

City of Edmonds: Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan



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The Community of Edmonds

This Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan is a product of the community of Edmonds and represents the volunteer effort and input of many residents before and during the planning process. This is a living document. The planning team would like to sincerely thank those who provided their ideas to ensure this plan is visionary, relevant and community-supported.

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CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

The Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Plan provides comprehensive guidance on the development and management of Edmonds' parks, recreation and open space system and the services provided by the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department. This plan has been regularly updated (1996, 2001 and 2008) to remain relevant to Edmonds as the city evolves and changes.

Plan Purpose and Process

Edmonds updates its PROS Plan and its Community Cultural Plan on a six-year cycle, in alignment with the requirements of the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) to maintain eligibility for federal and state grant programs. The PROS Plan is also an important tool in meeting Growth Management Act (GMA) requirements and achieving the important citywide goals outlined in the Strategic Action Plan.

The PROS Plan was updated in tandem with the *Community Cultural Plan*, in an integrated planning process beginning in spring 2013 and continuing through fall/winter 2013.

Figure 1-1: Integrated Planning Process



As Figure 1-1 illustrates, the four phases of plan development included technical planning and analysis, drawing from a foundation of community participation shared by both planning efforts.

Phase 1: Where Are We Now?

Beginning in spring 2013, the purpose of Phase 1 was to establish a baseline of information to support the PROS Plan, including a review of the existing



conditions in the community and an assessment of the existing park system and recreation services. These findings are detailed in the *Existing Recreation Resources Summary Report* (available under separate cover), and highlights are included in Chapters 1 and 2 of the Plan.

Phase 2: Where Do We Want to Be?

In Phase 2, the PROS planning team developed an analysis of parks and recreation needs, using analysis criteria drawn from the community involvement process. In addition, the team's recreation center specialist conducted an assessment of Frances Anderson Center, its use, programming, and needs. A summary of the methodology and highlights of findings are included in Chapter 2. Through the analysis and subsequent community involvement, the planning team crafted the parks, recreation and open space system concept, goals and objectives presented in Chapter 3.

Phase 3: How Do We Get There?

Building on the results of Phases 1 and 2, the planning team crafted the parks, recreation and open space system concept, goals and objectives presented in Chapter 3. The team began developing and refining recommendations and a list of recommended projects, prepared prioritization criteria, and evaluated funding options.

Phase 4: What Are the Steps to Implementation?

In Phase 4, the full draft PROS Plan was released for public review. This adopted PROS Plan was refined with input from the public, staff, and city officials, and adopted by City Council.

Community Involvement

As the diagram in Figure 1 shows, a comprehensive public engagement strategy served both the PROS Plan and Community Culture Plan updates.



- *Advisory Teams:* The PROS Advisory Team (PAT) served as a steering committee throughout the plan update process, and coordinated with the Community Cultural Advisory Team (CCAT) who served in a similar role for the update of the Community Cultural Plan. The PROS Advisory Team convened four times during the planning process.
- *Focus Groups:* Three drop-in focus groups in August 2013 provided opportunity for the public to give specific feedback in the context of a facilitated group discussion. Participants considered topics including favorite parks and programs, challenges, opportunities, potential partnerships, and ways to increase participation in PROS and CCP planning processes.

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- *Intercepts:* During August and September 2013, Edmonds staff conducted a series of intercept events, bringing five interactive posters to a variety of community gatherings and popular locations around the city. The purpose was to bring the planning process out to the community to broaden participation. Intercept events drew participation from residents throughout Edmonds.
- *Questionnaire:* The online questionnaire was designed to be open to anyone interested in participating and to collect the largest number of responses and ideas possible. The questionnaire was made available on the front page of the City's website (www.edmondswa.gov), and was active between August 19th and September 15th, 2013. It was publicized using City email lists and newsletters. Question topics included city services, parks and facilities, recreation programs, arts and cultural opportunities, and future priorities for the parks system. By the close of the active period, there were 1,161 responses, comprising 968 completed and 193 partially completed questionnaires.
- *Workshops:* The PROS planning team led two public workshops on October 16th and 17th, 2013, at different locations and with different starting times to provide multiple options for participation. These workshops were designed to elicit community input on preferences for the character of development and renovation of Edmonds parks, as well as priorities for services. The workshops included a visual preference survey exercise, during which participants indicated their preferences for images of potential park elements, and a sustainable priorities exercise, during which participants prioritized a list of parks, recreation and open space services. The visual preference survey exercise was also repeated at a Planning Board workshop.
- *Random Sample Survey:* A random sample telephone survey was conducted in late November, 2013 by EMC. This survey was designed to further distill community priorities for major capital projects and funding sources.





The Community and Context

Since the 2008 PROS Plan, Edmonds has remained a stable, prosperous community, while also continuing to evolve and change. Demographic and contextual factors influence recreation priorities, and were evaluated during the planning process.

Edmonds has experienced steady population growth, a trend that is projected to continue through 2035 when the population is anticipated to reach 45,550. Over the last decade, aspects of growth have included an increased percentage of middle-aged and older adults and an increase in diversity. Asian (predominantly Korean) residents comprise the largest minority group in Edmonds, growing from 5.6% of the population in 2000 to 7.6% today. Mirroring this trend, the most recent census data show that 12.6% of Edmonds residents indicate that they were born in a foreign country, and 14.5% speak a language other than English at home.

Table 1-1: Population Projection

Base Population 2011	Projected Population 2025	Projected Population 2035	Projected Growth in Population 2011-2035
39,800	44,880	45,550	5,750

Source: Rate Study for Impact Fees for Parks, Open Space and Recreation, City of Edmonds, 2013

Edmonds residents enjoy higher incomes than in Washington State and the U.S as a whole, with a median household income of \$72,452, compared to \$58,890 in Washington as a whole and \$52,762 nationally. Though a smaller percentage of Edmonds residents live below the poverty line (7.8%) than statewide (12.5%) and nationally (14.3%), there remains a local population, including significant numbers of children, with acute need for City services.

The City has fostered a culture of planning and implementation. Since 2008, Edmonds has spearheaded a number of initiatives and updated several others, including the citywide Strategic Action Plan, the Sustainability Element of the Comprehensive Plan, and the Shoreline Master Plan Update. Each of these efforts included community engagement and participation. Taken as a body of work, the plans highlight issues of importance for Edmonds residents and offer areas of confluence with the PROS Plan. These common themes can be summarized as follows.

- **Shoreline/Waterfront**

Past planning efforts confirm that Edmonds' proximity to the water is a valued part of the city's identity and quality of life. The *Strategic Action Plan*, *Shoreline Master Program*, and *Feasibility Study of Edmonds Marsh* provide policy about connections to Puget Sound and the future directions for specific sites on and near the waterfront.



- **Arts and Culture**

Arts and culture are also central to the community's identity. In addition to the direction provided by the *Community Cultural Plan*, the *Strategic Action Plan* describes many actions related to arts and culture in Edmonds, especially around the role of arts and culture in economic development. (also supported in the *4th Avenue Cultural Corridor Plan* and *Streetscape Plan*).

- **Connectedness**

Though its downtown is very walkable, greater Edmonds has several characteristics—including steep topography and the presence of major transportation corridors—that create challenges and barriers for pedestrians and cyclists. For this reason, many of the City's plans and policies call for improved walking and biking access, including specific projects to increase connectivity. The *Strategic Action Plan* and the *Comprehensive Transportation Plan* direct specific attention to desired connections.



- **Habitat Conservation and Environmental Restoration**

The *Strategic Action Plan*, *Critical Areas Ordinance*, *Community Sustainability Element*, and *Shoreline Master Plan* include policy and planning guidance to protect and enhance natural resources, while encouraging educational interpretation and community stewardship.

- **Funding**

In recent years, Edmonds has initiated several efforts to bolster funding for parks and recreation, including the establishment of park impact fees and formation of a task force to explore a Metropolitan Park District and/or a levy to restore parks and recreation services lost to budget cuts. Public feedback from these efforts has emphasized the importance to the community of continued investment in the parks and recreation system.

CHAPTER 2: PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE SYSTEM NEEDS

The Existing Parks, Recreation and Open Space System

The City of Edmonds has a long-established set of categories for the types of park land in its parks, recreation and open space system. Table 2-1 summarizes the City-owned acreage in the PROS system, by park classification. More detail on each site is provided in Appendix A.

Table 2-1: Park Classification Summary

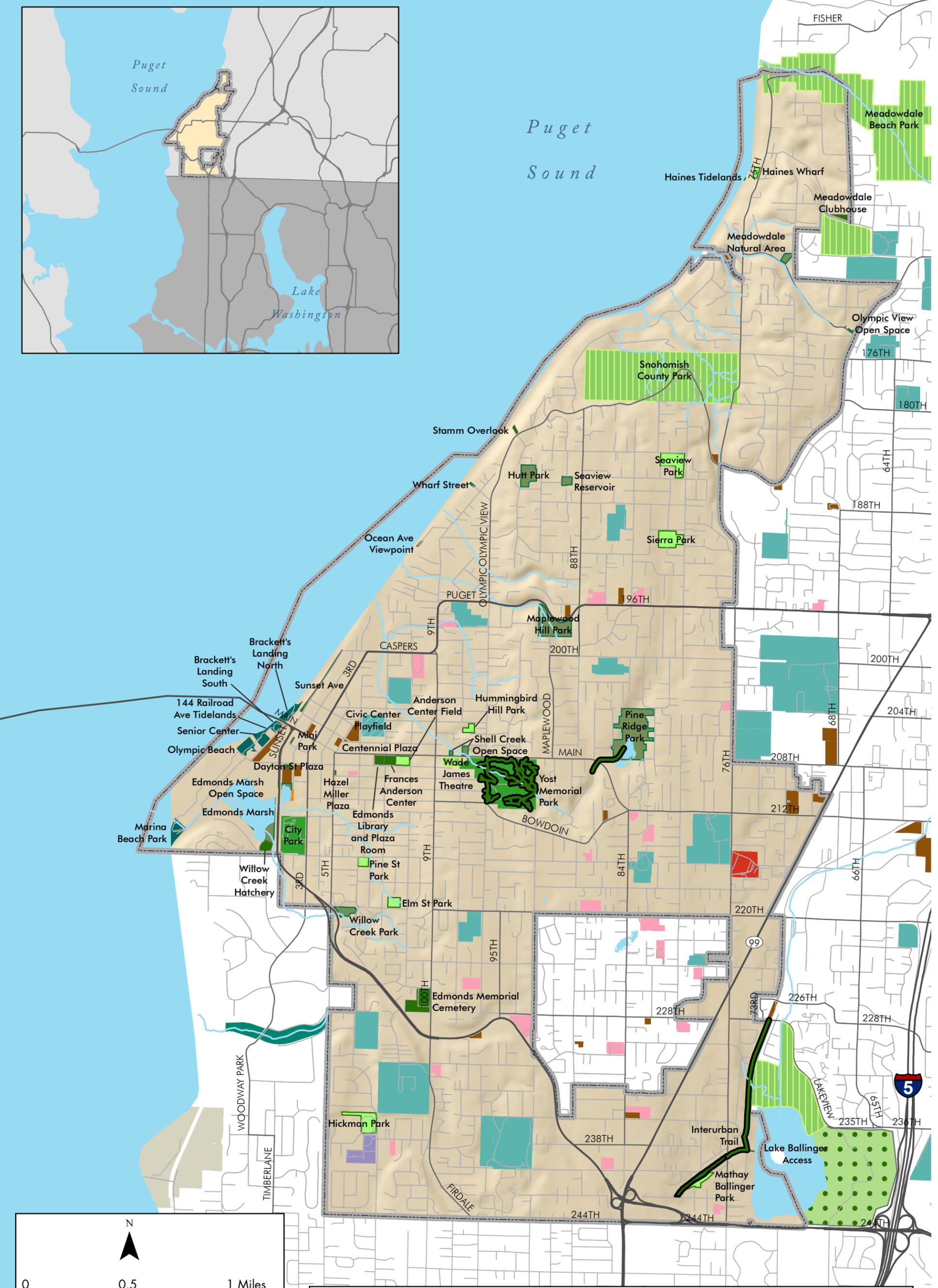
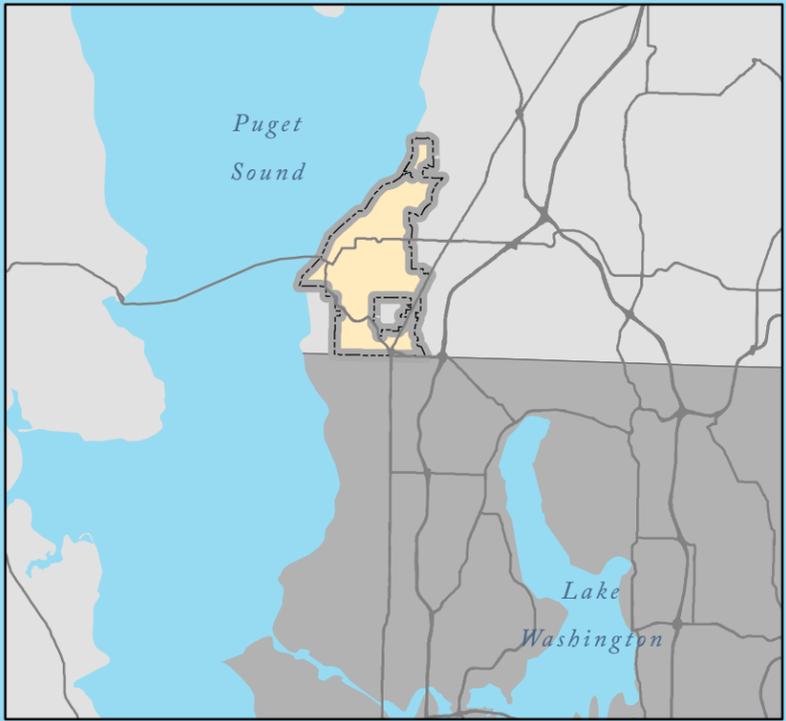
Park Classification	Number of Sites	Total Acreage
Neighborhood Park	9	24.85
Community Park	2	58.10
Regional Parks	6	17.05
Special Use Parks	15	19.77
Open Space	12	69.21

These parks contain a variety of outdoor recreation facilities, including playgrounds, picnic areas, basketball courts, sports fields of various types and configurations, walking trails and paths and restrooms. Included in this summary are two major recreation facilities owned and operated by the City of Edmonds:

- Frances Anderson Center is the “home” of the majority of Edmonds Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services programming.
- Yost Pool is a seasonal outdoor swimming pool located within Yost Park.

The PROS system includes sites and facilities not included in Table 2-1 provided in partnership with other entities such as Snohomish County, Edmonds School District and neighboring cities. These sites total more than 370 acres, and they serve a variety of recreation functions. For example, Civic Center Playfields & Skate Park, while owned by Edmonds School District, is a central, highly visited site that many Edmonds residents consider a city park. Southwest County Park is a 118-acre Snohomish County Park that constitutes the largest forested area in Edmonds. Though Edmonds Underwater Park is a well-known component of the waterfront park network, it is actually owned by the Department of Natural Resources. Facilities also represent key partnerships, such as the Edmonds Senior Center (formerly South County Senior Center) is a partnership between the City (property and facility owner) and Edmonds Senior Center (operator)

A detailed inventory of these sites is included in Appendix A, and they have been considered in the assessment of needs. The PROS system, including sites owned or operated by others, is depicted on Map 2-1.



N

0 0.5 1 Miles

EXISTING SYSTEM MAP

8.15.13 Data Source: Edmonds GIS, Snohomish County GIS | NAD 1983
Horn State Plane Washington North

Trails	Neighborhood Park	Water Feature	Hospital
Streams	Open Space	Cemetery	Industrial Plant
Local Street	Regional Park	Church	School
Arterial	School Park	Golf Course	Wildlife Refuge
Highway	Special Use Park	Government Facility	Wildlife Watershed
Community Park	Other Park	City Limits	

Habitat in the PROS System

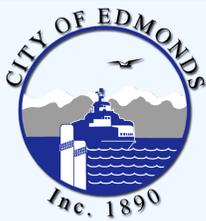
The lands within the Edmonds PROS System are ecologically diverse. The waterfront parks provide a marine environment, support marine habitat and tidal processes. The Edmonds Marsh is an ecologically unique saltwater marsh, and is hydrologically connected to the uplands and Puget Sound. Edmonds also includes freshwater habitat in its park on Lake Ballinger. The remaining parks and open spaces include upland areas with native vegetation and forests. Each of these ecological areas provides habitat for a variety of species, as well as ecosystem services including stormwater infiltration, stabilizing slopes and absorbing carbon dioxide. Table 2-2 lists an inventory of wildlife observed in the PROS system, by location.

Table 2-2: Partial Inventory of Observed Wildlife

Marine Waterfront Parks	Edmonds Marsh	Upland Parks
BIRDS		
Canada Goose	Gadwall	Coopers Hawk
Brant Goose	American Wigeon	Red-tailed Hawk
Surf, White-winged, & Black Scoter	Mallard	Band-tailed Pigeon
Bufflehead	Northern Shoveler	Barred Owl
Common & Barrow's Goldeneye	Green-winged Teal	Anna's Hummingbird
Red-breasted Merganser	Ring-necked Duck	Pileated Woodpecker
Double-crested Cormorant	Great Blue Heron	Northern Flicker
Belted Kingfisher	Peregrine Falcon	Steller's Jay
Bald Eagle	Virginia Rail	Olive-sided Flycatcher
Osprey	Killdeer	Hutton's Vireo
Western Sandpiper	Wilson's Snipe	Black-capped & Chestnut-backed Chickadee
Sanderling	Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs	Red-breasted Nuthatch
Bonaparte's Gull	Purple Martin	Brown Creeper
Mew Gull	Violet-green Swallow	Pacific Wren
Glaucous-winged Gull	Barn Swallow	Townsend's Warbler
Caspian Tern	Marsh Wren	Golden-crowned Kinglet
Pigeon Guillemot	Wilson's Warbler	Swainson's Thrush
Marbled Murrelet	Red-winged Blackbird	Spotted Towhee
Rhinoceros Auklet	Red Crossbill	Pine Siskin

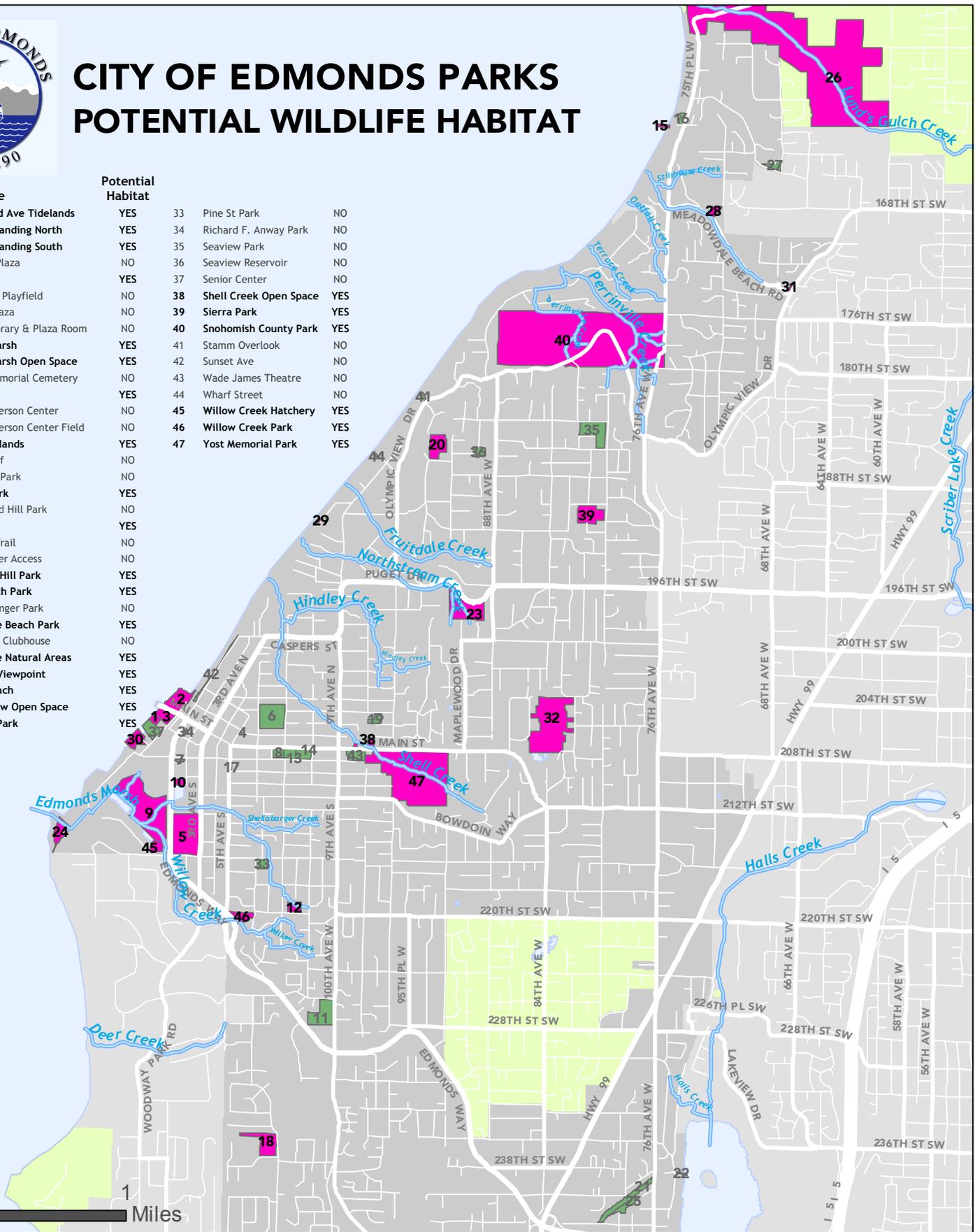
Table 2-2: Partial Inventory of Observed Wildlife (continued)

Marine Waterfront Parks	Edmonds Marsh	Upland Parks
MAMMALS		
Short-tailed Weasel (Ermine)	Muskrat	Shrew-Mole
Harbor Seal	Mountain Beaver	Little Brown Bat
Orca Whale	River Otter	Townsend's Chipmunk
Dolphin		Douglas Squirrel
		Raccoon
		Coyote
AMPHIBIANS/REPTILES/FISH		
Pacific Herring (F)	Cutthroat Trout (F)	Pacific Treefrog (A)
Cabezon (F)	Garter Snake (R)	Western Pond Turtle (R)
Lingcod (F)		Giant Pacific Salamander (A)
Coho Salmon (F)		
Chinook Salmon (F)		
Various other Salmon species (F)		
MARINE INVERTEBRATES (Marine Waterfront Parks Only)		
Plumed Anemone	Moon Snail	Blue Mussel
Heart Cockle	Littleneck Clam	Horse Clam
Geoduck	Red Octopus	Giant Pacific Octopus
Opalescent Squid	Coon-stripe Shrimp	Green and Purple Shore Crabs
Red Rock Crab	Dungeness Crab	Kelp Crab
Decorator Crab	Sunflower Sea Star	Sun Star
Purple or Ochre Sea Star	Mottled Sea Star	Blood Star
Vermillion Sea Star	Six-rayed Sea Star	Green Sea Urchin
Orange Sea Cucumber	Giant Sea Cucumber	White Sea Cucumber



CITY OF EDMONDS PARKS POTENTIAL WILDLIFE HABITAT

Index	Park Name	Potential Habitat
1	144 Railroad Ave Tideland	YES
2	Brackett's Landing North	YES
3	Brackett's Landing South	YES
4	Centennial Plaza	NO
5	City Park	YES
6	Civic Center Playfield	NO
7	Dayton St Plaza	NO
8	Edmonds Library & Plaza Room	NO
9	Edmonds Marsh	YES
10	Edmonds Marsh Open Space	YES
11	Edmonds Memorial Cemetery	NO
12	Elm St Park	YES
13	Frances Anderson Center	NO
14	Frances Anderson Center Field	NO
15	Haines Tideland	YES
16	Haines Wharf	NO
17	Hazel Miller Park	NO
18	Hickman Park	YES
19	Hummingbird Hill Park	NO
20	Hutt Park	YES
21	Interurban Trail	NO
22	Lake Ballinger Access	NO
23	Maplewood Hill Park	YES
24	Marina Beach Park	YES
25	Mathay Ballinger Park	NO
26	Meadowdale Beach Park	YES
27	Meadowdale Clubhouse	NO
28	Meadowdale Natural Areas	YES
29	Ocean Ave Viewpoint	YES
30	Olympic Beach	YES
31	Olympic View Open Space	YES
32	Pine Ridge Park	YES
33	Pine St Park	NO
34	Richard F. Anway Park	NO
35	Seaview Park	NO
36	Seaview Reservoir	NO
37	Senior Center	NO
38	Shell Creek Open Space	YES
39	Sierra Park	YES
40	Snohomish County Park	YES
41	Stamm Overlook	NO
42	Sunset Ave	NO
43	Wade James Theatre	NO
44	Wharf Street	NO
45	Willow Creek Hatchery	YES
46	Willow Creek Park	YES
47	Yost Memorial Park	YES



0 1 Miles



City of Edmonds
121 5TH AVE N
Edmonds, WA 98206

Edmonds Parks

- Potential Habitat
- No Potential Habitat
- Creeks (Potential Habitat)



December 2013

No warranty of any sort, including accuracy, fitness, or merchantability accompany this product.

Community Needs

The assessment of community needs in Edmonds is a customized analysis that identifies the land, facilities and programs now and in the future. This section builds on the enhanced understanding of the existing system, describes the analysis process and summarizes key findings.

Level of Service

Purpose

The City has used numerous population and distance based standards to define a level of service (LOS) that supports parks and recreation system growth. The analysis of level of service focuses on parks and recreation capacity, targeting a specific ratio of park land to population. Over the past twenty years many communities, including Edmonds, have adopted park land standards based on this system with the intention of being able to compare their system with national standards and neighboring communities. The targets used for this analysis are most often based on National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) standards that attempted to determine the ratio of land to population that would be comparable across communities nationwide. In addition to comparability to other communities, level of service, defined in terms of acres of park land per thousand population, is also a useful metric for tracking the status of the system year-to-year.

Analysis

With this plan, the City of Edmonds has moved to a more detailed and sophisticated analysis of the parks and recreation system. The approach to analyzing needs represents advancement in methodology that more accurately reflects the current reality of the city and residents. This reality includes the actual distance of travel to parks and the distribution of socio-economic status across the city. While this analysis moves away from relying heavily on a set of standardized, population-based level of service goals, there is continued utility in tracking the system against population to understand the impact of growth. This approach reflects the current thinking at both the state and national level, with NRPA backing away from the often cited national standards in favor of community-set goals that reflect the unique priorities and situation of the place.

In order to understand the status of Edmond's parks, recreation and open space system in relation to the community's past goals, the analysis began by comparing Edmonds' current parks and recreation inventory against LOS standards adopted in the 2008 PROS Plan as well as the "aspirational standards" included in that Plan.



Findings

Table 2-3: Park Land LOS Analysis, Acres Per 1,000 Population

Park Type	Acreage	Existing LOS (acres/1,000)	2008 LOS Standard¹	Difference (existing - 2008)	2025 LOS Standard²	Difference (existing - 2025)
Neighborhood Parks	24.85	0.62	0.58	0.04	0.71	-0.09
Community Parks	58.10	1.46	2.43	-0.97	2.03	-0.57
Regional Parks	17.05	0.43	0.99	-0.56	0.96	-0.53
Special Use Parks	19.77	0.50	0.55	-0.05	0.71	-0.21
Open Space	69.21	1.74	6.89	-5.15	5.86	-4.12
EDMONDS PARKS	188.98	4.75	11.45	-6.70	10.27	-5.52

¹ Standard adopted in the 2008 PROS Plan.

² “Aspirational standard” from the 2008 PROS Plan.

As shown in Table 2-3 above, the existing level of service (4.75 acres of park land per 1,000 population) is less than half of the LOS standard as adopted in 2008. The 2025 standard represents the target the City has been aiming for, accounting for future growth in population. The scale of the system targeted in the 2008 plan standards is more than twice the size of the existing system, with much of the growth in open space land. The key information in this methodology is presented abstractly as a ratio, leaving it unclear where park land is needed, or why an increase would be good for the community. Calculating the land needed based on the 2008 standard, Edmonds would have to add 260 additional acres. With limited available land within the city limits, these goals are out of line with the reality the community faces.

The 2008 standards are broken down for each park type, reflecting differential growth in the system. Using different LOS standards for each park type doesn’t reflect current best practices for the parks and recreation profession. These standards are ill-suited to a unique system like Edmonds’ that includes features such as an underwater park, a fishing pier and a beloved flower program. The differences in ratios do little to clarify the goals in growing the system, and much of the attention is focused on the bottom

City of Edmonds Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

line of the entire system. While the individual standards are not especially useful, tracking the overall acreage in the system and the acres per 1,000 population is a simple metric that can be useful for making comparisons and tracking change over time.

A more meaningful and rigorous LOS analysis of system performance will include all sites that serve park and recreation functions for community members that are within the city limits, as well as those outside the city limits that Edmonds contributes to the operation of –primarily Meadowdale Playfield and Lynndale Skate Park. While this level of service is higher, it is important to note that this measure will include property not under the control of the City of Edmonds, reflecting the reality of community users and emphasizing the importance of partner sites.

Table 2-4: Total System Level of Service, Acres Per 1,000 Population

Park Type	Acreage	Existing LOS (acres/1,000)
City Of Edmonds Parks	188.98	4.75
Additional Sites within Edmonds System ¹	371.72	9.33
Total System Level of Service	560.70	14.08

¹ Includes all sites that serve park and recreation functions, including County, Edmonds School District and sites operated in partnership between the City and community entities.

Park Access

Purpose

The core of the evolved analysis of community needs is moving away from abstractions and more accurately reflecting the reality of the community of Edmonds. One key element of this is the construction of a geographic model allowing the City to refine the distance based park standards from a service radius to a network method. Past PROS plans have included a service area distance that sets a goal for how far each park should “reach” into the community. Setting this distance from a park aims the development of the park system toward a more even distribution, identifying gaps and avoiding overlapping service. The basic method for analyzing the service area coverage relied on drawing a circle centered on each park and considering everyone within that circle served. The problem with this approach is the assumption that park users can travel in a straight line to that park or facility.

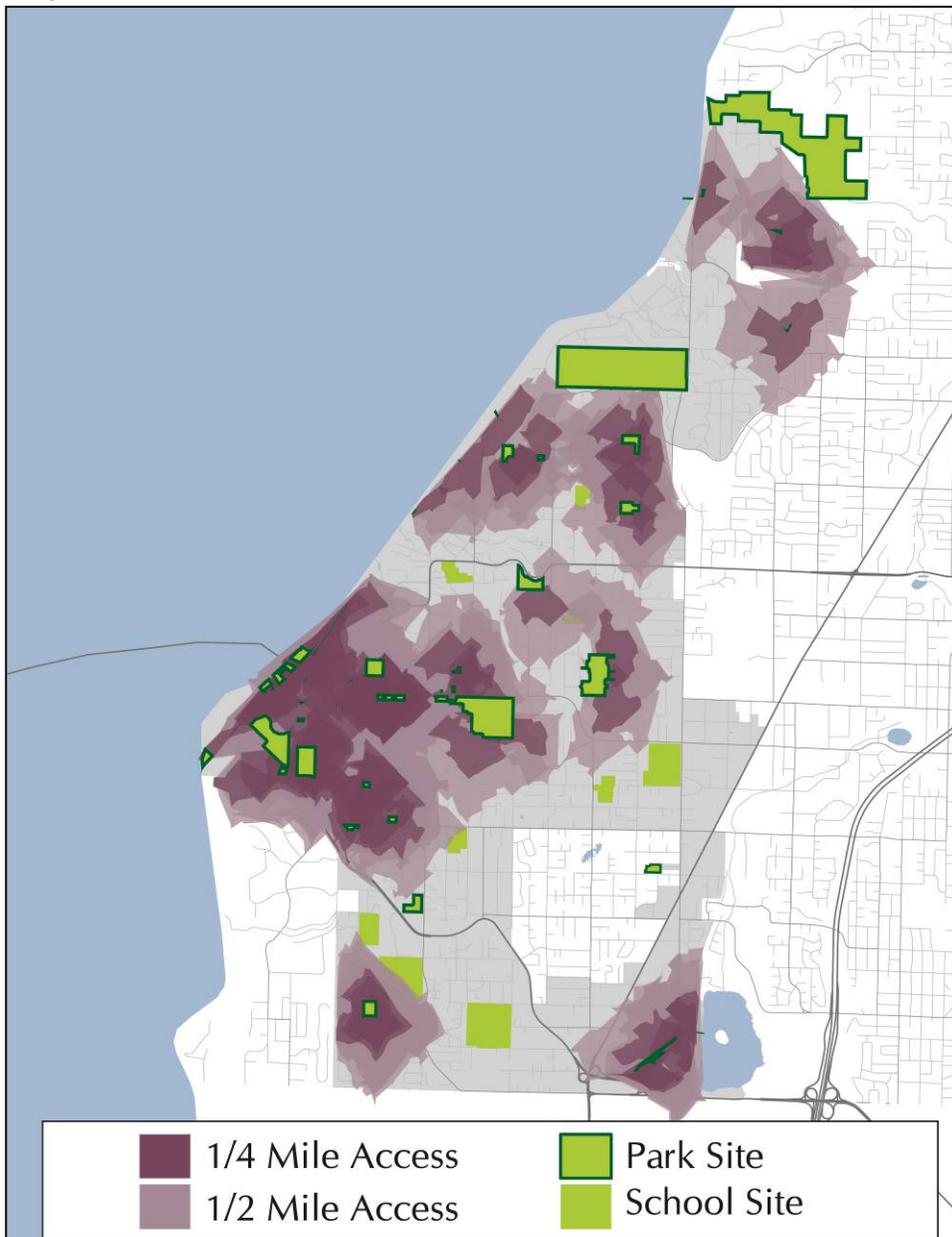
The evolution of this analysis is to use a network model, built from the streets, trails and actual entry points to the park sites, and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) analysis to identify gaps in service based on a walking distance. For this analysis, walking distance is based on a five to ten minute walk at average speed, resulting in a distance of $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ mile.

Analysis and Findings

The first illustration of the Edmonds geographic access model shows the service areas for all Edmonds parks.



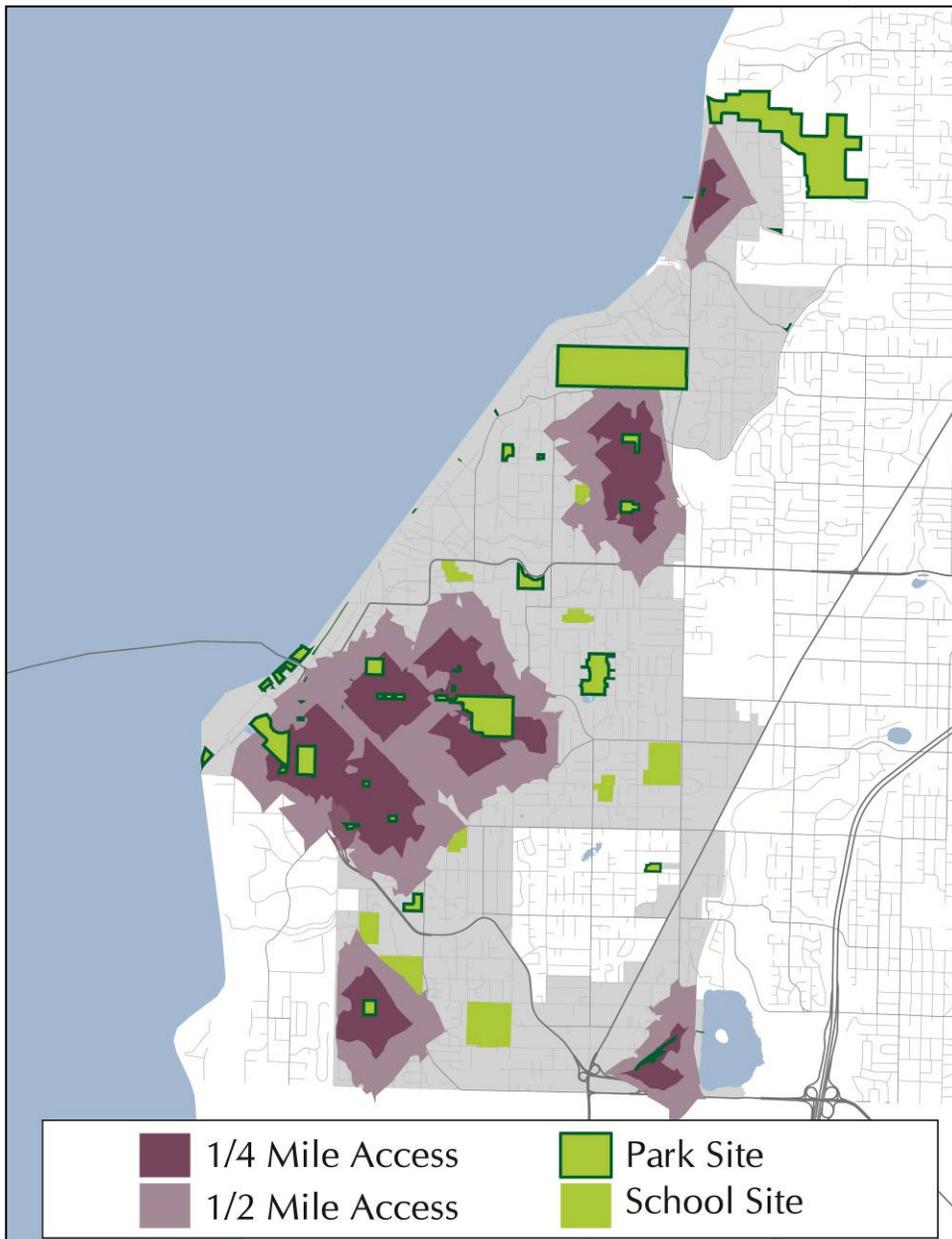
Map 2-3: Park Access-All Edmonds Parks



- The City's park lands provide tight coverage inside of the bowl surrounding downtown and out to Yost Park.
- Gaps in service are most prevalent in the south and east with a smaller area immediately north of Southwest County Park.
- Smaller gaps exist around existing parks where access does not exist.
- These gap areas can be overlaid on census data on ethnicity and socio-economic status, showing that the lowest income and most diverse parts of Edmonds are also generally outside of walking distance to any park.

The access model also allows the system to be analyzed against a wide range of criteria. The first refinement includes only the neighborhood and community parks. This subset of parks reflects which sites currently provide most or all of the basic recreation opportunities Edmonds residents indicated they would like to have close to home. These basics include a place to play, access to nature, an open lawn, gathering places and sports courts. Using the parks classified as neighborhood and community parks is a reasonable approximation of the sites with these features, a topic which is analyzed further within this chapter.

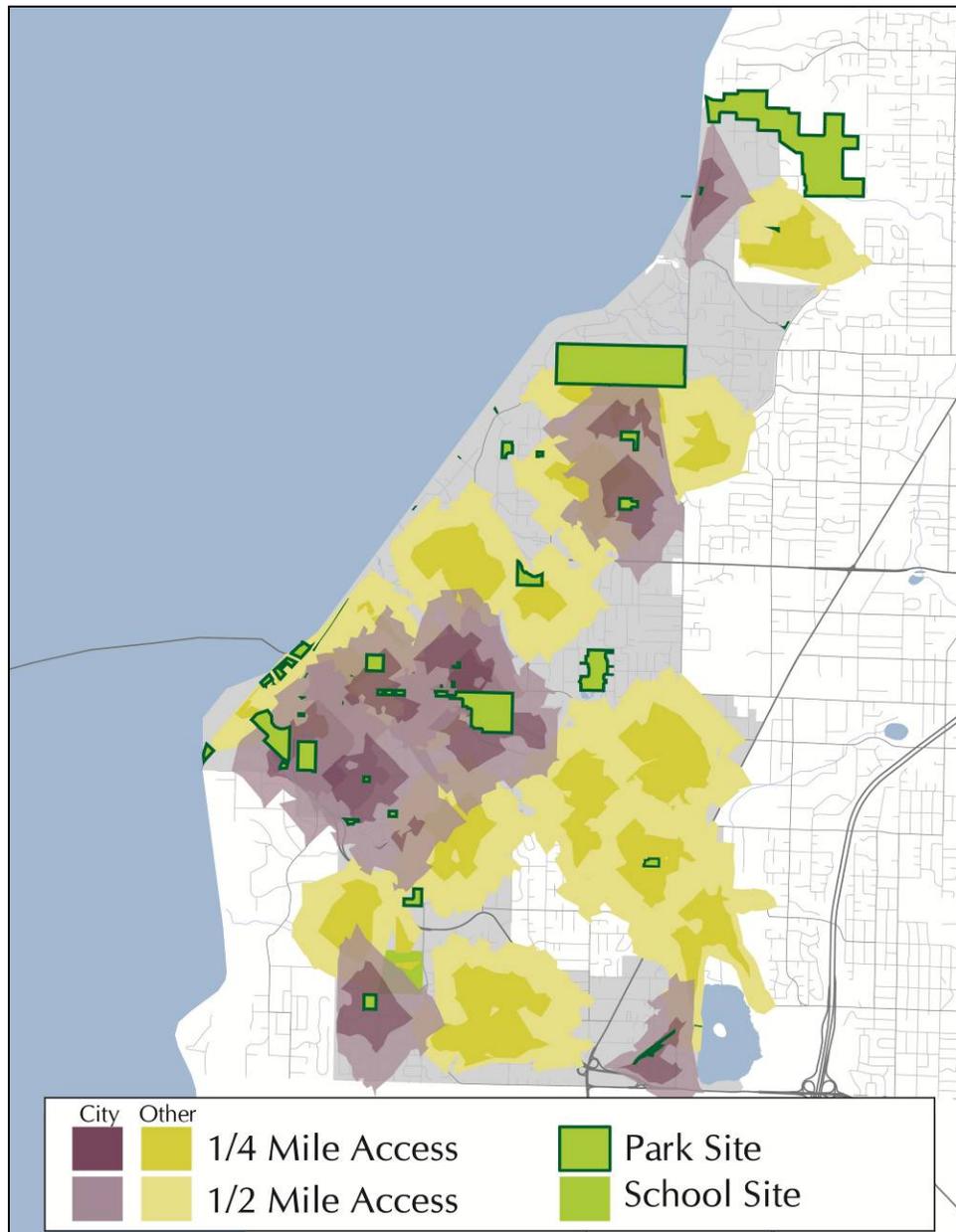
Map 2-4: Park Access-Neighborhood and Community Parks



- The primary difference when looking at the neighborhood and community sites is the opening of gaps around the more isolated open space sites (particularly H. O. Hutt, Maplewood Hill, Pine Ridge and the small open spaces in the northeast corner of Edmonds).

Further analysis of the situation on the ground reveals the importance of other parks and “park-like” sites, particularly school sites and neighboring city sites, providing recreation opportunities to Edmonds residents.

Map 2-5: Park Access-Neighborhood Park, Community Park and Other Sites



- The addition of other sites illustrates the potential of these sites to fill many of the gap areas.
- School sites, particularly Sherwood Elementary, Madrona School, Chase Lake School, Westgate Elementary, and to a lesser extent Seaview Elementary have the potential to fill in many gap areas.
- Nearby parks, some of which the City has existing partnerships for specific facilities (Meadowdale Playfields and Lynndale Skate Park) also provide access to some of the basic recreation opportunities. Ballinger Playfield in Mountlake Terrace represents a particularly

important opportunity as there is no other park that serves that gap area.

- The “other” park areas (in yellow on the map) create the potential to provide a more complete park system but it should not be assumed that these sites currently provide the type of recreation opportunity needed in the community. For example, school sites limit use by the public to after school hours.
- Park and partner sites developed in the south and east will most directly serve the more diverse and lower socio-economic segments of the population.

Nature and Shoreline Access

Purpose

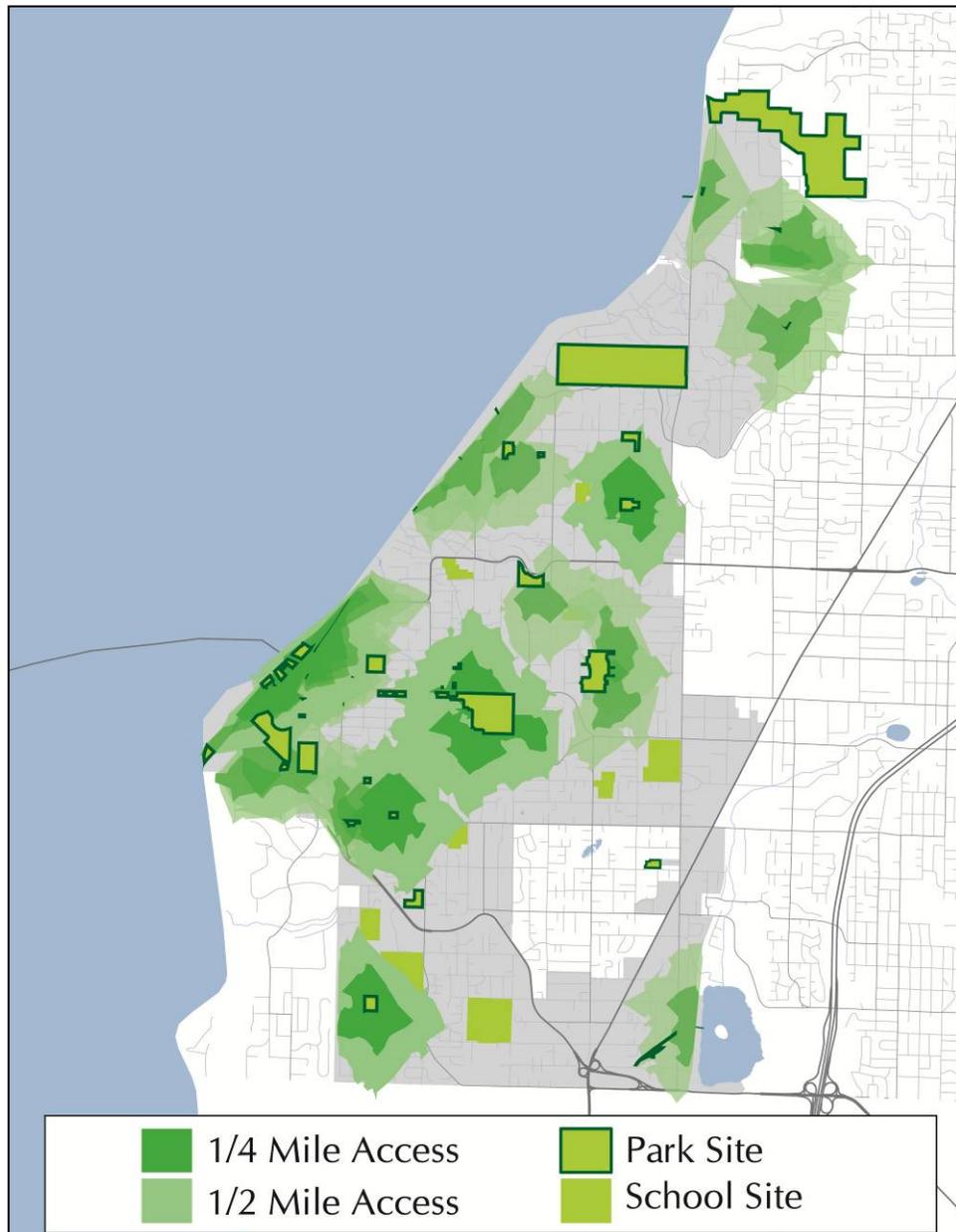
One theme of the public input results focused on the importance of nature and the Puget Sound to the identity of Edmonds. Understanding the distribution and opportunities for enhancing these key features is critical to the development of the system.

Analysis and Findings

After reviewing inventory data, air photography and making site visits, a subset of park sites was determined to provide visual or physical access to a natural setting or environment. Access to these sites was determined using the same access model and distance standards as the parks analyzed above. The service area coverage of these sites is illustrated in the map below.



Map 2-6: Access to Nature

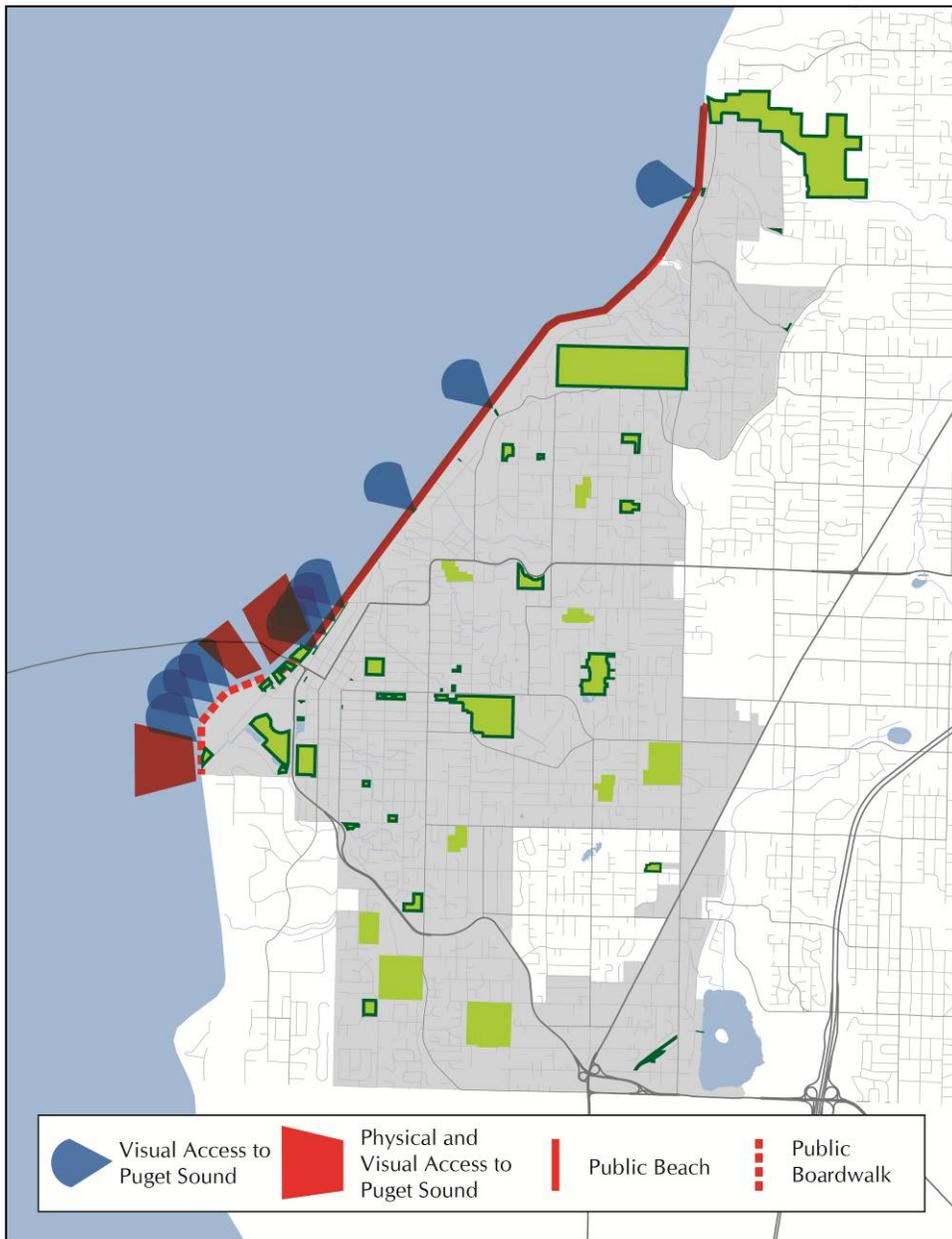


- Access to natural environments is distributed similarly to the map of access to all parks, but with less intensity around downtown Edmonds.
- The previously noted gaps in the south and east are important here because they may influence the type of experience desired for park sites (and potential partner sites) developed in this area of Edmonds.
- The same gap area is also relatively higher in ethnic diversity and lower in socio-economic status.

City of Edmonds Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

One of Edmonds' key assets and a primary attractor of visitors is its access to the Shoreline of Puget Sound. Waterfront properties were identified and mapped and categorized according to the type of access provided as well as view sheds from public areas.

Map 2-7: Shoreline Access



- The entire beach below the mean high-tide line is publicly accessible.
- The Edmonds shoreline is closely bordered by the railroad, with few points where the public can cross, all at-grade, making it more difficult to access by the public. An overall increase in rail traffic is anticipated.

- Edmonds maintains a mix of physical and visual access to Puget Sound along the south end of the shoreline from Brackett's Landing North to Marina Beach Park.
- There are still a few gaps in this existing concentration of access, where the topography and railroad allows physical access to the Sound.
- Points along the shoreline that provide views of the Sound but no physical access include the entire length of the Sunset Avenue Overlook, the Ocean Avenue Viewpoint, Stamm Overlook Park and Haines Wharf Park. These visual access points are important, as they extend the public's ability to access the Sound to the north, beyond the beach parks.
- Expanding the pedestrian realm and the seating areas along the Sunset Avenue Overlook would increase the usability and visual appeal.
- If the opportunity arose to provide another visual access point between Stamm and Haines, this would fill in a gap in the string of visual access points.

Connectivity

Purpose

The service area reach measured in the access analysis above is greatly impacted by the directness of routes to and from park sites and facilities. An additional factor that can be considered is the amount of time a user is willing to walk to access these facilities. Research on pedestrian habits has shown that a more pleasant, safe and interesting route results in a willingness to walk further.

Analysis

The street network in Edmonds is reflective of the topography and includes many winding and disconnected streets. The connectivity of these streets and the perception of safety for pedestrians and bicyclists is a limiting factor in travel distances. The City has studied the opportunities to enhance walkways throughout the community and established a Transportation Plan in 2009 that identifies and prioritizes walkway installation projects.

In addition to the broad applicability of walkways and bike lanes for non-motorized transportation, Edmonds also has a unique opportunity in the segment of the regional Interurban Trail that passes through the southeast corner of the city. This trail route represents an opportunity for transportation and for recreation. The community of Edmonds has mirrored national trends in identifying trail related activities (walking, biking, running, jogging, etc.) amongst the top desired recreation activities. Providing linkages from residents to the Interurban Trail and from this trail to downtown and the waterfront can augment the access to park land and still provide important recreational value.

Findings

- Connectivity utilizing the street network has the potential to improve park access through reducing the perceived walking or biking distance.
- Parks and schools are already an important destination in the criteria for prioritizing walkway projects in the Transportation Plan.
- The Interurban Trail is also an important destination as well as a longer transportation route in the Edmonds system.

Park Condition and Capacity

Purpose

Creating an accurate and complete analysis of Edmonds' existing parks and recreation system is a necessary first step to identifying and understanding facility needs. By documenting current park condition and capacity on a site-by-site basis, staff and stakeholders can best identify community needs and opportunities for improvements and expansion.

Analysis

Project staff created a comprehensive assessment of park conditions and capacity and documented findings in Table 2-5, below. The assessment was based on observations from a facility site tour, data provided by City staff, and information from satellite imagery and aerial photographs.

The Condition and Capacity table is organized by park and facility type, and includes information on park ownership, size and observed condition. The table also indicates the presence or absence of "close to home" amenities. These features were identified by the PROS Advisory Team (PAT) and other public input as the system features most important to have in proximity to most residents. The table also indicates the relative capacity for additional facilities on that site.

To help evaluate the usefulness of the City's current classification system, facilities were also evaluated for how well they fit in the park land category to which they are currently assigned (higher rating equaling a better fit).



City of Edmonds Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

Table 2-5: Park Condition and Capacity

	Land (acres)	Observed Condition	Close-to-Home Amenities						Park Category Fit ¹	Capacity for Additional Facilities
			Places to Play	Nature	Open Lawn (>20,000 sf)	Gathering places	Sports courts	Restroom (Y= Permanent, P=Portable)		
Neighborhood Park										
Elm Street Park	1.85	Good	N	Y	N	N	N	N	1	Potentially
Frances Anderson Center Field	1.94	Fair	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	3	Potentially
Haines Wharf	0.69	Excellent	Y	Y	N	Y	N	P	2	No
Hickman Park	5.60	Excellent	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	P	3	Potentially
Hummingbird Hill Park	1.22	Good	Y	N	Y	N	Y	P	3	Yes
Mathay Ballinger Park	0.51	Good	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	3	Potentially
Pine Street Park	1.47	Fair	Y	N	Y	N	Y	P	3	Yes
Seaview Park	6.05	Good	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	3	Yes
Sierra Park	5.52	Fair	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	P	3	Potentially
Community Park										
City Park	13.96	Good	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	2	Potentially
Yost Memorial Park & Pool	44.14	Good	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	2	Potentially
Regional Parks										
144 Railroad Avenue Tidelands	0.90	Excellent	N					N		
Brackett's Landing North	5.11	Excellent	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	3	Potentially
Brackett's Landing South	2.22	Excellent	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	2	Potentially
Edmonds Senior Center	2.63	Good	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	1	No
Marina Beach Park	3.37	Good	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	P	2	Potentially
Olympic Beach Park	2.82	Good	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	2	Potentially
Special Use Parks										
Centennial Plaza	0.08	Good	N	N	N	Y	N	N	3	No
Dayton Street Plaza	0.35	Poor	N					N		
Edmonds Library & Plaza Room	1.29	Good	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	2	Potentially
Edmonds Memorial Cemetery and Columbarium	6.63	Good	N	N	N	N	N	Y	1	No
Frances Anderson Center	1.62	Good	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	2	Potentially
Hazel Miller Plaza	0.09	Excellent	N	N	N	Y	N	N	1	No
Interurban Trail	4.88	Excellent	N	N	N	N	N	N	1	No
Lake Ballinger Access	0.19	Good	N	Y	N	N	N	N	1	No
Meadowdale Community Clubhouse	0.99	Good	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	2	Yes
Richard F. Anway Park	0.17	Good	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	2	Yes

City of Edmonds Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

	Land (acres)	Observed Condition	Close-to-Home Amenities						Park Category Fit ¹	Capacity for Additional Facilities
			Places to Play	Nature	Open Lawn (>20,000 sf)	Gathering places	Sports courts	Restroom (Y= Permanent, P=Portable)		
Ocean Avenue Viewpoint	0.20	Good	N	Y	N	N	N	N	1	No
Point Edwards Scenic Overlooks	0.10	Fair	N	Y	N	N	N	N	1	Potentially
Stamm Overlook Park	0.36	Good	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	2	No
Sunset Avenue Overlook	1.14	Fair	N	Y	N	N	N	N	2	Potentially
Willow Creek Hatchery & Interpretive Center	1.68	Good	N	Y	N	N	N	N	1	Potentially
Open Space										
Edmonds Marsh/Walkway	23.37	Good	N	Y	N	N	N	N	3	Potentially
Edmonds Marsh East	0.85	Fair	N	Y	N	N	N	N	3	Potentially
H.O. Hutt Park	4.53	Fair	N	Y	N	N	N	N	3	No
Haines Tidelands	0.44	Not Visited	N	N	N	N	N	N	3	No
Maplewood Hill Park	9.96	Fair	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	3	Potentially
Meadowdale Natural Area	1.07	Not Visited	N	Y	N	N	N	N	3	No
Olympic View Open Space	0.49	Not Visited	N	Y	N	N	N	N	2	No
Pine Ridge Park	23.78	Fair	N	Y	N	N	N	N	3	Potentially
Seaview Reservoir	1.31	Good	N	N	Y	N	N	N	3	No
Shell Creek Open Space	1.04	Not Visited	N	Y	N	N	N	N	3	No
Wharf Street	0.12	Not Visited	N	Y	N	N	N	N	2	No
Willow Creek Park	2.25	Not Visited	N	Y	N	N	N	N	3	No
Other Parks and Facilities										
Civic Center Playfields & Skate Park	7.92	Fair	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	P	3	Potentially
Edmonds Fishing Pier	1.00	Good	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	3	No
Edmonds Underwater Park & Higgins Trails	26.70	Good	N	Y	N	N	N	N	3	No
Meadowdale Playfields	27.00	Good	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	3	Potentially
Wade James Theatre	2.34	Good	N	N	N	Y	N	N	3	Potentially

¹Park category fit is scored 1-3 with higher numbers indicating a better fit with the established park definitions.

Findings

- While Edmonds' parks are generally well-maintained, there is significant variation in the quality of park design and development within the city. Generally, the quality correlates with the age of the park with newer parks that tend to be more interesting, better designed and contribute more to community identity.
- Many sites have capacity to support more of the desired "close to home" experiences. Because the context of the parks varies, the way that these are provided should also vary. For example, Yost Park may be more suitable to a large nature play area, while the Frances Anderson Center Field is ideal for the type of developed play area found there.
- The city's current classification system is effective, but the actual definitions should be revised or updated. For example, the definition of regional parks is somewhat generic, and focuses on the size of parks. In Edmonds, however, these facilities are defined as regional parks because they offer Puget Sound beach and waterfront access, drawing visitors from beyond the city limits. The city's definition of this park classification should reflect this reality.

Sports Field Distribution

Purpose

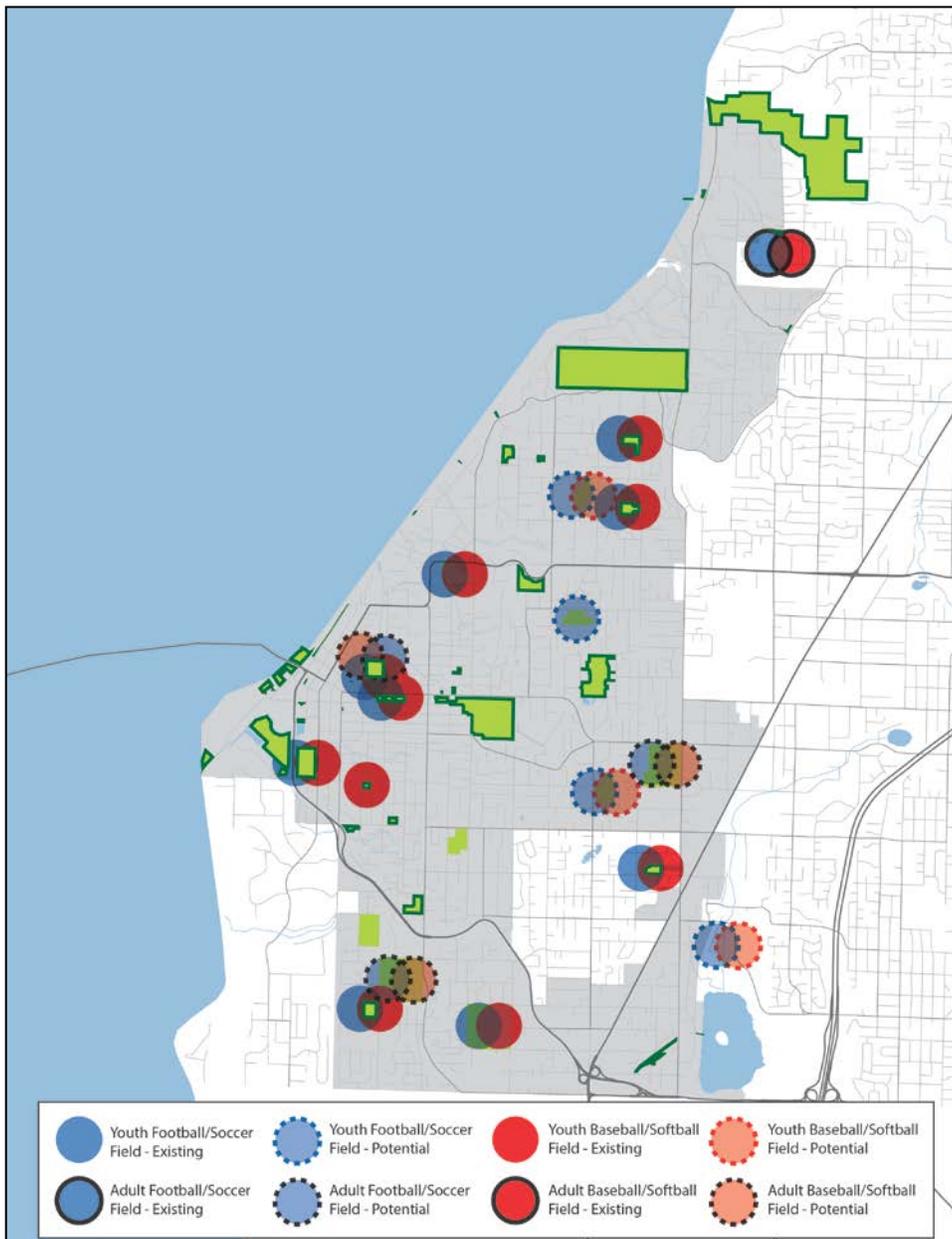
Sports fields provide needed facilities for organized team sports for both youth and adults. Many fields are used for organized, competitive activities and are in high demand. Other fields serve neighborhood-scale, less formal activities. Evaluating available and potential facilities – including those owned by entities other than the City – can help ensure that fields are in adequate supply to meet community needs and demand.

Analysis

The analysis of sports fields includes the type and size of field and their geographic distribution (see Map 8 below). This analysis examines the potential of School District owned facilities to provide additional service.



Map 2-8: Sports Field Distribution



Findings

- While there are a number of fields in Edmonds for soccer/football and baseball/softball, the fields are of varied size and there are very few options for older youth and adult players. This diagram depicts both City fields and those located on school property to which the City has or might gain access. Currently there are no adult or older youth (or full-size) fields for softball or soccer on city park property.

- Field locations are well distributed around the community (with the exception of the northeast and southeast corners of the city, but because of space limitations, there are few sites with multiple fields.
- Because Edmonds is largely built out, there are few opportunities to expand the inventory of sports fields, especially full-size fields. The opportunity sites that remain are owned by the Edmonds School District and expanding the partnerships to use school fields or acquiring School District land to expand options will be critical to meeting needs.

Aquatics

Purpose

Aquatics facilities, including both indoor and outdoor swimming pools, represent major community investments due to their cost to build and operate. While it should be noted that Edmonds provides swimming opportunities at its beaches on Puget Sound where unsupervised saltwater swimming is available, these natural beaches do not constitute an aquatics facility. The purpose of this assessment is to identify current market and financial factors, evaluate service provision niches for Edmonds in light of the *2009 Aquatic Feasibility Study*, and consider the priority of aquatics facilities in comparison to other needs.

Analysis

- The existing aquatic market in the greater Edmonds area has changed somewhat since the 2009 study. With the opening of the new Lynnwood Aquatic Center in the last few years and the continued operation of the Mountlake Terrace Recreation Pavilion, there are two public indoor aquatic centers in the larger market area discussed in the 2009 study. This creates competition in the indoor aquatic market for the City of Edmonds and the surrounding area. However, there continue to be virtually no public outdoor pools in the area leaving a potentially strong market for a seasonal outdoor pool.
- Because it has one of the only outdoor pools in the area, the City's aquatics niche is currently seasonal, outdoor swimming, focused on lessons, exercise and competitive swimming rather than recreation.
- In general, aquatics is not an area of recreation service that is fully self-supporting. Swimming pools, whether indoor or outdoor, generally require an operational subsidy. Different configurations and features have a great impact on operational costs and revenue generation potential. Facilities with a greater emphasis on recreation (not competitive) swimming tend to perform better. Stand alone indoor aquatic centers and leisure pools provide benefits to a

community that are many and varied, and are not commonly expected to operate as profit centers.

- In many communities, indoor pools in particular are supported through partnership or lease agreements with other entities. The Edmonds School District does not have an indoor pool to support their aquatic needs. There are also health care providers in Edmonds, a Boys and Girls Club, and an active Senior Center. In addition, a Metropolitan Park District has been explored for Edmonds.
- Public involvement indicated that there is interest in year round aquatics in Edmonds that includes both indoor and outdoor swimming, but that this is not necessarily the highest priority for the community overall. Results indicate that about half of the community does not visit Yost Pool, the existing outdoor facility, though they are interested in swimming.

Findings

There are several options for Edmonds:

- **Maintaining the Status Quo.** Yost Pool is an outdoor seasonal aquatic center that has a limited season and the focus is more on traditional aquatic activities (lessons, lap swimming, competitive swimming and open swim) rather than recreational swimming. Edmonds can continue to offer the same level of aquatic opportunities. This will require additional upgrades to the pool and the bathhouse as well as a commitment to fund the current operating subsidy.
- **Minor Upgrades to Yost Pool and New Indoor Aquatic Center Located Elsewhere.** Under this option, Yost Pool would be retained with some expanded recreation features. With the concern over the limitations of the existing Yost Pool site, an indoor aquatic center could be located elsewhere in Edmonds, but should only be considered as part of a broader based indoor recreation center, due to historically poor financial performance of standalone indoor aquatic facilities.
- **Yost Pool Replacement with Indoor and Outdoor Aquatics Facility.** As was noted in the 2009 study, there could be significant improvements and additions made to the existing pool. This could include both outdoor and indoor amenities that would allow for increased use through a stronger emphasis on outdoor recreational swimming as well as indoor lap and competitive aquatics. However, the capacity of the site to support not only the expanded aquatic center footprint but also the required parking is a real concern. In addition, these changes would result in a change in character to Yost Park. The forested character and trails are highly valued by Edmonds residents.
- **Build a New Indoor/Outdoor Aquatic Center and Close Yost Pool.** It is operationally inefficient to have indoor and outdoor facilities at two separate locations. Edmonds could build a new indoor/outdoor

aquatic center at a location to be determined. Yost Pool would be closed and that portion of Yost Park would be repurposed.

Outdoor Performance and Event Space

Purpose

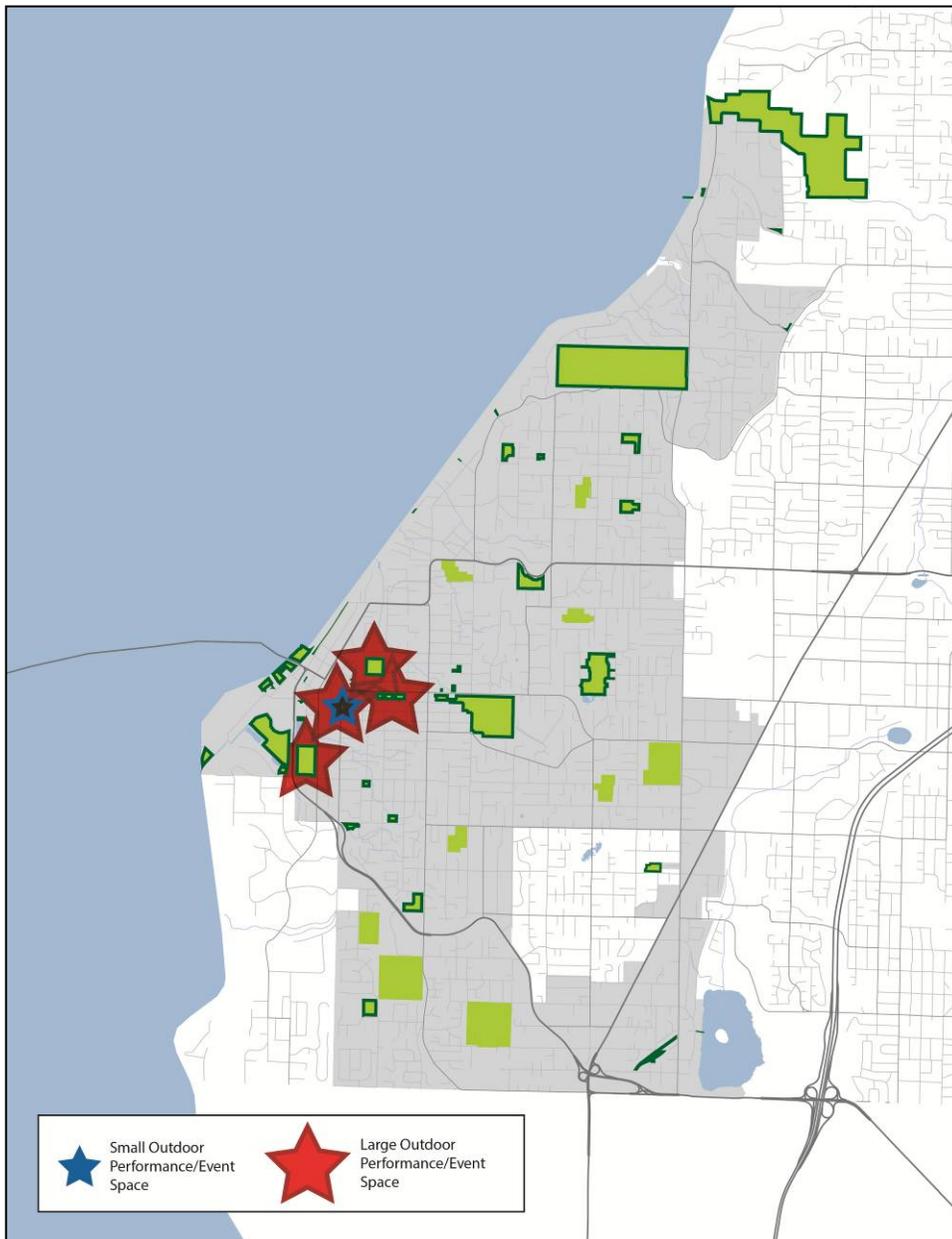
A unique element of the Edmonds' recreation system is its outdoor performance and event spaces. These facilities support music, theater and other performance arts that are a key element of the city's system.

Analysis

The locations of existing outdoor performance were identified according to facility size. Small spaces are those that can accommodate audiences of 10-50, and large spaces can support audiences of over 300. The current outdoor facilities are not designed to accommodate performance year-round.



Map 2-9: Outdoor Performance Spaces



Findings

- As shown in Map 9 Edmonds' outdoor performance and event spaces are clustered in or near the downtown area. Large spaces are located in City Park, the Civic Center playfields, the Frances Anderson Center field and closed-off Downtown streets. A small space is located in the Hazel Miller Plaza and the rebuilt Dayton Street Plaza will also include a small performance space. Concentrating event space in downtown makes sense from an economic development standpoint, as events that attract visitors and a local audience (e.g., Edmonds Arts

Festival, the Farmer's Market, the concert series) generate business and contribute to the vitality of downtown. In addition the Port of Edmonds has a Plaza area uses for small outdoor performances.

- Smaller outdoor performance/event spaces at parks in other areas of town would allow for neighborhood-scale events and programming. This will contribute to Strategic Objective 3 from the 2013 Strategic Action Plan: Maintain and enhance Edmonds' community character and quality of life.

CHAPTER 3: SYSTEM CONCEPT, GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Parks, Recreation and Open Space

System Concept

The future parks, recreation and open space system will continue to be a valued and critical element of quality of life in Edmonds. The system will:

Expand and connect recreation opportunities

Capitalize on the **unique identity** of Edmonds

Look forward to the **big ideas** that represent the future of Edmonds

Steward and activate key community assets

Strategic **expansion** of the parks, recreation and open space system will distribute the many benefits of having a nearby park or school site; access to nature; and the opportunity to learn, create or exercise throughout the entire community. Enhanced **connections** between parks, recreation facilities and community destinations will provide more recreation opportunities, and make the experience of getting around Edmonds safe, direct, comfortable and easy with walkable and bikeable options to promote physical activity. The concept includes:

- Expanding recreation opportunities at existing neighborhood and community parks as well as school sites and potential new park sites;
- North-South and East-West bicycle and pedestrian connections;
- Enhancing existing connections along the shoreline and to connect the shoreline and the Interurban Trail; and
- Completing the 4th Avenue Cultural Corridor.

The parks, recreation and open space system creates the places where Edmonds residents and visitors explore and create community **identity**. This identity stems from the inspiring setting Edmonds enjoys on Puget Sound, the city's wide variety of arts endeavors and community events, and its sophisticated small town atmosphere. The concept includes:

- Corridors and gateways (proposed roundabout at 212/Main/Bowdoin, Hwy 99 and SR104);

Figure 3-1 Expand and Connect

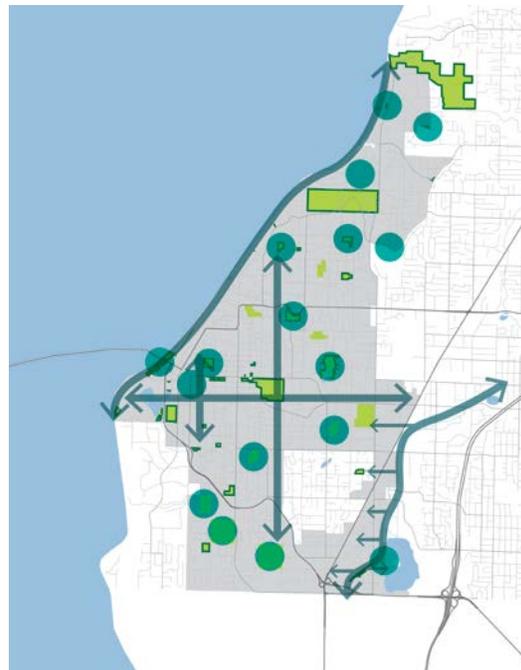


Figure 3-2 Identity

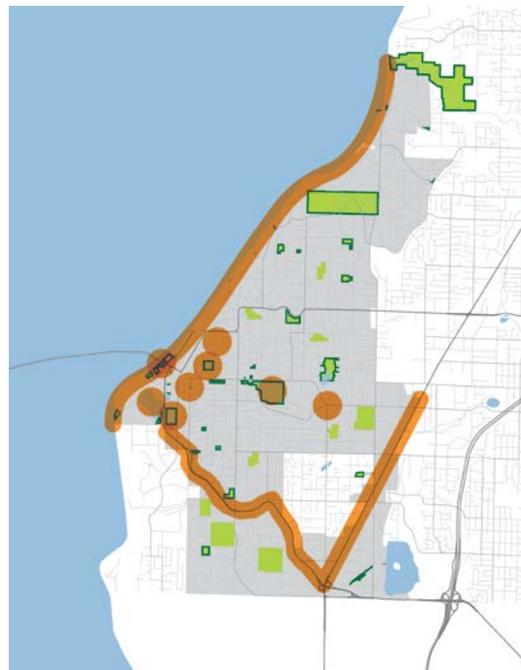
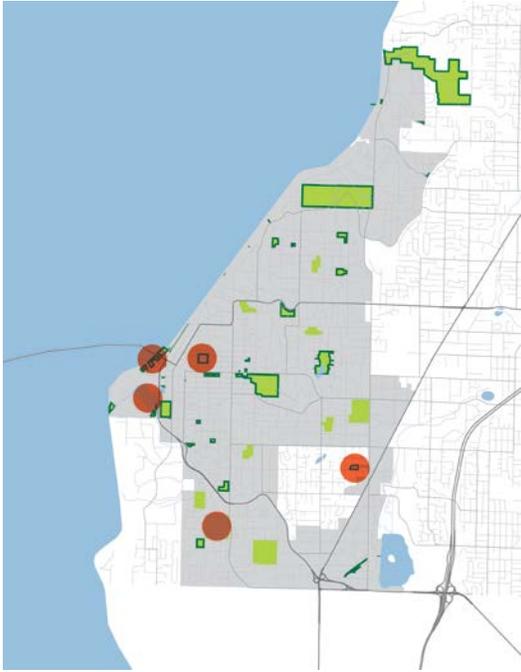


Figure 3-3 Big Ideas

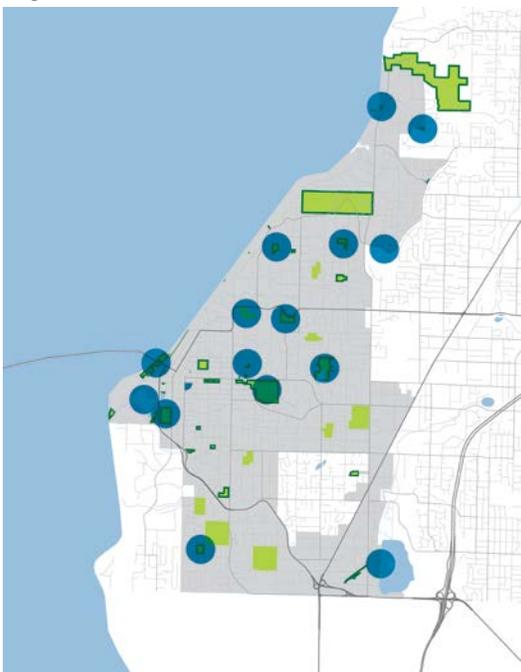


- All waterfront parks and the entire shoreline;
- Downtown, community parks and key partner facilities including Civic Playfield and the Edmonds Art Center.

This concept also embraces the next generation of **big ideas** that will propel the parks, recreation and open space system into the future. While these projects may not all come to fruition during this update’s 6-year planning horizon, it is critical that the community look forward and take key steps to secure a bright future for coming generations of users. The concept includes:

- Completing the waterfront path and refreshing the waterfront parks;
- Securing Civic Playfield as a City park;
- Restoring the Edmonds Marsh and daylighting Willow Creek;
- Developing a sports field complex at the Former Woodway High School in partnership with the School District; and
- Acquiring/Enhancing Esperance Park.

Figure 3-4 Activation



Finally, the City’s PROS system includes much more than built improvements. A system that truly supports a broad range of activities and reflects the community’s identity includes programs, classes, events and vibrant arts programming. It also includes both the physical care of community assets and the social capital that comes from an engaged community of residents and visitors. The **activation** of the park system will encourage healthy, active lifestyles. The City will not achieve all of this alone, but will lead the way with the structure needed to build partnerships, foster community efforts, and channel funding to kick-start projects and to invest in community priorities. The concept includes:

- Finding new ways to encourage local park use;
- Providing variety in programming at more park locations; and
- Integrating art projects into the design and construction of improvements.

Goals and Objectives

The PROS goals and objectives refine the direction set forth in previous PROS Plans, and provide the policy framework to achieve the envisioned system. The recommendations contained in subsequent chapters of this document are implementation actions designed to achieve the goals and objectives set forth below.

There are seven goals that describe the desired future state of Edmonds' parks, recreation and open space system.

Goal 1: Lead collaborative efforts to fulfill the community's needs for park, recreation and cultural services.

Goal 2: Provide an interconnected park system that offers a wide variety of year-round recreation opportunities and experiences in harmony with Edmonds' cultural identity and the natural environment.

Goal 3: Preserve and expand opportunities for public access and enjoyment of the shoreline in Edmonds.

Goal 4: Preserve and provide access to natural resource lands for habitat conservation, recreation, and environmental education.

Goal 5: Provide recreation opportunities and experiences to promote a healthy, active and engaged community year-round.

Goal 6: Provide arts and cultural opportunities and experiences to promote an engaged and vibrant community.

Goal 7: Provide a high quality and efficient level of maintenance for all parks and related public assets in Edmonds.

Each goal embodies multiple objectives that establish more specific directions for the PROS system. Objectives reflect public needs; past and current planning efforts and policies; and strategic planning, design and management principles.

Collaborations and Leadership

Goal 1: Lead collaborative efforts to fulfill the community's need for parks, recreation and cultural services.

Objectives:

- 1.1 Expand the role of the City in providing recreation opportunities in and around Edmonds.
- 1.2 Collaborate with other organizations and agencies to share facilities, offer programs and promote special events.
- 1.3 Keep the community engaged in and educated about parks, facilities, recreational and cultural programs and services through an effective community information system.
- 1.4 Encourage local business involvement in providing and supporting cultural, recreational and athletic opportunities for all ages and abilities.
- 1.5 Provide support to volunteer organizations and interest groups to assist them in offering recreation and cultural programs and services.
- 1.6 Promote excellence in public service within the Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Department, including encouraging professional development of staff.
- 1.7 Manage parks, recreation and cultural services for excellence, effectiveness, and financial efficiency.

Parks and Open Space

Goal 2: Provide an interconnected park system that offers a wide variety of year-round recreation opportunities and experiences in harmony with Edmonds' cultural identity and the natural environment.

Objectives:

- 2.1 Develop a well-connected, well-distributed system with parks and facilities that are conveniently located and easy to navigate.
- 2.2 Enhance and expand the accessibility and variety of parks, recreation and cultural opportunities available in Edmonds.
- 2.3 Increase connectivity for pedestrians and bicyclists throughout Edmonds, especially to parks, schools and downtown.
- 2.4 Develop a wider variety of opportunities for exercise and enjoyment to expand the use of the park system throughout the year. This should include all-weather activities and spaces to support emerging recreation desires in the community.
- 2.5 Develop covered and indoor facilities to expand the recreational and cultural opportunities throughout the year.
- 2.6 Utilize park, recreation, art, and open space projects as strategic investments to encourage revitalization and economic development.

Shoreline Use and Access

Goal 3: Preserve and expand opportunities for public access and enjoyment of the shoreline in Edmonds.

Objectives:

- 3.1 Develop and maintain the Edmonds shoreline as a unique regional recreational and environmental resource that is key to community identity.
- 3.2 Increase connections and public access, including visual access, to shoreline areas including but not limited to the waterfront, tidelands, beaches and overlooks.
- 3.3 Whenever possible, acquire additional waterfront property to enhance the existing public access.
- 3.4 Encourage development of interpretive elements using arts, design, cultural heritage and natural history as integrated components which highlight shoreline resources.

Natural Resource and Habitat Conservation

Goal 4: Preserve and provide access to natural resource lands for habitat conservation, recreation, and environmental education.

Objectives:

- 4.1 Preserve and protect areas with critical habitat or unique natural features, including but not limited to wetlands, stream corridors, tidelands, beaches and forests.
- 4.2 Encourage preservation of natural drainage corridors and establishment of rain gardens to allow for infiltration of water into the soil.
- 4.3 Work cooperatively with property owners and developers to preserve habitat and native vegetation, especially when these provide visual or physical linkages to publicly owned natural resource lands.
- 4.4 Restore ecosystem function, enhance native vegetation and remove invasive species on public lands.
- 4.5 Expand the urban forest and increase tree canopy in Edmonds.
- 4.6 Provide low-impact access to public natural resource lands while retaining ecological integrity.
- 4.7 Promote direct interaction with nature through environmental education, stewardship, and volunteer activities.
- 4.8 Work cooperatively with community groups and citizens to establish and maintain urban gardens that are accessible and educational, and provide the opportunity to grow food locally.

Recreation Programs and Activities

Goal 5: Provide recreation opportunities and experiences to promote health and wellness, year-round activity and community engagement.

Objectives:

- 5.1 Ensure a variety of recreation programs for all ages, abilities, demographic groups and geographic areas.
- 5.2 Support a healthy and active community by directly providing programs, serving as a facility coordinator, and collaborating with other entities and organizations.
- 5.3 Strategically expand recreation programs as facilities, staffing levels, and partner opportunities permit.
- 5.4 Incubate new programs that utilize unique regional features and address diverse and changing demographics, local expertise and community demand.
- 5.5 Contribute to community cohesion and engagement through the provision of recreation events and activities.

Cultural Services

Goal 6: Provide arts and cultural opportunities and experiences to promote an engaged and vibrant community.

Objectives:

- 6.1 Support the vision and goals of the Community Cultural Plan and work to effectively integrate and coordinate programs and services.
- 6.2 Ensure the arts are a vital part of Edmonds by providing professional staffing and resources through the City's Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services department.
- 6.3 Contribute to community cohesion and engagement through the provision of arts and cultural events and activities.
- 6.4 Support and advocate for Edmonds' artistic resources, its unique cultural events, and its attraction as a cultural destination—a key element of economic development.
- 6.5 Foster partnerships and collaborative programming in the community to incubate new cultural programs and address diverse and changing demographics, local expertise and community demand.
- 6.6 Reflect Edmonds' cultural identity by integrating art, history and culture in the park system, streets and public places.

Park Operations and Maintenance

Goal 7: Provide a high quality and efficient level of maintenance for all parks and public assets in Edmonds.

Objectives:

- 7.1 Maintain parks and facilities to keep them safe, attractive and healthy and preserve them as assets for future generations.
- 7.2 Design parks and facilities for operational efficiency and to conserve energy, water, staff time, and other resources.
- 7.3 Prioritize quality and durability of materials for all parks capital improvements.
- 7.4 Allocate adequate funding for maintenance, staffing and asset preservation.
- 7.5 Engage the community in hands-on stewardship of parks, facilities and open spaces.

CHAPTER 4: ACTION PLAN

Recommended Projects and Initiatives

This chapter includes the projects and initiatives recommended to implement the system concept, goals and objectives for the Edmonds PROS system. The recommendations are organized by the Goal numbers and lettered for reference, and to differentiate between the recommendations (example: 1.A) and objectives (example: 1.1).

Goal 1: Collaborations and Leadership

- 1.A Expand the partnership with the Edmonds School District, including negotiating an agreement for expanded, year-round public use of school grounds, sports fields and gyms for recreation purposes.
- 1.B Continue partnerships with Lynnwood, Snohomish County, the Port of Edmonds and other governments to provide, upgrade, manage and maintain regional recreational facilities that serve the Edmonds community, including sports fields, recreation facilities, trails and public parks.
- 1.C Increase partnerships and collaboration with Edmonds Community College, expanding on current activities. For example, explore opportunities to share community spaces for art creation, collaboration, display and performance; and expand service learning opportunities for EdCC students.
- 1.D Consider new strategic partnerships with non-profits, the Edmonds Senior Center, the hospital, and private businesses that would increase recreation opportunities for Edmonds residents in accordance with this PROS Plan.
- 1.E Develop formal agreements or memoranda of understanding for each partnership, defining the City's staff time and financial commitments, as well as those of the partner. Each agreement should spell out the responsibilities for each party clearly and succinctly, and include a specific time duration and review process.
- 1.F Define an annual budget of staff time and develop a process to provide assistance for local organizations and groups to enhance the PROS system in Edmonds with programs, events and capital improvements.

- 1.G Continue to evolve the marketing and communications strategy for the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services department, periodically evaluating success and adjusting methods when necessary.
- Public feedback during this PROS Plan process indicated that the CRAZE (published in partnership with the City of Mountlake Terrace) publication continues to be highly effective, even as expectations for online communication methods are increasing.
 - Explore renewing CRAZE programming guide partnership with the City of Lynnwood.
- 1.H Continue to refresh, update and increase the web presence and user-friendliness of the park system, recreation and cultural information on the Edmonds website to facilitate self-directed recreation within the park system. Keep current with evolving technology. For example, increased smart phone use by both residents and visitors means that people expect to find information about the parks and facilities easily and be able to use online mapping services or GPS to help them navigate. Examples include making sure all parks, facilities and major artworks are searchable using online mapping services (Google, Bing), providing physical addresses for each site, using Quick Response (QR) codes, and keeping the Edmonds, Washington Wikipedia entry updated with key parks and events visitors may want to find. Incorporate approved information on Facebook as appropriate.
- 1.I Define overall financial goals, policies and philosophies to help guide program and facility decisions. This should address revenue generation, public investments for economic development purposes, access to services for low income populations, and other issues around fees, charges and access.
- 1.J Continue to provide City facility space through lease and rental to organizations and entities that provide recreational and cultural programs, events and services, as well as organizations and individuals seeking space for gatherings and events. The overall financial policies should guide rental fees and lease provisions.
- 1.K Develop a succession plan for senior Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services staff. Edmonds has highly effective, long-tenured senior staff within the Department, which has led to the efficiency and effectiveness of PROS services today. A succession plan (including a hiring overlap) is needed to ensure that the knowledge, skills and experience of senior staff are retained (e.g., through procedures or documentation) or transferred to other staff members in advance of retirements. This will help provide stability and continued efficiency.

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- 1.L Budget and allow time for staff participation in professional development activities and training to ensure a highly skilled team conversant with best practices in programming, events, land stewardship, and other areas of parks, recreation and cultural services provision.
- 1.M Explore human resource strategies to increase workplace satisfaction and service delivery effectiveness, such as “9/80” scheduling (four, nine-hour work days per week and one day off every other week) for some staff, employee recognition programs, or process improvement programs.
- 1.N Continue efforts to provide volunteer opportunities to enhance the City’s parks, events, and recreational and cultural programs. Volunteerism is a form of recreation for many, and is also an excellent means of encouraging participation from the City’s large population of highly educated seniors/Baby Boomers as well as our younger population including students.
- 1.O Adopt a park classification system that defines parks more closely to the existing reality in Edmonds. Proposed language is provided in the description of the park system in Appendix A.

Goal 2: Parks and Open Space

- 2.A Utilize level of service standards to track the status of the overall system of park and open space lands in Edmonds.
 - Continue to track overall level of service by acres per 1,000 residents. For consistency and simplicity, count all sites that serve park and recreation functions for community members that are within the city limits (including school and partner sites) or to which Edmonds contributes to the operation even if outside of the city limits (primarily Meadowdale Playfield and Lynndale Skate Park).
 - Establish a method of identifying and measuring sites that balances simplicity (parcels indicated in County GIS data) and common understanding (not including underwater acreage or beautification areas not perceived as park land).
 - Eliminate the park classification-specific standards of past PROS Plans as well as the “aspirational standard” of the 2008 PROS Plan.
 - Track the provision of sports fields by number in each type of field (adult, youth; soccer/multi-sport, baseball, softball). Eliminate numerical standards for sports facilities.

- 2.B Adopt a revised methodology for measuring level of service based on travel distance and access to key experiences. Provide desired recreation experiences (a place to play, nature, open lawn, gathering places and sports courts or fields) close to home, or within ½ mile walking or biking distance as measured using Edmonds’ street and trail network.
- 2.C Explore property acquisition and development with partners, including the School District, Snohomish County and other public and private entities.
- Continue to partner with neighboring and overlapping jurisdictions (cities, counties, school districts) as well as private entities (i.e. churches) to expand recreation opportunities for the community.
 - Continue discussions for possible acquisition of Esperance Park from Snohomish County for annexation and redevelopment into a community park with sports fields, community gardens, picnic shelters, and other recreation features.
 - Consider acquisition of County park land within or adjacent to Edmonds (if made available), such as Chase Lake.
- 2.D Acquire Civic Playfield from Edmonds School District, master plan and redevelop it to serve multiple recreation purposes (potentially including events, large and small community gatherings, sports, and arts.)
- 2.E Implement previous community process to work with the Edmonds School District to redevelop the Former Woodway High School site into a regional sports and recreation asset with adult soccer/multi-sports turf fields, providing for year-round recreation options and serving a growing community. Involve the community in design development.
- 2.F Develop major new facilities only after studying the required investment in capital and ongoing operating resources and determining a funding strategy. Identify other potential funding sources such as private sponsors or donations.
- 2.G Acquire park land in the Highway 99/SR 104 areas to provide adequate park service in redeveloping areas. Create new civic spaces to enhance investment and revitalization while meeting recreation needs, especially where service gaps exist, or higher residential impact is planned.

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- 2.H Establish a dedicated fund for future park land acquisition to build public and private contributions.
- 2.I Fill gaps in access to recreation opportunities through programming and public access (after school hours) at elementary and middle school sites, as addressed in the renewed agreement with Edmonds School District.
- 2.J Maximize existing investment in indoor recreation facilities including adaptive reuse where possible.
- In partnership with the Public Facility District/ECA, upgrade the gymnasium at the Edmonds Center for the Arts to extend the available hours of use and life span.
 - Establish agreements for indoor facility (gymnasium and classroom) use at Edmonds School District facilities.
 - Consider adding additional gymnasium or other indoor facility to an appropriate existing facility before building a stand-alone building.
 - Develop new indoor recreation facilities in compatible combinations to maximize the efficiency and economy of scale.
- 2.K Develop covered, and potentially lighted, facilities to extend the use of parks throughout the year. Focusing this investment in sites that already serve as destinations in the system (community and some special use parks) and have supporting amenities in place.
- 2.L Enhance the function and recreation value of existing sites through a park renewal program to provide high quality, multi-use spaces for recreation and cultural expression including play, reflection, exercise, sports, performance, public gathering, education and events.
- 2.M Identify existing trails in the parks inventory, on internal and distributed maps, and in online parks resources.
- 2.N Define the best routes for and treatments to create central north-south and east-west pedestrian and bicycle corridors, incorporate these into the City's transportation plans, and implement improvements.
- 2.O Increase connections to the Interurban Trail, using signage, sidewalks, curb extensions, and other pedestrian/bicycle enhancements, especially focusing on crossing Highway 99.

- 2.P Work with other departments to assess non-motorized and public transit access to accomplish improved linkages to parks and recreation facilities, to maximize the value of these existing community assets.
- Use the criteria from the Comprehensive Transportation Plan to prioritize pedestrian improvement and increase connectivity to neighborhoods, schools and parks.
 - Implement the City's wayfinding plan.
- 2.Q Monitor property availability to add park sites in Southeast Edmonds and north of South Snohomish County Park to address gaps in access to a neighborhood or community park.
- 2.R Explore the potential of additional publicly accessible indoor meeting space that doesn't require rental or reservation (similar to the Senior Center social areas).
- 2.S Work cooperatively with community groups and citizens to establish and maintain urban gardens that are accessible, educational, and provide the opportunity to grow food locally.
- 2.T Develop an off-leash dog park policy that reflects the best practices of location, facilities and maintenance practices.
- 2.U Identify and reserve some existing or future capacity at park sites for the addition of facilities that respond to emerging recreational trends, community interests, and future growth. Future capacity could include additional park land acquisition or facilities that will need to be replaced but may not be of current interest.
- 2.V Advance the accessibility of the park system by applying Universal Design principles (which go beyond the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act) to reduce and eliminate barriers based on age or ability, and evaluating and adapting the system for social equity.
- 2.W Establish a system to consider and incorporate new projects and ideas into the City's efforts between PROS Plan updates.
- 2.X Develop an indoor aquatic center to replace the existing outdoor pool at an appropriate site.
- As with other indoor facilities, combine the aquatic center with other compatible indoor recreation facilities to improve the return on the community's investment in the building.
 - Supplement indoor aquatics with informal water play opportunities such as the new splash pad at City Park.

- 2.Y Work with the Edmonds Senior Center in developing a long term solution for upgrading and maintaining the Senior Center.
- 2.Z Support the implementation of a year-round market by assisting in the planning and development of gathering spaces as part of this concept.

Goal 3: Shoreline Use and Access

- 3.A Complete a continuous walkway from Marina Beach to Brackett’s Landing North with access to the public beach continuing north.
- 3.B Retain existing overlooks and develop additional viewpoints to create public enjoyment of the views of Puget Sound, especially in locations where physical access is impractical or infeasible.
- 3.C Actively monitor shoreline property for acquisition opportunities, and acquire or otherwise secure public access where feasible.
- 3.D Expand pedestrian access to the tidelands where terrain and shore conditions permit.
- 3.E Improve connections (visual, perceived, and physical) between downtown and the waterfront including opportunities to integrate public art and design elements.
- 3.F Develop and implement a master plan to restore the hydrological and ecological connection of Marina Beach Park to the Edmonds Marsh.
- 3.G Reinvest in key regional parks (beginning with Brackett’s Landing North Park) to sustain the quality of shoreline access, ecological function and visitor experience and potential contribution to economic development.
- 3.H Enhance connections across the railroad tracks to the shoreline, such as with overcrossings, undercrossings, and additional at-grade crossings. All of these will require significant negotiation with the railroad.
- 3.I Support the relocation of the ferry terminal (pending decisions by Washington State) and participate in planning to redevelop the existing ferry dock and waiting lanes.

- 3.J Use the opportunity of upgrades and maintenance at the Senior Center site to integrate the property more completely with the rest of the waterfront.
- 3.K Secure ongoing funding for the Beach Ranger program, recognizing the important role in tourism, building a connection to the shoreline and expanding appreciation for natural resources and habitat conservation.

Goal 4: Natural Resource and Habitat Conservation

- 4.A Inventory and classify natural resources and habitat areas within of the park system.
- 4.B Conduct a city tree inventory and map to create a baseline of information to enhance tree canopy.
- 4.C Connect new generations of residents and visitors to natural resources in Edmonds through Discovery Programs utilizing ranger naturalists.
- 4.D Collaborate on public information programs to help property owners (including the City) identify and remove invasive vegetation.
- 4.E Collaborate with various organizations in invasive plant removal and native vegetation planting in accord with landscaping plans for parks within the city limits. Suggest park maintenance projects that would be good candidates for the annual Arbor Day event sponsored by the Tree Board.
- 4.F Provide low impact access to natural resource areas to allow for enjoyment and interaction with nature.
- 4.G Steward the urban forest using appropriate maintenance of street and park trees, clear removal and replacement policies and providing information about urban forestry to property owners.
- 4.H Relocate incompatible uses from sensitive areas (i.e. waterfront dog park at Marina Beach Park).
- 4.I Consider expanding the function and facilities around the Willow Creek Hatchery to create a more expansive interpretive center that includes the Edmonds Marsh.

Goal 5: Recreation Programs and Activities

- 5.A Develop and incubate new programs that utilize unique regional features, address diverse and changing demographics, local expertise, and community demand.
- 5.B Evaluate individual recreation programs in terms of persons served, overall community interests, redundancy in partner programs, and costs.
- 5.C Continue programs that successfully serve community needs, with re-evaluation at least every six years. Encourage participation and input from schools and students.
- 5.D Expand successful programs that have the potential to exceed their operating costs.
- 5.E Phase out directly providing programs that are well-served by other entities, and avoid initiating programs in these areas.
- 5.F Identify local and regional partners to help provide general and seasonal recreation programs in City facilities and at satellite sites.
- 5.G Develop a budget that holistically balances costs and revenues across all recreation programs to maintain a high ratio of revenue to operating costs for the recreation system.

Goal 6: Cultural Services

- 6.A Include representatives for the Arts and Culture community in advisory roles on all major City projects to reflect Edmonds' cultural identity by integrating art, history and culture in the park system, streets and public places.
- 6.B Sustain and expand staffing in Cultural Services to provide and restore adequate advocacy and administrative support for ongoing development of arts and culture efforts in Edmonds.
- 6.C Develop and incubate new programs that address diverse and changing demographics, local expertise, and community interest.
- 6.D Support collaborative technologies and crowdsourcing to improve the coordination and promotion of cultural events and activities.
- 6.E Identify and develop opportunities to enhance and expand facilities for visual, literary and performing arts.

- 6.F Work with the downtown business community and cultural organizations to offer special events that will highlight the cultural identity of Edmonds and attract out of town visitors.
- 6.G Continue to provide and maintain identity-enhancing features such as art enhanced light poles, hanging flower basket poles, wayfinding signage, design elements and public art installations throughout the public realm.

Goal 7: Park Operations and Maintenance

- 7.A Increase the Parks Department’s available resources (including part-time and full-time labor, supplies and equipment) appropriately as the park system expands to ensure park properties are maintained in a safe and attractive manner.
- 7.B Maintain an operating budget that reflects what the community needs and can afford.
- 7.C Continuously advocate for the resources necessary to adequately maintain the system for long-term sustainability.
- 7.D Document the City’s maintenance management plan for the system as a whole and for specific sites with specialized needs (e.g., regional parks, City Park).
- 7.E Develop an asset preservation program consisting of a detailed list of assets at each park site and an annual evaluation program. Resulting data should be linked to the City’s GIS system for tracking and planning purposes, and coordinated with other departmental GIS data.
- 7.F Use appropriate technology to maximize and facilitate day-to-day maintenance activities and tracking.
- 7.G Expand the use of volunteers for special park maintenance projects such as city-wide trail enhancement.
- 7.H Encourage and assist neighborhoods and businesses in joining the Adopt-a-Park Program.

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- 7.I Adopt and implement updated park design guidelines and policies. Develop master plans incorporating this guidance for all community, regional and special use parks prior to making any improvements.
- Integrate native plants, stormwater filtration and infiltration strategies, low or no pesticide/herbicide techniques, and other wildlife friendly practices into parks design and maintenance.
 - Use low impact development (LID) strategies including reuse of materials and low-maintenance, water and energy efficient vegetation and materials wherever possible in redevelopment and new development projects.
 - Install well-crafted, low-maintenance, long-lasting products and sustainably-built structures and incorporate art and design elements wherever possible in redevelopment and new development projects.
- 7.J Develop all park project budgets based on lifetime projects costs – capital costs plus operating and maintenance costs. Estimating cost from this perspective prioritizes investment in quality that lengthens lifespan and reduces maintenance needs.
- 7.K Engage in discussions with economic development regarding the installation of downtown public restrooms to ensure that the location, design and ongoing maintenance funding are appropriate for future management by the Parks Department.

Prioritization

Projects are included in the recommended projects and initiatives only if they are aligned with the park system concept and are important to the future of the system, and are noted in other planning efforts in the City (i.e. Strategic Plan). Limitations on resources, the certainty of changing conditions and emerging opportunities require narrowing down from the full listing of projects and initiatives to focus City efforts year-to-year. To remain useful and relevant this plan recommends the formalization of a prioritization and annual work planning process. This process is designed to be flexible while staying true to the overall direction set with the input of the community. The two major components are a set of criteria and the annual work plan.

Criteria

The following criteria are tied to the goals and objectives of the plan but are also informed by operational considerations and the necessary flexibility to pursue opportunities that can emerge quickly. Beneath each criterion are questions posed to begin a discussion of how a specific project or initiative fits in the prioritization scheme, mainly in relation to other projects. This exercise is particularly useful as new ideas emerge that need to be sorted into the City's work plan.

Assess Resources and Capacity

- Is there capacity within the City staff and partners to manage and coordinate?
- Is the capital, operating funding identified or secured?

Embrace Opportunity

- Is a unique funding source available?
- Can the project be piggybacked onto another nearby or related project?
- Is a new property available in a targeted area?
- Is there a strong partner?
- Does the project or initiative align with current community politics?

Connect and Expand

- Does the project or initiative provide more access to recreation activities?
- Does the project or initiative enhance the experience of traveling through Edmonds on foot or by bicycle?
- Does the project or initiative create new recreation or cultural opportunities?
- Does the project or initiative connect or expand wildlife habitat areas and natural resources?

Enhance Identity

- Does the project or initiative extend the community's identity beyond downtown and the shore?
- Does the project or initiative support the connection to the shoreline, to the arts and community culture?

Advance Big Ideas

- Does the project or initiative advance the projects that represent the big future opportunities for Edmonds?
- Does the project or initiative create visible or reportable progress toward these big ideas?

Activate

- Does the project or initiative draw new people to parks, recreation and cultural programs?
- Does the project or initiative remove barriers to using a site?

Maximize

- Does the project or initiative support or extend the usable life of existing facilities?
- Does the project or initiative build on existing assets to make more or better use of a public investment?
- Does the project or initiative increase the financial return on the community's investment in parks, recreation and open space?

Work Planning

In advance of the annual budget and capital improvement program processes for the City, the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services should hold an annual work planning discussion to check in on the status of current projects and update the evolving list of projects the City is focused on.

Discussion

- Projects and initiatives that will be completed
- Measurable, visible or reportable progress toward larger projects and initiatives
- Changing conditions
- New projects or initiatives

Work Plan

- Projects/Initiatives in Progress
- Actively Seeking Funding
- Monitoring, holding

The resulting work plan will inform the proposals for the City's capital improvement budgeting process.

CHAPTER 5: FUNDING PLAN

Capital Projects

The specific projects recommended in this plan are the result of applying the recommendations to the City owned park sites in the Edmonds system, potential partner sites and a few additional projects that are not specified at a particular site. The projects each have an associated cost which is summarized first by site and then across the entire system in Appendix C. The costs included in this PROS plan are project level estimates that are appropriate for this level of planning. These planning costs are developed based on the combined experience of the team with the development of features within parks and complete park sites. The costs are round numbers, intentionally conservative, to cover the complete project cost. Details of the assumptions are provided in Appendix C.

Capital Cost Model

The capital cost model presented in Appendix C is a snapshot of a flexible tool that is designed to be useful during the plan development and review process but also as the situation in Edmonds changes over the life of the plan. Cost assumptions can be modified and project selections can be changed easily to update the model to current realities or to run scenarios for capital planning.

Project Types

The assumptions in Appendix C are developed around a set of common project types that emerged from the analysis of the system and the development of recommendations. Descriptions of each project type are provided in the assumptions section of Appendix C. Each represents a recommendation that recurs at multiple sites in the system. The project types are summarized below with the number of sites each is applied to and total cost.

Table 5-1: Cost Summary by Project Type

Project Type	Number of Projects	Total Planning Level Cost
Access and Entryways	10	\$500,000
Gathering Area	5	\$750,000
Sports Court Allowance	3	\$105,000
Play Area Replacement (Small)	1	\$125,000
Play Area Add/Expand (Large)	3	\$1,500,000
Natural Play Area	6	\$450,000
Natural Resources/Habitat	15	\$150,000

Project Type	Number of Projects	Total Planning Level Cost
Enhancement		
Restroom Small	3	\$750,000
Restroom Large	2	\$1,000,000
Site Master Plan	3	\$450,000
Site Renovation	7	\$682,500
Partner site contribution	10	\$1,350,000
Total	68	\$7,812,500

In addition to these common project types, there is an “other” category that allows for the unique and often substantial projects that represent the major steps in developing the system. The total of the “other” capital projects is summarized below.

Table 5-2: Cost Summary Other Projects

Project Site	Total Planning Level Cost
Brackett's Landing North	\$100,000
Civic Center Playfields & Skate Park	\$10,000,000
Edmonds Fishing Pier	\$1,000,000
Edmonds Library & Plaza Room	\$100,000
Edmonds Marsh/Walkway	\$12,000,000
Edmonds Memorial Cemetery and Columbarium	\$100,000
Former Woodway High School	\$12,000,000
H.O. Hutt Park	\$75,000
Hummingbird Hill Park	\$20,000
Maplewood Hill Park	\$50,000
Marina Beach Park	\$1,000,000
Mathay Ballinger Park	\$30,000
Meadowdale Playfields	\$2,000,000
Pine Ridge Park	\$75,000
Seaview Park	\$250,000
Sierra Park	\$100,000
Sunset Avenue Overlook	\$200,000
Willow Creek Hatchery & Interpretive Center	\$50,000
Yost Memorial Park & Pool	\$500,000
4th Avenue Cultural Corridor	\$800,000
<i>Indoor Aquatics/Recreation Center (Alternative 1)</i>	<i>\$25,000,000</i>
<i>Indoor Lap Pool with Outdoor Recreation Pool (Alternative 2)</i>	<i>\$18,000,000</i>
Replace Park Maintenance Building	\$4,000,000
Downtown Restrooms (2)	\$500,000

Project Site	Total Planning Level Cost
Land Acquisition	\$2,000,000

Projects in the “other” capital projects table are site or facility specific, with the exception of “land acquisition.” Expansions of the parks system will target the gaps identified in this plan and take advantage of opportunities as they emerge. Due to the constrained nature of Edmonds, this approach will require vigilance and pro-active pursuit of potential land acquisition opportunities for both parks and open spaces. The City’s inclusion of this item in the capital projects list recognizes the importance of swift action when rare property acquisition opportunities become available.

Ongoing Operational Impacts

The operational impact of implementing the recommendations in this plan will vary based on the current costs of staffing, utilities and materials. However, the critical consideration is the reality that there will be an operational impact. As the system expands in size and program offerings grow to serve the changing population, the resources committed must expand as well. Recommendations under Goal 7 make an explicit reference to the need for operational resources (staff, materials, equipment, etc.) to scale up in relation to the additional number and type of sites and facilities to maintain. Ongoing resources will also be needed to sustain the City’s role as a hub of community partnerships and major funding coordinator. The system concept is built on expanded partnerships and the funding will include grant applications. Both of these efforts will require staff time and leadership to be successful.

The capital cost model also reflects the operations and maintenance impacts of a number of projects. For the common project types restrooms and new types of play areas are called out for their impact to the annual operating budget. In addition, numerous “other” projects include an allowance for future operations and maintenance resources. The operations and maintenance costs included in the cost model are marginal costs, the additional cost to add one more feature. These should be considered add-ons to the City’s current park maintenance budget (\$1,400,000 in 2013). As the costs of adding and intensifying services within the City’s constrained park system are more completely understood, the capital cost model is designed to incorporate these changing assumptions and realities.

Implementation Timeline

The PROS Plan is designed to continue advancing projects that started in past years, put forward new projects that have emerged from the process and set up the community for major projects in the future. The general timeline for this PROS plan update is the six-year eligibility period defined by the

Recreation and Conservation Office and the Growth Management Act, but much of the guidance of this plan extends beyond that timeline to a future system twenty or more years in the future. The plan is designed for flexibility within this longer timeline. Based on funding opportunities, land availability and other factors, some projects may move forward sooner or be pushed out. The following implementation timeline represents a snapshot at the beginning of 2014 of the implementation of projects at these sites. The timeline is divided in to four time ranges beginning from the adoption of this PROS plan. This timeline will be adjusted and updated as part of the City’s annual capital planning process.

Table 5-3: Implementation Timeline

1-3 Years
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Securing Civic Playfield as a City park
3-5 Years
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restoring the Edmonds Marsh and daylighting Willow Creek • Redeveloping Marina Beach Park • Renovate the fishing pier
5-10 Years
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a sports field complex at the Former Woodway High School in partnership with the School District • Acquiring/enhance Esperance Park • North-South and East-West bicycle and pedestrian connections across Edmonds • Upgrade the Senior Center
10+ Years
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refresh the regional parks on the waterfront • Complete the waterfront path • Developing indoor aquatic center • Adding new parks to fill gaps in service
Ongoing Over the Life of This Plan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expanding recreation opportunities at existing neighborhood parks, community parks and school sites • Implementing the 4th Avenue Cultural Corridor • Finding new ways to encourage local park use • Providing variety in programming at more park locations • Integrating art projects into the design and construction of improvements

Funding Strategy

The City of Edmonds has remained committed to parks, recreation and open space as a key factor in the quality of life, a commitment that is reflected in the values and priorities of the community. However, even the most dedicated community has trying moments. The great recession that encompassed most of the prior PROS planning period resulted in cuts to City services and Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services was not completely spared. The impact of that instability in funding has been noticed in the community, in spite of strategic efforts to minimize the impact (such as planting more perennials to maintain the quality of the beautification areas normally planted with annuals).

While the City will continue to make every effort to adequately fund the park system, in order to sustain the level of quality expected by the community while growing to meet future needs the primary funding strategy the City should pursue is a dedicated, ongoing funding source. The consideration of a Metropolitan Park District has been the subject of a community task force, multiple City Council work sessions and updates, and most recently a key question on the statistically valid phone survey conducted as part of this process. The results of that survey indicate a strong level of support for the establishment of a district with taxing authority to take on the responsibility of providing parks and recreation services in Edmonds. Specifically, 71% of respondents indicated that they would strongly (33%) or somewhat (38%) support the creation of a district at a cost of approximately \$10 per month. Additional polling would still be required to determine the best approach to passing the required ballot measure, but this level of support with a specific funding request attached is a good indication of the community's position. A complete top line summary of the survey is available in the technical supplement to this report, under separate cover.

The most straight forward formation of a Metropolitan Park District would be to match the boundary to the city limits and utilize the City Council as the MPD Board. This method is allowed for to simplify the formation and reduce the overhead that would be needed to support an independent board. The enabling legislation for MPDs allows for taxing authority up to \$0.75 per thousand dollars of assessed valuation which can be utilized for any mix of capital and operations expenditures. The mix of responsibilities that the District would assume is also flexible but a clear understanding of what the District will take over and the impact to both the cost and variety of services will need to be a clear message to the voters.

One additional, supporting strategy that can be pursued in concert or independently of the MPD is a local parks foundation. The demographics of Edmonds show both a high overall income level and an older population.

The combination of these two creates an opportunity to explore planned giving and other fundraising strategies through an independent foundation. The foundation could also serve as a convener of a friends or advisory group for the park system to work collaboratively with City staff to advance the goals of the community.

Additional funding sources, including those the City is already utilizing, are summarized in the next section.

Funding Sources

A variety of funding sources are available for park construction and operation, maintenance and programming in Washington. The funding options on the following pages present potential resources for acquiring, planning and developing parks, natural open space, trails and other recreational areas. In limited cases the following funding sources may also be used for maintenance, operations and programming. The sources listed are in no specified order.

General Fund

The General Fund is the city's primary source for operating revenue. Most of this revenue comes from taxes levied on property, the sale of merchandise, business licensing and utilities. From time to time the City may opt to pay for a capital project directly from the General Fund. Furthermore, the general fund is the primary ongoing source of operations and maintenance funding. The level of General Fund dollars committed to a project or program reflects an investment of the community's collective resources.

Real Estate Excise Tax (REET)

Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) is a tax levied on all real estate sales and is levied against the full value of the property. Edmonds is allowed under the statutes to levy 0.5% in addition to the State of Washington tax. These funds can only be used for projects identified in the Capital Facilities Plan Element of the City's Comprehensive Plan. REET 1 (the first 0.25%) is generally designated for parks acquisition above and beyond the City's existing debt service. The main source of capital funds for parks projects is the second 0.25% (REET 2) of which the first \$750,000 is used to match grants and fund projects.

HB 1953 provides Washington cities and counties with the option to use \$100,000 per year, or up to 35 percent of their annual REET revenues (whichever is greater, to a maximum of \$1,000,000/year) toward operating and maintenance cost of existing capital facilities. This is a temporary measure, intended to support park systems through the economic downturn, and is due to sunset at the end of 2016.

Metropolitan Park District (MPD)

A metropolitan park district (MPD) is a junior taxing district that has the authority to regulate and manage the public park system. Districts have two regular property tax levies available: one of 50 cents per thousand dollars assessed valuation (AV) and one of 25 cents. They are considered as one levy for the purposes of the levy limits in chapter 84.55 RCW.¹ A metropolitan park district may include territory located in portions or in all of one or more cities or counties, when created or enlarged. There are two ways to initiate the formation of a park district: by petition and by a resolution of the governing body or bodies within which the district is to be located. A board of commissioners governs the district, the composition of which is dependent on the design of the district boundary.

Parks Foundation

Parks foundations are non-profit public charity organizations that support public parks by raising funds through public and private partnerships. Foundations create or continue relationships with donors, administer grants and establish special funds that are directed back to public parks. Such an organization provides an effective way to leverage support for parks by pursuing private funding in ways that are not possible by local government agencies such as cash or land donations, charitable funds and fund raising campaigns. For example, the Greater Metro Parks Foundation in Tacoma led a successful capital campaign, raising money specifically for the redevelopment of a local park. There are many different parks foundations throughout Washington, including examples near Edmonds such as the King County Parks Foundation, Seattle Parks Foundation and Friends of Seattle's Olmstead Parks.

Impact Fees

Impact fees are charges assessed against newly-developing property to recover the cost incurred by a local government in providing public facilities to serve the new development. Similar to impact fees that the City imposes for streets, schools and fire protection, revenue can only be directed towards impacts caused by the new development. RCW 82.02.050-.110 authorizes establishment of impact fees which are also provided under the State Environmental Policy Act (43.21C RCW). Impact fees do not recover the full cost of a new facility since these fees must be directly and proportionately related to new development. The City of Edmonds recently enacted Park Impact Fees on both residential and commercial development.

¹ Municipal Research and Services Center of Washington, <http://www.mrsc.org/subjects/parks/spd-mpdtax.aspx>.

Bonds

There are three primary types of bonds available to Edmonds: general obligation, limited tax (councilmatic) and revenue.

General Obligation Bonds

These are voter-approved bonds paid off by an assessment placed on real property. The money may only be used for capital improvements. Passage requires approval by 60% of voters, and the tax is levied for a specified period of time (usually 15-20 years). Major disadvantages of this funding option are the voter approval requirement and the interest costs.

Limited Tax (Councilmatic) Bonds

Also known as councilmatic bonds, these bonds are paid directly out of the general fund and require no additional taxation. Therefore no authorizing vote is necessary. However, the City must have the ability to repay the bonds prior to bond issuance. These bonds may be used for any purpose (not only capital).

Revenue Bonds

Revenue bonds fund municipal projects that generate income. The income generated by these projects pays revenue bondholders their interest and principal. Projects funded by revenue bonds serve only those in the community who pay for their services. The City directs revenue into a specific revenue fund and uses funding to pay for operations, then payments to bondholders. Because they are not backed by the full faith and credit of a municipality, these bonds carry a somewhat higher default risk for which they offer higher interest rates.

Levy Lid Lift

This type of funding program allows cities to increase property taxes by more than one percent, plus taxes on new construction and increases in state-assessed utility valuation. There are two different options for a levy lid lift, with each having different provisions and advantages. The first option asks voters to increase taxes for a specific purpose and can be for any amount of time or made permanent. With this option, the City need not specify the specific purpose for the lift which allows for greater flexibility when funding projects. If made permanent, the City can use the funds for ongoing operating expenditures without the need to return to voters for another lid lift. The second option asks voters to increase taxes for any purpose and can be “bumped up” each year for up to six years. This option limits use of funds only towards the specific purpose stated on the ballot.

Grants

Following the City's own resources, the largest funding source for park and recreation projects are grants from State and Federal agencies. Most grant programs require a portion of the project cost to be provided by a local partner as match funding. In most cases granting agencies will not fund more than 75 percent of a project's cost. These programs also require training, tracking and other staff attention throughout the year to maximize success.

State

The State of Washington Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) is responsible for administering a wide variety of public funds and provides technical assistance and policy development in addition to preparing statewide plans on trails, boating facilities, habitat preservation and off-road vehicles.

Boating Facilities Program (BFP)

This grant program is funded by boaters' gasoline taxes and administered by the RCO. Projects eligible under this program include acquisition, development, planning and renovation projects associated with launching ramps, transient moorage and upland support facilities. RCO allocates up to \$200,000 for planning projects and up to \$1,000,000 for acquisition, development or projects that combine planning with acquisition or development. Grants are distributed on an annual basis and require a minimum of 25 percent matching funds by a local agency.

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

This is a federal grant program that receives its money from offshore oil leases. The money is distributed through the National Park Service and is administered locally by the RCO. In the past, this was one of the major sources of grant money for local agencies. In the 1990s, funding at the federal level was severely cut, and now funding varies from budget to budget. The funds can be used for acquisition and development of outdoor facilities and require a 50 percent match.

Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP)

There are two accounts under this program: 1) Habitat Conservation; and 2) Outdoor Recreation. Projects eligible under this program include acquisition and development of parks, water access sites, trails, critical wildlife habitat, natural areas and urban wildlife habitat. Applicants must provide a minimum of a 50 percent non-RCO match. Local park projects have maximum requests of \$300,000 for development and \$500,000 for acquisition costs.

There are no maximum request levels in the following categories: urban wildlife habitat, trails and water access.

Youth Athletic Facilities (YAF)

The Youth Athletic Facilities is a grant program designed to provide funding for new, improved and better maintained outdoor athletic facilities serving youth and communities. This program was established by State Statute (RCW 79A.25.800-830) as part of the State Referendum 48, which provided funding for the Seattle Seahawks Stadium. The program is administered by the RCO and applicants must provide matching funds of at least 50 percent. The grant amounts vary by use from a minimum of \$5,000 for maintaining existing facilities to a maximum of \$150,000 for developing new facilities.

Aquatic Land Enhancement Account (ALEA)

This program is administered by the RCO and supports the purchase, improvement or protection of and access to aquatic lands for public purposes. Grant applications are reviewed once every two years for this program. Applicants must provide a minimum of a 50 percent match.

Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB)

Salmon recovery grants are awarded by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board, from state and federal sources, to protect and restore salmon habitat. The board funds projects that protect existing, high quality habitats for salmon and that restore degraded habitat to increase overall habitat health and biological productivity. The board also awards grants for feasibility assessments to determine future projects and for other salmon related activities. Projects may include the actual habitat used by salmon and the land and water that support ecosystem functions and processes important to salmon. The program funds acquisition, restoration, design and non-capital projects with no project limit. Local agencies are required to match 15% of grant funds.

Boating Infrastructure Grant Program (BIG)

The Boating Infrastructure Grant Program provides funding to develop and renovate boating facilities targeting recreational boats 26 feet and larger. Grants also may be used for boater education. This program is funded by the Aquatic Resources Trust Fund and administered by the RCO. The local agency match requirement is 25% and projects are split into two categories: projects under \$95,000 and those over \$100,000.

Federal

There are two primary Federal grants that provide funding for parks, recreation and open space.

Recreational Trails Program (RTP)

The Recreational Trails Program, funded by federal gas taxes and administered by RCO, provides funds to rehabilitate and maintain recreational trails and facilities. These grants support a backcountry experience, which means that the trail's physical setting, not its distance from a city or road, should be predominately natural. For example, a backcountry trail can provide views of cities or towns. Backcountry also means that the user will experience nature as opposed to seeing or hearing evidence of human development and activity. Under limited circumstances, new "linking" trails, relocations and education proposals are also eligible. Grants require a 20% match from local agencies.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFW)

USFW provides technical assistance and administers funding for projects related to water quality improvement through debris and habitat/vegetation management, watershed management and stream bank erosion, and sediment deposition projects. Priority is placed on projects that benefit species of greatest conservation need. Grant funds must be used to address conservation needs such as research, surveys, species and habitat management, and monitoring, identified within the State's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy.

Local Foundations

Verdant Health Commission

Verdant Health Commission provides a variety of programs to support the general health and well-being of residents in south Snohomish County. Funded through a local hospital district, the organization funds programs specific to Edmonds such as the upgraded fitness equipment at the Frances Anderson Center and the third grade swim lesson program. The Commission sets guidelines and eligibility criteria to rank grant applications through four general types of funding categories. The Commission reviews applications on a monthly basis as they are received.

- Building Healthy Communities Fund: Supports projects in south Snohomish County that increase opportunities for residents to live active and healthy lives.
- Project and Capital Support: Provides funding for project, capital and one-time expenses tied to the Verdant Health Commission's priorities. Applicable uses of funds include events, expenses for one-time or short-term needs in the community, equipment and capital investments.
- Multi-Year Health Program Support: Provides funding to support and expand health and wellness programs in our district.

- Community Health & Wellness System Improvements: Supports innovative initiatives that improve health systems, neighborhoods, organizations and networks.

Other Foundations

Private corporations and foundations provide money for a wide range of projects, targeted to the organizations' mission. Some foundations do not provide grants to governments, but will often grant to partner organizations. Private grants can be difficult to secure because of the open competition and the up-front investment in research and relationship building. Some examples of private foundations that the City has received grants from are Hubbard Family Foundation, Edmonds Arts Festival Foundation and the Hazel Miller Foundation.

Joint Public/Private Partnership

Joint public/private partnerships allow public agencies to leverage the resources of private businesses. The basic approach is for a public agency to enter into a working agreement with a private corporation to help fund, build and/or operate a public facility. Generally, the three primary incentives a public agency can offer are free land to place a facility (usually a park or other parcel of public land), certain tax advantages and access to the facility. While the public agency may have to give up certain responsibilities or control, it is one way of obtaining public facilities at a lower cost.

Donations

Cash contributions from private organizations can add up when successfully managed. Donations can include individual park amenities or entire parks. Options to purchase benches, playground equipment, trees and other items are great ways to show that donations are making a difference. A donation management program should be developed to organize contributions and donor relations.

Land Trusts

Land trusts, such as the Trust for Public Land, Inc. and the Nature Conservancy will acquire and hold land for eventual acquisition by a public agency.

Shared Facilities

Other City services or public utilities may provide a benefit for or share in the costs of park system improvements. One example is utility corridors; in many cases, land used for water or power lines may make an excellent trail corridor. In this situation, the utility may pay to develop a service road that can also serve as a trail.

Volunteers

Property owners, advocacy groups, school groups, homeowners' and neighborhood associations and businesses are all potential partners that can help build and care for the park system. While some projects require design and construction expertise, unskilled labor can be used for some types of construction, routine and periodic maintenance, and even as volunteer program staff. Skilled labor should be allowed on certain projects where the City may lack the necessary expertise. All volunteer projects will require City approval, management and oversight, and the use of volunteer resources should be weighed against available City staff capacity for management.

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APPENDIX A: EXISTING SYSTEM



EDMONDS PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURAL SERVICES

APPENDIX A: EXISTING SYSTEM

This appendix defines a current baseline of the parks, recreation and open space system and services. It draws from existing planning documents, the City's Geographic Information System (GIS) files, City budgets and other community and park system documents to provide key facts and data that were used in the planning process including categories, definitions, examples, counts and context.

Lands

The City of Edmonds has a long-established set of categories for the types of park land in its parks, recreation and open space system. The descriptions that follow provide updated definitions of these categories based on a renewed look at the state of the system.

Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks are smaller sites between one and six acres in size that serve nearby residents, generally within walking distance (½ mile from users). These parks are designed primarily for non-supervised, informal recreation activities and provide basic recreational amenities such as places to play, walk or bike and can also offer fields and/or courts to practice sports. These parks support neighborhood and family gatherings, and provide access to natural amenities. Some of the more popular neighborhood parks can also feature portable restrooms.

Community Parks

Community parks are larger sites intended to serve multiple neighborhoods or the entire city, within walking, biking or short driving distance from most users. These parks are between 20 to 50 acres in size and offer a range of recreational features to provide for the community's different interests. Community parks provide places to play, walk and bike, and to participate in organized sports, large gatherings and community events. Since community parks generally include facilities that attract a large number of people from a wide geographic area, these sites include off-street parking and restrooms.

Regional Parks

Regional parks are sites that provide access to the water and are intended to serve residents and visitors. These sites provide scenic views of the Sound and shoreline with viewpoints, and public access for beach walking and

non-motorized boating. Regional parks can provide permanent or portable restrooms.

Special Use Areas

Special use areas are miscellaneous park lands or stand-alone recreation sites designed to support a specific, specialized use. Special use areas provide a unique benefit to users not commonly found in other parks. Some of the facilities in this classification are public plazas, viewpoints, community centers, community gardens, aquatic centers, historic sites, or sites occupied by buildings.

Open Space

Open space includes wetlands and shoreline habitat, water bodies, inland forests and grass lands that are valued by the city. These spaces are left more or less in a natural state with recreation use as a primary or secondary objective. These areas can provide opportunities for passive and active outdoor recreation, such as jogging, wildlife viewing and nature photography. Open spaces promote health and wellness by providing a natural physical and mental refuge from an ever urbanizing built environment, but not all may provide public access. In some cases, these are environmentally sensitive areas and can include wildlife habitats, or unique and/or endangered plant or animal species.

Connections

Connections include pedestrian and bicycle routes and visual connections through identification markers, scenic corridors, overlooks, beautification areas and linear parks. These resources are part of an overall non-motorized transportation system that provides connectivity throughout the community. Connections contribute to the City's ability to preserve and protect natural areas, ecological features and cultural assets including historic and public art features.

Gateways/Entrances

These are landscaped areas with signage marking both perceived entry "nodes" and actual political boundaries of the community. Edmonds currently has three developed gateways and additional locations and design parameters are outlined in the City of Edmonds Streetscape Plan. The Plan suggests additional gateway/entrance intersections that could be enhanced.

Beautification Areas

Beautification areas include landscaped features located along street right-of-ways, intersections, and medians. Over one hundred thirty hanging flower baskets are also included in beautification areas. The importance of beautification areas, their contribution to creating a pedestrian friendly

community, and the opportunities for integration of public art elements is also addressed in the Streetscape Plan and in the Community Cultural Plan.

Other Park, Recreation and Cultural Sites

In addition to City-owned properties, there are lands owned by other private and public entities that contribute to the recreational and cultural opportunities in and around Edmonds. These lands include property owned by the Edmonds School District, Snohomish County, the Edmonds Public Facilities District and State and Federal agencies.

City Facilities

Frances Anderson Center

The Frances Anderson Center is the “home” of the majority of Edmonds Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services programming. The Center has classroom spaces, a drop-in weight room, a gymnasium and dedicated gymnastics space. The Frances Anderson Center also houses six tenants who provide a wide range of activities that augment and enhance the Department’s mission, including a ballet theater and school, youth club, Montessori school, studio space and gallery.

Yost Pool

Yost Pool is located within Yost Park and was built by the City in 1972. The facility is an ADA-accessible seasonal pool, with a 25 meter x 25 yard pool and spa. Yost Pool is currently open 92 days per year. Capacity for programming is limited due to the short outdoor aquatics season.

Park Facilities

Within Edmonds park sites and the other park, recreation and cultural sites, the City provides various facilities to support recreation activities.

Other Public, Private and Non-Profit Facilities

Along with City-sponsored facilities, other organizations, neighboring communities and public schools expand the number of park and recreation related benefits available to Edmonds residents.

Arts, Museums and Theaters

- **Edmonds Center for the Arts**

The Center for the Arts is a multi-purpose performing and visual arts facility owned by the Edmonds Public Facilities District. In addition to the 704-seat auditorium, the center contains several flexible spaces including the theatre lobby, three multi-purpose meeting rooms and a full-size basketball gymnasium available for sporting events and special events.

- **ArtWorks**
Operated by the Edmonds Arts Festival Foundation and housed in a City owned building, this facility provides two warehouse type spaces for arts workshops, special exhibits and meetings.
- **Wade James Theater**
Located on City property, the 220 seat theater was built and is operated by the nonprofit Driftwood Players.
- **Edmonds Historical Museum**
Housed in the historic Carnegie Library, the museum building has two floors. The facility features an exhibit gallery, administrative office, work rooms, a local history library and an extensive photography archive. The building is owned by the City of Edmonds and operated by the Edmonds South-Snohomish County Historical Society.

Schools

Edmonds School District and Edmonds Community College provide a range of recreational opportunities for students and the public. The district offers sports fields, playgrounds, outdoor basketball courts, and gymnasiums. Public access is limited to times when school is not in session and when there are no competing demands from school-related activities. The City has developed neighborhood or community park elements in partnership with several school sites and has developed a conceptual plan for a regional athletic facility at the Former Woodway High School site.

Edmonds Community College owns and operates the Edmonds Conference Center in downtown Edmonds. The structure provides space for arts events, community gatherings and private rentals, including art exhibit spaces. The campus also includes a satellite campus of Central Washington University.

Youth and Senior Organizations

Edmonds Boys and Girls Club and Edmonds Senior Center provide additional recreational options and social activities for area residents. The Edmonds Boys and Girls Club offers before and after school programs for children and youth between the ages of 5 and 18 at its main location, adjacent to the Civic Center Playfields. The organization also offers “super school programs” at five off-site locations. Edmonds Senior Center hosts a broad variety of classes, activities and special events. This facility is owned by the City of Edmonds and operated by an independent non-profit.

Other Cities

- **Lynnwood Recreation Center and Pool**

The Recreation Center and Pool in neighboring Lynnwood offers five different pools at five different temperatures (including a recreation pool, family hot tub, wellness pool, lap pool and adult hot tub) as well as a sauna. The facility offers equipment to make pool use accessible, including an aquatic wheelchair, poolside lift, floating fitness equipment and life jackets.

- **MLT Recreation Pavilion**

The Recreation Pavilion is Mountlake Terrace's community center. It houses an indoor pool, dance programs, preschool, and before and after-school care programs, and acts as “home base” for MLT’s athletics department. It also features an indoor playground, racquetball courts, spa, sauna, and espresso stand.

Programs

The Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department provides a wide range of recreational, arts and cultural programs. These are held at Yost Pool, the Frances Anderson Center and a network of other locations throughout Edmonds.

Arts

Arts programs provide recreational opportunities for learning and self-expression through artistic media. Class subjects range from visual arts such as photography, painting and drawing to literary arts such as poetry and autobiography to craft arts such as jewelry-making.

Aquatics

During the summer months, the Aquatic Program at Yost Pool offers a full schedule of public swim, lap swim, swim team, dive club, fitness classes and swim lessons for ages 6 months and up. The pool is also available for rent.

Environmental Education

Various environmental education activities and programs are offered to schools, scout groups, community organizations and the general public through the Discovery Programs Office. Discovery Programs provide interpretive and environmental education opportunities for citizens, school-age children, and visitors to our parks and beaches; and promote stewardship of Puget Sound, its shoreline, and the surrounding watershed.

Athletics

Athletic programs focus on practice and play of organized, competitive sports. Adult competitive leagues include pickleball, volleyball, basketball, softball and tennis. Youth programs include soccer and summer sports camps. The Athletic Program is responsible for managing and scheduling the City's thirteen ball fields throughout the year.

Fitness

Fitness programs focus on physical wellness and health through activity and movement. A variety of fitness classes are offered at the Frances Anderson Center, from gentle movement exercises such as Feldenkrais® to martial arts such as kendo. Drop-in facilities include a weight room and open gym, and patrons can sign up to work with a physical trainer.

Children and Youth

Children and youth programs focus on education and activities for ages 0-18. Class types include arts and crafts, nature/science, gymnastics, youth fitness and parent participation classes. Preschool is offered for ages 4-5 and day camps are offered for school-aged children.

Outdoor Recreation

Outdoor recreation programs include field trips to diverse outdoor learning venues in and around Edmonds. These field classes range from low-impact activities such as backyard bird watching and mason bee husbandry to high-energy outings such as hiking and whitewater rafting.

Cultural

The Edmonds Arts Commission (EAC) offers programs in visual, literary, and performing arts, youth arts education, technical assistance, and funding for cultural tourism promotion.

Special Events

The Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department hosts and supports special events through a variety of means, from sponsorship and planning to providing venues and facilities.

Budget

The improvements, services and programs in the parks, recreation and open space system are funded through a combination of investing community tax dollars, State, Federal and foundation grants and private donations. There are two major divisions of the budget: the capital investments that acquire, build and renovate/restore parks, open spaces and facilities and the ongoing

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operating expenditures that fund the management, maintenance and operation of parks and programs in Edmonds.

Operating Budget

Over the past five years the overall City budget has experienced a decline and slight recovery. During this time, Council has worked to maintain the share of the general fund dedicated to parks and recreation, reflecting the City Council's commitment to these services.

The current year's budget is summarized in Table 6, below showing the amount and percentage of the total Parks and Recreation budget by cost center.

Table A-2: 2013 Parks and Recreation Budget by Cost Center

Cost Center	Total	Percent
Administration	\$449,795	13%
Rec. & Cultural Services	\$907,879	27%
Discovery Programs	\$51,582	2%
Aquatics	\$123,908	4%
Athletics	\$91,362	3%
Day Camp	\$73,849	2%
Fitness	\$72,539	2%
Gymnastics	\$132,290	4%
Meadowdale Preschool	\$32,638	1%
Parks Maintenance	\$1,416,667	42%
Flower Program	\$8,394	0.2%
Department Total	\$2,911,108	100%

The largest portions of department budget are the maintenance of the system and the Recreation and Cultural Services, which is responsible for most of the programming in the system.

Offsetting the investment in park and recreation operations, services and maintenance is the revenue generated from Cultural and Recreation programs, which totals approximately \$1 million. This translates to an overall cost recovery rate of approximately 30%.

Capital Planning

With projects taking years to prepare and execute, long-term capital planning is essential to balancing City priorities and limited funding. The City’s Capital Improvement Program (CIP) plans the next five years of projects and funding. Input into the CIP will be one of the critical outcomes of the PROS plan update. As a starting point, it is useful to examine the park, recreation, open space and related projects (such as pedestrian improvements and building maintenance) to understand the magnitude of investment planned across the system.

Table A-3: Existing Capital Improvement Plan Projects (selected categories) 2013-2018

Category	Planned Investment (5-Year Total)
Park Development	\$3,545,000
City-wide Park Improvements	\$507,000
Trail Development	\$30,000
Planning	\$210,000
Leveraged Grant Funding (secured or sought) ¹	\$12,492,500
5-Year Total in Parks CIP	\$16,784,500
Non-Motorized Transportation	\$6,367,000
Building Maintenance – Anderson Center	\$945,000
Meadowdale Clubhouse	\$75,000
Senior Center	\$210,000
Grandstand Exterior and Roof	\$50,000
5-Year Total Other CIP Categories	\$7,647,000

¹Approximately \$572,000 is secured funding from a variety of granting sources. Large portions of the unsecured (sought) grant funding are targeted to 4th Avenue Corridor Enhancement and the Downtown Waterfront Public Market projects.

Capital Investments

Edmonds invests in new and renovated parks and facilities from several sources. The largest of these sources is the real estate excise tax (REET)—two separate quarters of 1% on real estate transactions (known as REET 1 and REET 2) are divided among several purposes including paying debt service for major facilities and park improvements. REET 1 funds are committed to debt service to repay investments in major facilities, while the park improvement fund receives the first \$750,000 of REET 2. Over the past five years, Edmonds has spent nearly \$7 million of REET 2 funding, which includes funds accumulated over prior years. Other funds utilized as the City’s contribution to projects include gas tax (for transportation projects such as trails) and the General Fund.

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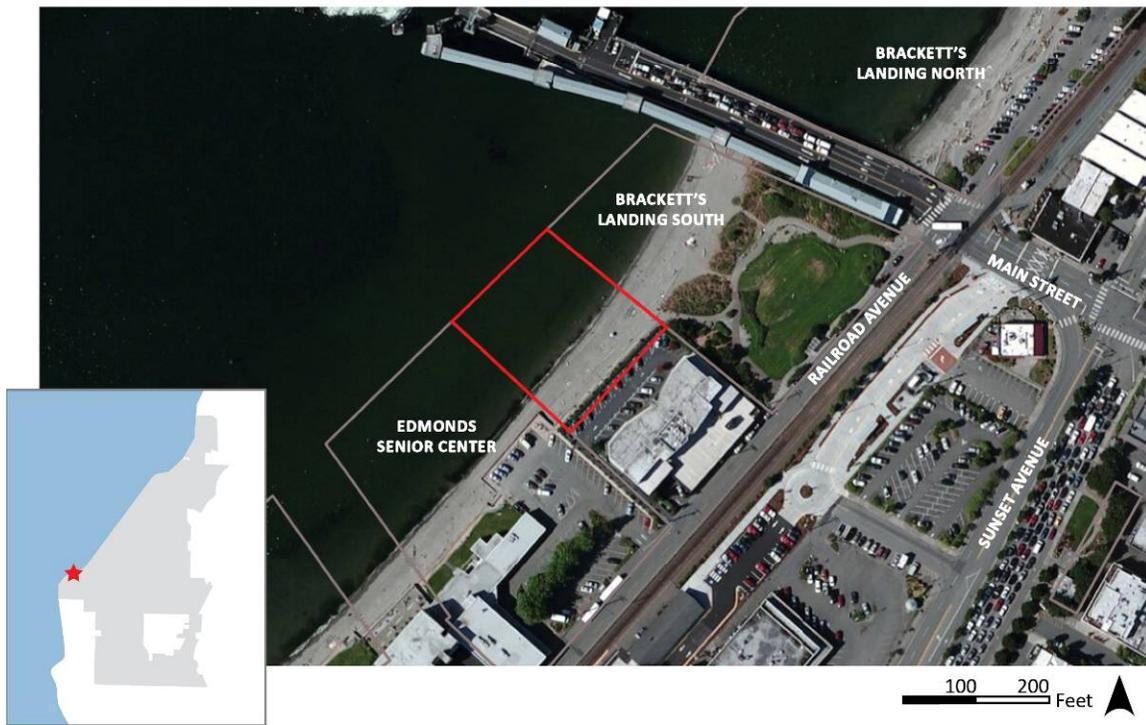
City funds are often used as the local matching funding for grant programs that can greatly enhance the total amount of funding invested in the system. In 2011 (the most recent year reporting actual numbers) the total of City, grants and other sources invested in park construction was \$1,567,435, over \$1,000,000 of which was from grants. This represents nearly a tripling of the City's investment.

Park profiles

The following pages provide description and recommendations for each of Edmond's park sites. The park profiles are organized by park classification established in Chapter 2 of the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan. Each profile includes an air photo of the site as well as recent site photos if available.

144 Railroad Avenue Tidelands

Regional Park



Park Features

- 0.90 Acres
- Tidelands access
- Pedestrian walkway above retaining wall

Site considerations

- Zoned commercial waterfront
- Site protected as a public park through deed of Snohomish County Conservation Futures Fund Matching Grant

Planned Improvements

- Continued maintenance

Brackett's Landing North

Regional Park



Park Features

- 5.11 Acres
- 0.5 miles walking trail/pathway
- View point (1)
- Restrooms (1)
- Tidelands access
- Access point to Edmonds Underwater Park

Site considerations

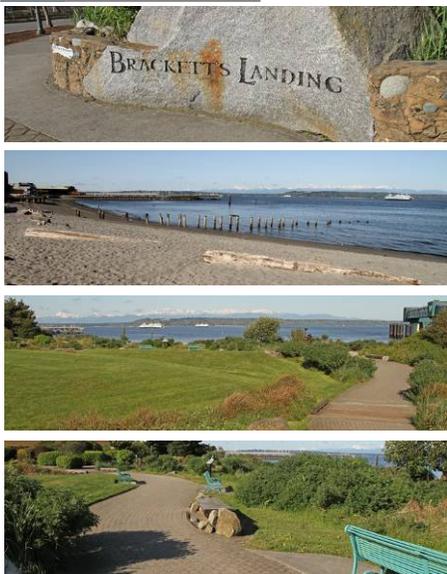
- Adjacent to DNR Public Waters
- Zoned Commercial Waterfront
- Ferry patrons impact parking
- 2001 Washington Park & Recreation Landscape Design Award

Planned Improvements

- Natural Resource/Habitat Enhancement
- Large Restroom
- Site Renovation, including parking lot resurfacing and jetty repair
- Continued maintenance

Brackett's Landing South

Regional Park



Park Features

- 2.22 Acres
- 0.5 miles of waterfront walking trail
- View point, beach Access and tidelands
- Interpretive area and public art
- Bus stop

Site considerations

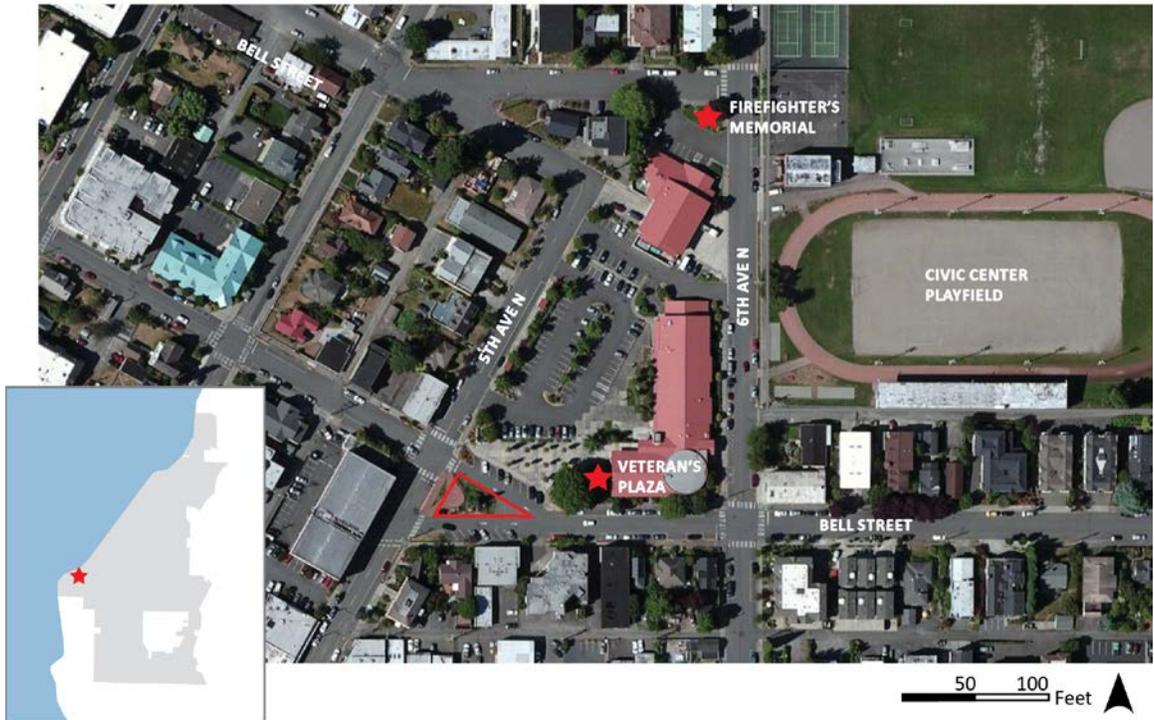
- Zoned Commercial Waterfront
- Marine Protected Area
- 1997 National League of Cities Urban Enrichment Award
- Protected as a public park through deed-of-right. Acquired through partnership grants from the IAC/WWRC account, Snohomish County Conservation Futures funds and Community Transit matching grants.

Planned Improvements

- Continued maintenance

Centennial Plaza / Public Safety Complex

Special Use Park



Park Features

- 0.08 Acres
- Japanese garden
- Public flag plaza, memorial bricks, annual living Christmas tree
- Time capsule placed in 1990 to celebrate 100 years for City of Edmonds

Site considerations

- Adjacent to City Hall and Maxwell/McGinness Safety Complex

Planned Improvements

- Veteran's plaza and firefighter's memorial to be developed in partnership with community groups
- Continued maintenance

City Park

Community Park



Park Features

- 13.96 Acres
- Playgrounds (2)
- Soccer field (1 youth)
- Baseball/softball field (1 youth)
- Outdoor performance space
- Picnic shelters (3), Restrooms (2)
- Open lawn, horseshoe pits, natural area

Site considerations

- Zoned Public
- Used for community events, sports and concerts

Planned Improvements

- Spray/play park
- Access and entryway improvements
- Field renovation
- Continued maintenance

Civic Center Playfields & Skate Park ***Other Parks and Facilities***



Park Features

- 7.92 Acres
- 0.3 miles of walking trail
- Playground
- Basketball courts (2)
- Tennis courts (2)
- Football field (1 youth)
- Soccer fields (1 adult, 1 youth)
- Skate park
- Portable restrooms (2)
- Petanque courts (4)
- Cinder track (.25 miles)
- Stadium
- This site used for 4th of July Fireworks display, Taste of Edmonds, Wenatchee Youth Circus

Site considerations

- Owned by Edmonds School District
- Operated by City of Edmonds
- Zoned Public Use

Planned Improvements

- Acquisition, master planning and development
- Add large play area
- Continued maintenance

Dayton Street Plaza

Special Use Park



Park Features

- 0.1 Acres

Planned Improvements

- Redevelop plaza
- Continued maintenance

Edmonds Library & Plaza Room

Special Use Park



Park Features

- 1.29 Acres
- View point
- Restrooms (1)
- Public rental event space
- Bus stop



Site considerations

- Zoned Res Single-family 8,000 sq ft lot (RS-8)
- Park Department serves as liaison to Edmonds Library Board
- Library Plaza room is scheduled and maintained by Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services

Planned Improvements

- Landscape renovation
- Continued maintenance

Edmonds Marsh East

Open Space



Park Features

- 0.85 Acres

Site considerations

- No developed public access

Planned Improvements

- Continued maintenance

Edmonds Marsh/Walkway

Open Space



Park Features

- 23.37 Acres
- 0.5 miles of interpretive walking trail and boardwalk
- View point
- Wetlands, salt and fresh water marsh habitat, extensive bird population

Site considerations

- Zoned Open Space
- Designated Bird Sanctuary

Planned Improvements

- Willow Creek daylighting salmon habitat and stormwater management project
- Boardwalk and pathway maintenance
- Continued maintenance

Edmonds Memorial Cemetery & Columbarium Special Use Park



Park Features

- 6.63 Acres
- Restroom (1)
- Grave sites
- Columbarium for wall urns

Site considerations

- Zoned Public
- Managed by Edmonds Memorial Cemetery Board through Parks and Recreation
- Given to the City in 1982 by Larry Hubbard
- Historic Independent Order of Oddfellows (IOOF) site

Planned Improvements

- Cemetery mapping project
- Continued maintenance

Edmonds Senior Center

Regional Park



Park Features

- 2.63 Acres
- 0.5 miles of walking trail
- Community senior center
- View point
- Beach access, tidelands
- Parking

Site considerations

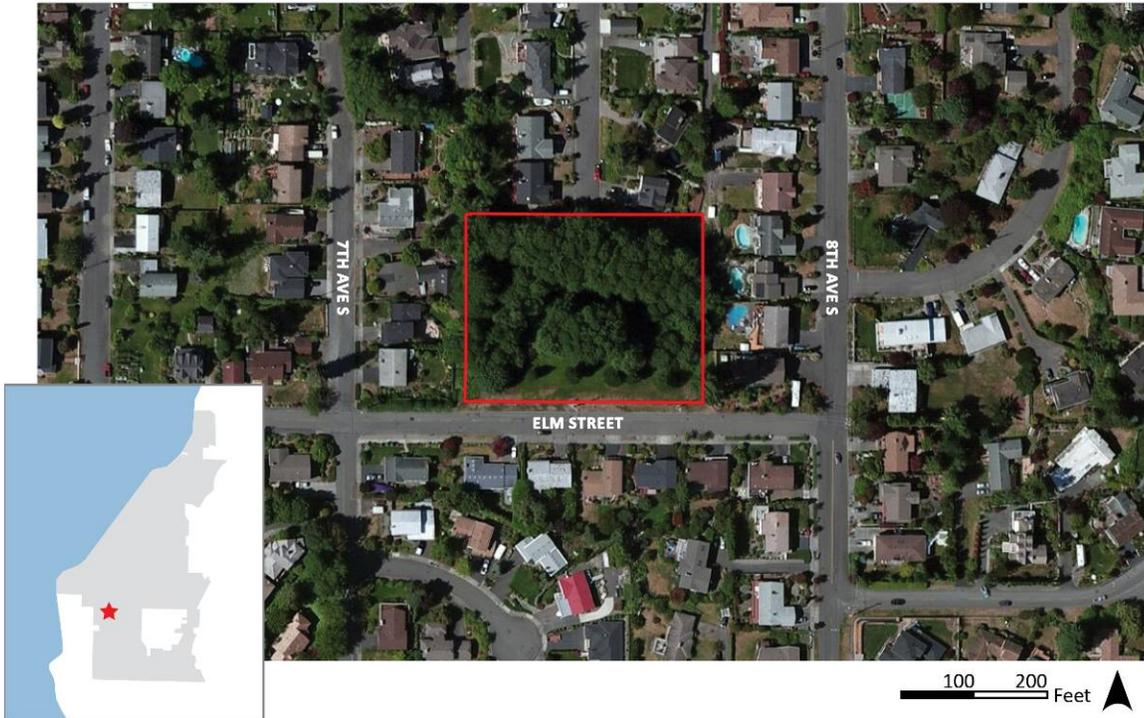
- Zoned Commercial Waterfront
- Leased by South County Senior Center Board of Directors
- Purchased with federal Neighborhood Improvement Grant

Planned Improvements

- Work with the Edmonds Senior Center in developing a long term solution for upgrading and maintaining the Senior Center.
- Continued maintenance

Elm Street Park

Neighborhood Park



Park Features

- 1.85 Acres
- Open turf area

Site considerations

- Owned and operated by the City of Edmonds
- Small site

Planned Improvements

- Access and entryway improvements
- Gathering area
- Sports court
- Natural play area
- Natural resource/habitat enhancement
- Continued maintenance

Frances Anderson Center

Special Use Park



Park Features

- 1.62 Acres
- Gymnasium
- 64,000 sf community center
- Park Dept administrative offices
- Community meeting rooms
- Daycare
- Restrooms (8)



Site considerations

- Zoned Res Single-family 8,000 sf lot (RS-8)
- Hosts recreation programs
- Serves as part of site for Edmonds Arts Festival

Planned Improvements

- Continued maintenance

Frances Anderson Center Field

Neighborhood Park



Park Features

- 1.94 Acres
- Playground
- Soccer field (1 youth)
- Baseball/Softball (1 youth)
- Picnic area, picnic tables
- Ampitheater and covered stage
- Basketball court
- Restroom, public art

Site considerations

- Zoned Open Space
- Serves as part of the site for the Edmonds Arts Festival

Planned Improvements

- Access and entryway improvements
- Large play area (add or expand)
- Refurbish outdoor covered stage
- Site renovation
- Continued maintenance

H.O. Hutt Park

Open Space



Park Features

- 4.53 Acres
- 0.5 miles of walking trails
- Old growth timber

Site considerations

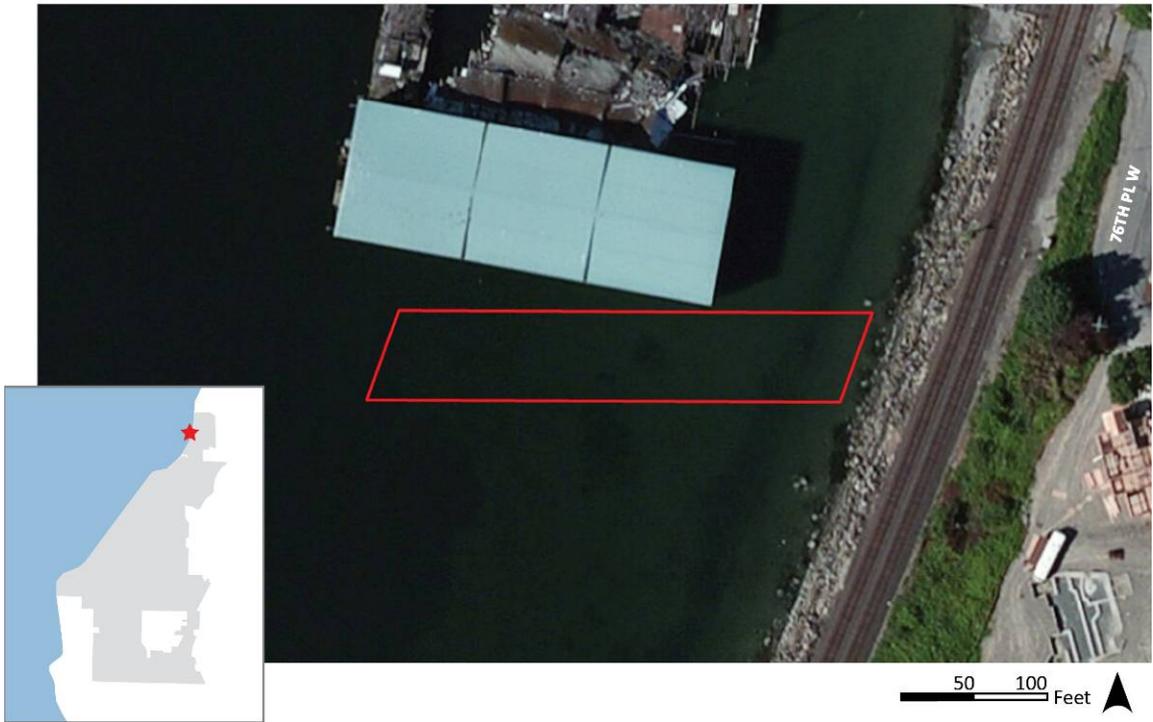
- Zoned Public
- Deed restriction

Planned Improvements

- Natural play area
- Natural Resource/Habitat Enhancement
- Trail development and interpretation
- Continued maintenance

Haines Tidelands

Open Space



Park Features

- 0.44 Acres
- Tidelands access

Site considerations

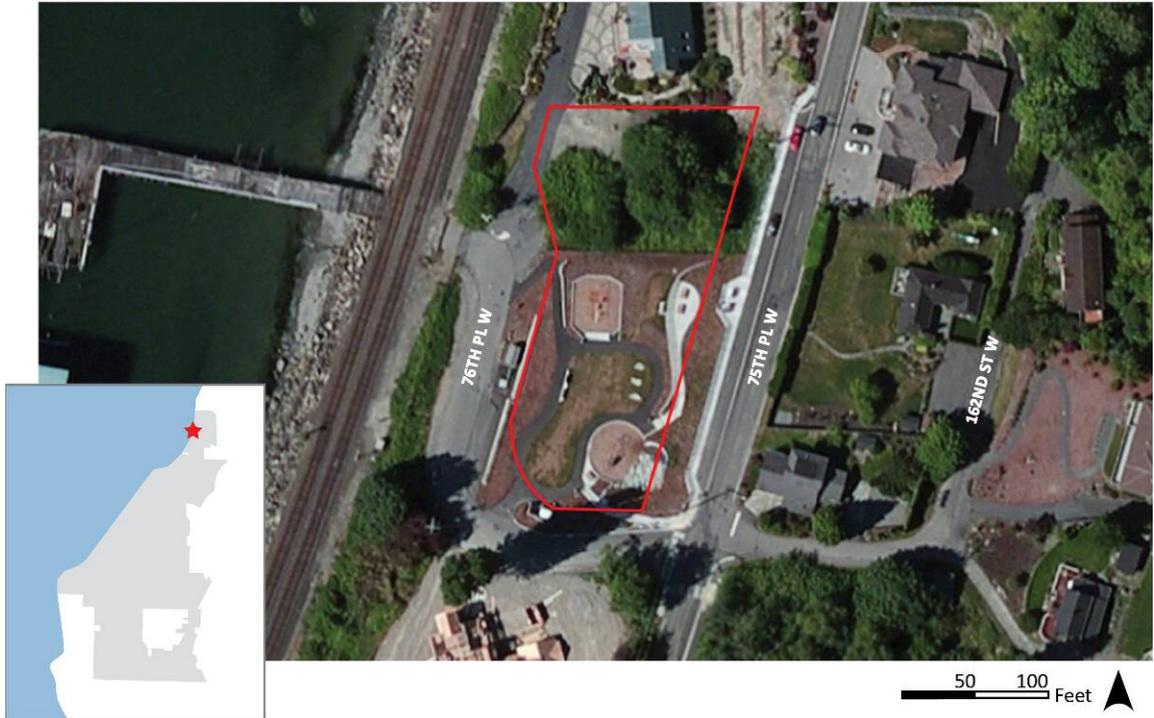
- Zoned Commercial Waterfront
- Difficult public access due to BNSF railroad crossing

Planned Improvements

- None

Haines Wharf

Neighborhood Park



Park Features

- 0.69 Acres
- Playground
- Hill slide
- Overlook
- Portable restroom

Site considerations

- Developed 2012

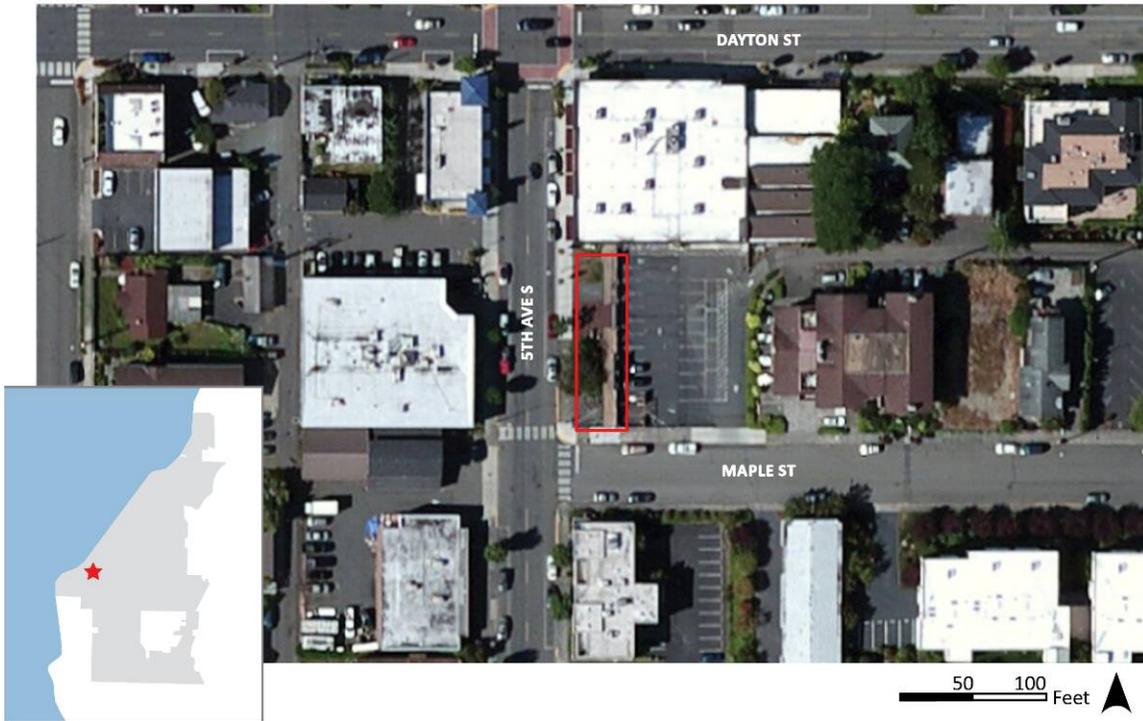
Planned Improvements

- Continued maintenance



Hazel Miller Plaza

Special Use Park



Park Features

- 0.09 Acres
- Outdoor performance space
- Art fountain
- Historic interpretive signage

Planned Improvements

- Continued maintenance



Hickman Park

Neighborhood Park



Park Features

- 5.60 Acres
- Basketball courts (2 half)
- Picnic shelter
- Playground
- Portable restroom
- Walking loop
- Baseball/softball field (1 youth)
- Fitness stations

Site considerations

- Water/sewer for permanent restrooms available

Planned Improvements

- Restroom (small)
- Continued maintenance

Hummingbird Hill Park

Neighborhood Park



Park Features

- 1.22 Acres
- Playground
- Basketball court (1)
- Portable restroom (1)

Site considerations

- Limited access points

Planned Improvements

- Access and entryway improvements
- Gathering area
- Resurface sport court
- Install new asphalt pathway
- Continued maintenance

Interurban Trail

Special Use Park



Park Features

- 4.88 Acres

Site considerations

- Segment of regional trail

Planned Improvements

- Continued maintenance



Lake Ballinger Access

Special Use Park



Park Features

- 0.19 Acres
- Hand boat launch (ramp)

Site considerations

- Non-motorized boat access only

Planned Improvements

- Continued maintenance

Maplewood Hill Park

Open Space



Park Features

- 9.96 Acres
- 0.5 miles of walking trail
- Playground
- Picnic area

Site considerations

- Zoned Public
- Pedestrian access off Puget Way

Planned Improvements

- Natural play area
- Natural resource/habitat enhancement
- Trail development
- Continued maintenance

Marina Beach Park

Regional Park



Park Features

- 3.37 Acres
- 0.5 Miles walking trail
- Playground
- Sand volleyball court
- Small boat launch (ramp)
- View point
- Portable restrooms (3)
- Shoreline access, gravel beach
- Off-leash dog area

Site considerations

- Zoned Commercial Waterfront
- Marine Protected Area
- 31 additional parking stalls provided by Port of Edmonds under SEPA/SMP approval permit
- Likely to be improved by creek daylighting

Planned Improvements

- Site master plan and implementation
- Restroom (large)
- Replace play area (large)
- Continued maintenance

Mathay Ballinger Park

Neighborhood Park



Park Features

- 0.51 Acres
- Playground
- Basketball courts (2)

Site considerations

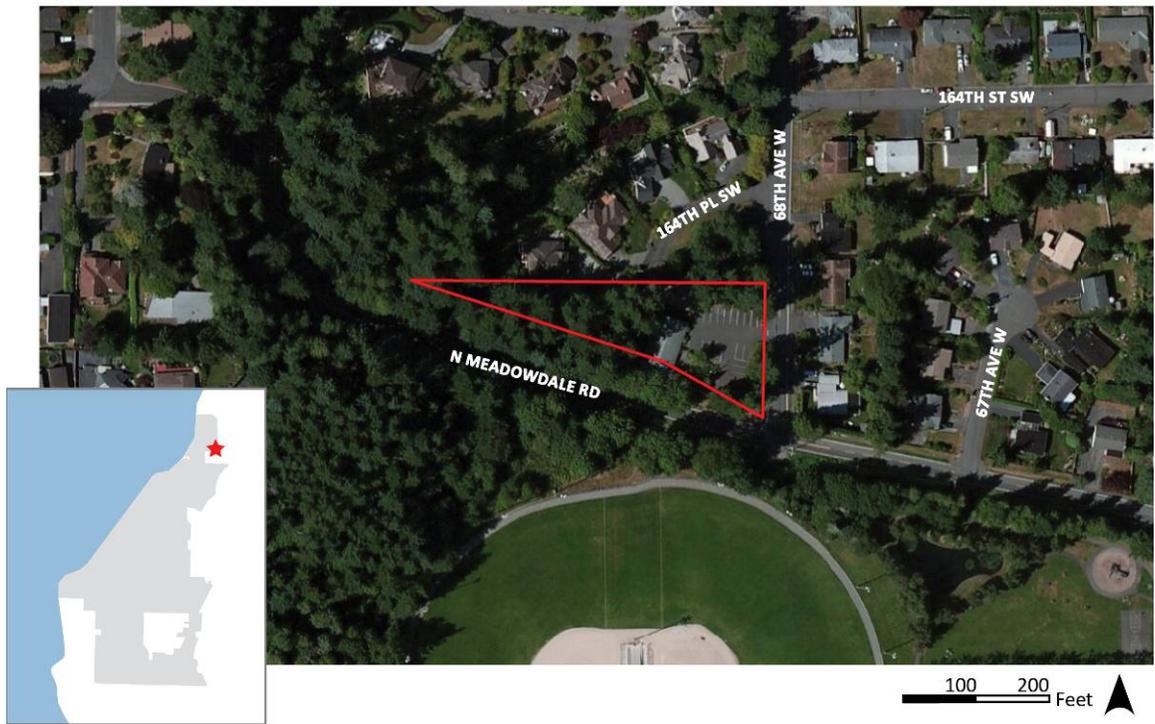
- Limited visibility
- Limited parking

Planned Improvements

- Access and entryway improvements
- Gathering area
- Restroom (small)
- New asphalt pathway
- Continued maintenance

Meadowdale Community Clubhouse

Special Use Park



Park Features

- 0.99 Acres
- Playground
- Community center
- Community meeting rooms
- Restrooms (1)
- Parking
- North Edmonds preschool



Site considerations

- Zoned Res Single-family 20,000 sf lot (RS-20)

Planned Improvements

- Replace play area (small)
- Continued maintenance

Meadowdale Natural Area

Open Space



Park Features

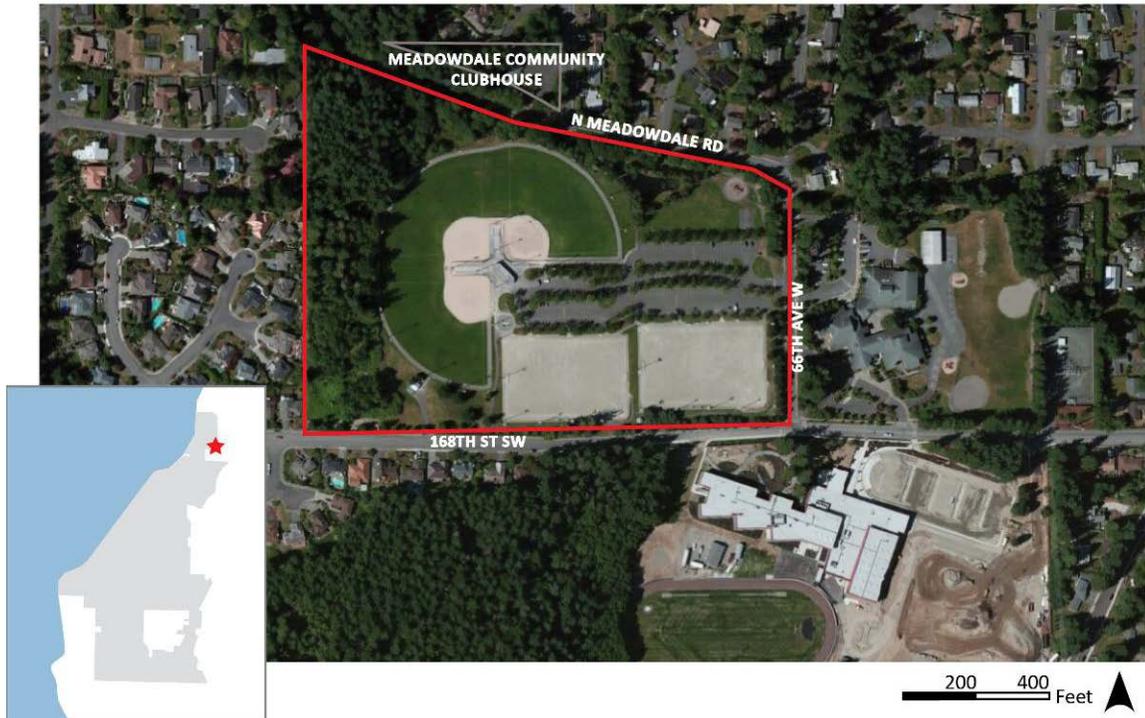
- 1.07 Acres

Planned Improvements

- Continued maintenance

Meadowdale Playfields

Other Parks and Facilities



Park Features

- 27.00 Acres
- Playground
- Basketball court (1)
- Lighted sand soccer field (1 adult)
- Lighted softball fields (2 adult)
- Restrooms (1), parking
- Picnic area, public art

Site considerations

- Owned by Edmonds School District
- Used for City athletic programs
- Developed by Edmonds School District, Snohomish County, and Cities of Lynnwood, Edmonds
- Funded with Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation / Land & Water Conservation Funds

Planned Improvements

- Update all-weather soccer and softball fields (in partnership with Lynnwood, Snohomish County)

Ocean Avenue Viewpoint

Special Use Parks



Park Features

- 0.20 Acres
- View point
- Parking

Site considerations

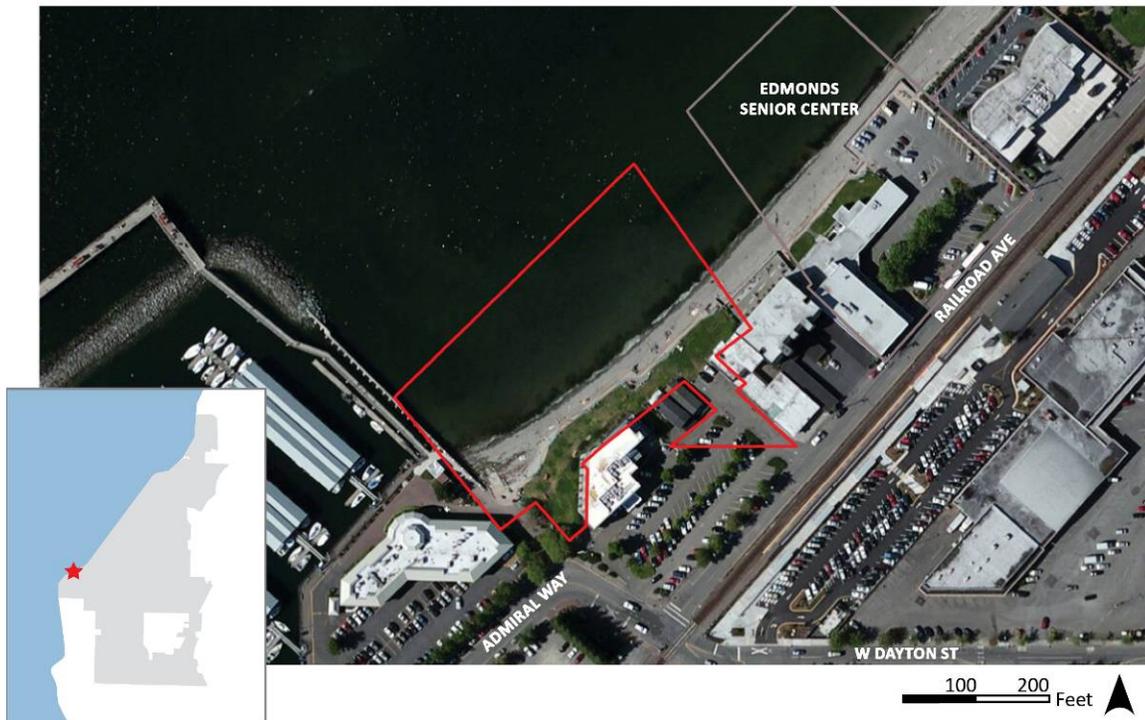
- Zoned Res Single-family 12,000 sq ft lot / ROW
- Street right-of-way

Planned Improvements

- Continued maintenance

Olympic Beach Park

Regional Parks



Park Features

- 2.82 Acres
- 0.05 miles of walking trail
- View point
- Restroom (1)
- Picnic area
- Parking, public art
- Access to fishing pier
- Shoreline access, tidelands

Site considerations

- Zoned Commercial Waterfront
- Marine Protected Area
- Aquired with LWCF through IAC (Dayton Beach Park). Protected as a public park through deed-of-right.

Planned Improvements

- Continued maintenance

Olympic View Open Space

Open Space



Park Features

- 0.49 Acres

Site considerations

- No developed public access

Planned Improvements

- Continued maintenance

Pine Ridge Park

Open Space



Park Features

- 23.78 Acres
- 1.0 miles of walking trail
- Parking
- Wetlands, old growth forest, wildlife habitat

Site considerations

- Zoned Public

Planned Improvements

- Access and entryway improvements
- Natural play area
- Natural resource/habitat enhancement
- Forest management study
- Resurface parking
- Continued maintenance

Pine Street Park

Neighborhood Park



Park Features

- 1.47 Acres
- Playground
- Baseball/softball field (1 youth)
- Portable restroom (1)
- Open lawn
- Parking

Site considerations

- Zoned Public

Planned Improvements

- Access and entryway improvements
- Gathering area
- Continued maintenance

Point Edwards Scenic Overlooks

Special Use Park



Park Features

- Three overlooks

Site considerations

- Located on easements held by the City of Edmonds
- Maintained by the City of Edmonds

Planned Improvements

- Continued maintenance

Richard F. Anway Park

Special Use Park



Park Features

- 0.17 Acres
- Restroom (1)
- Concessions
- Lawn, beautification area, public art

Site considerations

- Zoned Business Commercial
- Site donated to City by Washington State Dept. of Transportation with improvements to ferry holding lane
- Serves as a resting point for ferry patrons
- Formerly known as “Mini Park”

Planned Improvements

- Partial site renovation
- Continued maintenance

Seaview Park

Neighborhood Park



Park Features

- 6.05 Acres
- 0.5 miles walking trail
- Playground
- Basketball court (1)
- Tennis courts (2)
- Soccer field (1 youth)
- Baseball/softball field (1 youth)
- Restroom (1), parking
- Open lawn, picnic area

Site considerations

- Zoned Public
- Aquired and developed with LWCF funds through IAC. Protected as a public park through deed-of-right.

Planned Improvements

- Access and entryway improvements
- Gathering area
- Renovate fields
- Resurface tennis courts
- Parking improvements
- Continued maintenance

Seaview Reservoir

Open Space



Park Features

- 1.31 Acres
- Public Works underground water tank site
- Open grass field

Planned Improvements

- Continued maintenance

Shell Creek Open Space

Open Space



Park Features

- 1.04 Acres

Site considerations

- No developed public access

Planned Improvements

- Natural resource/habitat enhancement
- Continued maintenance

Sierra Park

Neighborhood Park



Park Features

- 5.52 Acres
- 0.5 miles walking trails
- Playground
- Basketball court (1)
- Soccer field (1 youth)
- Baseball/softball field (1 youth)
- Portable restroom (1)
- Picnic area
- Braille interpretive trail
- Parking

Site considerations

- Zoned Public

Planned Improvements

- Access and entryway improvements
- Install ballfield drainage system
- Renovate park for the blind
- Continued maintenance

Stamm Overlook Park

Special Use Park



Park Features

- 0.36 Acres
- View point (1)
- Parking

Site considerations

- Zoned Res Single-family 12,000 sq ft
- Residential neighborhood

Planned Improvements

- Continued maintenance

Sunset Avenue Overlook

Special Use Park



Park Features

- 1.14 Acres
- 0.5 miles walking trail
- View corridor
- Picnic area

Site considerations

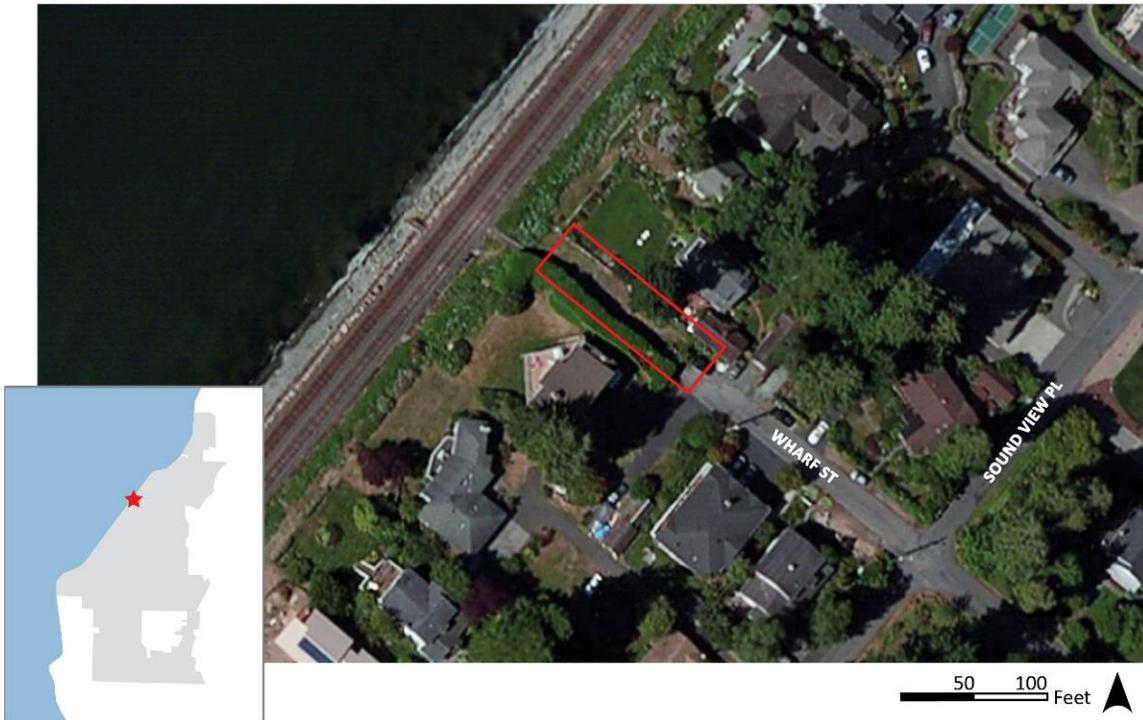
- Zoned Residential Single-family
6,000 sf lot
- Owned by Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad with annual lease to the City of Edmonds
- Illegal access across railroad

Planned Improvements

- Walkway and viewpoints
- Continued maintenance

Wharf Street

Open Space



Park Features

- 0.12 Acres
- View point

Site considerations

- Zoned Res Single-family 12,000 sq ft lot / ROW
- Illegal access across railroad

Planned Improvements

- Continued maintenance

Willow Creek Hatchery & Interpretive Center ***Special Use Park***



Park Features

- 1.68 Acres
- Wildlife habitat
- Native plant demonstration garden

Site considerations

- Volunteer operated fish hatchery

Planned Improvements

- Natural resource/habitat enhancement
- Utility work
- Connected to Edmonds Marsh projects
- Continued maintenance

Willow Creek Park

Open Space Park



Park Features

- 2.25 Acres
- Wetland
- Trail
- Stream corridor

Site considerations

- Zoned Res Multi-family 1,500 sf lot
- No developed public access

Planned Improvements

- Natural resource/habitat enhancement
- Continued maintenance

Yost Memorial Park and Pool

Community Park



Park Features

- 44.14 Acres
- Playground (1)
- 1.0 miles of walking trail
- Tennis courts (2)
- Outdoor pool (1)
- Restrooms (1)
- Meeting area
- Creek corridor
- Parking

Site considerations

- Used for environmental education programs

Planned Improvements

- Access and entryway improvements
- Sports courts
- Natural play area
- Natural resource/habitat enhancement
- Swimming Pool mechanical upgrades such as new boiler, shower heat exchanger and pool heat exchanger
- Resurface tennis courts
- Site master plan and renovation
- Continued maintenance

APPENDIX B: COMMUNITY INPUT PROCESS



EDMONDS PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURAL SERVICES

APPENDIX B: COMMUNITY INPUT PROCESS

The integrated planning process for the Edmonds Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan and Community Cultural Plan included multiple methods for community members to provide input about their preferences, needs and priorities.

This appendix summarizes the outreach opportunities and key themes drawn from the aggregated data. Under separate cover, a Technical Supplement includes a compilation of individual summaries from each outreach opportunity.

Outreach Opportunities

The Project Team designed, facilitated and recorded a wide variety of outreach activities specifically designed to maximize representation of the community and provide useful direction in guiding the future of the park, recreation, open space and cultural system.

Advisory Teams

The PROS Advisory Team (PAT) served as a steering committee throughout the plan update process, and coordinated with the Community Cultural Advisory Team (CCAT) who served in a similar role for the update of the Community Cultural Plan. The PROS Advisory Team convened four times during the planning process.

Web Page

The City hosted a project web page throughout the process on the Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services home page where any interested party could check in on the project. The web page content was regularly updated and included a description of the project, the latest meeting and analysis summaries, contact information and the link to the online questionnaires (during the collection period).

Edmonds Arts Summit

The Arts Summit, convened on June 29, 2013 at the Edmonds Arts Center, provided a unique opportunity to discuss the future of arts in Edmonds, through informative presentations and interactive discussions among different organizations and interests. The all day event allowed participants

to identify some of the opportunities, issues and challenges facing the future of arts in Edmonds.

Intercept Events

Intercept events capture information and ideas from the public by going to where people are, such as to community events, and asking for quick participation. During August and September 2013, the City of Edmonds brought five interactive display boards to popular public events to gather information for the Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Plan and the Community Cultural Plan. The boards posed questions and provided answer choices that participants selected using colored sticky dots. There were seven events held:

- Yost Pool – August 21, 2013
- City Park – EAC Concert, August 25, 2013
- Waterfront – Olympic Beach, August 26, 2013
- Edmonds Senior Center – August 27, 2013
- Main Street – September 10, 2013
- Frances Anderson Center – September 13, 2013
- Art Walk (Main Street) – September 19, 2013

Focus Groups

The City held three drop-in focus group meetings on August 15, 2013. The structure of each meeting included introductions; a brief description of the overall PROS Plan and Community Cultural Plan update process; a facilitated group discussion to consider favored parks and programs, challenges, opportunities, potential partnerships, and ways to increase participation in the Parks System; an around the table opportunity for participants to provide final thoughts; and a brief overview of the next steps in the planning process. To tap into the extensive knowledge of the system of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services staff, the planning team also convened a focus group for all City department staff on October 17, 2013.

Online Questionnaire

The questionnaire served as a tool for broadening and validating the input received in other public involvement activities. The questionnaire was available on the City's website from August 19 to September 15, 2013. This questionnaire was designed to be open and self-selecting to allow anyone

interested to respond and collect the largest number of responses and ideas.

There were 1,161 responses to the online questionnaire, comprising 968 complete questionnaires and 193 partials. The overwhelming number of participants provided broad insight into the opinions of the community and allowed for far more participation in the planning process than traditional workshop meetings typically draw.

Community Workshops

The City of Edmonds held two community workshops as part of the update of the PROS Plan and Community Cultural Plan. The workshops were held on consecutive days, at different times and in different locations, to provide two options for Edmonds residents to participate. Building on the earlier broad public outreach, these workshops were designed to get public input on preferences around the character of development and renovation of Edmonds parks, including how art can be integrated into public places, as well as public priorities for services. The workshops included a Visual Preference Survey, allowing participants to evaluate a series of potential park element images, and a sustainable priorities exercise which asked participants to provide feedback on parks, recreation and open space services.

Planning Board Visual Preference Survey

The City of Edmonds Planning Board members participated in the PROS Plan and Community Cultural Plan Visual Preference Survey following the community workshops, at their regularly scheduled meeting.

Telephone Survey

At the end of the plan development process, the project team fielded a statistically valid telephone survey to validate directions and provide some additional guidance to the draft plan review process. The survey was administered between November 20th – 25th 2013 by EMC Research and covered topics such as rating the functions and services provided by Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services, ranking potential projects and testing the interest in alternative funding.

Key Themes

Reviewing all of the public involvement activity results, the planning team synthesized a set of themes that describes the attitudes and beliefs of Edmonds residents. These themes, along with supporting statements from input activities, are presented below.

Artistic and Cultural Expression

Public involvement results indicated that arts and cultural related opportunities are highly valued by the Edmonds community. Existing arts and cultural programs and events have high participation rates, and the public desires more of these types of activities.

- Members of the PAT and CCAT felt strongly that arts and culture are critical to community identity. This character contributes towards the local economy and makes Edmonds a destination for visitors.
- According to questionnaire responses, artistic or cultural expression (music, theatre, visual arts, public art, etc.) is the top rated activity desired by respondents. Results also indicate that arts and culture presentations or events have the highest participation rate. This pattern was consistent with findings from the intercept results.
- Results from multiple activities indicate that art in public spaces and free, publicly accessible arts and culture events are important elements of the public realm in Edmonds.

Walking and Biking, Health and Wellness

There is a high level of interest in walking and biking, especially for health and wellness reasons. Community engagement results confirm that walking and biking are popular activities among Edmonds residents, consistent with regional and national trends. In addition, safety appears to be a key concern in developing the character and design of trail system improvements.

- Walking and biking are popular, according to the questionnaire, and are the types of activities that respondents participated in most frequently. Respondents ranked expanding the trail network,

including bicycle and pedestrian connections to trails as the highest priority project or service.

- There is a high level of interest in expanding the trail network, including bicycle and pedestrian connections to trails.

Social Gathering

Participants expressed a desire for more opportunities to gather as a community. Popular gathering options include galleries and exhibits, performances and arts or cultural festivals.

- Social gathering had one of the highest participation rates according to the questionnaire responses, and was also one of the most popular of additional activities desired by respondents.
- Focus groups participants noted that they value a variety of park space and recreation opportunities, including spaces for unstructured activities and community gatherings.

Youth and Senior Engagement

Focus group participants and members of both Advisory Teams indicated that youth and seniors are under-utilized as volunteers and creative assets, and that these populations would also benefit from improved facilities and programs.

- Questionnaire respondents identified the highest priorities for arts and culture services as engaging more youth and young adults in the arts and having free publicly accessible arts and culture events.
- According to focus group outcomes, youth and seniors are under-utilized as volunteers and creative assets, and would benefit from improved facilities and programs.

Maintenance and Stewardship

Participants indicated that they prioritize renovating existing parks, upgrading existing facilities, and protecting more open space over developing new parks and facilities.

- The PAT members indicated that stewardship should be promoted and expanded. Based on focus group outcomes, more

environmental education would support this value. Volunteers could be recruited and deployed more effectively with improved communication networks.

- A majority of questionnaire respondents indicated that they prioritize renovating existing parks and upgrading existing facilities over developing new parks and facilities. Similarly, focus group participants noted that aging infrastructure represents a significant challenge facing the system.
- According to intercept event outcomes renovating existing parks and improving maintenance of existing parks are high priorities. Based on results from city staff focus group, maintenance resources for parks and facilities and aging structures limit what staff can accomplish.
- 71% of telephone survey respondents indicated they would somewhat or strongly support the creation of a Metropolitan Parks District as a stable funding source for parks, recreation and open space.

APPENDIX C: CAPITAL COST MODEL



EDMONDS PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURAL SERVICES

APPENDIX C: CAPITAL COST MODEL

The capital cost model presented below is a snapshot of a flexible tool that is designed to be useful during the plan development and review process but also as the situation in Edmonds changes over the life of the plan. Cost assumptions can be modified and project selections can be changed easily to update the model to current realities or to run scenarios for capital planning.

For each project type, the number of instances (facilities, allowances) is indicated. The model calculates the total project cost based on the assumptions for each project type. The assumptions sheet describes the project types and assigns the planning level cost for capital and operations impacts.

Cost Assumptions: Edmonds PROS Plan Capital Cost Model

	Description	Capital	Unit	Annual Operations	
				Impact	Unit
Access and Entryways	Signage, entrance improvements, vegetation, fencing, etc.	\$50,000	/Site		
Gathering Area	Allowance for plaza type features or a small shelter for 15-30	\$150,000	/Each		
Sports Court Allowance	One allowance would purchase a small court, such as a half basketball, petanque, etc. 2 allowances would purchase a full court and 4 a pair of tennis courts. Some sites may require additional grading to accommodate courts.	\$35,000	/Allowance		
Play Area Replacement (Small)	Playground equipment ages 2-5 and ages 6-12, including a variety of features such as climbing apparatus, swings and surfacing. Assumes the replacement of an existing play area, new sites will likely require more site preparation.	\$125,000	/Each		
Play Area Add/Expand (Large)	Large sized or customized play environment for community, regional or other signature sites.	\$500,000	/Each	\$10,000	/Each
Natural Play Area	Natural features incorporating climbing, hiding, balancing, etc. Small scale, could be added to other play area	\$75,000	/Each	\$5,000	/Each
Natural Resources/ Habitat Enhancement	Allowance for general projects improving habitat areas or otherwise enhancing the natural environment. Could include invasive species removal, native plantings, water quality projects, etc. Multiple allowances can be used to represent larger efforts.	\$10,000	/Allowance		
Restroom Small	2 - single occupant unit restroom, price may be reduced if utilities already exist. Maintenance assumes low use and once weekly cleaning	\$250,000	/Facility	\$5,000	/Facility
Restroom Large	5 - single occupant units, for community or regional park, could be reduced if utilities are in place. Maintenance assumes high use and daily cleaning during high season.	\$500,000	/Facility	\$30,000	/Facility
Site Master Plan	Full site planning effort with site-specific public outreach. Construction documents to be included with project.	\$150,000	/Site		
Site Renovation	Replacement of site furnishings and renewal of grounds and vegetation including systems such as irrigation. Field turf renovation would also be covered. This value is modified by the percentage of the site anticipated to be impacted (primarily the developed portion).	\$150,000	/Acre		
Partner site contribution	Allowance for an investment in partner sites, assumes owner retains maintenance responsibility. May be completed in several small steps over the life of the project	\$150,000	/Site		
Other	One-off or major investments with unique description and cost	N/A		N/A	

Ownership	Land (acres)	Access and Entryways	Gathering Area	Sports Court Allowance	Play Area Replace (Small)	Play Area Add/Expand (Large)	Natural Play Area	Natural Resources/Habitat Enhancement	Restroom Small	Restroom Large	Site Master Plan	Site Renovation	Partner site contribution	Other Capital	Other O&M	Other Description	Total Capital	Total O&M
Neighborhood Park																		
Elm Street Park	CoE	1.85	1	1	1		1	1									\$320,000	\$5,000
Frances Anderson Center Field	CoE	1.94	1			1						100%					\$700,000	\$10,000
Haines Wharf	CoE	0.69															\$0	\$0
Hickman Park	CoE	5.60							1								\$250,000	\$5,000
Hummingbird Hill Park	CoE	1.22	1	1										\$20,000		Resurface Sport court - Install new Asphalt Pathway	\$220,000	\$0
Mathay Ballinger Park	CoE	0.51	1	1					1					\$30,000		Install new asphalt pathway	\$480,000	\$5,000
Pine Street Park	CoE	1.47	1	1													\$200,000	\$0
Seaview Park	CoE	6.05	1	1										\$250,000		Renovate fields, resurface tennis courts, parking improvements	\$450,000	\$0
Sierra Park	CoE	5.52	1									25%		\$100,000		Install Ballfield Drainage system, renovate park for the blind	\$187,500	\$0
Subtotal		24.85															\$2,807,500	\$25,000
Community Park																		
City Park	CoE	13.96	1									30%					\$95,000	\$0
Yost Memorial Park & Pool	CoE	44.14	1		2		1	4			1	50%		\$500,000		Install new boiler, heat exchanger to maintain pool until new aquatics center is developed, resurface tennis courts	\$960,000	\$20,000
Subtotal		58.10															\$1,055,000	\$20,000
Regional Parks																		
144 Railroad Avenue Tidelands	CoE	0.90															\$0	\$0
Brackett's Landing North	CoE	5.11						1		1		100%		\$100,000		Renovation includes resurface parking lot, jetty repair	\$760,000	\$30,000
Brackett's Landing South	CoE	2.22															\$0	\$0
Edmonds Senior Center	CoE	2.63															\$0	\$0
Marina Beach Park	CoE	3.37				1				1	1			\$1,000,000		Replace, renovate or relocate, pending partner funding Site development following master plan, utility work for restroom. Additional improvements allowance pending master plan.	\$2,150,000	\$40,000
Olympic Beach Park	CoE	2.82															\$0	\$0
Subtotal		17.05															\$2,910,000	\$70,000
Special Use Parks																		
Centennial Plaza/Public Safety Complex	CoE	0.08															\$0	\$0
Dayton Street Plaza	CoE	0.10										100%					\$150,000	\$0
Edmonds Library & Plaza Room	CoE	1.29												\$100,000		Landscape renovation	\$100,000	\$0
Edmonds Memorial Cemetery and Columbarium	CoE	6.63												\$100,000		Mapping Project	\$100,000	\$0
Frances Anderson Center	CoE	1.62															\$0	\$0
Hazel Miller Plaza	CoE	0.09															\$0	\$0
Interurban Trail	CoE	4.88															\$0	\$0
Lake Ballinger Access	CoE	0.19															\$0	\$0
Meadowdale Community Clubhouse	CoE	0.99			1												\$125,000	\$0
Richard F. Anway Park	CoE	0.17										50%					\$75,000	\$0
Ocean Avenue Viewpoint	CoE	0.20															\$0	\$0
Point Edwards Scenic Overlooks	CoE (easement)	0.10															\$0	\$0
Stamm Overlook Park	CoE	0.36															\$0	\$0
Sunset Avenue Overlook	CoE	1.14												\$200,000		Walkway and viewpoints	\$200,000	\$0
Willow Creek Hatchery & Interpretive Center	CoE	1.68							1					\$50,000		Additional utility work, Major project associated with Edmonds Marsh	\$300,000	\$5,000
Subtotal		19.52															\$1,050,000	\$5,000

Ownership	Land (acres)	Access and Entryways	Gathering Area	Sports Court Allowance	Play Area Replace (Small)	Play Area Add/Expand (Large)	Natural Play Area	Natural Resources/Habitat Enhancement	Restroom Small	Restroom Large	Site Master Plan	Site Renovation	Partner site contribution	Other Capital	Other O&M	Other Description	Total Capital	Total O&M
Open Space																		
Edmonds Marsh/Walkway	CoE	23.37												\$12,000,000		Daylighting Willow Creek, salmon habitat and stormwater management project.	\$12,000,000	\$0
Edmonds Marsh East	CoE	0.85						1									\$10,000	\$0
H.O. Hutt Park	CoE	4.53					1	1						\$75,000		Trail development and interpretation	\$160,000	\$5,000
Haines Tidelands	CoE	0.44															\$0	\$0
Maplewood Hill Park	CoE	9.96					1	1						\$50,000		Trail development	\$135,000	\$5,000
Meadowdale Natural Area	CoE	1.07						1									\$10,000	\$0
Olympic View Open Space	CoE	0.49						1									\$10,000	\$0
Pine Ridge Park	CoE	23.78	1				1	2						\$75,000		Forest Management Study, parking resurfacing	\$220,000	\$5,000
Seaview Reservoir	CoE	1.31															\$0	\$0
Shell Creek Open Space	CoE	1.04						1									\$10,000	\$0
Wharf Street	CoE	0.12															\$0	\$0
Willow Creek Park	CoE	2.25						1									\$10,000	\$0
Subtotal		69.21															\$12,565,000	\$15,000
Other Parks and Facilities in the Edmonds System																		
Chase Lake Elementary School	ESD	10.26											1				\$150,000	\$0
Chase Lake Environmental Ed./ESD Natural Area	ESD/ Sno Co	10.80															\$0	\$0
Civic Center Playfields & Skate Park	ESD	7.92				1					1			\$10,000,000		Acquire, Master Plan and develop site. Final project cost subject to acquisition cost and master plan direction. Management and operations	\$10,650,000	\$10,000
Edmonds Center for the Arts	PFD	2.54															\$0	\$0
Edmonds Elementary School	ESD	8.58															\$0	\$0
Edmonds Fishing Pier	WDFW	0.61												\$1,000,000	\$25,000	Improvements to pier and operational set-aside	\$1,000,000	\$25,000
Edmonds Underwater Park & Higgins Trails	DNR	33.21															\$0	\$0
Edmonds Woodway High School	ESD	30.19															\$0	\$0
Former Woodway High School	ESD	39.75												\$12,000,000	\$50,000	Four field sports complex with artificial turf and lights	\$12,000,000	\$50,000
Log Cabin Visitor Center	CoE	0.03															\$0	\$0
Lynndale Skate Park	CoL	4.77											1				\$150,000	\$0
Madrona School	ESD	31.30											1				\$150,000	\$0
Maplewood Parent Cooperative	ESD	7.41											1				\$150,000	\$0
Meadowdale Playfields	ESD	24.09												\$2,000,000		City share of update to all-weather soccer and softball fields	\$2,000,000	\$0
Seaview Elementary	ESD	8.28											1				\$150,000	\$0
Sherwood Elementary School	ESD	13.19															\$0	\$0
South County Historical Museum	CoE	0.09															\$0	\$0
Southwest County Park	Sno Co	118.55					1						1				\$225,000	\$5,000
Wade James Theatre	CoE	2.34															\$0	\$0
Westgate Elementary School	ESD	8.34											1				\$150,000	\$0
Woodway Elementary School	ESD	9.89											1				\$150,000	\$0
Subtotal		372.14															\$26,925,000	\$90,000

Ownership	Land (acres)	Access and Entryways	Gathering Area	Sports Court Allowance	Play Area Replace (Small)	Play Area Add/Expand (Large)	Natural Play Area	Natural Resources/ Habitat Enhancement	Restroom Small	Restroom Large	Site Master Plan	Site Renovation	Partner site contribution	Other Capital	Other O&M	Other Description	Total Capital	Total O&M
Other Parks and Facilities Near Edmonds																		
Ballinger Playfield and Former Golf Course	MLT	52.59											1					
Esperance County Park	Sno Co	9.59											1				\$150,000	\$0
Meadowdale Beach County Park	Sno Co	144.34															\$0	\$0
Meadowdale Elementary School	ESD	8.78															\$0	\$0
Meadowdale High School	ESD	39.56															\$0	\$0
Meadowdale Middle School	ESD	19.38															\$0	\$0
Subtotal		221.65															\$150,000	\$0
Additional Projects																		
Land Acquisition														\$2,000,000		Opportunity based acquisition fund	\$2,000,000	\$0
Bike Route Enhancements																Project costs will be included in future transportation planning	\$0	\$0
Walkway Trail Enhancements																Project costs will be included in future transportation planning	\$0	\$0
Downtown Restrooms									2							Development of public restroom facilities (up to two) in downtown locations in partnership with tourism and economic development.	\$500,000	\$10,000
4th Avenue Cultural Corridor														\$800,000		Development of cultural corridor, parks and beautification elements, additional development funding will be included in other capital budgets	\$800,000	\$0
Indoor Aquatics/Recreation Center														\$25,000,000	\$100,000	Major multi-use center at an to-be-determined site, operations cost is estimated net of user fees for a combined center	\$25,000,000	\$100,000
Indoor Lap Pool with Outdoor Recreation Pool														\$18,000,000	\$200,000	Alternative to the combined center, operations are higher due to reduced income.	\$18,000,000	\$200,000
Replace Park Maintenance Building														\$4,000,000		Replace existing maintenance building at City Park	\$4,000,000	\$0
Subtotal																	\$50,300,000	\$310,000
Beautification Areas (114 sites)	CoE														\$3,000	Additional beautification sites require supplemental operations and maintenance. As an allowance ten additional sites would add approximately \$3,000 in operational funding needs.	\$0	\$3,000

