

## **PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Element is to provide the policy framework for future development of Kenmore’s parks system, including open spaces, recreation facilities and programs. The Element provides a vision for the community and a guide to future planning, acquisition, and/or development of parks, recreation, and open spaces throughout the City.

#### **Growth Management Act**

One of the Growth Management Act’s (GMA’s) planning goals is to, “Retain open space, enhance recreational opportunities, conserve fish and wildlife habitat, increase access to natural resource lands and water, and develop parks and recreation facilities.”

The Act specifically requires local government to:

- Designate the general location and extent of land uses including recreation and open space lands;
- Identify lands useful for recreation, including wildlife habitat, trails and connection of critical areas;
- Evaluate facilities and service needs;
- Estimate park and recreation demand for at least a ten-year period;
- Evaluate intergovernmental coordination opportunities to provide regional approaches for meeting park and recreational demand; and
- Develop a capital facilities plan (CFP) identifying funds necessary to implement the plan for at least a six-year period.

#### **Countywide Planning Policies**

The Countywide Planning Policies do not contain a chapter specifically addressing parks, recreation and open space. Under the Development Patterns chapter, DP-2 states, “Promote a pattern of compact development within the Urban Growth Area that includes housing at a range of urban densities, commercial and industrial development, and other urban facilities, including medical, governmental, institutional, and educational uses and parks and open space...” An Environment policy (EN-1) states, “Incorporate environmental protection and restoration efforts

into local comprehensive plans to ensure that the quality of the natural environment and its contributions to human health and vitality are sustained now and for future generations.”

### **Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Plan**

The Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) is a state agency that manages grant programs aiming to create outdoor recreation opportunities, protect wildlife habitat and farmland, and help return salmon from near extinction. Since the agency began in 1964, it has awarded more than \$1.7 billion in grants to nearly 7,500 projects. Since 1990, the agency averages 230 grant awards, for a total of approximately \$60 million, every fiscal year. RCO requires government agencies to plan for their parks and open space needs, and adopt a Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Plan, in order to apply for certain grants. Once adopted, a community’s PROS plan is required to be updated every 6 years to maintain eligibility for those grant programs. The City’s most recent PROS Plan was adopted in February 2020. Information gathered for the Plan, including the results of several community involvement opportunities and a comprehensive demand and needs analysis, has been used as foundational information for this Element.

## **EXISTING CONDITIONS**

### **Geography**

Kenmore’s natural resources are an important component of the city’s park and recreation system. Many of the city’s existing parks are located beside or contain a creek, river, or freshwater shoreline, wetlands or significant forested areas. In fact, of the 146 total acres of city-owned park land, 120 acres (more than 80%) are natural areas – forests, wetlands, streams, and other natural environments. The City’s abundance of natural systems weaves in and around the city, connecting the different neighborhoods through stream corridors, sensitive areas, and ravines to Swamp Creek, the Sammamish River and Lake Washington. Creating connections and corridors provides essential habitat which contributes to the overall health and viability of both the plant and animal communities in Kenmore. The natural geography of the city provides both opportunities and constraints for meeting park and recreation demand and needs.

### **Existing Park System**

The City of Kenmore has 13 parks, recreation and open space facilities totaling over 146 acres of park land. Other parks and recreation providers within the city that have facilities open to the public include the State of Washington, King County, and Bastyr University. These facilities are listed in Table 1, along with the improvements available in each park. The parks and open space areas are all located on Figure 1. When combined with other jurisdictions, there are over 475 acres of park land within the city, not including recent acquisitions within the Swamp Creek wetlands system that are still in process. Parks and open space in adjacent cities, but in close proximity to Kenmore are also shown on Figure 1 for reference, but are not included in the inventory or other planning resources.

**Table 1: Kenmore’s Park and Recreation System Inventory.**

Parks, Recreation & Open Space Facilities	Boat Launch / Dry Moorage	Hand Powered Boat Launching	Water Access / Fishing	Playground	Skate Park	Playfield	Restroom (*Portable /	Picnic Shelter	Picnic Tables	Paths	Hiking Trails	Paved Trails	Parking
Linwood Park				X						X			
Moorlands Park				X		X	X	X	X	X			X
Northshore Summit Park				X						X			
Squire’s Landing Park		X	X				*X		X	X	X		X
Wallace Swamp Creek Park			X						X	X	X		X
Parks, Recreation & Open Space Facilities	Boat Launch / Dry Moorage	Hand Powered Boat Launching	Water Access / Fishing	Playground	Skate Park	Playfield	Restroom (*Portable /	Picnic Shelter	Picnic Tables	Paths	Hiking Trails	Paved Trails	Parking
Rhododendron Park & Senior Center		X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X			X
Log Boom Park	X	X	X	X			X		X	X			X
Twin Springs Park											X		X
City Hall Park & Jack Crawford Skate Park					X		~X		X	X			X
Town Center & Hangar Building							~X		X	X			X
Swamp Creek Wetland Open Spaces			X										
Inglewood Wetlands			X										
Tolt-Pipeline Trail (1.3 miles)										X		X	
<b>CITY TOTAL</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2<sup>&gt;</sup></b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2<sup>&gt;</sup></b>	<b>7<sup>&gt;</sup></b>	<b>11<sup>&gt;</sup></b>	<b>3<sup>&gt;</sup></b>	<b>1<sup>&gt;</sup></b>	<b>8</b>
WDFW Boat Launch	X												X
Saint Edward State Park			X	X		X	X		X		X	X	X
Bastyr Athletic Fields						X	*X						X

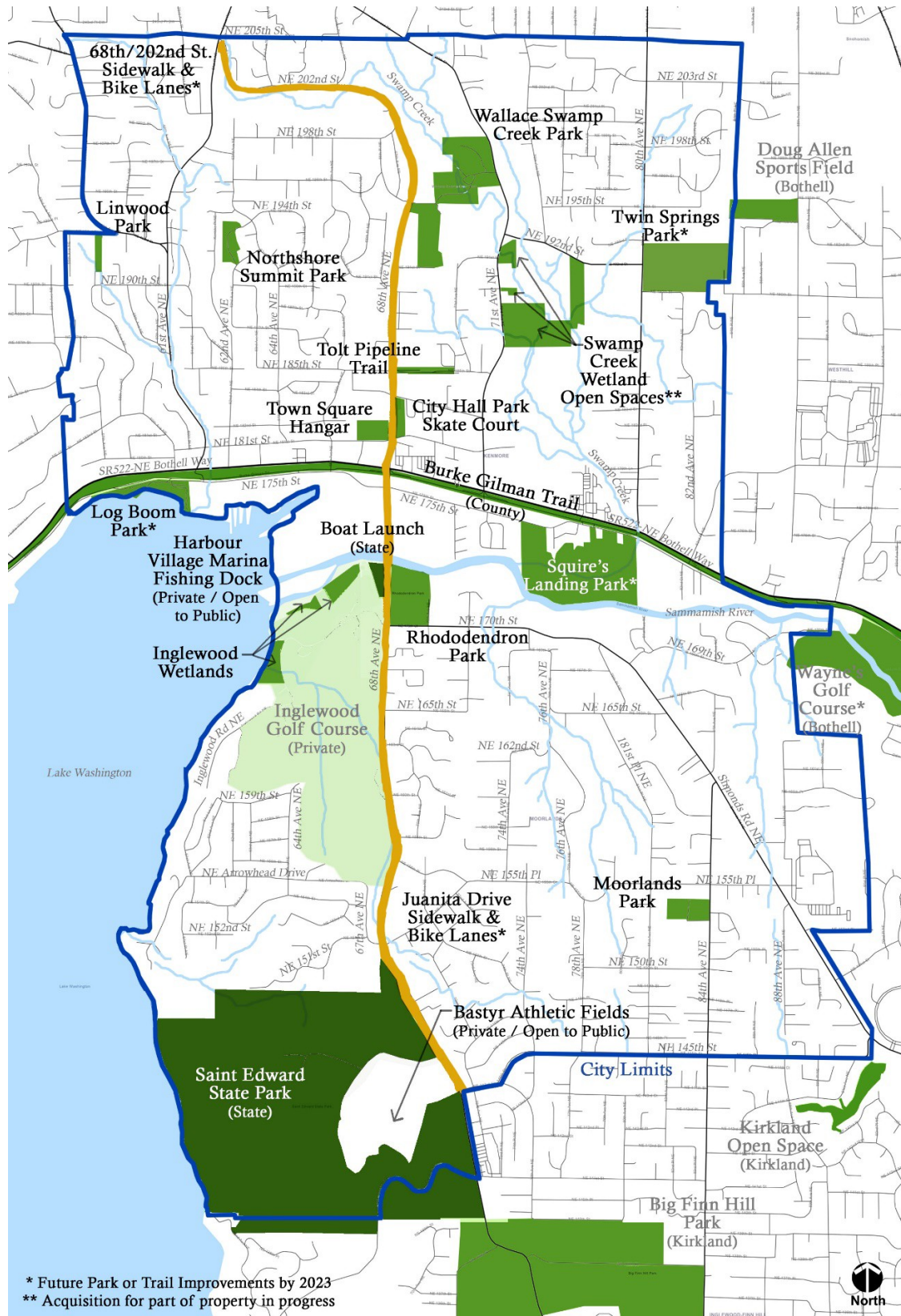
Burke Gilman Trail (2.5 miles)												X	
Harbour Village Marina			X				X		X				X
<b>ALL JURISDICTION TOTAL</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4<sup>&gt;</sup></b>	<b>9</b>	<b>2<sup>&gt;</sup></b>	<b>9<sup>&gt;</sup></b>	<b>11<sup>&gt;</sup></b>	<b>4<sup>&gt;</sup></b>	<b>3<sup>&gt;</sup></b>	<b>12</b>

*>See the Park Inventory and Valuation in the 2019 Parks and Recreation Impact Fee Rate Study Report for more detail on the total number of each type of playfield (soccer, baseball, etc.) and the total number of picnic shelter, picnic tables, paths and trails in the park system.*

*\* Portable restroom*

*~ Indoor restroom*

Figure 1: Kenmore’s Park and Recreation Facilities



**Park Classifications**

The city’s park system has been divided into four classes of park and recreation facilities as shown and described in Table 2. These four park classifications were identified based on several key factors including: size, population served, function and type of amenities that are or will be made available in the future. The geographic service area, or the primary extent to which people are expected to walk or drive to access the park, is shown for each park classification type. A list of each park within the city and its associated classification and size is shown in Table 3.

Special use amenities generally serve a specific function, like the skate park, water access, or the senior center and are included in all classifications of parks. Special use amenities in Kenmore are mostly located near the downtown for ease of access and accessibility to a wide range of users, in addition to being more easily accessible by transit and from the Burke Gilman Trail. While there are a number of special use amenities within park and recreation facilities in the city, there should be a focus on connecting these facilities to residential areas, transit and downtown. Connecting waterfront access areas to each other would create a stronger network of waterfront recreation in the city. Special use amenities may be facilities contained within Community or Regional Parks such as the Senior Center in Rhododendron Park or the Seminary and future Environmental Learning Center in Saint Edward State Park. Special use facilities in the city are shown on Figure 5.

***Table 2: Park and Recreation Facility Classification Definitions and total Acres.***

Classification Type	Geographic Service Area	Service Description
<b>Regional</b>	Citywide	<p>Contains unique features or amenities that serve users beyond the city limits</p> <p>City Total = 44.91 acres All Jurisdiction Total = 362.83 acres</p>
<b>Community</b>	¾ mile radius (approx. 2-minute drive)	<p>Serves a broad range of community needs to meet both active uses such as athletics and passive uses such as nature trails</p> <p>City Total = 40.2 acres All Jurisdiction Total = 47.4 acres</p>

<b>Neighborhood</b>	10-minute walk (approx. 1/2-mile radius)	Serves local need as a walk-to facility for essential park and recreation amenities - open areas, pathways and playgrounds  City Total = 34.5 acres All Jurisdiction Total = 34.5 acres
<b>Linear</b>	Citywide	Linear facilities that serve as connectors for pedestrian users and/or wildlife habitat  City Total = 26.4 acres All Jurisdiction Total = 30.9 acres

**Regional Park**

Regional facilities include facilities that have a draw beyond the city boundaries and include special features that may not be found in adjacent communities. As a result, their service area is considered to be citywide. Community and aquatic centers, sports complexes, or highly specialized uses like mountain bike trails are all examples of regional park facilities. Regional facilities should accommodate a large number of users with adequate support facilities to serve the intended use. Often, these facilities include multiple uses due to the larger size of many of these parks. Regional parks in the city are shown on Figure 4. Saint Edward State Park is a good example of a regional facility with mountain bike trails, extensive forest and walking paths, and other unique recreation opportunities not generally found in neighboring cities. Other regional facilities in the city include Squire’s Landing Park and Log Boom Park.

**Community Park**

Community parks (Figure 3) usually contain unique features, often with both active and passive recreation opportunities, and are larger in size to accommodate a variety of activities and interests. As such, they are considered destination parks. While they can also serve a neighborhood park function for local residents, it is expected that many residents will drive to these facilities. The service area for a community park can vary, from a 10-minute walkshed to citywide depending on the facilities included in the park, but some amount of parking is anticipated. Community parks in the city include Wallace Swamp Creek Park in the north end of the city, and the Town Center & Hangar Building, and the City Hall Park & Skate Park in the downtown area. Rhododendron Park & Senior Center is the only community park in the south end of the city.



### Neighborhood Park

Neighborhood Parks are intended to serve a smaller, local need with a service area limited to a 10-minute walk from the park, or about ½ mile. Most of the amenities within neighborhood parks are centered around family, passive type recreation activities such as walking paths, playgrounds and open lawn areas but ideally with enough open space for informal athletic use. Neighborhood parks in the city are shown on Figure 2 and are mainly located in the northern half of the city with only one neighborhood park, Moorlands Park, located in the southern half of the city. Of these, all have recently conducted master plans except Linwood Park. Twin Springs park, while master planned, has not yet been improved or opened to the public. Based on the distribution and master plans available, implementing some level of improvements at Twin Springs Park and master planning and renovating Linwood Park should be considered a priority.

### Linear Park

Linear park and recreation facilities are unique as they serve as connectors for pedestrian users and/or wildlife habitat. There are four linear park and recreation facilities in Kenmore, shown on the same Figure 4 with regional parks. These parks include: the Burke Gilman Trail, Tolt-Pipeline Trail and other neighborhood connecting trails and the wetland open spaces along the Swamp Creek corridor between 73<sup>rd</sup> and 80<sup>th</sup> Avenues NE and NE 192<sup>nd</sup> Street and NE 181<sup>st</sup> Street. Parks and recreation facilities are connected east-west across the city through the existing Burke Gilman Trail and will soon be connected north-south through new multi-modal improvements along Juanita Drive NE and 68<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE. Additional connectivity should still be developed as opportunity allows, from residential areas to parks, schools, downtown, the waterfront, and other major destinations, likely in partnership with the city’s Public Works Department and along the Tolt Pipeline corridor. There are additional local trail connectors within neighborhoods, particularly in the north side of the city, that exist but are not well documented and not part of the total acreage or planning process.

**Table 3: Kenmore’s Park and Recreation System Inventory: Size, Classification & Service Area.**

Parks, Recreation & Open Space Facilities	Total Acres	Acres of Critical Areas	Proposed Classification	Proposed Service Area*
Linwood Park	1.4	0	Neighborhood	10-minute walk
Moorlands Park	4.5	1.5	Neighborhood	10-minute walk
Northshore Summit Park	3.6	1	Neighborhood	10-minute walk

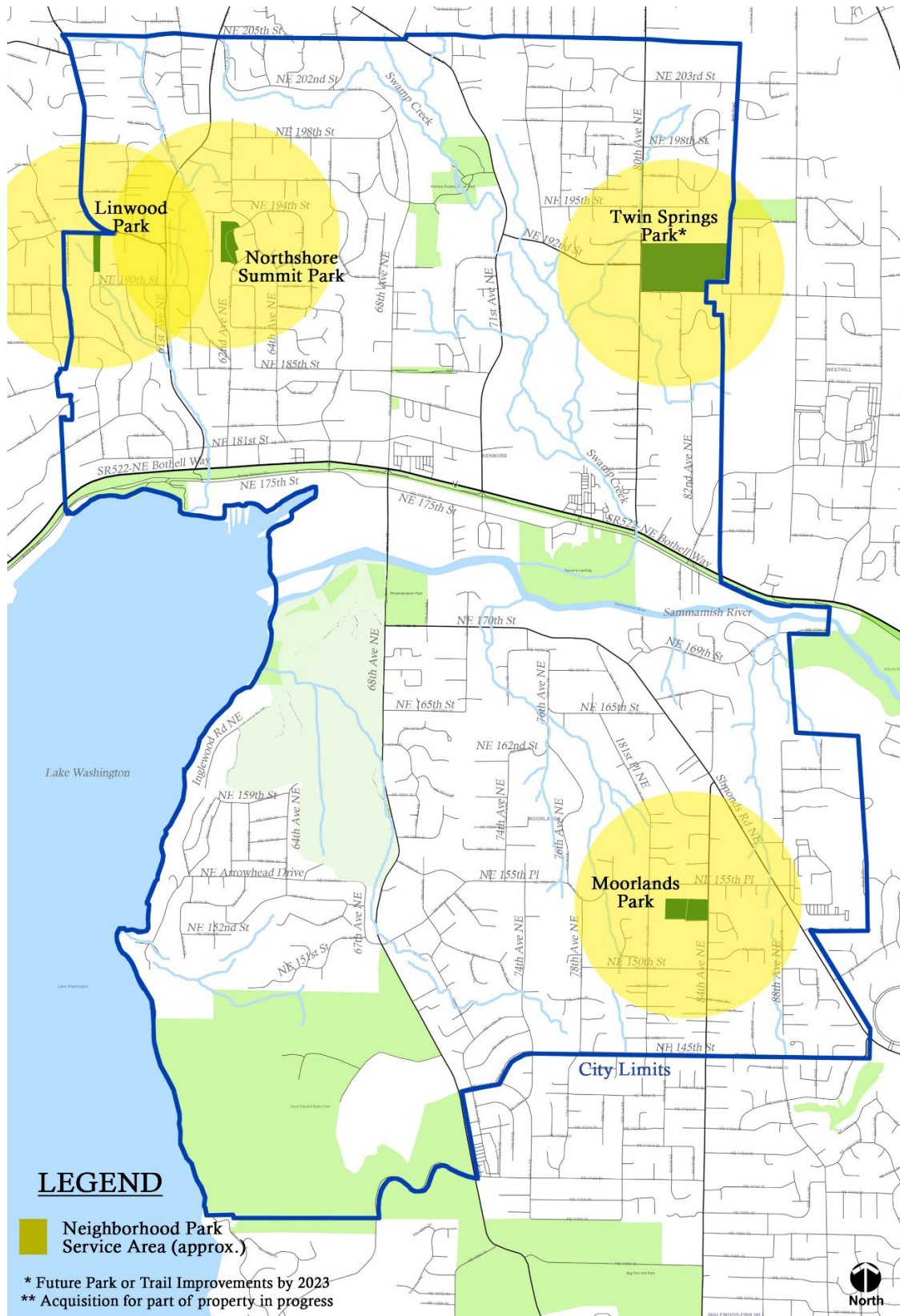


Squire's Landing Park	41.01	33.75	Regional	Citywide
Wallace Swamp Creek Park	25.5	25	Community	¼ mile radius
Rhododendron Park & Senior Center	12.5	8.5	Community <i>(future boathouse is anticipated to be a regional special use within the park)</i>	¼ mile radius
Log Boom Park	3.9	1	Regional	Citywide
Twin Springs Portal Park	25	24	Neighborhood	10-minute walk
City Hall Park & Jack Crawford Skate Park	1.7	0	Community	10-minute walk
Town Center & Hangar Building	0.5	0	Community	¾ mile radius
Swamp Creek Wetland Open Spaces (not including acquisitions in progress)	17	17	Linear	Citywide
Inglewood Wetlands	8.5	8.5	Linear	Citywide
Tolt-Pipeline Trail	0.9	0	Linear	Citywide
<b>CITY TOTAL</b>	<b>146+</b>	<b>120+</b>		
WDFW Boat Launch	1.92		Regional	Citywide
Saint Edward State Park	316**		Regional	Citywide
Bastyr Athletic Fields	7		Community	¼ mile radius
Burke Gilman Trail (2.5 miles)	4.5		Linear	Citywide
Harbour Village Marina	0.2		Community	¾ mile radius
<b>ALL JURISDICTIONS TOTAL</b>	<b>475+</b>			

\* 10-minute walk is approximately ½ mile.

\*\* Does not include the recent 10-acre acquisition.

Figure 2: Neighborhood Parks (1/2 mile service area or about a 10 minute walk).



**Figure 3: Community parks (3/4 mile service area or about a 2 minute drive at 25 mph).**

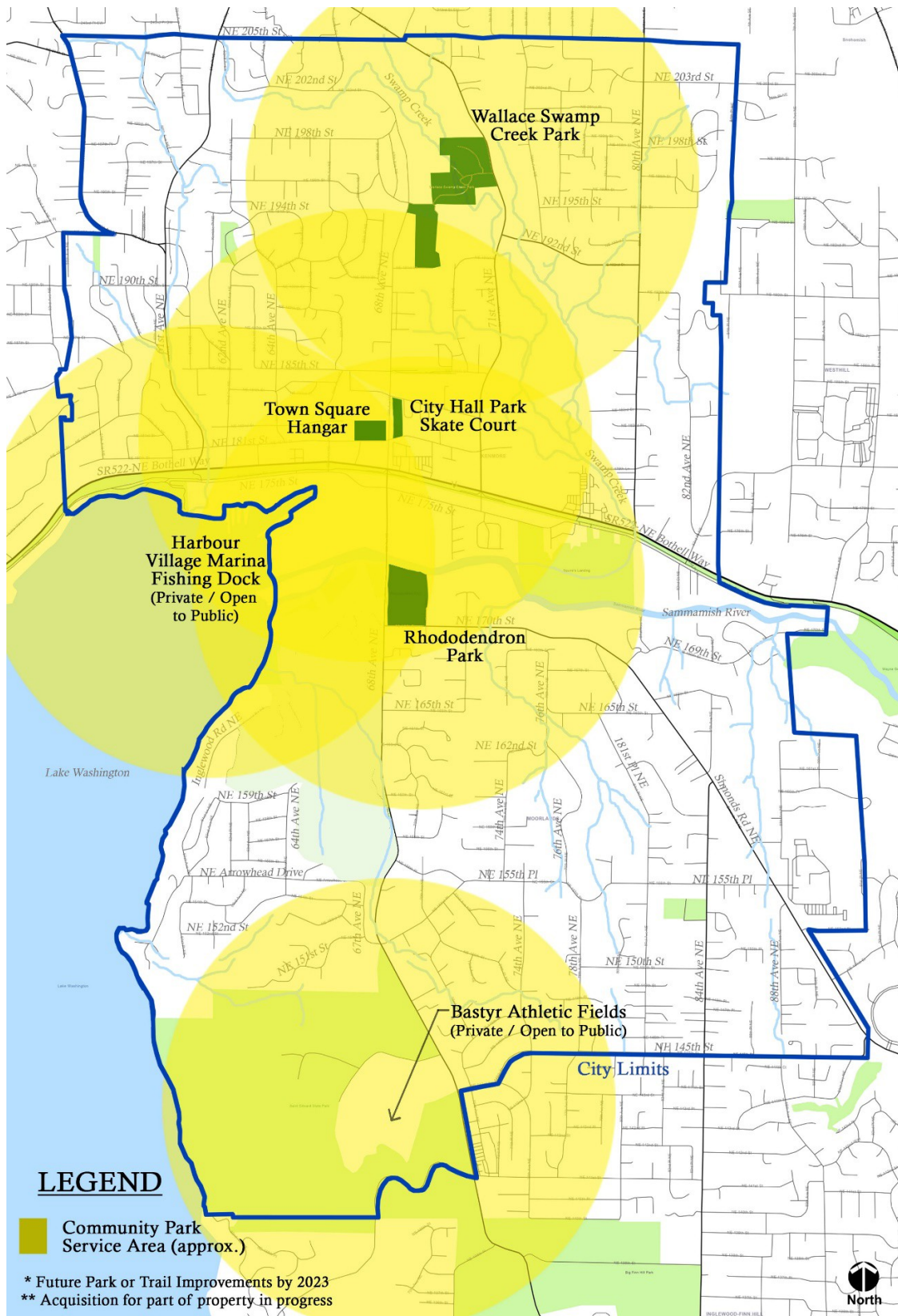
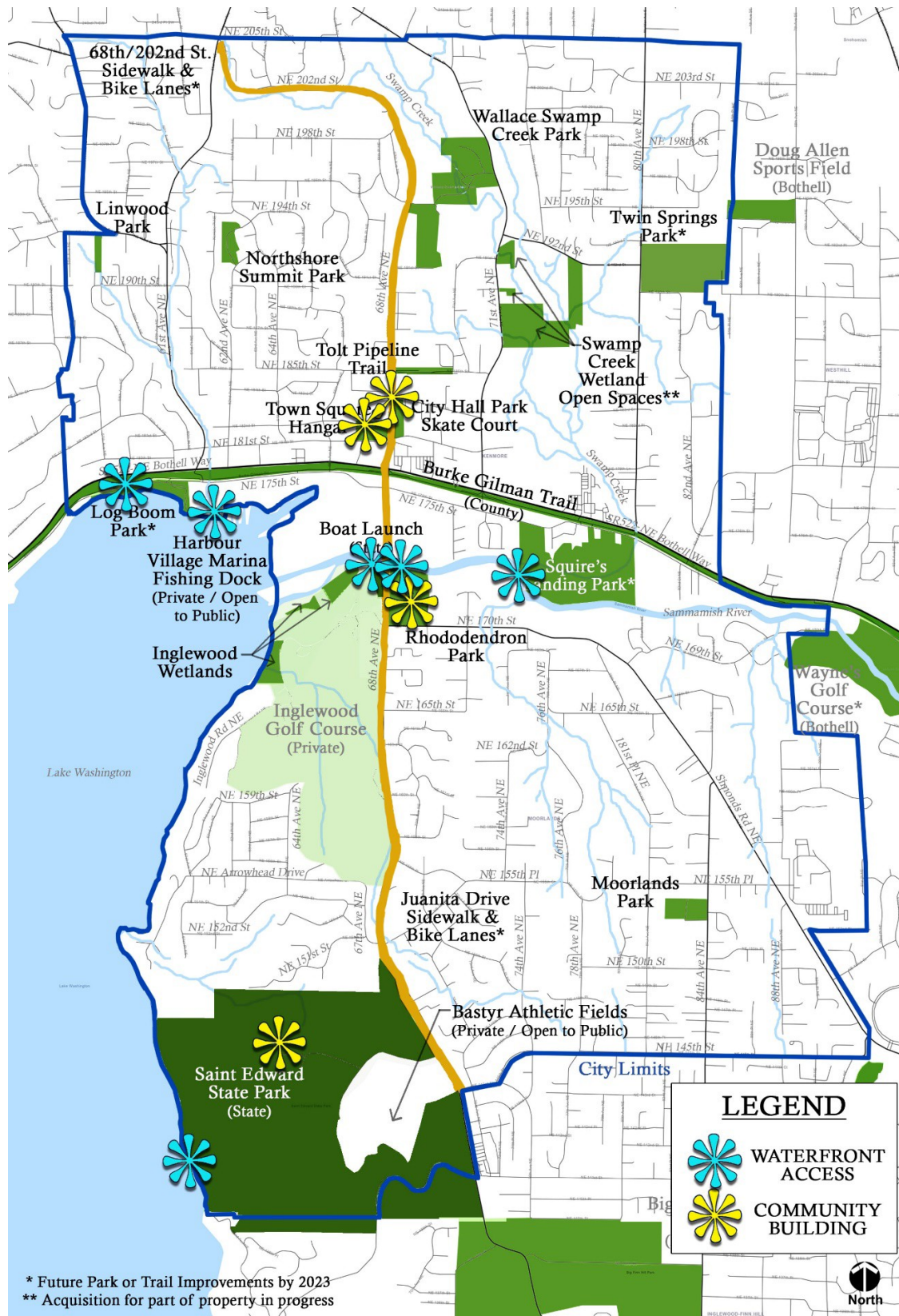






Figure 5: Special Use Facilities (within all park classifications).



### **Existing Park Plans**

Site specific master plans or concept plans have been developed for most of Kenmore’s existing parks. These plans each included an extensive public process to identify what the community would like to see improved or added within the park, along with an analysis of each site to determine what types of facilities or improvements are suitable given the surrounding context. A Master Plan is a formal plan for a given park site that has been adopted by the Kenmore City Council. A concept plan has generally gone through the same process and review by the City Council, but has not been formally adopted.

The purpose of a master plan or concept plan is to express a long-term vision for the park, trail or open space that will guide future improvements. Features shown in the plan illustrate how different park elements could be implemented, and their relationship to other surrounding features. The ideas and improvements shown in a master plan or concept plan are implemented over time, and additional detailed design work is still needed before any construction could begin.

A copy of the existing park Master Plans or Concept Plans is included in Appendix A to the 2020 PROS Plan.

### **Current Level of Service**

Level of service is a way of measuring the quantity and/or quality of the parks system in relation to the number of residents in the city. Level of service can be determined by any of the factors identified in a demand and needs analysis, but it is up to each city to determine what its level of service should be and how it should be measured.

The City of Kenmore has chosen to measure the level of service for parks, recreation and open space facilities in terms of the value of the current parks system per capita as this methodology was used in the Park Impact Fee Rate Study (May 2019). This method accommodates the *quantity* and the *quality* of parks, recreation and open space facilities by including the value of the park land and the facilities built within those parks. The level of service calculation is shown in Table 4 below and only includes completed city-owned facilities. New facilities or lands that are currently in progress of acquisition or construction are not included in this calculation.

The existing level of service, \$3,259 per capita, is the value of the current parks and recreation system divided by the total population of the city in 2019 (22,920). This means that today, for every Kenmore resident the city has spent \$3,259 (in 2019 dollars) on park, recreation and open space land and facility improvements. The total value of the existing parks system is shown in greater detail in Table 1 of the 2019 Parks and Recreation Impact Fee Rate Study Report.



**Table 4: Level of service calculation.**

Category	2019 Existing Level of Service <i>(value per capita)</i>
TOTAL <i>value per capita</i>	\$3,259
TOTAL <i>value</i>	\$74.4 million

### **Park & Recreation Programming**

The City of Kenmore helps organize a variety of programs and events in the city but partners with other organizations and jurisdictions to provide direct recreation programming. The city’s main focus is on community events and park facility rentals, including the Hangar at Town Square. The city relies on the school district and other public, private, and non-profit organizations to provide all youth and adult sports leagues, summer camps, self-help or educational classes, cultural and performing arts events, and indoor fitness classes. Any future programming will follow this same model, with the city providing support, but other jurisdictions or organizations taking the lead role in any recreation programming.

The Hangar, opened in August of 2017, is the city’s main indoor gathering space for recreation activities and events.

### **FUTURE DEMAND AND NEEDS**

The 2020 PROS Plan evaluated demand and needs through a variety of lenses. Key findings from the analyses follow.

**Parks and recreation trends.** National, state and local trends were evaluated. Key findings include:

- Parks and recreation facilities need to be flexible to serve a diverse audience through broad community appeal. They should be accessible and welcoming to everyone.
- Parks are becoming a key component in promoting climate resiliency, showcasing sustainable design strategies and implementing green infrastructure practices.
- Parks are a catalyst for youth to become the future stewards of the environment, offering a safe place to explore, discover, and understand the intricate balance of ecology, especially within the urban fabric of the community.
- Recreation facilities and programs need to support active lifestyles for all ages and abilities.



- Parks can improve civic pride and create a sense of place by installing public art, outdoor gathering spaces, public fountains, interpretive displays of local history and the natural environment and protecting important views and view corridors.

**Community interests.** Community surveys and an open house contributed to evaluating this aspect of demand and needs. Key findings include:

- Waterfront activities, access to water, and protection of the natural environment along the waterfront are core guiding principles.
- The greatest needs not currently being met include a pool/aquatic center and pickleball courts, followed closely by off-leash areas, indoor fitness/gyms, and outdoor tennis courts. The community had the least interest or need for additional skateparks or a spray park.
- Adult fitness and wellness programs were ranked as the most important programs needed.
- The community is supportive of acquiring additional properties to preserve natural open space and wildlife habitat. The top ranked facility needs included nature trails, paved trails, and natural areas or reserves.
- Trails and walking routes are at the top of the list for desired recreation activities and they are also some of the most-used facilities. Walking paths was the most important feature to the community that could be added or improved in Kenmore's park and recreation park system based on the results of the 2019 Parks and Recreation Survey.

**Benchmark comparisons.** This comparison reviewed Kenmore's park system against those in other jurisdictions. Key findings include:

- The City of Kenmore contains less than the national average of parks acreage in the system, but is on target with other jurisdictions in the Pacific Northwest region for city-owned facilities. When considering all publicly accessible parks and recreation facilities open to the public, the city exceeds the national and regional average.
- The City is on par with other jurisdictions for some outdoor facilities, like playgrounds, tot lots, skateparks and courts, but is below average for other outdoor recreation amenities, specifically, community gardens, dog parks, spray parks, and multi-purpose courts.
- The City is below average for the number of indoor recreation facilities, except for senior centers. This includes a need for additional aquatic facilities and gyms. Some of this need can be met through outdoor improvements, like fitness stations and athletic courts and expanding the beach at Log Boom Park. This would not entirely replace the need for indoor facilities.
- Parks in the city all generally contain the same types of facilities. Variation of types of facilities, overall character of park features, and including special interest facilities, especially at the larger parks, will help diversify the system. Some of these new uses to consider include pickleball, futsal, disc golf, parkour, and rock climbing.

**Population growth.** Key findings related to future population growth include:

- Kenmore is a growing community with a variety of housing types throughout the city. With the majority of residents commuting to work in a single-occupancy vehicle, park and recreation facility improvements that support and encourage multi-modal transportation choices should be considered a high priority.
- Higher density residential housing occurs mostly in downtown Kenmore, where the majority of assisted housing and senior housing is also located. Activities in this area should support healthy living, encourage active recreation, and focus on ease of access to recreation opportunities.
- The population is mostly middle-aged and of a white ethnic background. However, other more diverse ethnicities are growing and are expected to continue to grow in the future. Recreation activities that appeal to older youth and active adults should be considered, along with a greater variety and flexibility in those activities to better respond to changing demographics and increasing diversity over time.

**Geographic distribution.** After assessing the location of current park properties, key findings include:

- Kenmore has a great overall distribution of parks with few gaps remaining in the overall system. It also has the potential to be a highly walkable city with the majority of residents living within a 10-minute walk to an existing park or trail. Making those routes safe for walking allows everyone access to the park system without relying on single-occupancy vehicles.
- Access to parks is especially important where residential development (of all types) is expected to occur.
- A system of public spaces with waterfront access, connected by a pedestrian/bicycle route along the water, would expand opportunity.
- New parks in gap areas should be considered as opportunity allows.
- The quality of the parks system is high, and Kenmore has done a lot in recent years to upgrade, expand, and improve its parks. Implementing existing master plans for city parks and trails and continuing to upgrade and expand existing parks as opportunity and funding allows would support this high quality.
- Kenmore has an extensive network of natural systems, from waterways to wetlands and urban forests. However, there is very little public access to these areas and limited educational features that highlight these areas within the community.

**Recreation programming.** Reviewing recreation programming in the City, key findings include:

- The City has successfully partnered with other organizations and agencies to provide recreation programming in the city while the City focuses on community events.
- Recreation programming providers could expand offerings to Kenmore residents, especially for adult programs and athletic leagues.
- Tracking participation in various programs would support future planning efforts.
- Program venues should be accessible and have appropriate support facilities.
- Better access and parking, along with other supporting infrastructure, could facilitate and expand community events in Kenmore.

**Participation rates.** A number of organized activities take place in the City, including several that take advantage of the City’s abundance of natural areas such as Camp Roots and the Wilderness Awareness School at St. Edward State Park and Nature Walks at Wallace Swamp Creek Park. A review of participation rates for activities that could require special park facility development—such as athletic fields, an aquatic center, and waterfront activities--was conducted. Key findings related to participation rates include:

- An aquatic center would be highly valued by Kenmore residents and there is a need for facilities to support aquatic programming and recreation activities within the region.
- A multi-purpose athletic complex – developed either by the city or jointly with other jurisdictions or organizations – would serve youth and adult athletic sports. Some of this need could continue to be met in the short term through the use of the Bastyr fields, but use of the fields cannot be relied upon to meet all the city needs long-term without a more permanent agreement and field improvements in place.
- Youth sports should continue to be a priority for the city to promote a healthy and active lifestyle early in life.
- Water-based activities such as swimming, hand-carry boating, and stand-up paddle boarding are a defining feature of Kenmore’s park system.
- Activities that provide education about the City’s natural systems help support environmental stewardship by current and future generations.

## **OBSTACLES AND OPPORTUNITIES AFFECTING FUTURE DEMAND AND NEEDS**

### **Obstacles**

Obstacles facing the City in the effort to meet demand and needs include:

**Lack of Access to the Waterfront** – Since the city’s incorporation in 1998, Kenmore’s residents have lobbied for improved access to the city’s 7+ miles of shoreline and natural resources along Lake Washington, the Sammamish River and Swamp Creek.

**Securing Assets for Future Generations** – It will be important to repair and replace physical recreation assets and maintain and restore natural park assets to ensure the park and recreation system is available for future generation to enjoy.

**Lack of safe routes to parks** – Kenmore needs safe pedestrian and bicycle routes that link residents from where they live to where they want to recreate. The Transportation Element of the Comprehensive Plan identifies a Priority Pedestrian Network that includes pedestrian amenities along key routes to improve the walkability and safety of pedestrians in the city.

**Unable to Stay and Play** – Residents have a desire to stay and play locally – they have a need for facilities, programs and services nearby. Currently, residents travel beyond the city for a variety of recreation facilities and programs. To stay and play, residents need diverse recreation experiences in Kenmore’s park system, including active facilities and natural environments for more passive recreation.

### **Opportunities**

The same process used to understand the obstacles to delivering a quality parks and recreation system also revealed several key opportunities.

**Walkways and Waterways** – Kenmore residents are poised to gain significant waterfront access and safe walking routes with the passage of Kenmore’s Walkways & Waterways Improvements bond measure in November 2016. Proposition 1 Walkways & Waterways Improvements is the first city bond measure ever on the ballot in the City of Kenmore.

The Walkways and Waterways bond measure includes new sidewalks and bicycle lanes on Juanita Drive NE and 68th Ave NE and public waterfront access and natural area improvements and restoration at Log Boom Park, Rhododendron Park, and Squire’s Landing Park for water dependent recreation. These five projects included in the \$19.75 million bond measure reflect the results of public input.

**Water-Walk Trail** –There is an opportunity to connect Log Boom Park on Lake Washington with Squire’s Landing Park at the confluence of Swamp Creek and the Sammamish River. This water-walk trail would require acquisition or dedication of privately-owned property in between to make this idea a reality. The city can pursue opportunities for public access when key properties on the central waterfront redevelop.

**Downtown Kenmore** -The Hangar and the Town Square plaza opened for use in 2017. This new civic facility has become Kenmore’s gathering place for community events and for just hanging out. New multi-family housing has been developed nearby. City Hall Park and the Jack Crawford Skate Court create a great central location for active recreation. The City Hall Park Master Plan hasn’t been fully completed and there is capacity for creating new park amenities that could serve to meet the needs of the new and existing downtown residents.

**Safe Routes Network** – The walkways planned along Juanita Drive NE and 68<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE provide a central on-street spine for a safe route network. The Burke Gilman Trail and a new

Tolt-Pipeline trail create a start for an east-west spine for a network of on-street and off-road pedestrian and bicycle routes to connect the residential community to the park and recreation system. The city has begun to aggregate open space land along Swamp Creek corridor that could create an off-road north-south connection.

**Partnerships** – Kenmore relies on partnerships for providing park and recreation facilities, programs and services. Partners provide facilities, programs and services that provide for, activate and care for the park and recreation system. Creating new partnerships will provide a more sustainable park and recreation system for future generations.

**Intergovernmental coordination opportunities** – Regional approaches for meeting park and recreational demand are ongoing. The Northshore Parks and Recreation Service Area (NPRSA), a regional taxing district, was created in 1988 by Bothell, Snohomish and King County and was updated in 2001 to include Kenmore and Woodinville. NPRSA supports the Northshore Senior Center (NSC) located in Bothell and, in 2008, NPRSA developed an aquatics center need analysis and location study to consider options for locating a regional aquatic center.

The City also has worked with King County. In 2016, 25-acres of surplus property from the Brightwater North Kenmore Portal site were transferred to the City to create a new park now known as Twin Springs Park. In 2017, Kenmore worked cooperatively with King County to identify possible acquisition sites for future land conservation as part of the King County Land Conservation Initiative.

In cooperation with the City of Seattle, Kenmore worked with the Seattle Public Utilities Department in 2016 on an agreement to allow the City to use a portion of the Tolt Pipeline Right Of Way located between 68<sup>th</sup> and 73<sup>rd</sup> Avenues NE as a pedestrian trail. The trail was constructed and opened for use in 2017.

**Opportunities to Play** – For Kenmore residents to stay and play, recreation program opportunities and sufficient facilities need to exist including community gathering spaces such as off-leash dog parks or community gardens. Adding these facilities to existing parks or new parks within the system will create a more diverse park system and provide greater opportunities for residents to stay and play.

## **GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES**

Following are the Parks, Recreation and Open Space goals, objectives and policies. The goals establish overarching priorities that establish the vision for the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Element. Objectives provide direction and policies provide the action to support the goals. These actions are specifically related to the implementation of a healthy, viable and balanced park and recreation system for Kenmore.

### **GOAL 1. PROVIDE WATERFRONT ACCESS**

#### **Objective P-1.1 Develop a Kenmore WaterWalk.**

- Policy P-1.1.1 Develop a WaterWalk Master Plan for the location for the WaterWalk connecting Log Boom Park to Squire's Landing Park.
- Policy P-1.1.2 Inventory and identify public and private parcels from Log Boom Park to Squire's Landing Park.
- Policy P-1.1.3 Identify specific opportunities for joint development, partnership and other options for implementing a WaterWalk.
- Policy P-1.1.4 Identify and prioritize undeveloped or underdeveloped waterfront properties in the city's central core to consider for acquisition.
- Policy P-1.1.5 Pursue opportunities for public access when key properties on the central waterfront redevelop.
- Policy P-1.1.6 Develop a plan for extending the trail system at Squire's Landing Park along the Sammamish River and/or Swamp Creek.

#### **Objective P-1.2 Establish and implement plans, development policies, regulations and incentives for waterfront access to retain views and create water dependent recreational opportunities in conjunction with private and public development.**

- Policy P-1.2.1 Develop a Waterfront Master Plan to improve park activities and access (physical or visual) along the waterfront. View corridors, overlooks, access to shorelines along the city's lakes and streams, and other recreational amenities are examples of what might be included in a Waterfront Master Plan process.
- Policy P-1.2.2 Adopt development regulations and incentives that are consistent with and further the implementation of a Waterfront Master Plan.
- Policy P-1.2.3 Identify and retain important public access and view corridors to Lake Washington and the Sammamish River.

- Policy P-1.2.4 Implement master plans for Log Boom, Squire’s Landing and Rhododendron parks that improve public access and water dependent recreational experiences.
- Policy P-1.2.5 Support programming and community events along the waterfront that provide access to the water. Actively seek and facilitate partnerships for water-related programs.
- Policy P-1.2.6 Seek external funding sources to provide public access and ensure water dependent recreational opportunities exist.

***GOAL P-2. PROVIDE SAFE ROUTES TO PARKS, RECREATION, & OPEN SPACE FACILITIES***

**Objective P-2.1 Identify and prioritize key connections from neighborhoods to the waterfront, parks and public facilities.**

- Policy P-2.1.1 Prepare a safe routes plan which maps a network of pedestrian and bicycle connections from neighborhoods to the waterfront, parks, and public facilities.
- Policy P-2.1.2 Identify and create opportunities to provide connections to parks, trails and open space in adjoining cities.
- Policy P-2.1.3 Review development proposals for creating viewpoints, view corridors and easements for pedestrian and bicycle connections to parks, recreation and open space facilities.
- Policy P-2.1.4 Plan and develop an off-road north-south trail connection utilizing the Swamp Creek corridor as appropriate.
- Policy P-2.1.5 Acquire easements and develop the Tolt Pipeline Trail linking to adjoining cities. In particular, develop the missing link from 73<sup>rd</sup> to 80<sup>th</sup> Avenues NE, including development of an elevated walkway over Swamp Creek Wetland.
- Policy P-2.1.6 Establish and implement development regulations and incentives for new development to provide pedestrian/bicycle routes.
- Policy P-2.1.7 Provide for ADA and other accessibility improvements in parks to move the city towards a park system that provides universal access to all Kenmore residents.

***GOAL P-3. PRESERVE, RESTORE, MAINTAIN, AND ENHANCE BUILT AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENTS TO ENSURE QUALITY RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES EXIST***



**Objective P-3.1 Protect environmentally sensitive critical areas in parks and open spaces and provide opportunities for habitat restoration, enhancement and public access.**

- Policy P-3.1.1 Identify opportunities to provide access and views to, and education about environmentally critical areas.
- Policy P-3.1.2 Continue to acquire land, easements, or other agreements to protect the Swamp Creek natural areas and develop an elevated walkway/nature trail along Swamp Creek, including its associated wetlands, heron rookery and the forested buffers important to support those systems.
- Policy P-3.1.3 Establish and implement development regulations and incentives to provide access and protection to critical areas.
- Policy P-3.1.4 When developing parks, create a balance between habitat restoration, particularly salmon habitat, enhancement and public access.
- Policy P-3.1.5 Update the Wallace Swamp Creek Master Plan and implement the plan, including stream bank and habitat restoration.
- Policy P-3.1.6 Implement the Squire’s Landing Park Waterfront and Natural Area Access project and continue habitat and riparian corridor restoration.
- Policy P-3.1.7 Seek funding sources to support efforts for habitat restoration, enhancement and public access.
- Policy P-3.1.8 Develop vegetation management plans for parks with critical areas.
- Policy P-3.1.9 Identify resource management agencies, such as the WRIA8 Salmon Recovery Council, and volunteer partners to steward critical areas in parks and open spaces.
- Policy P-3.1.10 Develop and install interpretive signage to inform and educate about environmental sustainability, the value and function of environmental critical areas and community history.
- Policy P-3.1.11 Support educational opportunities, provided by other jurisdictions, organizations or agencies, that specifically target natural areas. This could include programs, classes, clean-up days, and other services to engage residents in conservation of natural systems. Target opportunities for youth to support long-term stewardship within future generations.

**Objective P-3.2 Provide high quality maintenance and stewardship of Kenmore parks and open spaces that are sustainable, safe and attractive to use.**

- Policy P-3.2.1 Evaluate park and recreation facilities to ensure safety and operational requirements are being met.
- Policy P-3.2.2 Develop an asset replacement schedule for recreation assets and fund major repairs as needed.
- Policy P-3.2.3 Replace assets prior to reaching the end of their expected life cycle.

- Policy P-3.2.4 Periodically conduct crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED) reviews of park and recreation facilities with the Kenmore Police Department.
- Policy P-3.2.5 Provide procedures, practices and resources to maintain and operate a quality park and recreation system.
- Policy P-3.2.6 Establish and adopt park maintenance standards and practices for the park and recreation system.
- Policy P-3.2.7 Conduct regular safety inspections of park and recreation facilities and correct any safety issues.
- Policy P-3.2.8 Use equipment, landscaping and design techniques that reduce long-term maintenance costs and increase safety for park users.
- Policy P-3.2.9 Establish appropriate new policies governing operations and use of park and recreation facilities.
- Policy P-3.2.10 Install park rules and regulation signs to inform and educate park users of appropriate use and conduct within Kenmore city parks.
- Policy P-3.2.11 Incorporate sustainable design for new or renovation to existing park and recreation facilities. For example, incorporate the use of low-impact development and green building best practices.
- Policy P-3.2.12 Incorporate sustainable practices when implementing recreation program offerings. For example, consider impacts of recreational programs scheduled in natural areas.

***GOAL P-4. CREATE A BALANCE OF PASSIVE AND ACTIVE RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES IN PARKS***

**Objective P-4.1 Preserve, develop, and enhance existing parks and open space to provide a balance between passive and active recreation opportunities, and acquire new parks to meet future growth needs.**

- Policy P-4.1.1 Identify and prioritize undeveloped or underdeveloped properties for potential acquisition.
- Policy P-4.1.2 Acquire and develop property to support new parks, recreation and open space to provide a recreation opportunity within a 10-minute walk of every resident in the city. Priority should be given to the Moorlands area and the northeast corner of the city.
- Policy P-4.1.3 Complete master plans and development of park and recreation facilities such as at Linwood Park as funding allows.
- Policy P-4.1.4 Implement the Log Boom Park Waterfront Access and Viewing project.
- Policy P-4.1.5 Implement the Rhododendron Park Boardwalk, Float and Boathouse projects.

- Policy P-4.1.6 Update the Wallace Swamp Creek Park adopted Master Plan and implement improvements.
- Policy P-4.1.7 Implement the Twin Springs Master Plan.
- Policy P-4.1.8 Provide urban park amenities including public art and cultural elements in Kenmore’s downtown. In particular, develop the north side of City Hall to provide additional amenities such as a small community garden, picnic shelter, outdoor stage, seating, table tennis, fitness areas, or similar activities.
- Policy P-4.1.9 Provide community park amenities such as athletic fields or gathering spaces such as a dog park or community garden.
- Policy P-4.1.10 Acquire lands that abut existing city or other publicly-owned park properties that provide the greatest value in augmenting and enhancing existing city parks, particularly near Moorlands Park.
- Policy P-4.1.11 Consider tools such as transfer of development rights, clustering development, development agreements, easements, and public giving as alternatives to fee simple acquisition of park lands and open space.
- Policy P-4.1.12 Pursue a partnership with neighboring cities and the Northshore School District to explore ways to acquire land and develop a joint aquatic/community center as a regional facility.
- Policy P-4.1.13 Develop a strategy for long-term replacement of the fields at Bastyr University, if necessary. Initially, this would include extending the existing lease beyond 2025. A feasibility study and alternatives analysis are needed to consider other potential locations, partnerships, and development opportunities for athletic fields in the local and regional context.

***GOAL P-5. PROVIDE EQUITABLE OPPORTUNITIES FOR DIVERSE AND AFFORDABLE ARTS AND RECREATION PROGRAMS AND COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL EVENTS.***

**Objective P-5.1 Provide Kenmore residents with information about current recreation programming in Kenmore.**

- Policy P-5.1.1 Support the efforts of organizations that offer recreation and arts programs and community and cultural events.
- Policy P-5.1.2 Publicize arts and recreation programs and community and cultural event opportunities in the city using the newsletter, webpage, and other marketing materials.

- Policy P-5.1.3 Promote private arts, recreation, and cultural programming and facilities within the city to celebrate the unique character or identity of Kenmore residents, including those from diverse backgrounds and those with lower incomes.
- Policy P-5.1.4 Consider providing park amenities to existing parks that support new trends in recreation, arts, and culture to continue to meet community need.
- Policy P-5.1.5 Support recreation, arts, and cultural providers in offering opportunities in Kenmore and define the city's role in providing programs for the community.
- Policy P-5.1.6 Ensure that all future capital improvement projects have an allowance for art and cultural elements.

***GOAL P-6. ENGAGE THE COMMUNITY IN PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE DECISIONS AND ACTIVITIES***

**Objective P-6.1 Maintain and update the city Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) plan and conduct other appropriate master planning for Kenmore parks and recreation service delivery.**

- Policy P-6.1.1 Conduct and prepare an inventory of public, non-profit, and private lands in Kenmore available for expanding the parks and recreation system.
- Policy P-6.1.2 Periodically, conduct a public involvement process to assess community attitudes regarding park and recreation needs and opportunities in Kenmore associated with parks planning and improvement projects.
- Policy P-6.1.3 Periodically, conduct and prepare a demand-and-needs analysis for public parks and recreation needs in Kenmore.
- Policy P-6.1.4 Prepare level of service guidelines for the parks and recreation system.
- Policy P-6.1.5 Identify potential funding sources and strategies for implementing the plan.
- Policy P-6.1.6 Prepare a six-year Capital Improvement Plan for parks and recreation facilities.
- Policy P-6.1.7 Ensure integration of the Park, Recreation and Open Space plan with other city strategic plans.
- Policy P-6.1.8 Update the PROS plan a minimum of every 6 years.
- Policy P-6.1.9 Revise master plans as necessary as the community demand and need changes.
- Policy P-6.1.10 Review and update the city's park use ordinance.
- Policy P-6.1.11 Maintain a list of funding sources, acquisition, development and renovation projects.

- Policy P-6.1.12 Utilize a public engagement process during the park master planning process to identify programmatic needs and overall vision for each park.
- Policy P-6.1.13 Establish strategies and criteria for acquiring land for park and recreation facilities.

***GOAL P-7. CREATE A FINANCIALLY SUSTAINABLE PARK AND RECREATION SYSTEM THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS AND STEWARDSHIP.***

**Objective P-7.1 Ensure sufficient resources are available prior to acquiring new land, developing or renovating park property or implementing new programs and events to sustain the resulting Kenmore park and recreation system.**

- Policy P-7.1.1 Budget for long-term maintenance and operational costs in addition to the capital costs of park projects prior to proceeding with plans.
- Policy P-7.1.2 Develop and prepare six-year capital improvement program projects identifying priorities, specific projects, and capital costs.
- Policy P-7.1.3 Identify and secure appropriate levels of funding to operate or support new city-sponsored recreational programs or facilities prior to making commitments to initiate and implement any new programs.
- Policy P-7.1.4 Utilize funding opportunities, emphasizing a regional approach, such as coordinating, and/or partnering with special service districts.
- Policy P-7.1.5 Identify and actively seek potential grant funding assistance from public and private sources for habitat restoration, acquisition, development, and renovation.
- Policy P-7.1.6 Require new development impacting park service delivery to pay its fair share of the costs of providing new park and recreation facilities.
- Policy P-7.1.7 Seek partnerships to enhance opportunities for recreation programming at existing parks and recreation facilities.
- Policy P-7.1.8 Implement a city-wide policy for volunteers to help steward parks.

**Objective P-7.2 Encourage multi-purpose and/or joint use of school, special district, government, non-profit and other similar agency facilities for civic, recreational, cultural and beautification activities.**

- Policy P-7.2.1 Develop and execute joint use agreements when appropriate with other governmental and community service providers to maximize public use of existing public facilities.

- Policy P-7.2.2 Work cooperatively with local jurisdictions to evaluate the need and the financial ability to construct and operate an indoor recreation and aquatic center facility to meet community need.
- Policy P-7.2.3 Invite other local public agencies to participate in developing park master plans.
- Policy P-7.2.4 Cooperate with the state and other regional park providers to establish and implement park master plans for their facilities to ensure they are consistent with the city's vision and Comprehensive Plan.
- Policy P-7.2.5 Seek partnerships to enhance the visual beauty and character of the city including landscaping and public art in appropriate locations.
- Policy P-7.2.6 Provide volunteer coordination efforts to enhance and restore natural systems and open space areas within the park system on an ongoing basis, including maintenance needs to support restoration efforts.
- Policy P-7.2.7 Provide sufficient resources to support and manage approved volunteer efforts.
- Policy P-7.2.8 Use neighborhood and other organizational volunteers to supplement park maintenance levels, where appropriate.
- Policy P-7.2.9 Work cooperatively with Bastyr University to extend the lease agreement for use of their campus athletic fields.
- Policy P-7.2.10 Secure additional easement for use of Seattle Public Utility's property for continuing the Tolt-Pipeline Trail.

## **IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES**

The Capital Facilities Element includes the 20-year capital facilities plan for parks, recreation and open space. The capital facilities plan identifies a series of fiscally-unconstrained capital projects that are based on the overall vision and goals for the park system and the key findings from the demand and needs analysis. If implemented, these projects will respond to the needs of the community, meet or exceed the proposed level of service, and result in a relevant and vibrant park, recreation and open space system well into the future.

As Kenmore continues to grow, the city expects to spend at least the *same amount per capita* on future park, recreation, and open space land and facility improvements as it did in 2019 to accommodate this new growth. The projected future population is multiplied by \$3,259 per person to come up with a total value of the future park system if this proposed level of service is maintained over time.

Another possible level of service measure discussed in the PROS Plan is the acreage benchmark. This benchmark is developed by dividing the total existing acres of parks, recreation and open space in Kenmore by the current population and multiplying that number by 1,000, resulting in a total of 6.4 acres per 1,000 residents. Using this benchmark, meeting level of service in the park

system would be assessed solely through increased park acreage as the population grows. However, new acreage may not be needed to address all demand and needs; improvements at existing parks may be adequate. For this reason, the dollar per capita measure rather than the acreage benchmark has been selected to address level of service for parks, recreation and open space.

Other specific implementation strategies include:

- Develop walking maps of safe routes to parks.
- Develop a map of City walkways and trails.

## **REFERENCES**

Parks and Recreation Impact Fee Rate Study Report, May 2019  
Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan, February 2020