

**CITY OF SNOHOMISH
Snohomish, Washington**

ORDINANCE 2135

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SNOHOMISH, WASHINGTON,
ADOPTING THE ANNUAL DOCKETED CHANGES TO THE
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR 2007 AND AMENDING ORDINANCE
1866, AS AMENDED**

WHEREAS, as one of the cities in Snohomish County, the City of Snohomish is required to adopt and regularly update a comprehensive plan pursuant to the Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA); and

WHEREAS, under the GMA, the City is authorized to amend its Comprehensive Plan on an annual basis; and

WHEREAS, the Comprehensive Plan was thoroughly reviewed and substantially revised in 2005 to ensure conformance with GMA requirements, and was amended in 2006; and

WHEREAS, for 2007, the City has considered amending the Comprehensive Plan by adding annexation policies, including a clarification of the City's policy on provision of utilities to unincorporated areas prior to annexation, updating the Parks Element, which includes adoption of a Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Long Range Plan, and related policy amendments for internal consistency; and

WHEREAS, due to recent case law, in particular the Washington State Court of Appeals decision in MT Development LLC, et al vs. City Of Renton, the City is no longer able to require that development in unincorporated areas of the City's Urban Growth Area (UGA) conform to the City's zoning and density requirements in exchange for connection to City utilities; and

WHEREAS, the court decision referenced above precludes the City from implementing existing Comprehensive Plan Policy ED 3.4, and therefore alternative Comprehensive Plan language is required to eliminate this inconsistency; and

WHEREAS, the City Council deems it necessary to re-affirm that it is in the public's interest that urban development within the City's UGA conform to City of Snohomish zoning, density, and development standards; and

WHEREAS, the City intends that urban growth within the City's future city boundaries is uniform, high quality, and consistent with City zoning and development regulations; and

WHEREAS, urban development within the UGA constructed to Snohomish County development regulations may lack features determined to be important to this community, such as curbs, gutters, sidewalks, street trees, and the undergrounding of overhead utilities; and

WHEREAS, urban development within the UGA constructed to Snohomish County development regulations may create lots and structures that would assume a legal nonconforming status due to differences between City and County standards, which in turn could limit or prohibit property owners' opportunities and options for modifications and improvements; and

WHEREAS, allowing urban development in the UGA that does not conform to City standards may result in incongruent and irregular land development and infrastructure, which in turn will make the City's long-term administration of land use regulations and maintenance of infrastructure in those areas more difficult, less safe, and more costly to the general public; and

WHEREAS, the City cannot ensure uniform and high quality development unless such development occurs according to the City's policies, regulations, and standards; and

WHEREAS, the City cannot ensure that development will occur consistent with the City's long range utility infrastructure planning unless the City's Comprehensive Plan is implemented; and

WHEREAS, the City is supportive of annexation of UGA properties and resulting extension and connection to City utilities; and

WHEREAS, requests for annexation are processed by the City without any charge or fee imposed upon the annexation proponent(s); and

WHEREAS, acting as the City of Snohomish SEPA Responsible Official, the City Planning Director reviewed the proposed amendments and issued a Determination of Non-significance (DNS); and

WHEREAS, the City has conducted a broad process of public participation to review proposed amendments to the Comprehensive Plan, and the program for public involvement is set forth in the attached Exhibit D; and

WHEREAS, on November 6, 2007, and November 20, 2007, a public hearing on the proposed amendments and the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Long Range Plan was held by the City Council, and all persons wishing to be heard were heard; and

WHEREAS, public notice of the SEPA DNS and the public hearing was provided as required by law; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to SMC 14.15.070 and RCW 36.70A.106, the City has notified the Washington State Department of Community, Trade, and Economic Development of the City's intent to adopt the proposed amendments to the Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission and the City Council have found that the Comprehensive Plan amendments adopted in this ordinance are:

1. Internally consistent with the Comprehensive Plan;
2. Consistent with the Growth Management Act and the State Environmental Policy Act; and
3. In the interest of the public health, safety, and welfare of Snohomish residents;

NOW THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SNOHOMISH, WASHINGTON DO HEREBY ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Adoption of Annexation Policies and related policy amendments.

Ordinance 1866, as amended, and the City of Snohomish Comprehensive Plan are hereby amended by adopting the annexation policies and deleting and amending existing policies in the Economic Development Element, the Utilities Element, and the Policy Plan Implementation Element to maintain internal consistency as set forth in the attached Exhibit A.

Section 2. Adoption of Parks Element.

Ordinance 1866, as amended, and the City of Snohomish Comprehensive Plan are hereby amended by adopting the Park Element set forth in the attached Exhibit B.

Section 3. Adoption of Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Long Range Plan.

Ordinance 1866, as amended, and the City of Snohomish Comprehensive Plan are hereby amended by adopting the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Long Range Plan set forth in the attached Exhibit C, as a subelement of the Comprehensive Plan's Park Element.

Section 4. Severability.

If any section, sentence, clause, or phrase of this Ordinance is held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect the validity or constitutionality of any other section, sentence, clause, or phrase of this Ordinance.

Section 5. Effective Date.

This Ordinance shall take effect five days after its publication by summary.

ADOPTED by the City Council and **APPROVED** by the Mayor this 20th day of November, 2007.

CITY OF SNOHOMISH

By _____
RANDY HAMLIN, MAYOR

Attest:

Approved as to form:

By _____
TORCHIE COREY, CITY CLERK

By _____
GRANT K. WEED, CITY ATTORNEY

Exhibit A
Annexation Policies and Related Policy Amendments

Goal AN 1: Maintain a standard for annexation review that supports logical expansions of the City boundaries, conserves City resources, and results in no reductions in levels of service provision to the existing community.

Policy AN 1.1: Maintain a practice that review of annexations should balance policy criteria and other City objectives. Review criteria are intended as guidance rather than standards. Annexations should be evaluated in terms of the overall affect on the community.

Policy AN 1.2: Maintain a practice that larger annexations should generally be favored over smaller annexations to preserve City resources.

Policy AN 1.3: Maintain a practice that annexation boundaries should be regular, as defined by:

- The use of physical boundaries, such as streets and natural features;
- Avoiding creation of islands or peninsulas of unincorporated lands;
- Consideration of the relationship to hydrological systems, topography, and utility basins where appropriate; and
- Administrative boundaries, such as special service districts.

Policy AN 1.4: Maintain a practice that annexation may be considered untimely if insufficient property owner support for annexation would result in less than optimal boundaries, unless other policy goals would be furthered.

Policy AN 1.5: Maintain a practice that annexations should be supported where City utility services can be provided in a logical and efficient manner. Existing points of utility access, schedules for planned capital improvements, potential cost to existing ratepayers, and long term utility system improvements plans should be considered.

Policy AN 1.6: Maintain a practice that annexations should have access from a City street or state highway, and should represent a logical and timely expansion of the City's street network. Future street grid system plans should be considered.

Policy AN 1.7: Maintain a practice that evaluation of annexation proposals should consider the conformance of existing land uses with City codes and policies, and should consider the effects of historic land use, e.g., contaminated soils and the presence of historic or cultural resources, to the extent information is available.

Policy AN 1.8: Maintain a practice that annexations should not be supported when the action would facilitate vested development proposals that are inconsistent with City standards, regulations, and policies.

Policy AN 1.9: Maintain a practice that annexation proposals should generally include adjacent county rights-of-way. The cost of improvements and maintenance should be considered in the determination.

Policy AN 1.10: Maintain a practice that certain unincorporated areas should be considered priority areas for annexation. Priority areas include:

- Areas where recurring revenues from taxes and fees will exceed the cost of providing municipal services to the area;
- Areas where municipal services have already been extended;
- Areas where urban services are required to correct degradation of natural resources or to address public health concerns;
- Areas where the City has concerns about land use controls, i.e., future development occurring under other policies and standards;
- Areas that represent peninsulas of unincorporated area partially surrounded by the City;
- Areas where future development is necessary to help resolve existing urban service deficits;
- Areas where existing residents are impacting City services and infrastructure;
- Areas with existing urban character;
- Areas with a logical and historical identification and affiliation with the City.

Policy AN 1.11: Maintain a practice that the fiscal impacts should be considered in evaluating annexation proposals.

Policy AN 1.12: Maintain a practice that service level impacts to existing residents and property owners should be considered in evaluating annexation proposals. Impacts to other service providers should also be considered.

Policy AN 1.13: Maintain a practice that annexations should be required to assume a proportionate share of any existing City bonded indebtedness, unless waiving the requirement would achieve other City goals.

Policy AN 1.14: Maintain a practice that the City's Shoreline Master Program should be amended, as necessary, to incorporate annexing properties at the time of annexation.

Policy AN 1.15: Maintain a practice that the City will ensure consistency and quality of development within the City's future city limits by requiring annexation as a condition of connection to the City's utility systems. Exceptions can be made where connection is required due to public health emergencies or where contractual obligations limit the City's ability to require annexation. The City does not commit to provision of utility service to any area outside the City's corporate boundary. This policy is necessitated by case law that prohibits the City from conditioning utility service to UGA development on conformance to City development standards. Upon completion of an interlocal agreement with Snohomish County ensuring that development within the UGA conforms to City land use standards, this policy should be removed or amended.

Related Policy Amendments

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ELEMENT

Policy ED 3.4 is deleted

UTILITIES ELEMENT

Policy UT 3.11 is deleted

POLICY PLAN IMPLEMENTATION ELEMENT

Policy PI 2.2 is revised to read:

Policy PI 2.2: Development in the City's unincorporated UGA that occurs pursuant to an interlocal agreement between the City and the County should be developed to City standards, connect to City water and sewer, and be legally bound to participate in annexation efforts.

Exhibit B

Parks Element

I. Introduction

One of the distinctive features of the City of Snohomish is its unique setting with quality parks, recreation, and open space resources. As a small town experiencing increasing development pressure, it is incumbent upon the City to be proactive in providing and planning for adequate parks, recreation and open space. To that end, this section of the Comprehensive Plan describes the City's long-term vision for the parks, recreation, and open space, presents goals and policies for parks, recreation, and open space, establishes level-of-service (LOS) standards, and provides a brief summary of parks, recreation, and open space resources in the city.

The information provided below draws substantially from the City's Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Long Range Plan (Plan), which provides a more detailed framework for parks, recreation, and open space within the City limits and urban growth boundary (UGA) based on an analysis of existing conditions, community demographics, residents' needs and interests, and regional trends for parks and recreation activities.

Collectively, this element of the Comprehensive Plan and the separate PROS Plan, which is adopted herein by reference, set the course for future City action related to parks, recreation, and open space. If a conflict between the Park Element and the PROS Plan should occur, the Park Element shall take precedence.

II. Planning Context

Washington's Growth Management Act

Washington State's Growth Management Act (GMA) (RCW 36.70A) requires local jurisdictions to effectively plan for urban land uses by ensuring the provision of adequate supplies of land to meet the needs of growth. Generally, the GMA aims to reverse the trend toward converting undeveloped land into sprawling, low-density land use that represents a threat to open space in this state. As a part of this effort, the GMA encourages local jurisdictions to retain open space, promote healthy/active lifestyles, conserve wildlife habitat, increase public access to shorelines, and ensure the provision of adequate recreation facilities for existing and future populations.

According to RCW 36.70A.070(8), local jurisdictions are required to include a parks and recreation element in their comprehensive plans. As per the statute, the element must implement and be consistent with the parks and recreation facilities identified in the Capital Facilities Plan Element. The element must also include three components:

- (a) Estimates of park and recreation demand for at least a 10-year period;
- (b) An evaluation of facilities and service needs; and
- (c) An evaluation of intergovernmental coordination opportunities to provide regional approaches for meeting park and recreational demand.

While this is the case, the requirement to prepare a Parks and Recreation Element is dependent upon the distribution of state funding assistance to local agencies for completion of this element [RCW 36.70A.070(9)]. As of Fiscal Year 2008, this funding assistance has not been provided

and therefore the preparation of a parks and recreation element will continue to be considered optional until that funding becomes available.

The preparation of a Parks and Recreation Element enables the City to more effectively plan for and fund parks and recreation facilities. The City has developed this Park and Recreation Element to ensure the maintenance of a high quality of life in the city for the long term, recognizing the contribution of parks, recreation, and open space to quality of life.

The separate PROS Plan and its objectives were developed to implement the directives of the Growth Management Act. In the PROS Plan, park, recreation, and open space demand over the next 20 years (2008 to 2027) was estimated (according to the LOS standards provided below), facilities' service needs to meet that demand were identified, and intergovernmental coordination opportunities for meeting park and recreational demand were determined. The PROS Plan, as approved by City Council, is hereby adopted by reference and serves as the foundation for the conclusions of this Element.

Washington Recreation and Conservation Office

The City may seek assistance from the State and others to implement the PROS Plan. The primary State agency that oversees parks and recreation planning in the State of Washington is the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO), previously known as the Interagency Committee on Outdoor Recreation (IAC). Through its grant awards and planning activities, the RCO is the state coordinating agency that seeks to enhance and maintain statewide opportunities for recreation, aims to protect the best of the state's wild lands, and contributes to the State's efforts to recover threatened and endangered salmon species. RCO supports five boards to achieve its mission:

- Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (RCFB)
- Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB)
- Forum on Monitoring Salmon Recovery and Watershed Health
- Washington Biodiversity Council
- Invasive Species Council

Together, these State boards provide leadership, funding, and technical assistance to help communities, such as Snohomish, plan for and implement a variety of parks and recreation projects, including trails, boating facilities, playfields, and others, and also protect and restore the State's important habitats and biological heritage. To that end, RCO manages 10 grant programs. In 2005, these State boards collectively distributed \$50 million in grants throughout the state.

RCO also prepares and updates the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), which includes several documents that are periodically updated. These SCORP documents were used to develop the PROS Plan and generally provided guidance to local communities on recreation trends and needs.

III. Benefits of Parks

Parks, recreation, and open space play a critical role in creating high-quality communities and their public benefits are well documented. Over the past decade, the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) has been a leader and advocate in communicating and promoting the various benefits of parks, recreation, and open space. Recently, the economic benefits of parks and open space (and smart growth planning approaches, more generally) have also become better understood and quantified, along with the more traditional individual, community, and environmental benefits. This section provides a brief summary of the various types of benefits created by parks, recreation, and open space.

Economic Benefits

Development of a high-quality parks and open space system within a community has been shown to create significant economic benefits for residents. In a number of case studies, proximity to parks and open space has increased the property value of adjacent parcels, stimulate economic development, and reduce the public cost of public service provision. Parks provision and preservation of open space have created significant economic benefits for the local jurisdictions of Boulder, Colorado, Salem, Oregon, and others. Similarly, a study cited in the document concluded that homes bordering the Burke-Gilman Trail in Seattle, Washington sold for approximately six percent more than other houses of comparable size not located along the trail.



Additionally, as the U.S. workforce has become more mobile, attracting families and individuals to areas of high quality of life has become a critical tool for employers to attract highly sought-after workers. Generally, business executives are increasingly choosing work locations based on the area's amenities, including quality educational facilities and parks and open space. In addition, businesses that depend on a highly-educated workforce increasingly emphasize a high quality of life in their decision to locate in an area. As such, ample parks and recreation opportunities for local residents, such as trails, contribute substantially to local business recruitment.

Other economic benefits created by parks, recreation, and open space include:

- Attraction of tourists, creating short-term and long-term employment opportunities for local residents;
- Planned local activities in parks bring residents to commercial areas, increasing spending in the retail and service industries.

Individual and Community Benefits

In addition to economic benefits, parks and open space create a number of benefits for individual residents and communities. Parks and open space provide opportunities for individuals of all ages and abilities to be physically active, socially engaged, and cognitively stimulated. They also promote participation in personal health and fitness activities and contribute to full and meaningful lives through mental and physical health. Through these activities community bonds are strengthened and social interactions between residents are encouraged. A quality parks and open space system provides organized and structured activities for local youth, seniors, and others, while also fostering a sense of community.



Other individual and community benefits of parks, recreation, and open space include:

- Opportunities for rest, relaxation, and revitalization that reduce stress;
- Contribute to children's play and general activity, an essential component of early childhood development;
- Preserve and interpret historic community assets;
- Provide opportunities for community involvement, as well as a sense of responsibility for the resource; and
- Supply emergency housing and evacuation sites during catastrophic events.

Environmental Benefits

Parks and open space create a range of environmental benefits. Open space may be provided along with more active recreation opportunities at park sites or at separate locations. Both parks and open space allow for the protection and preservation of vital green spaces, critical wildlife habitat, and natural processes. Open space creates important "quiet zones" within noisy urban environments. In many cases, parks and open space allow for education of visitors regarding the appropriate use of natural areas as recreational areas. Parks and open space also contribute to clean air and water by removing toxins in air, groundwater and surface waters. They address global warming by removing carbon dioxide from the air.



IV. Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Vision

Parks, recreation, and open space protect both the economic and physical health of communities and residents alike. They are essential services of local government. The City of Snohomish plans to continue providing high-quality parks and open space over the next 20 years. The City also intends to continue partnering with other agencies and interest groups to effectively meet the parks, open space and recreation needs of the City.

The parks, recreation, and open space system emphasizes a safe and sustainable pedestrian-oriented community. The system provides access to and connectivity between City parks and open space and ensures linkages to recreation facilities outside City limits. Parks and open space provide residents access to the City's varied high-quality natural resources, including the Snohomish River, Pilchuck River, and Blackmans Lake, and contribute to the ecological function of these natural systems, while supporting the City's historic heritage and helping to maintain an identifiable edge between the community and its agricultural and forested surroundings.

V. Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Goals and Policies

To implement the vision described above and guide future action, the City developed a number of parks, recreation, and open space goals and policies. Because parks and recreation opportunities serve varied roles within the city and create a wide range of benefits, the parks and recreation goals and policies are classified into six categories:

- Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Opportunities and Access
- Role of the City's Shorelines
- Operations and Maintenance of Existing Facilities
- Promotion of Community Health and Quality of Life
- Effective Use of City Resources
- Coordination with Other Agencies and Organizations

Goals and policies for each of these categories are provided below.

Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Opportunities and Access

Goal PRO 1.0 Provide a High-Quality System of Parks, Recreation, and Open Space – Develop a well-maintained, interconnected system of multi-functional parks and recreation facilities and open space that is attractive, safe and available to all segments of the City's population.

Policy PRO 1.1 Strive to meet the City's Park and Recreation LOS standards.

Policy PRO 1.2 Ensure a diverse collection of parks and recreation programs and facilities, including pocket parks, neighborhood parks, community parks, and trails and open space, to meet the needs of City residents.

Policy PRO 1.3 Emphasize the establishment of trail and bike/pedestrian path connections between existing and future parks, residential, commercial, and employment areas. As a part of this effort, identify potential locations for pedestrian connections across Highway 9.

Policy PRO 1.4 Complete the design, planning, and construction of Harryman's Farm Park as a neighborhood park.

Policy PRO 1.5 Ensure Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance for all new and existing recreation facilities, where applicable.

Policy PRO 1.6 All new residential development shall provide funds and/or parkland to ensure new development does not diminish the City’s PROS LOS.

Policy PRO 1.7 Conduct periodic surveys of City of Snohomish residents and service providers to measure satisfaction with existing facilities and identify demand not being met by existing facilities (if any).

Policy PRO 1.8 Complete construction of the Snohomish Senior Center and continue to ensure high-quality services for Snohomish seniors.

Policy PRO 1.9 Provide an off-leash dog area within proximity of Centennial Trail.

Goal PRO 2.0 **Preserve Important Open Space Areas** – Protect and preserve open space areas that are scenic, ecologically significant and sensitive, serve as urban separators, provide trails and/or wildlife corridors, and/or enhance fish and wildlife habitat.

Policy PRO 2.1 Strive to meet the City’s Open Space LOS standard.

Policy PRO 2.2 Encourage the dedication of open space and/or Native Growth Protection Areas (NGPA) to the City as part of the plat process.

Policy PRO 2.3 When undeveloped land is converted to urban use, ensure that highly-valued open space is preserved, whenever possible.

Policy PRO 2.4 Encourage the preservation and/or restoration of native vegetation in natural areas and open space throughout the City and control the spread of noxious weeds.

Policy PRO 2.5 Identify key environmentally-sensitive land for potential purchase and/or conservation easement to provide open space corridors and critical habitat within the City.

Policy PRO 2.6 Foster and promote environmental stewardship, responsibility and awareness within the City, especially among youth.

Policy PRO 2.7 Dedication of critical open space areas to the public shall not fulfill requirements for dedication for park purposes.

Role of the City’s Shorelines

Goal PRO 3.0 **Connect City Residents with Their Shorelines** – Strengthen the shoreline connection between the City and its lakes and riverfront areas.

Policy PRO 3.1 Enhance and/or expand park facilities, recreation activities, and public access along the City’s shorelines.

- Policy PRO 3.2* Expand public ownership and access along the City’s shorelines through targeted purchases and/or land dedication.
- Policy PRO 3.3* Provide public access to key shoreline areas, consistent with the public safety, private property rights, and sensitive resource protection needs.
- Policy PRO 3.4* Encourage re-orientation and/or renovation of downtown buildings to take advantage of their proximity to the Snohomish River and improve public access to the shoreline.
- Policy PRO 3.5* Support and encourage community activities along the City’s shorelines, specifically in the downtown area.
- Policy PRO 3.6* Identify an appropriate site and relocate the Cady boat launch to improve its access, parking, and river current.

Operations and Maintenance of Existing and New Facilities

Goal PRO 4.0 Provide for Maintenance of Recreation Sites and Facilities by Ensuring Sufficient Parks and Recreation Funding and Staffing – Ensure that all park sites, equipment and facilities are maintained at a level that enhances public safety, maximizes equipment and facility lifespan, provides a positive park experience, and meets public expectations by providing necessary funding and staff resources.

- Policy PRO 4.1* Design and develop recreation facilities that are durable and low maintenance to reduce maintenance requirements and costs.
- Policy PRO 4.2* Keep parks and recreation facilities clean and in good condition through effective maintenance. Maintain City-owned properties to support the “Garden City” image of the community.
- Policy PRO 4.3* Utilize best management practices in park maintenance activities.
- Policy PRO 4.4* Acknowledge each park’s history and the contribution of the Snohomish community through a recognition wall or similar park feature.
- Policy PRO 4.5* Develop and adopt a park naming policy and a set of approved park and public facility standard details.
- Policy PRO 4.6* Support and encourage community activities along the City’s shorelines, especially in the downtown area.
- Policy PRO 4.7* Aerial utilities and telecommunication transmission infrastructure that result in unmitigated adverse impacts are prohibited. Utility corridors and easements can offer important opportunities for recreation and open space.

The City should seek opportunities to create desirable recreation facilities upon properties used principally for utilities and similar infrastructure.

Promotion of Community Health and Quality of Life

Goal PRO 5.0 Provide Non-motorized Trail and Access Opportunities that Connect People and Places and Promote a Healthy Lifestyle – Continue to promote and increase walkability, connectivity and bike/pedestrian access to and within the City.

Policy PRO 5.1 Develop a City-wide trail system with internal connections and regional linkages (including regional partnerships to connect bike and walking trails from other parts of the region and finish trail linkages to the Centennial Trail).

Policy PRO 5.2 Include trails, bike routes, walkways and safe street crossings in transportation planning to promote active lifestyles, conservation of resources, and protection of the environment.

Policy PRO 5.3 Implement public outreach and wayfinding programs to help citizens locate and use City parks, trails, and open space.

Policy PRO 5.4 Encourage physical activity by all City residents, with a special emphasis on young people and senior citizens.

Policy PRO 5.5 Ensure that active recreation facilities within the City and the surrounding area, including baseball and softball fields, soccer fields, basketball courts, and others, are sufficient to meet the needs of City residents for practice and competition.

Effective Use of City Resources

Goal PRO 6.0 Expand Park, Recreation, and Open Space Opportunities Via the Strategic Use of Existing Resources and the Addition of Parks and Recreation Staff – Continue to provide high-quality parks, recreation, and open space for City residents through the efficient use of City resources and the establishment of a future Parks and Recreation Department.

Policy PRO 6.1 Establish a City of Snohomish Parks and Recreation Department and develop staff as an essential City resource.

Policy PRO 6.2 Utilize effective and efficient methods of acquiring, developing, operating and maintaining recreation facilities and programs that accurately distribute costs and benefits to public and private interests.

Policy PRO 6.3 Strategically identify potential land for future City parks and open space and prioritize the acquisition of key parcels of land needed to meet the park and recreation needs of City residents.

Policy PRO 6.4 Ensure that new development is accommodated without reducing the LOS established for critical municipal services, including parks, recreation, and open space through the utilization of a GMA-based parks impact fee and other resources.

Policy PRO 6.5 Recognizing that construction and operation of particular parks and recreation facilities (e.g. swimming pools, sports complexes, etc.) is beyond the current financial capability of the City, coordinate with other agencies and organizations for the efficient delivery of these services.

Policy PRO 6.6 Land and facilities may be provided by a developer to the City in lieu of an equivalent portion of the Park Impact Fee where the City determines that such land or facilities serve the demands of growth in the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Long Range Plan.

Coordination with Other Agencies and Organizations

Goal PRO 7.0 **Coordinate with Other Entities to Provide Recreation Facilities or Services Not Provided by the City** – Provide a complete system of park and recreational facilities and open space, coordinate with entities that provide other public, non-profit, and private recreation facilities or services that are needed by City residents.

Policy PRO 7.1 Work with adjacent public agencies, community groups, non-profits, and private organizations to provide recreation facilities and open space, especially in areas experiencing increased development pressure.

Policy PRO 7.2 Identify parks and recreation demand not currently met by existing City resources (e.g. dog parks) and determine potential solutions for adding these resources to the system, either through use of City resources or coordination with other agencies and organizations.

Policy PRO 7.3 Maintain close coordination and communication with important regional parks and recreation partners, including Snohomish County, Snohomish Parks Foundation, and others.

Policy PRO 7.4 Work with the Snohomish School District for the use of ballfields, pools, and other recreation facilities by the public to supplement (but not replace) existing park facilities.

Policy PRO 7.5 Encourage the transition of public properties (e.g. schools, etc.) proposed for surplus into City parks, recreation, and open space.

Goal PRO 8.0 **Support Private and Non-Profit Recreation Providers to Meet the Needs of City Residents** – Recognize and support the important role of private recreation providers in meeting the full range of recreation needs of City residents.

Policy PRO 8.1 Work with private recreation providers to ensure the availability of private facilities in the long-term, such as ballfields.

Policy PRO 8.2 Provide sites and facilities for operation through lease agreements and other arrangements to community organizations that serve youth, seniors, low-income, and other City Council priority groups.

IV. Parks, Recreation, and Open Space LOS Standards

LOS standards are commonly used to measure the amount and quality of a public service or facility that should be provided to meet a community’s adopted goals. In park and recreation LOS standards, local jurisdictions establish the number and type of park facilities, trails, and open space resources that they deem necessary to adequately serve the needs of their citizens. LOS standards allow jurisdictions to establish specific targets and measure progress toward those targets over time (CTED 2005). By periodically comparing current levels of performance with established standards, it can be determined how quickly a community is (or is not) progressing toward their goals.

To ensure that City of Snohomish residents are adequately served by parks, recreation, trails, and open space resources, using recommended RCO LOS guidelines, LOS standards for four facility types have been established, including neighborhood parks, community parks, non-motorized trails, and open space.

Table PRO-1. City of Snohomish Parks and Recreation LOS Standards.

Park Type	LOS Standard
Pocket	No recommended LOS standard (developed when opportunities arise & public benefit is demonstrated)
Neighborhood	75% of population within ½ mile of a neighborhood park
Community	90% of population within 1.5 miles of a community park
Regional	No recommended LOS standard (City not expected to provide Regional Parks)
Non-Motorized Trails	90% of population within ½ mile of a trail
Open Space	10% of City of Snohomish maintained as open space
<i>Note: Open space includes publicly-owned parcels, undeveloped school properties, undeveloped tracts deeded to the City, and similar areas. Private open space parcels are not included in this calculation.</i>	
<i>Source: RCO 2007; City of Snohomish (unpublished).</i>	

VII. Snohomish Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Resources

Parks, recreation, and open space resources are generally categorized by their resource context, user type and desired experience, types of facilities provided, service radii, and range of overall size. The definitions below are defined in the PROS Plan and provide guidance regarding the different types of parks, trails, and open space planned for the City of Snohomish.

Pocket Parks

Pocket parks are typically small areas (less than two acres) that provide specific recreation opportunities (e.g., a playground, benches, etc.) for a local population (neighborhood, etc.). Pocket parks are usually accessed by foot or other non-motorized method of travel and do not have designated parking. Generally, these parks provide a limited number of recreation facilities. The City of Snohomish currently operates eight pocket parks throughout the City.

Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks are generally considered the basic unit of a park system. These parks tend to be smaller in size (approximately two to five acres) and provide a variety of recreation and social opportunities for residents living within a 0.25- to 0.5-mile radius. Neighborhood parks may include landscaped and/or open space areas, but tend to provide a small number of developed/built recreation facilities that can be used for organized or impromptu sports activity (e.g., single ball fields, in-park trails, picnic areas, etc.). Neighborhood parks are usually accessed by foot or other non-motorized means of travel and, consequently, do not typically provide significant on-site parking. The City of Snohomish currently operates one neighborhood park, Morgantown Park.



Community Parks

Community parks serve a broader purpose and population base compared to neighborhood parks. These parks are often larger (greater than five acres in size) and frequently provide both developed recreation as well as passive recreation opportunities. The level of development in a community park may range from light (e.g., single use soft surface trails, picnic sites, non-delineated play fields, etc.) to high (e.g., multiple delineated ball fields, multiple sport courts, paved trails, group picnic shelters, etc.). Community parks are generally designed to provide recreation opportunities to people living within a 1- to 3-mile radius and typically have designated parking for users, though non-motorized access and connections are encouraged. There are currently five community parks in the city, including: (1) Averill Youth Complex; (2) Hill Park; (3) Ferguson Park; (4) Pilchuck Park; and (5) Riverfront Park (which includes Kla Ha Ya Park, Cady Park, and the Gazebo).

Regional Parks

Regional parks typically serve multiple communities. In addition to providing developed recreation opportunities, regional parks also typically include open space with unique landscapes, natural resources, and/or aesthetic resources. While regional parks may provide developed/built site facilities commonly found in neighborhood and/or community parks (e.g., playgrounds, ball fields, etc.), they often incorporate larger, highly developed recreation facilities (e.g., tournament ball fields, regional trails, swim



complexes, etc.) and special use facilities (e.g., amphitheaters, etc.) that are usually not practical in community parks. Regional parks are large (approximately 25 acres or more) and generally have a 25-mile service area. Designated parking is usually provided in regional parks, though non-motorized access and connections are encouraged. The City does not operate a regional park facility. These types of facilities are generally provided and managed by county and state agencies.

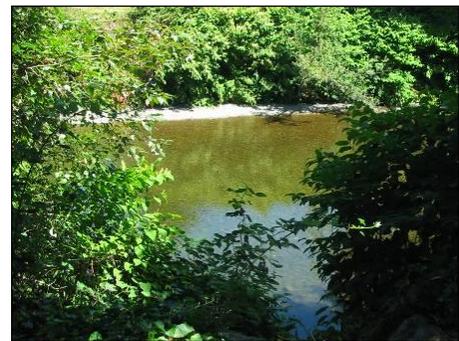
Trails

In general, a trail may be a land or water corridor that provides recreational, aesthetic, transportation, and/or educational opportunities to motorized and/or non-motorized users of all ages and abilities. Common types of trails include in-park trails (e.g. single or multi-purpose soft or hard surfaced trails located within parks or open space), connector trails (single or multi-purpose hard surface trails that emphasize safe travel between parks and other community features), and regional trails (single or multi-purpose hard surface trails that cross community boundaries and connect important/significant regional areas), among others. Trails may also be designed for specific uses (e.g., equestrians, off-road vehicles (ORV), cross-country skiers, etc.). Regional trails typically must meet specific city, county, and/or state trail design guidelines. The City currently provides a number of non-motorized trails to Snohomish residents.



Open Space

Open space areas tend to be set aside primarily for the preservation of natural/significant resources, remnant/important landscapes, and/or as visual/aesthetic buffers. These areas may also serve important historic or ecological/natural functions that would be lost in more highly developed park environments. These areas may be in public or private ownership and the public property interest may be in fee or easement. Commonly, open space tracts are established through plat dedication, permit requirements, or acquisition. While recreation use is not necessarily precluded in open space areas, appropriate uses tend to be limited to those activities (e.g., bird watching, nature appreciation, walking/hiking, etc.) that do not require highly developed/built facilities. Open space owned and managed by the City of Snohomish currently accounts for approximately four percent of the land in the city.



Additional detail related to the City's current parks and recreation inventory can be found in the separate Park, Recreation and Open Space Long Range Plan.

Exhibit C

Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Long Range Plan Document on File

November 2007 version: Executive Summary, body (58 pages); Appendices A-F

Exhibit D

2007 Comprehensive Plan Amendments Public Involvement Record

	Date	Organization	Forum
1.	September 27, 2006	Park Board	Public Meeting
2.	December 20, 2006	Park Board	Public Meeting
3.	January 24, 2007	Park Board	Public Meeting
4.	March 7, 2007	Planning Commission	Public Meeting
5.	March 28, 2007	Park Board	Public Meeting
6.	April 3, 2007	City Council	Public Meeting
7.	April 4, 2007	Planning Commission	Public Meeting
8.	April 17, 2007	City Council	Public Meeting
9.	April 25, 2007	Park Board	Public Meeting
10.	May 8, 2007	Park Advisory Committee	Public Meeting
11.	May 23, 2007	Park Board	Public Meeting
12.	June 12, 2007	Park Advisory Committee	Public Meeting
13.	June 24, 2007	Park Advisory Committee	Public Meeting
14.	June 27, 2007	Park Board	Open House
15.	July 25, 2007	Park Board	Public Meeting
16.	August 14, 2007	Historic Downtown Snohomish	Public Meeting
17.	August 21, 2007	City Council	Public Meeting
18.	August 22, 2007	Park Board	Public Meeting
19.	September 5, 2007	Planning Commission	Public Meeting
20.	September 18, 2007	City Council	Public Meeting
21.	September 19, 2007	Park Board	Public Meeting
22.	November 6, 2007	City Council	Public Hearing
23.	November 7, 2007	Planning Commission	Public Meeting
24.	November 20, 2007	City Council	Public Hearing