. Public gathering places, whether a small pocket park or large playfield satisfy our need to join with others in the community. One only has to walk to a neighborhood park, search for a new skill to learn, or catch the latest downtown ~~Arts Walk event~~ such as Arts Walk to experience our welcoming community ~~this~~. The City, community groups, volunteers, and businesses all play a vital role in shaping parks, arts, and recreation. These facilities, events and programs improve people's quality of life, promote active lifestyles, create a sense of place and contribute to the local economy. The City of Olympia takes an active role, when appropriate, in influencing regional health policy where it relates to Olympians.

**Commented [SN5]:** Public comment to not call out "Arts Walk" specifically.

**Commented [SN6R5]:** 1/5 public comment to add Arts Walk as an example of our welcoming community.

## Parks, Arts and Recreation Programs and Facilities

Parks and recreation programs ~~enrich the community by supporting a healthy well-balanced community, support healthy lives, and those healthy individuals and families help sustain a healthy community.~~ City programs offer opportunities to exercise, ~~learn a new skill, and connect with nature,~~ reduce stress, as well as support personal growth and emotional well-being.

Some recreational amenities are regional in nature and a regional approach to their implementation can be effective. ~~The~~As it developed this plan, the City ~~looks~~looked at opportunities for coordinating with other local and regional governments to develop more parks and ~~recreation~~recreational facilities. For example, community parks lend themselves to a regional approach, particularly if a potential site is located near a border with Lacey, Tumwater, or Thurston County. Other regional efforts could include ~~an Art Center, a expanding the regional trail network, recreational programming, an aquatics center, or even an urban agriculture park, ice skating rink or swimming pool.~~ The City will continue to explore these opportunities.

The following goals and policies apply to all parks, arts and recreation programs, and facilities.

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

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

**PR1.2** ~~Design~~Promote City parks, arts, and recreation ~~activities~~programs and facilities so they are used and enjoyed by as many ~~residents~~community members as possible.

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

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

**Commented [SN7]:** 1/5/24 public comment to reduce the number of times "healthy" is used in a single sentence. Suggested edit: "Parks and Recreation programs aim to enrich the community in a manner that will support a healthy well-balanced community."

**Commented [SN8]:** From updated Parks Plan. Public comments around connecting with nature were high value

**Commented [SN9R8]:** \*also connecting with nature was a theme in recent survey on Engage

**Commented [SN10]:** Already in process of developing an Arts Center - so removed.

**Commented [SN11]:** Feasibility study has been in Parks Plan since 2016.

**Commented [SN12]:** Was in the 2022 Parks Plan for a feasibility study

**Commented [SN13]:** Already have a seasonal ice rink. Changed swimming pool to aquatics center.

**Commented [SN14]:** Add inclusive to align with Parks Plan

**Commented [SN15R14]:** 1/5/24 Public comment to add the word "collaborative" after inclusive

**Commented [SN16]:** Based on Parks Plan update

**PR2.1** Seek non-profit organization and community member 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/Seek opportunities to increase revenues generated by users of park facilities and concessions.

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



*Figure 1: Indigenous Peoples' Day 2022 at Squaxin Park (renamed in 2022) featuring Squaxin Island Tribe members.*

Cultural events, such as Indigenous Peoples' Day, celebrate and honor the people and traditions of our community.

**GR 11 Olympia Parks, Arts and Recreation creates and manages places and programs 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.

**Commented [SN17]:** Update from Parks Plan

**Formatted:** Keep with next

**Formatted:** Caption, Widow/Orphan control, Adjust space between Latin and Asian text, Adjust space between Asian text and numbers

**Commented [SN18]:** Update photo

**Commented [SN19]:** Public Comment (KM 11/27) Perhaps this could be simpler such as - "Olympia Parks, Arts and Recreation manages places and programs where all people feel safe and are provided equitable access to engage in parks, arts and recreation services."

**Commented [SN20R19]:** I'd modify it to be : "Olympia Parks, Arts and Recreation creates and manages places and programs where all people feel safe and are provided equitable access to engage in parks, arts and recreation services."

**Formatted:** Indent: Left: 0"

**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 climate resilient vegetation and trees utilizing scientific best practices. 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.

**Formatted:** Font: (Default) Tahoma, 12 pt

**Commented [SN21]:** Per PSE's comment about right tree/right place policy - adding clarification to goal.

Proposed change:  
"Restore and plant climate resilient vegetation and trees utilizing scientific best practices. Maintain and support Olympia's street trees to help cool streets and neighborhoods."

**Formatted:** Font: (Default) Tahoma, 12 pt

**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.

**Commented [SN22]:** Added from Parks Plan. Reviewed by staff - Climate and DEI managers.

## Parks

There are 5352 parks and open spaces in the City of Olympia that give the community a variety of opportunities to enjoy the outdoors from hiking in Watershed Park, to keeping cool in the sprayground at Woodruff Heritage Park Fountain, to strolling along Percival Landing, to enjoying a reunion getting married in the Rose Garden at Squaxin Priest Point Park. Despite the number of parks we have, however, there are still unmet needs, such as soccer fields, neighborhood parks within a 10 minute walk of each resident, community dog parks, community gardens, bike and nature trails, and open space. For a complete inventory of all existing park, recreation and open space lands in Olympia see the Parks, Arts and Recreation Plan Parks, Arts and Recreation Plan

**Formatted:** Underline color: Auto

**Formatted:** Underline color: Custom Color(32,71,135))

**Formatted:** Underline color: Auto

**Commented [SN23]:** Updated with new projects and word choices.

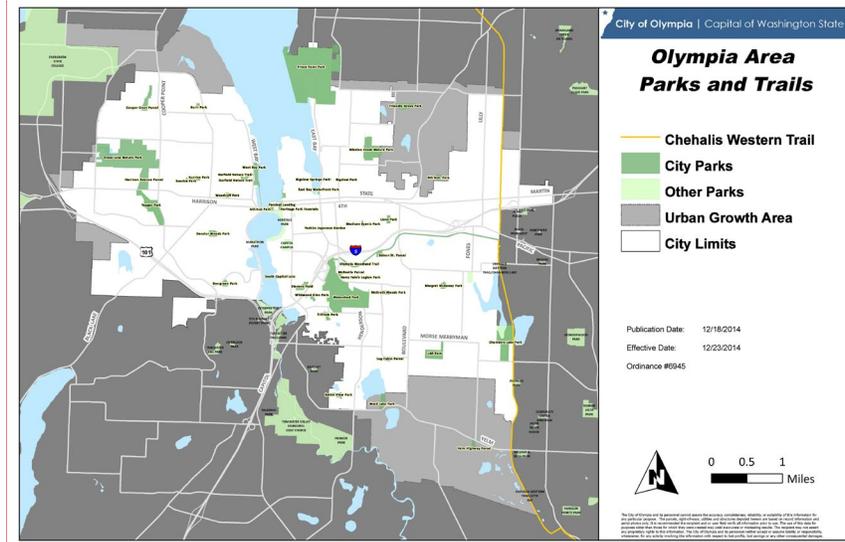
**Formatted:** Underline color: Auto

**Formatted:** Underline color: Auto

**Formatted:** Underline color: Auto

**Formatted:** Underline color: Custom Color(32,71,135))

**Commented [SN24]:** Needs updating. For consistency, the City's Comp Team has the GIS mapping assigned to GIS staff



View Map – Olympia Area Parks and Trails

**Formatted:** Underline color: Auto

**Formatted:** Underline color: Custom Color(32,71,135))

**Formatted:** Underline color: Auto

**Formatted:** Underline color: Auto

**Formatted:** Underline color: Auto

**Commented [SN25]:** This section is updated from the Parks Plan

**Formatted:** Underline color: Auto

Over the next 20 years, Olympia will face a number of challenges and opportunities as we work as it works to meet the demand for parks, arts and recreation open space:

- **Public Needs Funding for Large Capital Projects.** Current funding is

not adequate **to Feel Safe and Secure in Parks and Facilities**

While strategies enacted since complete 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.

Formatted: Font: Bold, Underline color: Auto

Formatted: Underline color: Auto, Font color: Auto

**• Demand for New Parks and Arts Exceeds Resources**

• Many new park projects in Olympia will each cost tens of millions of dollars. These "mega projects" include Percival Landing reconstruction, completing the final two phases of the Karen Fraser Woodland Trail, developing project and the Isthmus gateway, acquire and develop a 40-acre community park, and complete the West Bay Park and Trail, developing the Armory Creative Campus, and developing the Yelm Highway Community Park site. These are all multi-million dollar projects. To help address funding gaps, the City will look for creative opportunities in grant funding, partnerships and phased development as well as debt servicing options.

Formatted: Normal, Indent: Left: 0.25", No bullets or numbering, Widow/Orphan control, Adjust space between Latin and Asian text, Adjust space between Asian text and numbers

Formatted: Underline color: Auto, Font color: Auto

Formatted: Underline color: Auto, Font color: Auto

Formatted: Underline color: Auto, Font color: Auto

Commented [SN26]: Based on public comment asking how we'll address this challenge

Formatted: Underline color: Auto, Font color: Auto

• **Acquiring Land for New Parks.** As our population increases we will need more parks and open space to maintain the same level of service standards yet less land and fewer large parcels will be available.

• **Maintaining an Aging Infrastructure.** As Olympia's park infrastructure ages, it becomes more important, and more expensive, to maintain.

Formatted: Underline color: Auto

**• Population Growth Creating Demand for New Park Land**

As our population increases, we will need more parks and open space to meet current service standards, yet less land and fewer large parcels are available. Staff will explore innovative solutions and continue to pursue land acquisition opportunities to meet future needs.

Formatted: Underline color: Custom Color(RGB(32,71,135))

**• Climate Change Impacts and Action**

Climate change is impacting Olympia's parks and recreation activities. From sea level rise to frequent extreme weather events, we must mitigate these impacts and build a climate resilient parks system that will serve generations to come. As the City updates the Percival Landing Master Plan, design for sea level rise will be addressed. In 2022 the City's Urban Forestry Program hired a consultant to do an evaluation of tree canopy coverage for the entire City. This information will be used by parks to strategically and equitably maintain and enhance tree canopy coverage in parks throughout the City. The full evaluation and report can be found online [olympiawa.gov/treecanopy](http://olympiawa.gov/treecanopy).

Formatted: Font color: Auto

Commented [SN27]: Required by GMA

Formatted: Font color: Auto

Formatted: Font color: Auto

Formatted: Font color: Auto

**• The Immediate Need to Undo Institutional Injustice in Parks,**

### Arts and Recreation Services

Equity, inclusion and belonging needs to be centered in parks, arts and recreation. 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 continually analyze the political, economic, sociodemographic, technological, legal, and environmental challenges facing our work. This requires continually developing solutions and strategies for the challenges. A staff committee focused on equity, inclusion and belonging work meets regularly to analyze the challenges and develop solutions.

**Commented [SN28]:** Added based on public comments of not knowing what the City is doing. Suggested by DEI manager.

### Conclusion

Olympia and its community members have changed since 2014 when the last Comprehensive Plan was updated. From an increase in population, to taking climate actions, to 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.

## Maintaining the quality of Olympia's parks and recreation system

### Level of Service Standards

#### The Parks and Recreation Plan:

Every six years, the City undertakes an extensive public outreach effort to update its ~~Parks, Arts and Recreation Plan~~Parks, Arts and Recreation Plan. During this time, community members have an opportunity to share what they want from our park system, and our arts and recreation needs, which are used to update Olympia's park level of service standards. These standards -- such as the ratio of developed park land per 1,000 residents --- along with an equity analysis, are used to evaluate and prioritize the need to acquire more park land or build more recreation facilities.

**Commented [SN29]:** Updated based on 2022 Parks, Arts and Recreation Plan.

**Formatted:** Underline color: Auto

**Formatted:** Underline color: Auto

**Formatted:** Underline color: Auto

**Formatted:** Underline color: Auto

**Commented [SN30]:** Part of our goals for incorporating equity into levels of service

**Formatted:** Underline color: Auto

**Formatted:** Underline color: Auto

**Formatted:** Underline color: Custom Color( RGB(32,71,135))

**Formatted:** Underline color: Auto

#### The Capital Facilities Plan:

The ~~Capital Facilities Plan~~Capital Facilities Plan describes how the City finances new park acquisition and development, which is funded by a variety of sources including the Metropolitan Parks District, the two percent private utility tax, park impact fees, Washington's State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) mitigation fees, grants and donations. While most of the park projects proposed in the ~~Parks, Arts and Recreation Plan~~Parks, Arts and Recreation Plan.

**Formatted:** Underline color: Auto

already have identified funding sources, some significant regional and large projects do not.

Formatted: Underline color: Auto

Formatted: Underline color: Custom  
Color(RGB(32,71,135))

## Neighborhood Parks

Commented [SN31]: Updates to this section are from the Parks Plan

~~A~~ Neighborhood Parks are typically ~~Park is usually a~~ small playground and ~~are~~ ~~open area~~ designed primarily for non-supervised, non-organized recreation ~~recreational~~ activities. Facilities found in neighborhood parks A typical Neighborhood Park might ~~might~~ include items such as playgrounds (for 2-12 year olds), a children's playground, a picnic areas, restroomshelter, a restroom, and open grass areas for passive and active use. ~~Amenities may~~ These parks also ~~may~~ include items such as trails, tennis courts, basketball courts, skate courts, public art, and community gardens. 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 Neighborhood Park is unique amenities, residents will often 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 ~~Neighborhood Parks~~ is thus the entire City and its Urban Growth Area. ~~Urban Growth Area~~





Neighborhood parks such as [Lion's Margaret McKenny Park](#) provide nearby places to be active.

There are currently [3026](#) Neighborhood Parks in Olympia totaling [8972](#) acres. ~~For there~~As Olympia's population grows, some of our Neighborhood Parks are nearing capacity. To address this, the City estimates that it needs to ~~be a park~~acquire ten additional Neighborhood Park sites totaling approximately 20 acres within a 1/2 mile (10-minute walking distance) to most Olympia residents, four new combination neighborhood park/open spaces will need to be acquired and seven neighborhood parks will need to be developed over the next 20-year ~~planning horizon.~~20 years. This is also consistent with the goal expressed in the [Parks, Arts and Recreation Plan](#) [↗](#) of having a neighborhood park within walking distance to most residences.

For more information on the Neighborhood Park standard see the [Parks, Arts and Recreation Plan](#) [↗](#).

## Community Parks

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

**Commented [SN32]:** Updates are taken from the Parks Plan for this section

~~Athletic field~~ Percival Landing. Olympia has not developed space can range from a single field at a new community park in to a multiple field complex. Large athletic field complexes are the last 40 years. most cost effective for efficient scheduling and maintenance. Though they 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 Athletic field complexes bring large groups together and require more facilities (such as parking, restrooms and parking) which allows for tournament play picnic shelters. 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 with hopes of developing the first phase of the park in 2025. Combined, these parks total 75 acres.

Other Community Parks may have a special focus, such as a waterfront, garden, or water feature. Some examples include the Heritage Park Fountain, Yashiro Japanese Garden, and Percival Landing.



Formatted: Underline color: Custom  
Color(RGB(32,71,135))



Community parks add to Olympia's vitality (Percival Landing).

Olympia provides athletic fields through a combination of City parks and school fields. But there still is a need for additional rectangular fields. In recent years, soccer groups have been turned away and have used fields available in other jurisdictions. Some athletic fields have been so over-used that they cannot recover for the following season, which is leading to long-term deterioration. While the City will continue its efforts to acquire large parcels for future athletic field complexes, it recognizes that with very few large undeveloped parcels available, it may be necessary to meet the future athletic field need with single fields at multiple parks.

Community Parks can also can have special features such as off-leash dog areas, bicycle courses, freshwater swim beaches, waterfront access and community gardens. Based on community needs, Olympia will also need to add additional Community Park acreage to provide for these desired recreational amenities. For organized sports, it matters less where the player lives, but rather where a game is scheduled. ~~Much like a transit system or library system that is "area-wide", Community Parks serve the entire Olympia urban growth area. Thus T~~the service area for Community Parks is defined as being all of Olympia and all of Olympia's urban growth area.

~~To meet both existing and future community park~~The City estimates that it needs, the Parks, Arts and Recreation Plan calls for acquisition of 20 ~~to acquire an additional 84 acres of community park land, development of 52 acres of existing community park land, and upgrades and major maintenance to existing athletic fields.~~ parks to meet the demand for Community Parks within 20 years.

- Formatted: Underline color: Auto
- Formatted: Underline color: Auto
- Formatted: Underline color: Auto
- Formatted: Underline color: Custom Color(RGB(32,71,135))
- Formatted: Underline color: Auto
- Commented [SN33]: Per staff recommendation to be more concise.
- Formatted: Underline color: Auto
- Formatted: Underline color: Custom Color(RGB(32,71,135))

For more information on the Community Park standard see the [Parks, Arts and Recreation Plan](#).

## Open Space

**Commented [SN34]:** Updates to this section are from the Parks Plan

Open ~~space parks are~~ ~~Space is~~ defined as primarily undeveloped land ~~that is set aside for community members to enjoy nature and~~ 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 and cooling. Open space# may include, but is not limited to, trails; 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. to allow passive recreation such as nature observation and hiking is encouraged in these areas, except in cases where wildlife conservation is the primary function.~~ Parking and trailhead facilities such as restrooms, information kiosks and environmental education facilities are also appropriate.

**Commented [SN35]:** Bee City USA add needed (per Amy Stull)

(Note that the term "Open Space" as used in this chapter has a more specific meaning than as used in the [Natural Environment](#) Chapter pursuant to RCW [36.70A.160](#)).





Open spaces such as Mission Creek Nature Park provide opportunities to experience nature within the city.

Research has shown that residents are willing to travel across town looking for the special and unique features associated with one Open Space in particular. For instance, Watershed Park provides walking trails in a stream and wetland complex while Squaxin Priest Point Park provides saltwater beach access and old growth forests. ~~Much like a transit system or library system that is "area wide", Open Spaces serve the entire Olympia urban growth area. Thus [~~the service area for Open Space is defined as being all of Olympia and all of Olympia's urban growth area.

~~Open Space and its amenities have~~has a very high value to Olympia residents. In a series of ~~surveys/neighborhood workshops~~ conducted for a recent update to the Parks, Arts and Recreation Plan, one of the most dominant themes was ~~access to nature, "Buy open space conservation/natural areas, hiking trails and multi-use paved trails. — provide nearby access to nature."~~ ~~access to nature, "Buy open space conservation/natural areas, hiking trails and multi-use paved trails. — provide nearby access to nature."~~

~~Fifteen~~313 acres of Open Space acquisition are proposed for the next 20 years. These acquisitions will meet the Open Space Level of Service Standard and will address the impact of projected population growth on the Open Space system. For more information on the Open Space standard see the [Parks, Arts and Recreation Plan](#) .

**Commented [SN36]:** Per staff recommendation to simplify (MS)

**Formatted:** Underline color: Auto

**Formatted:** Underline color: Custom Color( RGB(32,71,135))

The level of service standards outlined above, and the following goals and policies will guide Olympia's park system towards achieving its vision over the next 20 years.

Formatted: Underline color: Auto

Formatted: Underline color: Auto

Formatted: Underline color: Custom  
Color( RGB(32,71,135))

Commented [SN37]: All changes to goals and policies are from the Parks Plan unless otherwise noted

## Goals and Policies

**GR3 A ~~vibrant~~sustainable park system that meets current and future community recreation needs and Level of Service standards.**

**PR3.1** Provide parks in close proximity (within 1/2 mile) to all residents.

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

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

**PR3.4** Identify and acquire future park and open space sites that will serve residents in Olympia and its~~in the~~ Urban Growth ~~a~~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.

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

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

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

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

**PR4.4** Encourage walking, ~~and bicycling~~ and other non-vehicular access for recreation and transportation purposes by linking parks to multi-modal walking routes, streets and trails in coordination with the Transportation Master Plan.

**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~~Complete~~ Percival Landing reconstruction and West Bay Park construction.

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

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

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

**Commented [SN38]:** Theme in public comments around non-vehicular access

**Commented [SN39]:** Per public comment provided to Transportation regarding Parks and Transportation consistency with goals and policies.

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

**PR6.1** Continue to ~~improve~~implement and refine the ~~Parks~~City-wide Asset Management Program to ~~ensure park infrastructure remains~~make sure the City's public facilities remain functional and safe ~~for as long as they were designed for.~~

Formatted: Font color: Custom Color(RGB(14,14,14))

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

**PR6.3** ~~Design, maintain, and operate facilities to prevent~~Protect the City's investment from damage by ~~vandalism, encampments, and other misuse and encourages~~in a manner that preserves the intended ~~use~~purpose.

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

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

## Arts and Events

Olympia is ~~now~~home to an engaged population of ~~approximately 2,500 individual artists and almost 100 arts organizations active in music, literary, performance, media and venues. Our resident artists are musicians, writers, actors, and visual arts artists who are both nationally known and emerging.~~ Olympia ~~offers~~hosts award-winning theater, ~~ground-breaking~~music performances ~~from indie to symphony~~, the Procession of the Species, and a strong visual, literary and performing arts community that ranges from ~~emerging~~informal artists to those with nationwide gallery 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 Arts Commissions in neighboring jurisdictions, the City's programs benefit the arts regionally, while serving as a model for communities throughout Washington State.

Commented [SN40]: Updated based on 2022 Parks Plan, Inspire Olympia Program, and ArCH.

Formatted: Underline color: Auto

Formatted: Underline color: Custom Color(RGB(32,71,135))

Commented [SN41]: Per City of Lacey's comments (JB) 11/29

With the recent voter approved initiative, Inspire Olympia, a portion of Olympia's sales tax is collected and utilized to contract with local non-profit organizations offering arts, sciences, heritage and cultural programs and experiences for the

public in the City and Olympia School District. Inspire Olympia provides a reliable source of public funding that sustains a healthy, visible, welcoming and inclusive nonprofit cultural and science sector, making creative cultural experiences accessible for everyone in Olympia.



Arts Walk is a beloved one of the largest public events in the community event in Olympia, and a source of civic spirit and pride.

Over the next 20 years, Olympia will face two challenges:

- **Developing Creating an Arts Center.** In 1989, the City first identified a need for a regional arts center with exhibition space, working studios, and rehearsal space for regional artists. In 2021 the City of Olympia took ownership of the Olympia Armory building for the purpose of creating a community arts center. While funds have been identified to support the initial visioning, the City will likely need to debt service and fundraise a

significant portion of the first phase of construction needed to make the building safe and accessible to the public.

- **Retaining Artists.** Social and economic factors such as cost of living, affordable housing, and stable economy may make it harder for Olympia to retain its artists.



The Armory building will soon be an arts center that supports diverse artists equitably.

**Formatted:** Font: (Default) Tahoma, Font color: Custom Color(14,14,14)

**Formatted:** Indent: Left: 0.5", No bullets or numbering, Widow/Orphan control, Adjust space between Latin and Asian text, Adjust space between Asian text and numbers

**Formatted:** Indent: Left: 0.42", No bullets or numbering

## Goals and Policies

**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.

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

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

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

**PR7.7** Encourage art in vacant storefronts.

**PR7.8** Encourage neighborhood art studios.

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

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

~~**PR7.11** Encourage interactive/experiential art.~~~~**PR7.11** Establish an "art in city buildings" program that would host rotating art exhibits.~~

~~**PR7.12** Consider opportunities for public art projects in response to current community issues.~~

### **GR8 Arts in Olympia are supported.**

**PR8.1** Pursue a ~~regional~~ 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~~Establish and promote a theater and entertainment district~~ in downtown and Olympia's art economy in generalOlympia.

**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.

## Recreation

The City's recreation programs promote physical and mental well-being, bring community members together in a positive, supportive, and fun atmosphere, while creating and create memorable experiences for individuals and families. The City offers traditional programs such as sports leagues, youth camps and clinics, and special interest classes. The City does adapt~~It also responds~~ to emerging recreational needs, and it is also important for other providers to supplement recreational opportunities~~interests, such as one department cannot realistically or sustainably meet the entire~~ Ultimate Frisbee league, high energy dance classes, and community demand~~gardens.~~

Each year, approximately 400 teams participate in City sports leagues, more than 4,0500 community members take a leisure recreation class, and more than 14,5000 youth participate in camp programs. In addition to enhancing participants' wellness, people who participate in these programs also gain a sense of belonging, make great contributions and invest in their to the community



**Commented [SN42]:** Updated based on 2022 Parks Plan

**Formatted:** Underline color: Auto

**Formatted:** Underline color: Custom  
Color( RGB(32,71,135))

**Commented [SN43]:** Per Veronica's stats

**Commented [SN44]:** Per Tad's stats



Recreation Programs foster community health and wellness ("Kids Love Soccer" Program).

**Olympia’s recreation programs face the following challenges:**

- **Activating our Community.** Our ~~s~~edentary lifestyles are contributing to health problems. The City must find places and programs that ~~people can easily access to become active and lead healthy lifestyles. can compete with the ease and simplicity of TV and computers for our time and attention.~~
- **Connecting with Nature.** Our ~~electronic toys and indoor jobs have created a~~ culture ~~is~~ less connected to nature ~~today than it was 20 years ago.~~ If our residents are not connected to nature, it will become increasingly difficult for them to understand or embrace environmental stewardship.
- **An aging population that’s ready for action:** Between 2020 and 2035, Olympia’s senior population is projected to ~~nearly~~ double. But the seniors of the future are likely to be more active and adventurous than in prior generations. Olympia’s recreation programs need to embrace this trend.

**Goals and Policies**

**GR9 Olympians enjoy lifelong happiness and wellness.**

Formatted: Underline color: Auto

Formatted: Underline color: Auto

**Commented [SN45]:** Staff Feedback: Both of these read as kind of judge-y to me. I'd suggest removing the language about technology altogether and instead saying something like:

**Activating our Community:** adults and children are less active now than they have been in the past, due to changes in our lifestyles. Making activity an easy thing to integrate into daily life is harder than it has been in the past.

**Connecting to Nature:** our culture is less connected to nature than it has been in the past. Connecting to the outdoors helps people understand and embrace the value of our natural surroundings.

Formatted: Underline color: Custom Color(RGB(32,71,135))

Formatted: Underline color: Auto

Formatted: Underline color: Custom Color(RGB(32,71,135))

Formatted: Underline color: Auto

Formatted: Underline color: Auto

Formatted: Underline color: Auto

Formatted: Underline color: Custom Color(RGB(32,71,135))

**Commented [SN46]:** All goals and policies are updated from the 2022 Parks Plan unless otherwise noted.

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

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

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

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

**PR9.5** Support 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 Families recreate together.**

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

**PR10.2** ~~Provide recreational opportunities for all residents~~ family structures,

**PR10.23** ~~Work towards providing recreation programs that are affordable and/or available to all Olympians~~ community members,

**PR10.34** Provide parks and programs to serve people of all ages, and with many different abilities, and interests.

**PR10.45** Develop programs and design park facilities that encourage activities people can do together regardless of their age or abilities.

**PR10.56** Provide convenient, safe, active, outdoor recreation experiences suited for families.

Formatted: Underline color: Auto

Formatted: Underline color: Auto

Formatted: Underline color: Auto

Formatted: Underline color: Custom  
Color( RGB(32,71,135) )

Formatted: Underline color: Auto

Formatted: Underline color: Auto

Formatted: Underline color: Auto

Formatted: Underline color: Auto

Formatted: Underline color: Custom  
Color( RGB(32,71,135) )

Commented [SN47]: Per PSE comments

## For More Information

- [Parks, Arts and Recreation Plan](#) 
- Olympia's [Capital Facilities Plan](#)  shows how park projects will be funded during a six year period
- For a complete list of all of Olympia's parks and trails, see [Parks and Trails](#) 
- For a comprehensive look at regional trail planning, see the [Thurston Regional Trails Plan](#) 
- Information on the City's Public Art Collection can be found at [Public Art](#)
- ~~In 2017, the Art's Commission helped develop Olympia Crossings. An art plan for City gateways.~~
- ~~In 2007, the Art's Commission participated in an Arts Center Feasibility Study~~ 
- To learn more about the City of Olympia's recreational programs and classes, see [Recreation](#)

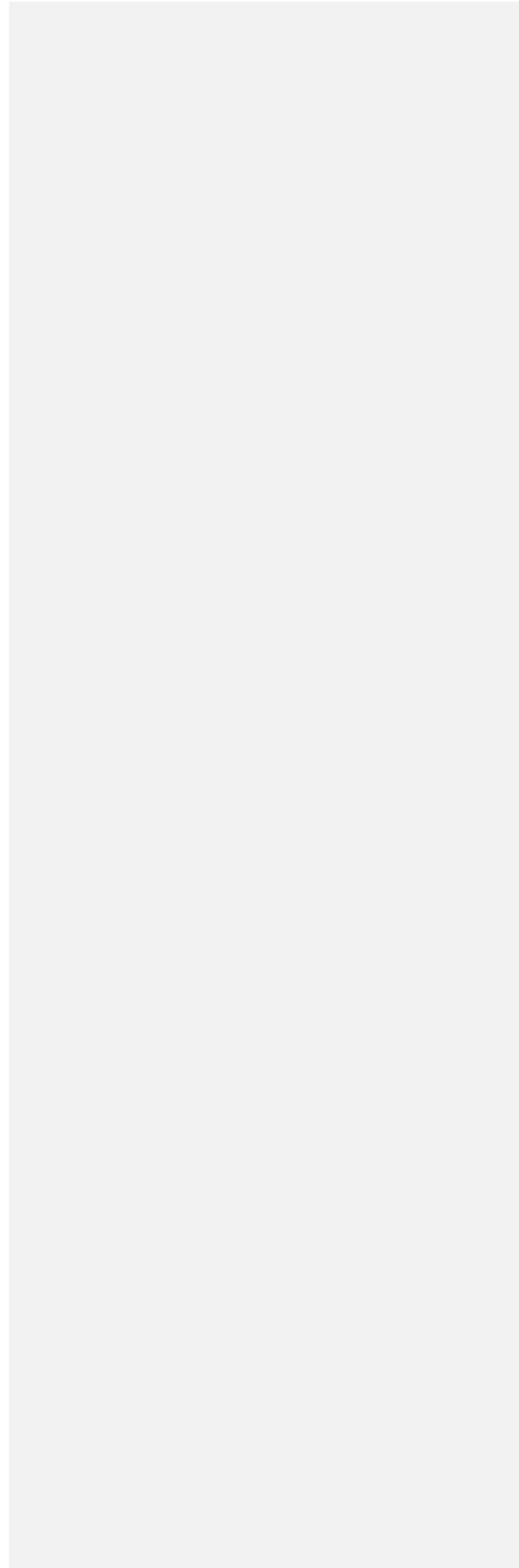
Formatted: No underline

DRAFT

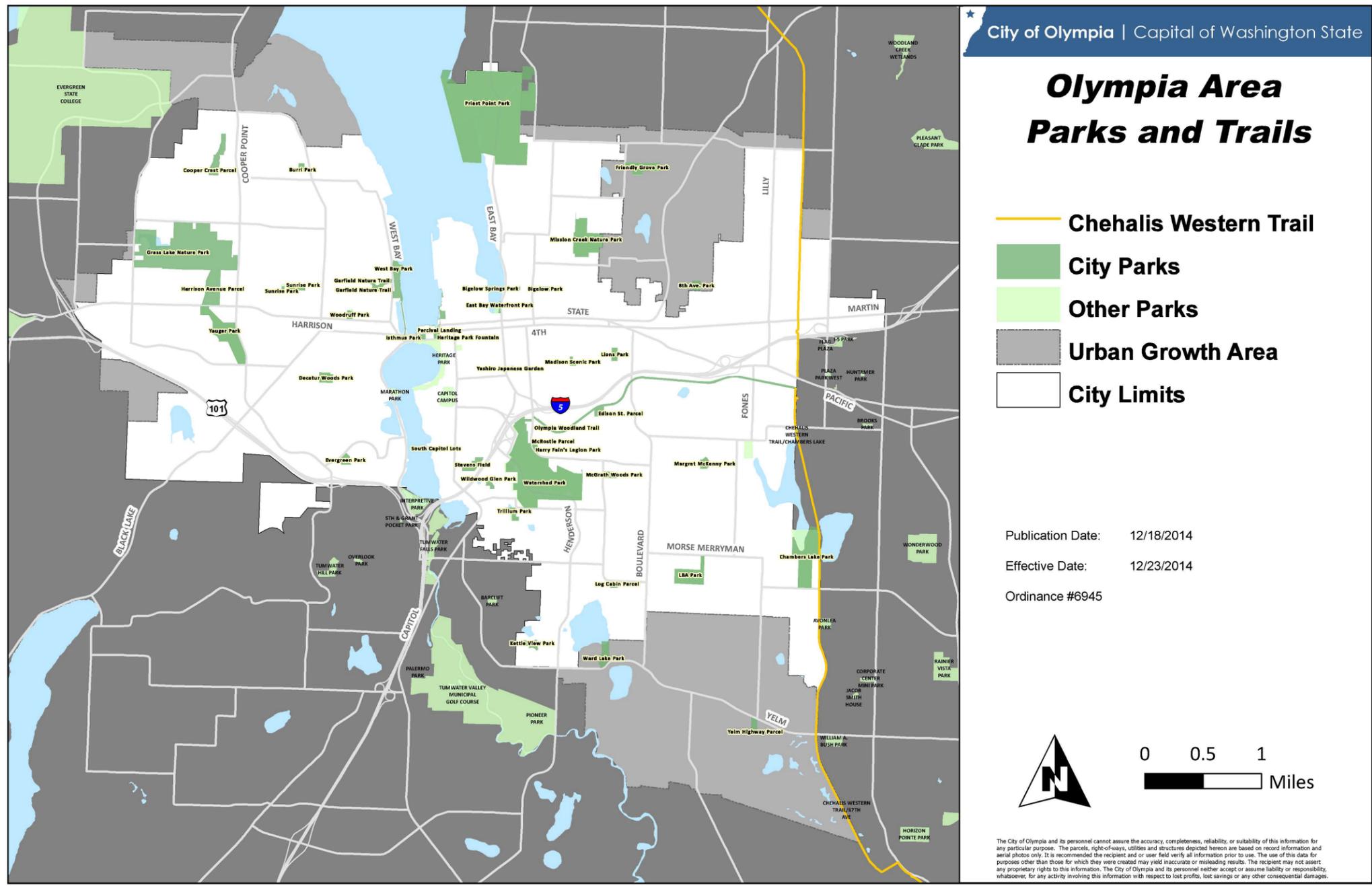
|

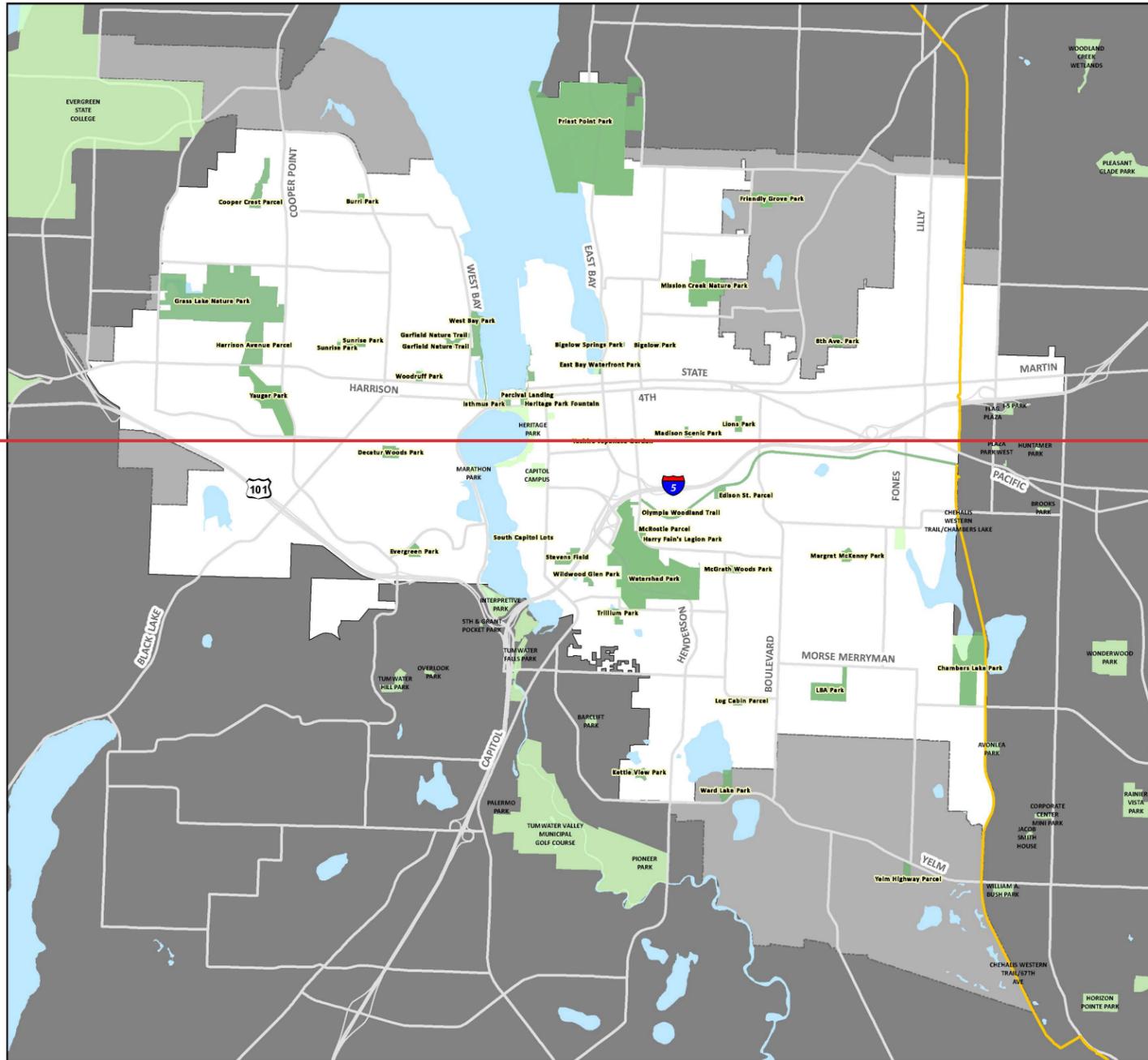
This page intentionally blank.

DRAFT



Commented [SN48]: @Sarah Giannobile Can you provide an updated map? @Laura Keehan



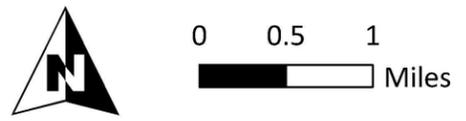


City of Olympia | Capital of Washington State

# Olympia Area Parks and Trails

-  Chehalis Western Trail
-  City Parks
-  Other Parks
-  Urban Growth Area
-  City Limits

Publication Date: 12/18/2014  
 Effective Date: 12/23/2014  
 Ordinance #6945



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

Commented [SG49R48]: @Sylvana Niehuser For sure - what size do we want this map - probably on a 8.5x11 sheet?

Commented [SN50R48]: 8.5x11 would be great!

|

This page intentionally blank.

DRAFT

