

Ordinance No. _____

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON, AMENDING THE PUBLIC HEALTH, ARTS, PARKS AND RECREATION CHAPTER OF THE OLYMPIA COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TO BE CONSISTENT WITH THE OLYMPIA 2016 PARKS, ARTS, AND RECREATION PLAN.

WHEREAS, on May 16, 2016, the Olympia Planning Commission received a briefing on the proposal to amend the Public Health, Arts, Parks and Recreation Chapter of the Olympia Comprehensive Plan (herein the Amendments), which addresses how many acres of Neighborhood Parks, Community Parks, and Open Space will be needed, so the text is consistent with the recently adopted Olympia Parks, Arts and Recreation Plan; and

WHEREAS, on June 6, 2016, the Olympia Planning Commission held a public hearing on the proposal and deliberated the Amendments on June 20, 2016; and

WHEREAS, following the public hearing and deliberations, the Planning Commission recommended amendments to the Comprehensive Plan text in the Public Health, Arts, Parks and Recreation Chapter as proposed; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to RCW 43.21C and WAC 197-11-800(19)(b), this action is exempt from the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA); and

WHEREAS, this Comprehensive Plan text amendment is consistent with the Olympia Comprehensive Plan's Future Land Use Map and is specifically proposed for consistency with the Olympia Parks, Arts, and Recreation Plan adopted by the City Council on February 9, 2016; and

WHEREAS, the text amendment involves updating the references to acres of Neighborhood Parks, Community Parks, and Open Space needed for the City. The amendment does not change the goals, policies, or maps of the comprehensive plan; and

WHEREAS, this text amendment meets the goals and requirements of the Growth Management Act; and

WHEREAS, this comprehensive plan amendment has been reviewed pursuant to the Olympia Comprehensive Plan Amendment Process outlined in Chapter 18.59 of the Olympia Municipal Code; and

WHEREAS, Chapters 35A.63 and 36.70A RCW and Article 11, Section 11 of the Washington State Constitution authorize and permit the City to adopt this Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, this Ordinance is supported by the staff report and materials associated with this Ordinance, along with other documents on file with the City of Olympia; and

WHEREAS, this Ordinance is also supported by the professional judgment and experience of the City staff who have worked on this proposal; and

WHEREAS, City Staff are known to the City Council, and staff's curriculum vitae shall be part of the record in support of this Ordinance;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE OLYMPIA CITY COUNCIL ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Amendment of Olympia Comprehensive Plan Text. The Public Health, Arts, Parks and Recreation Chapter of the City of Olympia Comprehensive Plan is hereby amended as shown on the attached Exhibit A, which is hereby incorporated as though fully set forth herein.

Section 2. Olympia Comprehensive Plan. Copies of the City of Olympia Comprehensive Plan are and shall be retained on file with the City Clerk.

Section 3. Severability. If any provision of this Ordinance or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the ordinance or application of the provisions to other persons or circumstances shall remain unaffected.

Section 4. Ratification. Any act consistent with the authority and prior to the effective date of this Ordinance is hereby ratified and affirmed.

Section 5. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall take effect five (5) days after publication, as provided by law.

MAYOR

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Darren Nienaber DCA
CITY ATTORNEY

PASSED:

APPROVED:

PUBLISHED:

EXHIBIT A

Public Health, Arts, Parks and Recreation



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

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 and emotional well-being.

Our Vision for the Future:

A healthy, fun and enriching place to live.

Read more in the Community Values and Vision chapter

Introduction

Olympia's great parks, vibrant arts community, and many recreation and enrichment programs enrich 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 to experience this. The City, community groups, volunteers, and businesses all play a vital role in shaping parks, arts, and recreation. These

facilities 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.

Parks, Arts and Recreation Programs and Facilities

Parks and recreation programs support healthy lives, and those healthy individuals and families help sustain a healthy community. City programs offer opportunities to exercise and 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. As it developed this plan, the City looked at opportunities for coordinating with other local and regional governments to develop more parks and 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 regional trail network, recreational programming, or even an 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 community building, and enhance the visual character and livability of Olympia.

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

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

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

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

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

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

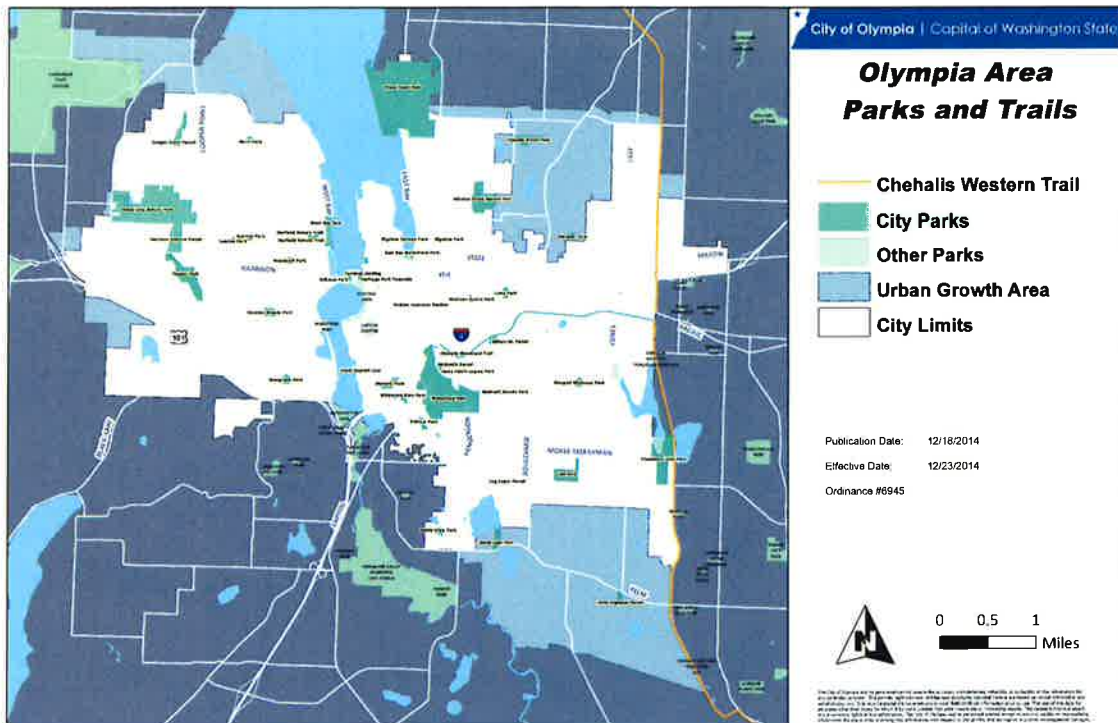
PR2.3 Continue the Joint Use Agreement between the City and the Olympia School District to provide recreation facilities and programming for the community.

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

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

Parks

There are 52 parks and open spaces in the City of Olympia that give us a variety of opportunities to enjoy the outdoors from hiking in Watershed Park, to keeping cool in the Heritage Park Fountain, to strolling along Percival Landing, to getting married in the Rose Garden at Priest Point Park. Despite the number of parks we have, however, there are still unmet needs, such as soccer fields, 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.



View Map – Olympia Area Parks and Trails

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

- **Funding for Large Capital Projects.** Current funding is not adequate to complete the Percival Landing project and the Isthmus gateway, acquire and develop a 40-acre community park, and complete the West Bay Park and Trail. These are all multi-million dollar projects.
- **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.

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. During this time, citizens 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. ~~Level of service standards are referred to as "Target Outcome Ratios in the Parks, Arts and Recreation Plan.~~ These standards -- the ratio of developed park land per 1,000 residents --- are used to evaluate the need to acquire more park land or build more recreation facilities.

The Capital Facilities Plan:

The Capital Facilities Plan describes how the City finances new park acquisition and development, which is funded by a variety of sources including 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 already have identified funding sources, some do not.

Neighborhood Parks

A Neighborhood Park is usually a small playground and open area designed primarily for non-supervised, non-organized recreational activities. A typical Neighborhood Park might include a children's playground, a picnic shelter, a restroom, and open grass areas for passive and active use. These parks also may include trails, tennis courts, basketball courts, skate courts, public art, and community gardens. Since each Neighborhood Park is unique, residents will often travel throughout the City to experience a variety of them. The service area for Neighborhood Parks is thus the entire City and its Urban Growth Area.



Neighborhood parks such as Lion's Park provide nearby places to be active.

There are currently 2326 Neighborhood Parks in Olympia totaling 6972 acres. As Olympia's population grows, some of our Neighborhood Parks are nearing capacity. To address this, the City estimates that it needs to acquire threeten additional Neighborhood Park sites totaling approximately 1120 acres within 1020 years. This is also consistent with the goal expressed in the Parks, Arts and Recreation Plan of having a neighborhood park within one mile of all 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 designed to serve the larger community, and are either athletic fields or sites that have a special focus.

Athletic field space can range from a single field at a park to a multiple-field complex. Large athletic field complexes are the most cost-effective for efficient scheduling and maintenance. Though they are designed for organized activities and sports, individual and family activities are also encouraged. Athletic field complexes bring large groups together and require more facilities, such as parking, restrooms and picnic shelters. Olympia's three existing athletic field complexes are: LBA Park, Yauger Park and Stevens Field. 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.



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 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 the service area for Community Parks is defined as being all of Olympia and all of Olympia's urban growth area.

~~The Community Park level of service standard is determined by analyzing athletic field and non-athletic field community needs separately. The City estimates that it needs two additional athletic field oriented community parks totaling 63 acres and 7 special use oriented community parks totaling 29 acres to acquire an additional 84 acres of community parks to meet the demand for Community Parks within 1020 years. For more information on the Community Park standard see the Parks, Arts and Recreation Plan.~~

Open Space

Open Space is defined as primarily undeveloped land set aside for citizens to enjoy nature and to protect the natural character of Olympia's landscape. It may include trails; wetlands; wetland buffers; stream or river corridors and aquatic habitat; forested or upland wildlife areas; ravines, bluffs, or other geologically hazardous areas; prairies/meadows; and undeveloped areas within existing parks. Trail development 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.

(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 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.

Olympia already has a substantial inventory of Open Space acreage. Priest Point Park, Grass Lake Refuge, and Watershed Park alone comprise over 630 acres. To retain the current ratio of Open Space to population would require acquiring approximately 140 more acres to the inventory every 10 years. Lack of available land parcels and insufficient funding makes this unfeasible. Yet, Open Space has a very high value to Olympia residents. At the Parks, Arts & Recreation public workshops related to parks planning, when people were asked, "What parks, arts or recreation experience do you value most?" the number one response was "nature." In a series of neighborhood workshops conducted for a recent update to the Parks, Arts and Recreation Plan, one of the most dominant themes was

"Buy open space/natural areas – provide nearby access to nature."

~~Four Open Space projects totaling 111313 acres of Open Space acquisition are therefore proposed for development within the next 1020 years. While this will result in a slightly lower ratio of Open Space to population in 10 years, these projects will be valuable additions to Olympia's Open Space inventory and~~These acquisitions will meet the Open Space Level of Service Standard and will help 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.

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.

Goals and Policies

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PR3.7 During development review, if consistent with park level of service

standards or other needs, encourage developers to dedicate land for future parks, open space, and recreation facilities.

PR3.8 Develop parks or plazas near Urban Corridors.

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

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

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

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

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

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

GR5 A lively public waterfront contributes to a vibrant Olympia.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Arts

Olympia is now home to approximately 2,500 individual artists and almost 100 arts organizations and venues. Our resident artists are musicians, writers, actors, and visual artists who are both nationally known and emerging. Olympia hosts award-winning theater, ground breaking music performances, the Procession of the Species, and a strong visual arts community that ranges from informal artists to those with nationwide gallery representation.



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

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

- **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.
- **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.

Goals and Policies

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

PR7.1 Include diverse works of art.

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

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

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

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

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

PR7.7 Encourage art in vacant storefronts.

PR7.8 Encourage neighborhood art studios.

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

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

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

GR8 Arts in Olympia are supported.

PR8.1 Pursue a regional community arts center.

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

PR8.3 Encourage broad arts participation in the community.

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

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

PR8.6 Provide technical support to art organizations.

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

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

PR8.9 Encourage early arts education opportunities.

Recreation

The City's recreation programs promote physical and mental well-being, bring citizens together in a positive, supportive, and fun atmosphere, 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. It also responds to emerging recreational interests, such as the Ultimate Frisbee league, high-energy dance classes, and community gardens. ~~In 2010~~ Each year, approximately 400 teams participated in City sports leagues, more than 4,000 citizens ~~took~~ take a leisure recreation class, and more than 1,500 ~~kids and teens~~ youth participated in camp programs. In addition to enhancing participants' wellness, people who participate in these programs also gain a sense of belonging to the community.



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

Olympia's recreation programs face the following challenges:

- **Activating our Community.** Our sedentary lifestyles are contributing to health problems. The City must find places and programs that 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 less connected to nature. 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 2010 and 2030, Olympia's senior population is projected to 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.

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

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

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

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

GR10 Families recreate together.

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

PR10.2 Provide recreational opportunities for all family structures.

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

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

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

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

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 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